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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

## EAGLE NEWS September 2025



CHSF Staff, Erika, Josh, and Brett, getting ready to welcome everyone to the Generation "C" Tailgate!



**Dear Supporter,**  
Fall is officially here!

We've had an incredibly busy and exciting month, both in celebration and in preparation for the events we have on the horizon. In the last few weeks, we have celebrated six different class reunions and had so much fun at our annual Generation "C" tailgate on Friday, September 19. Read on to learn more and see pictures of the fun!

The Central High School Foundation has several alumni events on the horizon. The Central High School Hall of Fame ceremony will be on October 9th, 2025, so [register today](#) to be part of the fun! Our Passing Periods: Alumni Luncheon, featuring guest speaker Pete Festersen (CHS 1989) will be on October 10th, 2025. [Click here](#) to reserve your spot!

Lastly, class reunion season is nearly over! If your reunion is scheduled for next year, please [update your record](#) to ensure your physical invitation and event communications are sent to the correct address.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Central High School community. Together,

we continue to uphold more than 166 years of tradition and excellence.

Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

*Michelle Roberts*

Michele Roberts, *Executive Director*

### Passing Periods: Alumni Luncheon Series



Eagles across Omaha are brushing shoulders for a quick hello during the Passing Periods: CHS Alumni Luncheon Series, and we hope to bump into you there! For \$20, you can enjoy a great meal, catch up with friends you haven't seen since first period, talk with teachers who you haven't seen since home room and listen to our exclusive lineup of guest speakers.

#### **Join us for our next luncheon:**

October 10, 2025  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Field Club of Omaha  
3615 Woolworth Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68105

#### **Guest Speaker: Pete Festersen ('89)**

Pete is the third generation of his family to attend Central and has left his mark in Omaha as the longest serving member of City Council in Omaha history. He is a 2025 Central High School Hall of Fame inductee.

Please register and pay using the online registration button below. You will receive a confirmation email upon completion of your online registration and payment.

*To register by mail, please mail your registration and check to:*

Central High School Foundation  
1111 N 13th Street Suite 318  
Omaha, NE 68102-4252

If you have any questions, please contact the Foundation office at 402-556-1996 or [events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org).

[Register to Attend Passing Periods](#)

[Register for Hall of Fame](#)



The 26th Annual Central High School Hall of Fame Dinner and Ceremony will be held **Thursday, October 9, 2025**, at Central High School. The Central High School Alumni Association is proud to induct 12 individuals whose paths from the halls of Central High School led them to the highest levels of achievement in business and community service. Inductees are selected by the CHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee and the program is presented by the Central High School Foundation. [Click here](#) to learn more about the event.

#### **Schedule of Events**

**Social Hour in Courtyard: 5:30 PM**

**Dinner in Courtyard: 6:15 PM**

**Ceremony in Auditorium: 7:30 PM**

Is there someone you would like to see in the Central High School Hall of Fame? Remember, for them to be considered by the CHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee, they have to be [nominated](#).

Your Impact: FBLA Nationals



**YOUR IMPACT:** CHS Senior Sienna Maskin Shines at FBLA Nationals

This past summer, CHS Senior, **Sienna Maskin**, traveled to Anaheim, California to compete at the FBLA National Conference where she won 7th place in Business Management after earning first place at the state level in that category.

Sienna said that the most memorable part of the conference was placing in the top ten on the national stage. "At the national level, it is more difficult to stand out and prove you are the best, especially because the other competitors are now at your same skill level. Standing on that national stage, holding a big fancy award, and hearing thousands of people cheer for my accomplishment is a moment I will never forget."

FBLA, Future Business Leaders of America, is a national organization that prepares students for careers in business through leadership and educational workshops as well as competitions. These events allow students to network with their peers and professionals as they prepare for future careers in the business world.



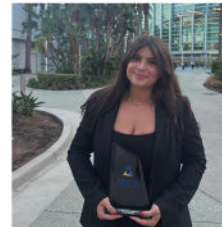
**"Many classes at Central, especially my Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes, challenge me to think critically and dive deeper when interpreting and analyzing questions. Those two skills are incredibly helpful when performing because they help you to fully understand how to resolve a problem and make yourself stand out."**

The first part of the national competition is a one hundred question objective test. The top fifteen scorers on this test then move on to the performance round, where they are given a real-world business management problem. The students then present their ideas about how to address and solve the issues to a panel of judges who are working business management professionals.

Sienna placed in the top fifteen on the written test, and for the presentation round she assumed the role of the supervising manager for a regional coffee shop with six locations. The shops faced multiple problems, including a low employee retention rate, customer dissatisfaction, and increased competition, contributing to a decrease in the company's profits.

"To resolve these issues, I presented solutions that included providing bi-weekly training sessions to continue educating employees, creating online resources where customers could voice their complaints, and establishing a presence on social media to expand our target audience and bring in more customers."

Sienna also understands that her support system extends beyond the halls and classrooms of Central High. "I want to express my deepest gratitude to the CHS Foundation for sponsoring my trip. Their contributions mean the world to me and the hundreds of other students they support. I had the most incredible experience in Anaheim this summer representing Central, and I am extremely thankful that the CHS Foundation was able to help me participate in this opportunity."



With funds from the Foundation, CHS Senior Sienna Maskin was able to travel to Anaheim, CA, to compete at the FBLA National Conference this summer. She won 7th place in Business Management after earning first place at the state level in that category!

Sienna says, "I want to express my deepest gratitude to the CHS Foundation for sponsoring my trip. Their contributions mean the world to me and the hundreds of other students they support. I had the most incredible experience in Anaheim this summer representing Central, and I am extremely thankful that the CHS Foundation was able to help me participate in this opportunity."

This is all thanks to YOUR generosity and support! To continue making an impact, join Generation "C" today! <https://chsfomaha.org/support/generation-c/>

## Generation "C" Tailgate



Among the many perks that come along with being a member of Generation "C" is the Generation "C" tailgate! Members of the Sea Eagle tier and above are invited for a fun night at a Central home football game with an awesome buffet, a special performance by the marching band, and wristbands for entry to the game. If you want to make sure you're on the list for next year, [join Generation "C" today!](#)

Join Generation "C"

Dr. G.E. and Betty Moller Legacy Walkway



As many of you know, our cherished Dr. G.E. and Betty Moller Legacy Walkway and the Jepsen Family Legacy Plaza were vandalized in 2024. These spaces hold deep meaning for our community, and restoring them was no small task.

We are beyond grateful to Adrian Ferguson, Central High School Class of 1989, who stepped up in a big way. As an accomplished architect, Adrian donated countless hours to help us return the walkway and plaza to their original beauty - a true act of generosity and Eagle spirit.

Thank you, Adrian, for your time, talent, and unwavering commitment to Central. You've helped preserve a legacy that means so much to so many.

[Support the Legacy Fund](#)

[Class of 1965 60th Reunion](#)



### The class of 1965 recently celebrated their 60th reunion!

The 60th Reunion for the Class of 1965 was held September 5th and 6th. On Friday evening, classmates gathered at Roja for socializing, reacquainting and a taco buffet. Saturday morning many met at CHS for coffee and doughnuts before a guided tour of the school with a brief talk from members of the Foundation. More socializing continued Saturday evening along with a sit-down dinner at the Omaha Field Club. Renewing friendships, sharing memories, good food and lovely weather helped to make this a memorable weekend.

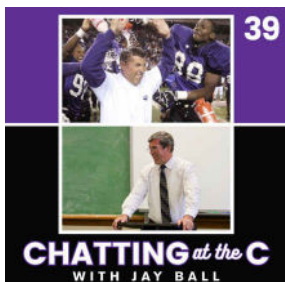
[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

### New Podcast Episodes: Chatting at the C



[Chatting at the C](#) is a podcast series by CHS teachers Scott Wilson and Ben Boeckman, focusing on the teaching history of Central High School. In each episode, they interview past and present CHS staff to preserve their contribution to Omaha Central High School.

**Recent episodes below:**



#### [Jay Ball, CHS 1980](#)

Listen as they are joined by retired Central Social Studies teacher and head football coach, Jay Ball. Jay is a 1980 CHS graduate, who taught and coached in OPS for 30 years, including from 2006-2017 at Omaha Central High School. Jay was heavily influenced by his father Jerry, but Jay also notes the numerous great teachers, coaches, and colleagues who helped him along the way.

#### [Marion Crandell, CHS 1889](#)

Listen as they are joined by Peter Bock, CHS 2010, who researched Marion Crandell's life for his History project during his senior year. Marion volunteered to go to France during The Great War in 1918 to help soldiers behind the lines recuperate

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**CHATTING at the C**  
MARION CRANDELL

from combat. Marion was killed during the German offensive in March of 1918 and is believed to be the first American woman killed at the front during WWI.

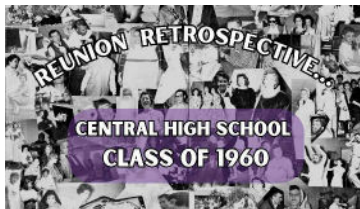
[Listen Now](#)

## Catch up with the Quill & Feather



### [The Quill & Feather](#)

With reunion season and the school year in full swing, 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!



### [Reunion Retrospective - 1960](#)

In the spirit of reminiscing at class reunions, we are starting a new series called “Reunion Retrospectives,” where we take a look at what was going on during the senior year of the classes that are celebrating in 2025! Read on to find out what was happening at Central High School, and in the world, during the 1959-1960 school year.

[Read the Quill & Feather](#)

## Gift a Teacher a Flower Arrangement

# THANK A TEACHER WITH A FLORAL ARRANGEMENT



Floral arrangements will be showcased at the Central High School Hall of Fame Ceremony on Thursday, October 9, 2025. You'll have the chance to bid on one of these arrangements and gift it to a current Central High School staff member of your choice!

**Bidding is open NOW:** [Click here to start bidding!](#)

Flowers will be delivered to the designated recipient by Foundation Staff on Friday, October 10, 2025. The winner MUST EMAIL the Foundation at [foundation@chsfomaha.org](mailto:foundation@chsfomaha.org) to let us know the name of the staff member. In that email, you may also include a message from you and/or your student that we will attach to the flowers. Proceeds will be given to the Central High PEP (Parent-Educator-Pupil Organization). Happy bidding!

[Start Bidding Now](#)

Class of 1995 30th Reunion

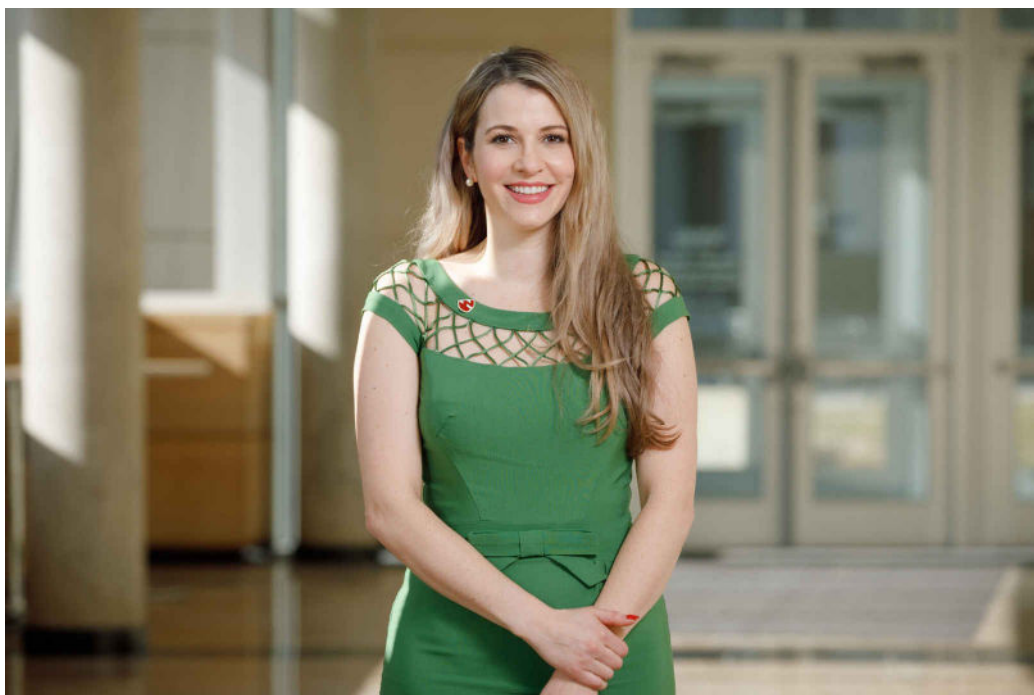


### **The class of 1995 recently celebrated their 30th reunion!**

Classmates met at the Central vs. North football game at Seemann Stadium on Friday night followed by an informal gathering of about 100 classmates at Secret Park, owned by Central Alumni - the Behrens family. They also hosted a continental breakfast on Saturday morning for those wanting a tour of the school. They then capped the weekend off on Saturday evening at Sips on 10th, also owned by Central Alumni - the DiGiacomo family - where they enjoyed a cocktail hour, buffet dinner, DJ, and then televised the Crawford fight.

[Donate to the First Class Challenge](#)

### **Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Jennifer Adams, CHS 2004**



Central High School Class of 2004 alum, Dr. Jennifer Adams was recently named the chair of the Department of Dermatology at UNMC. Read the below excerpt

from [UNMC's article](#) about her to learn more of Dr. Adams's story:

Jennifer Adams, MD, has been named the chair of the UNMC Department of Dermatology, effective Sept. 1. In making the announcement, Bradley Britigan, MD, dean of the UNMC College of Medicine, said Dr. Adams was a strong and innovative leader who had helped build the almost 8-year-old department. "Dr. Adams brings a vision for the future of the department, as well as a passion for addressing the shortage of dermatologists in our state," Dr. Britigan said. "We are excited to see her step into this role."

An Omaha native and Central High School graduate, Dr. Adams joined UNMC in early 2019, shortly after the creation of the UNMC Department of Dermatology. "I was thrilled for the opportunity to help build a new program in my home state," she said. "Building the program is what brought me back home."

Before coming back, Dr. Adams earned her MD at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. She attended Lankenau Medical Center in Pennsylvania for an internship in internal medicine and completed her dermatology residency at the University of Miami and Jackson Memorial Hospitals in Miami, serving as chief resident. She also earned a Tropical Medicine & Hygiene degree from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and spent time globally caring for patients before starting clinical practice in North Carolina.

Part of what brought her home, she said, was a desire to return to academic medicine. "During my chief resident year at University of Miami, I really loved how the students and trainees really push you to learn more," said Dr. Adams, who last year earned a [UNMC Impact in Education Award](#). "I was out in private practice in North Carolina for a bit before returning to academics. ... I realized quickly that I missed sharing the joy of what I love to do with other learners and seeing the joy spark in them as well."

As she moves into the chair's role, Dr. Adams sees a lot of strengths in her still-young department. One of her goals in her new role, she said, was to nurture the departmental culture that she called the "secret sauce" to the department's growth and success.

Dr. Adams comes to her new role with a great deal of leadership experience. In addition to serving as interim chair since July 2024, and as vice chair before that, Dr. Adams has been the program director in the department for the last four years as the department expanded its new training program. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Dermatologic Society, chairs a national committee for the Women's Dermatologic Society and is a representative to the American Academy of Dermatology Advisory Board, in addition to serving on numerous national AAD committees.

If you know any alumni who you think deserve to have the spotlight, send them to us at [connect@chsfomaha.org](mailto:connect@chsfomaha.org).

[Nominate an Alum for the Spotlight](#)

2025-2026 Generation "C" Chairs

### **The Past: A Tradition Begins**

**Jennifer** Johnson Taylor, Class of 1991, was the first in her family to attend Central, and in



doing so, she began a proud family tradition. Growing up in Omaha's Dundee neighborhood, Jen followed the classic midtown path: Dundee Elementary, Lewis & Clark Middle, and finally, Central High School. The historic architecture of Central first drew her in, but it was the vibrant community and transformative experiences that made her a lifelong Eagle. After graduating, Jen pursued

a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at Hamilton College in New York, then returned to Omaha to earn her Juris Doctor from Creighton University School of Law. Her career has taken her from private practice to public service, and today she serves as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Omaha - working in an office with a view of downtown that reminds her of her days at Central. Jen's sisters, Kathryn Johnson Krueger, Class of 2004, and Molly Johnson, Class of 2014 also joined the Central family further cementing the Johnson legacy at Central.

### **The Present: Soaring Higher**

When she and her husband, Darin, started their family, Jen passed on her love for Central to the next generation. Her daughter, **Cecilia** Taylor, Class of 2026, is a four-year varsity swimmer and state qualifier, a varsity golfer, and an active member of HOSA and National Honor Society (serving as Activities Coordinator). She is also involved in several advanced academic programs outside of Central, including the Haddix STEM Corridor and the UNMC High School Alliance. Cecilia credits Central with connecting her to these incredible opportunities and inspiring her passion for science. She plans to major in Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry and is exploring undergraduate research programs at the University of Washington and the University of Pittsburgh.

### **The Future: The Legacy Continues**

The Eagle spirit lives on in Charles "**Chuck**" Taylor, Class of 2032. Currently a student at Dundee Elementary School, Chuck is already preparing to follow in the footsteps of his mother, aunts, and sister. An avid golfer in the Nebraska Jr. PGA League, Chuck also enjoys basketball, football, swimming, baseball, and chess. His teachers note his love of history and enthusiasm for fun facts. With his boundless curiosity and love for learning, Chuck is ready to carry the family legacy forward at Central High School.

[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](#)

## Upcoming Class Reunion Schedule



The class of 1989 at their reunion in 2024!

## Upcoming Reunion Schedule

[Class of 1960](#)

September 26, 2025

[Contact JoAnn Kratky](#)

### [Class of 1975](#)

October 10-11, 2025

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

[Contact Sue](#) 402-320-6489

### [Class of 2005](#)

October 10-11, 2025

[Contact Michael Smith](#)

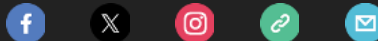
If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date for your class reunion or would like to look at postponing or cancelling it, please contact the Foundation office at [events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) or call 402-556-1996.

## Stay Connected With Us on Social Media



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) or [X](#) (Formerly known as Twitter)? 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



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