

View this email in your browser



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

## EAGLE NEWS May 2024



**Snapshot of Brilliance:** Celebrating the remarkable achievements of the Top 10% of our 2024 graduating class at Senior Recognition Night.



### Dear Supporter,

Congratulations to our Eagles who received their diplomas this month! Your journey is just beginning; go spread your wings and make us proud.

First, coming up on Monday, June 3rd is our 22nd annual Golf Fore Eagles Golf Outing presented by PIP Marketing, Signs and Print. This year's event will honor Coca-Cola and their many years of support as our Adopt-A-School partner. This event is sold out, and we appreciate

Eagle Nation's support.

Our [silent auction](#) is open now through Monday, June 3rd at 4 pm CT! There are some excellent items available to bid on, and, as always, proceeds from this event will go to support the needs of our students and staff at Central High School through scholarships, classroom grants, capital grant projects, and much more.

Finally, a reminder that the [Central High School Hall of Fame](#) will be held Thursday, October 17, 2024, at Central High School. Inductees are selected by the Central High School Alumni Association Selection Committee, and the program is presented by the Central High School Foundation. We look forward to sharing more information in the upcoming months, but for now, mark your calendars!

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate more than 165 years - and

counting - of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

*Michelle Roberts*

Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

## Students and Teacher of the Year Honored at Senior Recognition Night



PICTURED: Charlie Yale, Amy Fischer, and Mr. Jordan Boyer

The Central High School Foundation hosted the 2024 Senior Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, May 14, in the Central High School Auditorium.

This year, the graduating class of 2024 earned more than \$23 million in scholarships, which demonstrates their outstanding work ethic and resiliency. In addition to these national and local scholarships, 64 seniors earned Central High School Foundation Scholarships, totaling more than \$270,000.

The 2024 DeEmmett Bradshaw Zerbe, CHS 1943, and Mason Speltz Zerbe, CHS 1948, Central High School Students of the Year Scholarships were awarded to **Charlie Yale** and **Amy Fischer**. The 2024 Teacher of the Year Award was presented to social studies teacher, **Mr. Jordan Boyer**.

This year, the Central High School Foundation awarded three new endowed student scholarships for the first time: Jane Kurtz, CHS 1985; Mary Moberg, CHS 1951; and Aleidine Kramer Moeller, CHS 1966.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners!



PICTURED: John E. Sunderland, CHS 1916, Scholarship Recipients

[Learn More About CHSF Scholarships](#)

**Swing into Action: Golf Fore Eagles Silent Auction Now Open**



The 2024 Golf Outing Silent Auction is now LIVE! Bid on a wide variety of great packages from now until Monday, June 3rd at 4pm CT. The silent auction is open to all, regardless of your attendance at the Golf Fore Eagles Golf Outing.

There are some fantastic items to choose from including restaurant gift cards, golf outings at Whispering Woods Golf Club Council Bluffs and Elmwood Golf Course Omaha, four College World Series tickets, four VIP Walker Hayes concert tickets, a gift bundle featuring tickets to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, and more!

As always, proceeds from this event will go to support the needs of our students and staff at Central High School through scholarships, classroom grants, capital grant projects, and much more. Our mission remains the same: to support the current and future students of Central. Through your support,

the Foundation can continue to honor the past, live successfully in the present, and plan for the future.

[Click To Begin Bidding](#)

**CHECK OUT OUR**

**AUCTION ITEMS!**

**CHSFOMAHA.ORG/SILENT-AUCTION**

**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION**

[Knicely Done: From Peril to Passionate Purpose](#)



[Click on the picture above to watch reporter John Knicely's segment about the Mohammadi family and their Central story.](#)

Sisters Fawzia, Asia, and their cousin Abdul Mohammadi recently received their Central diplomas, overcoming a difficult situation to create a fresh start in Omaha.

Fawzia, Asia, and Abdul emigrated from Afghanistan alongside eight other family members during the 2022 United States military pullout of Afghanistan. Not only did the three have to begin studying in a new country and school, but they had to start with the basic challenge of learning the English language. All three Eagles credit English teacher Ms. Molly Davies for feeling comfortable at Central.

Fawzia hopes to become a nurse practitioner, Asia plans to study computer science, and Abdul is interested in business or perhaps training to become a pilot.

[Donate to the Emergency Fund](#)

### Your Impact: *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* at CHS



Each year, Central produces a full-scale mainstage musical production with students performing on stage, in the pit orchestra, and as part of the stage and tech crews. Through the grant from the Central High School Foundation, students are able to receive training from guest artists who are masters in performance and technical theater. The grant also helps with fees for renting high-quality costumes, moving light equipment special-effects equipment, and purchasing specialized makeup. By having access to these resources and opportunities, more than 150 students on stage and backstage can fully engage in a professional theatrical experience that is often not found in high schools around the area.

When students have opportunities to access and work with guest artists and master professional-grade production elements, they are a step above of other students entering the entertainment field and university programs. They have already learned and gained experience from their theatrical productions at Central High School.

**"Getting to work on a fun and uplifting show like *Mamma Mia!* was a great way to close out my senior year. Watching everyone grow close and**

**put on an amazing show reminded me of why I love being involved in the CHS Drama Department, and I am grateful to the Central High Foundation for their support of this show!"**

*- Nate Remington, Class of 2024*

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

[Join Generation "C" Today](#)

## Class of '59 Gathers for Spring Reunion



The class of 1959 started its 65<sup>th</sup> reunion by braving a tornado that passed through Omaha on Friday, April 26. A courageous and sturdy bunch of attendees showed up for a start-up event at LaCasa Pizzeria West, the newest version of an old favorite hangout on Leavenworth Street. Saturday, April 27, started with a tour of Central from current Central High School students. That night, 38 classmates and guests celebrated their longevity at a dinner at Happy Hollow Club. There was great camaraderie with singing songs involving Central High cheers and the class opera *Brigadoon*. Everyone left the reunion with plans in hand for future gatherings.

[Participate in the First Class Challenge](#)

## Cinco de Mayo Design Debuts in Parade



Earlier this month, Chesterman Company Coca-Cola unveiled Lila Burns', CHS 2026, Cinco De Mayo artwork on one of their truck trailers. What began as a drawing on paper became a larger-than-life print on a truck trailer! This truck was driven in Omaha's Cinco de Mayo parade on May 11.

Even though the celebration has ended, be on the lookout for Lila's artwork around town! This trailer will be used year-round for delivery of Coca-Cola products in the Omaha area. The Central High School Foundation is proud to call Chesterman Coca-Cola its Adopt-A-School partner.



PICTURED: Lila with her art teacher, Ms. Tanya Simmons

Alumni Spotlight: Evan Stoler, CHS 2012



Evan Stoler found his voice as an artist while attending Central High, developing his craft during AP Art 3-D class and Scholastic Art Competitions. The comprehensive art curriculum Central provided launched Stoler's artistic journey, and after graduating in 2012, he double majored in studio art and biology at Denison University. College art classes allowed Stoler to focus on material exploration, specifically with tape and staples. He was drawn to the innovative ways these objects can be manipulated to showcase effects and playfully occupy space.

Throughout his 20s, Stoler simultaneously worked toward a career as a physician assistant and artist. He participated in a ceramics residency in Vallauris, France and a contemporary art residency outside of Lisbon, Portugal. He lived for a month with artists from around the world for an intensive art making experience that ended with a public group exhibition. He has had numerous exhibitions showing bodies of work throughout the Midwest, and The Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards nominated Stoler as "Outstanding Emerging Visual Artist" in 2022.

Stoler is currently represented by Anderson O'Brien Fine Arts in Omaha, his favorite art gallery to visit throughout adolescence. He has two upcoming exhibitions that showcase art he has created with deconstructed office supplies. The Kansas City Artists' Coalition will host "While Supplies Last" for the month of July, and Ignition Projects in Chicago will feature a grid window display in September comprised of 12" x 12"



wood panel pieces.

To learn more about his work, check out his [Instagram](#) and [website](#). We love seeing our Eagles soar! Keep up the great work, Evan!

[Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight](#)

[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](#)

[Upcoming Class Reunion Schedule](#)



**The Class of 1978 at their class reunion in 2023!**

## **Upcoming Reunion Schedule**

### **Class of 1964**

September 20-21, 2024

[Contact Jeannene Rice Mason](#) 402-301-9234

[Jeannette Rice Johnson](#) 402-699-0820

### **Class of 1970**

POSTPONED

July 25-26, 2025

### **Class of 1974**

May 31 – June 3, 2024

Contact information for each day:

[Shelli McCall-Vodicka](#) 402-677-1227 Friday and Monday activities

[Cindy Goff](#) 402-510-6537 Saturday activities

[Sara Achelpohl](#) 402-707-9190 Sunday activities

[Kevin Buckner](#) 240-432-7268

### **Class of 1979**

November 9, 2024

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

### **Class of 1984**

September 6-7, 2024

Contact [Beretta Smith-Shomade](#) or [Betty Brown-Broughton](#)

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

[Register and Pay to Attend](#)

## [Class of 1989](#)

September 13-14, 2024

## [Class of 1994](#)

October 18-20, 2024

[centralhigh1994@gmail.com](mailto:centralhigh1994@gmail.com)

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

[RSVP to Attend](#)

## [Class of 2004](#)

September 6-7, 2024

Contact Ally Thomson, Steve Hogan, Daniel Gutman

## [Class of 2014](#)

October 4-5, 2024

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!

### Stay Connected With Us on Social Media



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) or [X](#)? Follow and like us across social media platforms to stay connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news.

### Thank You to Our Adopt-A-School Partner



---

Copyright © 2024 Central High School Foundation, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).