



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

## EAGLE NEWS October 2023



Current Central students played a big role in the 2023 Central High School Hall of Fame. Student ambassadors were assigned to each inductee, JROTC members assisted with event check-in, and Eagle Broadcasting students streamed the ceremony to Generation "C" supporters.



### Dear Supporter,

Fall is in the air and Halloween is on the horizon. I hope you are having a wonderful autumn!

Last week we celebrated the induction of 11 new members into the Central High School [Hall of Fame!](#) Thank you to everyone who made this possible, and congratulations to all of the inductees. Special thanks to the Central High School Alumni Association, who helped make this event the best it could be!

Our annual campaign, [Generation "C,"](#) is in full swing. This annual giving campaign makes it possible for your generous contribution to help the Foundation maintain the legacy of excellence that was established at Central more than 164 years ago. Gifts and donations from the extended Central community are essential to the Foundation's ability to enhance the Central experience. [Please donate to Generation "C" today!](#)

We hope to see you and your family at the fall musical, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, on November 10th or 11th! Performances are set for 7 pm on Friday, November 10 and 2 pm and 7pm on Saturday, November 11. [Reserve your tickets by clicking here.](#)

With so many things to share in this newsletter, some Hall of Fame items will be available in our November newsletter. I can't wait to share with you the

pictures and stories from the inductee classroom visits as well as our Passing Periods alumni luncheon. As always, thank you for helping perpetuate 164 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

*Michelle Roberts*

Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

## Welcoming the 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees



The 24th annual CHS Hall of Fame was held Thursday, October 19 at the Holland Performing Arts Center. The Central High School Alumni Association was proud to induct 11 individuals whose paths from the halls of Central High School led them to the highest levels of achievement in business and community service. Inductees were selected by the Central High School Hall of Fame selection committee from a pool of nominations, and the program was presented by the Central High School Foundation. If you would like to nominate someone into the Central High School Hall of Fame, click the button below.

[Submit a Nomination](#)

## Eagles Recognized for National Awards



Continuing a long-standing tradition of academic excellence, three Central students were recently named National Merit Semifinalists. In addition to a strong academic record, a National Merit application encompasses essays and information about extracurricular achievements, awards, and leadership positions. Congratulations to **Lachlan O'Keefe**, **Lucy Rawlinson** and **Brayden Simpson** for making us proud!

Three other Eagles were also recently recognized for national awards. Seniors Shruti Garapati and James Weber were named National Merit Commended Students, while Seamus Haldeman was named the winner of the National Hispanic Recognition Award.

Congratulations to our Eagles for flying high!

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

### Your Impact: French Auberge



Fifteen students enrolled in French courses had the fun opportunity to attend a French Auberge. The goal of the Auberge is to “create an immersion experience of language and culture that motivates participants to be lifelong



learners and responsible citizens in a global community.”

Many students never have the opportunity to see how they can effectively use their acquired language skills outside of the school environment, and others may never get to travel to the places where the target language is spoken. Thanks to the Central High School Foundation, any French student who was interested in the experience was able to attend this immersive camp.

"I was able to spend time with my peers who are also interested in the same foreign language as me which is something rare to find. The opportunity that I had was amazing, not only because I was able to practice French, but also because this camp will help me with other future career plans in international relations."

**Betsy Yadira Tenorio Hernandez, Class of 2024**

Your donation to the Central High School Foundation helps support our students at Central High School. To continue to help our Eagles soar, join Generation “C” today!

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

### Class of '03 Meets for 20-Year Reunion



The class of 2003 gathered for its 20-year class reunion in September. The reunion began on Friday with the Central vs. Creighton Prep football game in the (new to them) Seemann Stadium. On Saturday morning, nostalgia filled the air as they toured the school; Eagles were impressed by the new Arts and Library Addition. Saturday night was the highlight as Eagles gathered at Barchen Beer Garden in Benson. With around 100 attendees, classmates enjoyed delicious food and cherished catching up with each other. It was a truly successful and heartwarming weekend!



[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

### Alumni Spotlight: Emily Epperson, CHS 2010



2010 graduate Emily Epperson earned her PhD in French this May from Harvard University. At Harvard, Emily conducted research and taught courses, winning awards for innovative pedagogy and teaching excellence. Her dissertation research, which asks how ideas about French identity emerge in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century French colonial accounts, was supported by the Georges Lurcy Educational Trust and the Harvard

Presidential Scholarship.

As a graduate student, Emily also had the chance to train first-time college instructors, a job she relished and in which she drew inspiration from the excellent teachers at Central. Emily recently joined the faculty at Cornell University.

"I'm very grateful to have had the chance learn from so many wonderful teachers and classmates and to build on the foundation Central gave me, and I look forward to sharing what I've learned with my new students at Cornell."

Congratulations, Emily!

[Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight](#)

[Star-Studded Generation "C" Tailgate](#)



Generation "C" members gathered for the annual football tailgate on September 21. This year's tailgate was held on a Thursday as Central played Omaha North before a sold-out crowd at Seemann Stadium.

Honorary coaches and captains for the game were two of Central's favorite Eagles: **Roger Sayers** ('60) and **Ahman Green** ('95.) The Eagles fell to North 20-16 in the final minute of the game, but the game was electric and the atmosphere was amazing for our student-athletes.

If you would like to be invited to next year's tailgate, join Generation "C" at the Sea Eagle level.

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

### Class of '83 Reunites at Reunion



The Central class of 1983 reunion weekend was a delightful blend of nostalgia and camaraderie, reliving memories and renewing relationships. On Friday, the class convened at Seemann Stadium to watch the Eagles in a thrilling football game. The class of '83 had designated seating marked by their purple CHS '83 banner. After the game, they reconvened at Sullivan's Bar, owned by fellow classmate Dan Houlihan. The reunion continued early on Saturday with a school tour graciously hosted by current CHS students and staff. The highlight of the weekend was the reunion party at the DAV hall with food, fun, and dancing to create a perfect blend of nostalgia and casual fun for the CHS class of '83.

[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

[Your Impact: Scholarship for Design Camp](#)





With a scholarship through the Central High School Foundation, junior **Julian De Santiago** was able to experience the many elements of planning, drawing, and design at the University of Kansas' Pre-College Design Camp this past summer.

The week-long camp exposes students to a variety of skills in various workshops including Footwear Design, Urban Sketching, Editorial Illustration, Designing in Virtual and Augmented Reality, and many more.

"My first class was urban sketching, and I never had more fun drawing in my life! The professor made it so enjoyable. In another class, we learned to use 3-D printers and laser cutters; it was so cool to see how they work. The staff members taught me so much and opened my eyes to more career possibilities than I ever dreamed there could be!"

Along with attending workshops, Julian was impressed with the freedom of living on campus, the variety of dining options, and the size of campus.

"Everyone I met was so great. The staff, other students at camp, KU students on campus taking summer classes; they all had a positive attitude."

Julian says he can see himself attending KU after graduating from Central. "My time at camp was one of the best things I have ever chosen to do, and it was a great learning opportunity to help me decide what I want to do for my future. I met a lot of new friends, and I loved the classes. I would like to thank the donors at the Foundation for helping me attend. This was an all-around great experience, and I would do it 100 times over."

Your donation to the Central High School Foundation helps support our students at Central High School. To continue to help our Eagles soar, join Generation "C" today!



[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

## Class of 2013 Meets for First Class Reunion



Meeting officially for the first time since graduating in 2013, classmates were excited to attend and see each other again. Attending the football game on Friday night put things into perspective as to how long it had been since they were students, but the tour on Saturday morning made classmates feel like they had never left. Former principal Keith Bigsby joined the class for a "Brunch with Bigsby" event to reminisce and catch up after the school tour. Classmates realized that the majority of their class still lives in Omaha and are talking about getting together more regularly to keep the connections strong. All in all, the class of 2013 had a blast and is still "So Fresh and So Clean."

[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

## Eagles Take Flight Day



Starting a new tradition, Central students had the opportunity to take their learning outside the classroom for Eagles Take Flight Day. This day allowed students to learn new things and take on new experiences within their chosen or current pathway. Some of the options for field trips included the following:

- Tour of the new downtown library and receiving Omaha Public Library cards
- Tour and discussion panel with leaders from Omaha Performing Arts, Opera Omaha, and the Omaha Symphony
- Guest lectures from Judge Batallio and Dr. Adkins in the Schrager Black Box Theater
- Visting the Music Technology Department at the University of Nebraska Omaha
- Exploring the iEXCEL Health Education Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Join Generation "C" Today**

**Join the 1859 Society Today**



Named for the year of Central's founding, the 1859 Society honors donors who have included The Central High School Foundation in their estate plans. By arranging for such deferred gifts, alumni, parents and friends of CHS play a vital role in securing the future of Omaha's oldest educational institution. Combining financial planning, estate planning, and tax planning techniques, planned giving enables donors to make gifts of significance often with tax and financial rewards. If you're interested in joining the 1859 Society and making a planned gift, contact Michele Roberts at the CHSF Office at 402-556-1996 or [michele@chsfomaha.org](mailto:michele@chsfomaha.org).

**Click Here for the 1859 Society Brochure**

**Fall Decluttering? Consider the Alumni Association**



Eagles enrolled in history classes with Mr. Scott Wilson recently took a tour through the CHS Archives with the Alumni Association! Eagle Nation is preserved through the hard work of our alumni volunteers, who bring Central's past into the present for the future generations. Pictured above is a World War I service flag that features a star for every Central alumnus who served in the war.

If you have an item or piece of Central memorabilia that you would like to donate to the Alumni Association during your fall decluttering, please click on the button below so that a volunteer can follow up on your request.

[Click Here to Contact the Alumni Association](#)

## 2023 Class Reunion Schedule



**The Class of '82 before an Eagle football game in 2022!**

## Upcoming Reunion Schedule

**Class of 1964**

September 20 -21, 2024



[Contact Jeannene Rice Mason](#) or [Jeannette Rice Johnson](#)

**Class of 1970**  
POSTPONED  
July 25-26, 2025

**Class of 1974**  
May 31 – June 3, 2024  
Contact [Shelli McCall-Vodicka](#)

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date, please [contact Erika Buffington at events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) or call 402-556-1996.

### 2023-24 Generation "C" Chair - Leslie Gotch



The Central High School Foundation is proud to announce Leslie Gotch, CHS 1964 as the 2023-2024 Generation "C" Chair.

With 27 years of consecutive giving, Leslie Gotch has never wavered in his support

of Central High School.

Born in San Diego to two WWII Navy veterans, Leslie, the eldest of five children and his family moved to Omaha in 1952. He attended Pickard, Belle Ryan, and Jackson Elementary Schools. "I could not wait to get to Central High School in 1960. My grandmother had just retired as the pastry cook in the cafeteria, so when I went through the lines, the ladies would sometimes put a brownie or piece of cake on my tray and not charge me the 7 cents!"

Leslie has fond memories of his time at CHS. "I loved being a student at Central - the opportunity to be able to study several courses with different teachers was exciting. My teachers taught me to be a critical thinker which was integral in my future career as a computer security engineer."

His talents were in high demand by not only the private sector, but also the U.S. military. "My company produced a specialty product that would scan every email and file passing through the network. This product was incorporated into the military's new messaging systems used on bases from Qatar to Pearl Harbor. Eventually my customers included NATO, The Department of State, and other intelligence agencies."

While at Central, Leslie participated in activities outside the classroom. "I was



very involved in the JROTC program. I was on the crack squad rifle drill team for two years and the Hussars my senior year. The Hussars were a precision drill team that performed at the Aksarben coronations.”

Now enjoying his retirement, Leslie continues to value the importance of education and giving back to his community - core values he learned, in part, during his time at Central High School - he volunteers at the information desk at a local library and went back to school to study five international languages.

Join Generation "C"

### Support CHSF While You Shop



The Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together A Greater Good) to provide an easy and free way to support the Foundation.

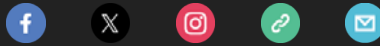
It's easy to do! Just go to the link [tagg.today](https://tagg.today), snap a photo of your receipts from [participating businesses](#), and a percentage of your total will be donated to the Central High School Foundation. Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

### Follow and Like Us on Social Media



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) or [X](#)? Follow and like us across the social media platforms to stay connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news. As we hit fan milestones on each platform, we will be giving out great prizes! Keep an eye out!

Thank You to Our Adopt-A-School Partner



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