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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

EAGLE NEWS October 2024



Congratulations to the 2024 Central High School Hall of Fame Inductees!



Dear Supporter,

With fall in full swing, we've had an incredibly busy and exciting month!

Last week, we proudly inducted ten new members into the Central High School Hall of Fame. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this possible, and congratulations to all the inductees. Special thanks to the Central High School Alumni Association for their invaluable support in making this event a success!

Our annual campaign, Generation "C," is in full swing. This campaign allows your generous contributions to help the Foundation maintain the legacy of excellence established at Central over 165 years ago. Donations from the extended Central community are crucial for enhancing the Central experience. [Please consider donating to Generation "C" today!](#)

Lastly, class reunion season is nearly over! If your reunion is scheduled for next year, you can find the most up-to-date information at the bottom of our newsletter. Also, please [update your record](#) to ensure your physical invitation and event communications are sent to the correct address.

Thank you for helping us continue 165 years—and counting—of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

Welcoming the 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees



2024 Hall of Fame Inductees



The 25th annual CHS Hall of Fame was held Thursday, October 17th at Central High School. The Central High School Alumni Association was proud to induct 10 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. We would like to give a special thanks to the student ambassadors, JROTC, and theatre students without whom we could not have had such a successful night!

[Submit a Nomination](#)

Hall of Fame Inductees Speak with Students



After the Hall of Fame dinner and ceremony, the inductees had the chance to speak with current Central students on Friday morning. A big thank you to the following host classrooms for welcoming the inductees back to their alma mater:

- **Matt Aden, CHS 1974** - Randy Rouse
 - International Business class
- **Robert X. Fogarty, CHS 2001** – Brody Hilgenkamp
 - Contemporary Journalism class
- **Kristie Hayes, M.D., CHS 1973** – Kristoff Berzins, CHS 1999

- Epidemiology and Disease Prevention class
- **Col David A. Napoliello, CHS 1964 & Harold Pharoah, CHS 1966** – Maj. Amberg
 - JROTC Marksmanship class
- **Jed Ortmeier, CHS 1997** – Howard Hardy
 - Sports Nutrition class
- **Richard Steele, CHS 1961** - Belinda Ter Beest
 - Principles of Business Marketing and Management class
- **Judy Storm** – Diane Nicksick Allen, CHS 1986
 - English Class
- **Patrick Venditte, CHS 2004** – Scott Wilson
 - History class

Do you know someone who should be inducted into the Hall of Fame? Nominations for the Class of 2025 are now open until December 31! Anyone can submit a nomination, and they remain valid for three years of consideration. Click [here](#) to submit a nomination online. Congratulations once again to the Class of 2024!



Submit a Nomination

Your Impact: Marching Band



Funds from the Central High School Foundation will be used to purchase matching silver marching brass instruments, new sets of cymbals, drumheads, mallets, and drumsticks, as well as specialty instruments for the new Banda y Mariachi Club. In addition, support from the Foundation will be used to hire accompanists and fund masterclasses prior to auditions and various competitions.

"Band is not just a class, it is a place where everyone belongs, a safe place to

explore exciting opportunities, and a group that shares the beauty of music with the world. Central band family is a place where all support one another, and we are grateful that the CHS Foundation is always willing to help us out."

- Ms. Chiyo Trauernicht, CHS Music teacher and Marching Band director

Through band, students learn teamwork, problem-solving skills, time management, leadership and social skills, as well as develop their work ethic and perseverance. All these skills are valued and expected in both higher education and in the workplace. Mr. Jeff Mount, CHS music teacher, emphasizes the point that, "Music shapes lives in ways that we may never know. Sometimes we find out how music has affected a student years after graduation."

Performance opportunities are incredibly valuable for students. Between the funding allocated from the Foundation and school district, every student has an equal opportunity to practice and perform on a high-quality instrument. Additional financial support from the Foundation allows the instrumental music department to provide individual and group lessons and clinics for all band students.

"Since starting band my sophomore year, I have grown into a more confident leader and have developed my communication skills. I have found a place I love to be while doing things I am passionate about. Band has offered me opportunities to develop my musical skills, make friends with others, and even convinced me to pursue music in my future. Band has helped me find myself, lifelong friends, and a community I will never forget. Thank you, Central High Foundation, for all your support of the band program."

- Gracelyn Siford, Class of 2025

Join Generation "C" Today

Pat Venditte, CHS 2004, Speaks at Passing Periods Luncheon



To conclude Hall of Fame week, we hosted the Passing Periods Alumni Luncheon at the Field Club of Omaha on Friday, October 18th. The event was sold out, with attendees eager to hear from our guest speaker. CHS class of 2018 alumnus Alec Rome served as the emcee and conducted an interview

with one of the 2024 Hall of Fame inductees, Pat Venditte, CHS class of 2004. Pat shared insights from his baseball career, emphasizing the significant impact CHS baseball had on his future success. Thank you for joining us, Pat!

[Learn About Passing Periods](#)

Class of 1964 60th Reunion



The Class of 1964 kicked off the weekend with a gathering at the Jewish Community Center, specifically in the charming Shirley & Leonard Goldstein Community Engagement Venue. The evening was casual, featuring cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, which allowed everyone to reconnect with their classmates. The Staenberg Arts & Education Corridor provided a quieter, art-filled space for reflecting on shared experiences.

On Saturday morning, they visited their beloved Central High School for coffee and doughnuts. Before touring the building, Foundation Director Michele Roberts and Principal Emeritus Dr. Keith Bigsby spoke to the group about the Foundation and the current happenings and culture at Central. A highlight of the tour for the group was visiting the Central High School Alumni Association's Archival Room in the new East Addition, where alumni got a glimpse of the projects to preserve Central's rich history.

Saturday evening, classmates gathered for cocktails and dinner at Champions Run in a room featuring their favorite colors, purple and white. It was a wonderful time to share memories with many old friends and classmates.

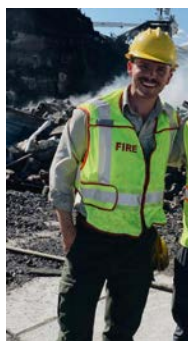
[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Choteau Kammel, CHS 2017



After graduating from Central in 2017, Choteau followed in his father's footsteps to Mississippi State University, where he studied economics and political science. He also spent a semester at the University of Helsinki in Finland, focusing on Nordic welfare state theory. In 2019, his parents moved from Omaha to Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. His father, a landscape architect for the National Park Service, had originally met Choteau's mother in Yellowstone in the early 1990s. Following their move, Choteau volunteered with the park service during the summers of 2019 and 2020. Throughout college, his interest in public policy grew, and by his senior year, he decided to attend law school—finally heeding his parents' advice. After graduating from Mississippi State in 2021, Choteau enrolled at Texas A&M University School of Law in Fort Worth, TX.

During law school, Choteau interned for several federal agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission, while adjusting to Texas's hot summers and sprawling urban landscape. Originally from Omaha, he found a new appreciation for his hometown while living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In November 2023, Choteau married his beautiful wife Melina. He graduated from A&M Law in May 2024 and took the bar exam in July.



Before graduating, Choteau accepted an offer from the Fort Worth District for the US Army Corps of Engineers Honors Attorney Program and worked there while awaiting his bar results. He recently received the news that he passed the bar and was sworn in as an attorney. His primary legal interests are in civil works, water, and environmental law. Although he and Melina will be in Texas for the next few years, they are excited about Omaha's plans for public transportation and urban development and hope to move back someday. "Until then, and despite the present distance, I'll always be a

Central Eagle," says Choteau.

Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight

Listen Now to a New Episode of Eagle Tales



We are excited to share that we released episode 20 of Eagle Tales! Victoria Benning, a class of 1980 alumna who is the Managing Editor for Bloomberg Opinion (US), joins host Josh Bucy for episode 20 of Eagle Tales.

Eagle Tales is a podcast during which our creative director, Josh Bucy, sits down with a Central High School alum to talk about their time at Central and how it has impacted them. Listeners hear all about the amazing things that alumni are doing to change the world!

Want to be notified of new episodes as they are released? Subscribe to Eagle Tales on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or wherever you listen to your podcasts!

Listen to Eagle Tales

Catch up with the Quill and Feather



As the school year kicks off, keep an eye out for new stories from the *Quill and Feather*, written by Brett Comstock. [Bookmark this page](#) and [follow us on social media](#) to stay up-to-date on our latest articles!

[CHS Alumni and Friends Soar Overseas](#)

Catch up with this group of Eagles who spent 13 days traveling across Europe and made plenty of Central connections along the way!



Quill and Feather Blog

2024-2025 Generation "C" Chair

Evelyn "Eve" Mayberger (CHS 2005) has long been a fierce supporter of Central High School. Since graduating, she has watched her younger brothers and cousins pass through the esteemed classrooms of Central. While a student at Central, Eve was involved in music (concert band and orchestra), athletics (cross-country, swimming, and track), and Academic Decathlon. Eve took full advantage of the honors and AP courses offered and particularly loved history, math, and English classes. Eve credits her dedicated Central teachers for her interest and passion in these subjects.



Using what she had learned at Central, Eve earned a scholarship to Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Eve fell in love with the interdisciplinary field of art conservation; a profession that combines art history/archaeology, chemistry/material science, and studio art/craft skills. After

finishing her undergraduate degree, Eve interned for two years at different East coast museums to gain more practical art conservation experience.

Eve was then admitted into the art conservation graduate school program at New York University. In 2016 she accepted a post-graduate fellowship at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston (MFA). Upon completing her fellowship, Eve was promoted to Assistant Conservator at the MFA. During her career, Eve has participated in multiple excavations as an archaeological conservator in Turkey, Sicily, Egypt, and Sudan.

Her time at Central laid the foundation for her professional trajectory; Eve feels it is important to give back so others can follow their dreams and aspirations. She believes it is our duty to invest in our communities and to contribute what we can for the betterment of society for current and future generations. A tangible way to do this is to keep our public educational institutions, such as Central High School, strong and well resourced.

Join Generation "C"

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.

View the 1859 Society Brochure

2024 Class Reunion Schedule



Class of 1989 at their reunion in September!

Upcoming Reunion Schedule

Class of 1965

September 5-6, 2025

[Contact Holly Jepsen Hoberman](#)

[Contact Gary Green](#)

Class of 1970

July 25-26, 2025

[Contact Gary Willis](#)

Class of 1975

October 10-11, 2025

Susan Vrbanac Lerdahl, Mark Kresl, Suzanne Tarver, Bridget Brown

[Contact Sue](#) 402.320.6489

[Class of 1979](#)

November 9, 2024

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

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.

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.

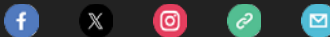
It's easy to do! Just go to the link tagg.today, snap a photo of your receipts from [participating businesses](#), and a percentage of your total will be donated to the Central High School Foundation. Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

Follow and Like Us on Social Media



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) or [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)? 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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