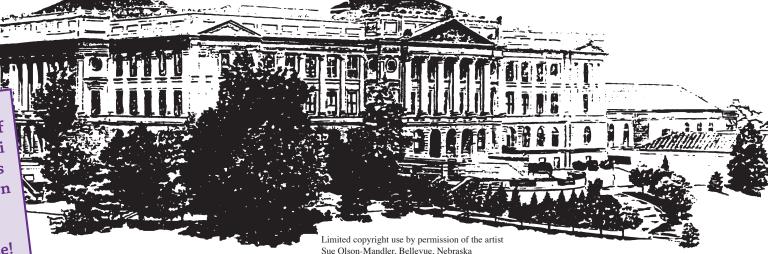
The 2007 Fall issue of the Alumni Register is featured on

pages 10 through 12. And, don't miss the 2007 CHS Hall of Fame!



# **Central High School Foundation** Annual Report • July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007



# From The President...

For the past several years, the Foundation has been undergoing a comprehensive strategic planning process to evaluate our role and how we can be most effective in our mission to support Central. We have now completed this process and I have several exciting new developments to share with you.

We have expanded the Foundation's board of directors from 8 to 13 members including new community, alumni and parent representatives. The board expansion is a result of the tremendous growth we've experienced over the years and our realization that we can, and should, involve more Central supporters in the operation and projects of the Foundation.

We have also had several new members join our board since last year. I am pleased to welcome all of our new board members: Susie Buffett '71, Susan (Strauss) Lebens '70, Roger Sayers '60, Richard Slosburg '67, David Van Metre, Charles "Adam" Yale '93, James Wilson '92, Patricia "Kay" (Talty) Corell '53, Lauren Kincaid and Vicki Wiles.

We are thankful for their service and look forward to working together on many exciting projects in the days ahead. Please take a few minutes to read the heartfelt comments about what prompted our new members to join the Foundation's board. I think you'll find them truly inspiring!

In addition, the former annual Parents, Educators and Pupils (P.E.P.) auction will be transitioned into Central's flagship fundraising event. Our new board members will play a key role in working with P.E.P. and others in the CHS family to create a huge, two-day gala event similar to the annual fundraisers presented by other Omaha schools. We will be counting on the support of the entire Central community to help establish and launch this exciting new event.

# **New Board Members Share Why They Choose To Serve**

At a time when we are all pulled in many different directions and our free time is in short supply, we sincerely appreciate the hard work and dedication of our board members. We asked each of our members to share with us their reasons for serving on the board. Their inspiring comments are provided below:



Doug Bottger: Being a parent of two third generation Central High School students and my involvement with Central's various parent organizations led to the honor of serving on the Foundation board. One of the most important issues for Central is keeping its place as the

region's leader in secondary education, and by serving on the board, I can play a small part in the future of Central.

#### "Central High School is, as Tom Brokaw says, THE crown jewel...one of the few urban high schools in the country that works."



Susie Buffett '71: Central High School is, as Tom Brokaw says, THE crown jewel. I feel incredibly lucky that I happened to go to high school in that building. The education that kids receive there goes far beyond academics. It's the most wonderful mix of people and one

of the few downtown urban high schools in the country that works. When students leave that school, they have had an exceptional experience that prepares them for the real world. It's rare. I feel particularly proud of the fact that my kids are fifth generation CHS students! It's so important that all of us who recognize how truly special Central is continue to support it in every way possible.



Kay (Talty) Corell '53: Central High was very important to me as a student in the 50's, and the standards and values instilled by the excellent teachers I had then have been with me my whole life. Exposure to that high standard of achievement is even more important to

today's students, and I want to help see that maintained



Roger Sayers '60: When I was asked to serve on the board it was an easy decision that I view as a continuance of the bond I have with Central. My board service will give me the opportunity to become an advocate and to help promote awareness of one of the greatest public high school

teaching intuitions in the United States.

Richard Slosburg '67: I am a member of a family who has had a long association with Central, starting with my grandfather who attended "Omaha High School" (as Central was then named) in the late 1800's. I look forward to working with other Foundation members

to make sure the resources are available to enable Central to continue providing an exceptional high school experience for a diverse student population.



Dave Van Metre: I am proud to serve on the Foundation board because of Carol's and my loyalty to, and strong belief in CHS's academic program. Our two sons received an exceptional education at Central among a diverse student population, some of whom traveled long

distances to be part of this impressive and unique school.



Vicki Wiles: Having had three generations of relatives attend Central, I have been extremely proud as the fourth generation to be teaching at Central.

"I regard Central High School as one of the greater achievements in my life for simply having walked the same halls of so many attendees before my time, many of whom have risen to fame, fortune and power..."

In closing, I'd like to thank each of you for your generous donations of time, energy and resources. Your commitment and dedication are helping to ensure the Central tradition of excellence will endure to serve future generations.

Sincerely,

### Rusty Crossman

Dr. Rusty Crossman '66 **CHS Foundation President**  at Central.



Lauren Kincaid: I am excited to be part of the Foundation board for the next two years. I am the parent of two current CHS students and am eager to contribute to the ongoing efforts of the Foundation to keep Central a beautiful downtown school with great educational and extracurricular opportunities for its diverse student population.

Susan (Strauss) Lebens '70: There is no question in my mind that any success I attained in my professional and civic volunteer life is directly attributed to my years at Central High School. Central provided me with an incredible background to compete and contribute

with the outstanding faculty, the sense of community, the high expectations, the wonderfully diverse student body and a group of lifelong friends that I treasure.



James Wilson '92: The reason I joined the board is to give back to the institution that has given so much to me. I regard CHS as one of the greater achievements in my life for simply having walked the same halls of so many attendees before my time, many of whom have risen to

fame, fortune and power through various achievements that can be traced back to their experiences at Central.



Adam Yale '93: Central was undoubtedly the most formative and valuable academic experience I had. I believe that our society will continue to thrive only if our public school system remains strong, and Central embodies everything that high school, not just a

public high school, should be.

Central High School Foundation • PO Box 31610 • Omaha, Nebraska 68131-0610 • (402) 556-1996 • www.centralhighomaha.org

# **Foundation News**



## **Foundation Office** Wears Many Hats, Supports Requests...

The Foundation plays a key role in keeping Central supporters connected with the school and classmates. Each day, the Foundation's Executive Director Terry Price and her interns, Kara Lambrecht '07 and Erin Schultz '08 field a wide range of questions such as:

"I found a class ring – can you help me find out who it belongs to?"

"I want to contact someone I grew up with who went to Central. Can you help me get in touch with them?"

"My friends and I want to start working on our reunion. We understand you can start us off with a list of our classmates and such "

"Can you tell me who has been inducted into the Hall of Fame ... "

The Foundation's database, which includes information dating back to1895 on more than 48,000 Central alumni, parents, staff and supporters, is able to provide answers to all of these questions. Information is tracked including current contact and family information, schools attended, club memberships, board service and more.

In addition to data files, the CHS Foundation maintains files of newspaper clippings concerning Central alumni, class reunion documentation, commencement programs and other keepsakes from each senior class.

The Foundation also assists with general questions such as, "Do you have any copies of the Style Book we used when I was at Central?" and "Can I get a copy of my yearbook, which was lost when I moved?"

Chances are, if you're looking for it, and it's related to Central, it can be found in the Foundation office!



# **Mission and Role of CHS Foundation**

The mission of the Central High School Foundation is to improve the education of present and future Central students. The Foundation's responsibilities include: managing the scholarship endowment fund; providing class reunion assistance; assisting all groups that support Central; sponsoring the Senior Recognition Event and the Teacher and Student of the Year scholarships; maintaining an extensive database of alumni, parents, staff and friends; developing and hosting a web site for groups that support Central; identifying needs and developing strategic projects to improve Central; raising funds for Central's needs, whatever those needs might be; and operating the Foundation office.

# **CHS Foundation Board of Directors**

President	. Dr. Rusty Crossman '66
Community Representatives.	. Susan "Susie" Buffett '71
	Susan (Strauss) Lebens '70
	Roger Sayers '60
	Richard Slosburg '67
	David Van Metre
	Charles "Adam" Yale '93
Alumni Association Representatives	. James Wilson '92
	Patricia "Kay" (Talty) Corell '53
P.E.P. Representatives	Lauren Kincaid
	Doug Bottger
CHS Representatives	Gregory Emmel, Principal
	Victoria "Vicki" Wiles
Executive Director	Terry Price

# **CHS Foundation Board of Counselors**

Keith Bigsby Bill Cordes '66 Brenda (Warren) Council '71 Sandy Friedman '64 Dan Daly Larry Kavich '63 Janet Darst Marc Kraft '66 Mary Ellen "Marti" (Martison) Engdahl '48 Carole (Grube) Langan '64

Sandy (Lipp) Epstein '67 Beverly (Bloom) Fellman '59

Rochelle "Rocky" (Lipp) Lewis '65 Paul Ochsner '69 Merle Rambo '69 Mary Lynn Reiser Betty (Cohn) Sanford '42

# **CHS Foundation Financials**

#### Income\*

1. Unrestricted investment income (CHSF)	\$37,000
2. Permanently restricted to Scholarship Endowment Fund Contributions (CHSF)	\$17,000
3. Unrestricted contributions (CHSF)	\$129,000
4. Temporarily restricted contributions (CHSF)	\$84,000
5. All groups "Under Our Umbrella" (AA, Athletic Boosters, VOICE, PEP, Band Parents)	\$134,000
Expenses*	\$401,000
1. Operating costs (CHSF)	\$111,000
2. Scholarships & grants paid from Temporarily Restricted Funds (CHSF)	\$174,000
3. Scholarships & grants paid from Unrestricuted Funds (CHSF)	\$25,000
4. All groups "Under Our Umbrella" (AA, Athletic Boosters, VOICE, PEP, Band Parents)	\$122,000
*In & Fun for for	\$432,000

\*Income & Expenses for fiscal year July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007 \*All figures are rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

## Net Assets As Of **June 30, 2007**

\$855,000 = 100%

54% (\$464,000) Permanently Restricted for CHS Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund 7% (\$63,000) Unrestricted Funds - Foundation

> 4% (\$34,000) Board Designated Funds for Renovation & Technology Projects

34% (\$294,000) Temporarily Restricted Funds -Foundation and all groups "Under Our Umbrella"



Top Photo: Executive Director Terry Price Bottom Photo: Interns Erin Schultz '08 and Kara Lambrecht '07

# **Contact Us**

**Mailing Address** 

P.O. Box 31610 Omaha, NE 68131-0610

#### **Office Address**

5008 1/2 Dodge Street Omaha, NE 68132-2980

**Phone:** (402) 556-1996 **Fax:** (402) 556-9557 **Email:** chsfoundation@cox.net **Web Site:** www.centralhighomaha.org

#### **Check the Web Site:**

Lists of LOST alumni and staff are posted online. Let us know if you know the whereabouts of anybody on the list.

# **Planning Ahead For CHS's Future**

There are many ways to give to the Central High School Foundation, now or in your estate plan. You may wish to consider one of the options below. For more information, contact your financial planner, lawyer or the CHS Foundation Office at (402) 556-1996.

- Bequests: For many donors, making a gift through your estate is the most realistic way to provide a substantial contribution to the CHS Foundation.
- Gifts of Insurance/Retirement: You can amend an existing insurance policy or retirement plan to name the CHS Foundation as one of your beneficiaries.
- Appreciated Securities: Your outright gift of long-term, appreciated securities (stocks, mutual funds and bonds) is exempt from capital gains taxes.
- Gifts of Real Estate: You can make a gift of commercial or residential real estate to the CHS Foundation and receive substantial financial benefits.
- Charitable Gift Annuity: A gift annuity is a contract between the donor and the CHS Foundation that provides the donor a guaranteed payment for life and a charitable income tax deduction. Deferred gift annuities are also available.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust:** A charitable remainder trust provides a lifetime income and a charitable income tax deduction.

# **Foundation News**

# **Exciting New Fundraising Event To Be Introduced, 2008**



The CHS Foundation board and other interested supporters have decided to build on the success of the P.E.P. auction by expanding the popular annual event into Central's flagship fundraiser. The new event, scheduled for April 25-26, 2008, will feature a Friday

evening patron dinner themed "Feather the Nest" and a more informal Saturday event called "Rock the Nest."

"It is especially exciting as we are planning the first year as a kick-off campaign for the 150th year anniversary of Central," said Dr. Kevin Garvin, father of Robert '04, Elisabeth '07 and Charlotte '10. Founded in 1859, Central will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2009.

There are many opportunities for Central supporters to get involved with the new event, explained Dr. Garvin.

"People should first of all mark their calendars and plan to attend," he said. "Also, the Foundation's umbrella groups will be actively involved in the planning and producing of the event. We will need everyone's help to make this the success that the Central community has come to expect."

#### SAVE THE DATE: Don't miss Central's "Feather the Nest" and "Rock the Nest" events on April 25th and 26th, 2008.

Funds raised from the "Feather the Nest" and "Rock the Nest" events will support scholarships, teacher grants and special projects.

Photo: Dr. Kevin Garvin



Photo (left to right): *Fifth Annual Golf outing at Ironwood Golf & Country Club* - Principal Greg Emmel with former principals "Doc" Moller and Jerry Bexten

## Principal Greg Emmel Reflects On First Year At Central

After completing my first year at Central, I've been able to see and experience the strong support which Central has from alumni, parents, students, staff and community supporters. It is apparent that the desire to maintain Central as an outstanding vehichle to educate young adults is strong and dedicated.

The CHS Foundation continues to be a strong and steady support for our school. Maintaining our scholarship fund and alumni database, helping our parent organizations and Alumni Association, and assisting with events such as the Senior Recognition Ceremony, annual golf outing, and the Hall of Fame Induction are some examples of this support.

#### "Excitement is building for the Lighten & Enlighten Project, which has the potential to improve our campus..."

Excitement is building for the Lighten & Enlighten Project, which has the potential to improve our campus and facility in terms of public image, security, and artistic enjoyment. The support of the CHS Foundation with this project is much appreciated.

What better time to also "highlight" the success of our students? During the past year four state championships were secured in Chess, Boys Track and Field, Journalism and Boys Basketball. The Academic Decathlon Team finished third at State, the Class of 2007 earned millions of dollars in scholarships, and among our staff we had another Buffett Award winner and the Nebraska History Teacher of the Year.

Central High still offers twenty AP classes, a strong honors program and a Dual Enrollment Program with UNO. An excellent fine arts program and a wide array of elective classes offer our students incredible choices and opportunities.

We continue to celebrate our diversity at Central, and we are still known as truly one of the most diverse high schools in the state. Not only do we have racial and ethnic diversity, but we also have nearly 45% of our students on free/reduced lunch, a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds as well as foreign exchange students, recent immigrants, and every type of dress, personal style and hairdo imaginable!

# **Lighten & Enlighten Project Moves Forward**

Over the past year, planning for the Lighten & Enlighten project has moved the initiative forward. The "lighten" component of the project will illuminate the school's exterior to highlight the building's impressive architectural features while enhancing the safety of students and teachers who are at the school after dark.

"The lighting design firm is currently working with OPS to get bids on the project," said Susan Lebens '70, who is helping coordinate and raise funds for the project. "Once we have a financial range, the fundraising will begin. I anticipate we will have numbers in the next month or so."

The Oakland, California-based architectural lighting design firm Lumenworks, owned by Thomas Skradski '70, is providing the design plan for the project at no charge. "I have always wanted to light this building," said Skradksi. "It is a noted historical site that needs to be celebrated, for the benefit of Central High School and the City of Omaha."

Skradski's "simple and elegant" lighting design incorporates California's rigorous energy standards and mandates. His plan uses energy-efficient LED technology and requires very little maintenance.

The second component of the Lighten & Enlighten project is a tasteful programmable electronic sign that will "enlighten" Central supporters and the general public about school activities and accomplishments.

The sign will be installed in an attractive, curved limestone wall in front of the school at the corner of 20th and Dodge Streets. Additional features of the design include a built-in seating area and plaza with an embedded Central "C" in the paving and decorative plantings.

## **Teachers & Students Honored At Senior Recognition Day**

Held on Sunday, May 20, Central's annual Senior Recognition Event honored Rita Ryan as Teacher of the Year and Matthew Cronin '07 as Student of the Year. The event also recognized the \$4.9 million in scholarships and awards earned by the Class of 2007, including the \$175,000 in scholarships that was awarded through the Foundation.

The Foundation's board of directors selects the Teacher of the Year from among the talented educators who have been nominated. Anyone can nominate a deserving teacher for this honor.

2007 honoree Rita Ryan has been teaching for 35 years, all at Central High. She has received degrees from Creighton University in Latin, Greek and Philosophy and has done graduate work at the University of Iowa and William & Mary. She has taken 12 trips to Italy, Greece and Turkey with CHS students and parents, has won the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award (in 1990) and has won other awards, too numerous to list. She will have 204 Latin students per day in her classes at Central this fall. most votes are passed along to the Foundation's board of counselors who make the final decision. The winner receives a \$1,000 scholarship and a marble paperweight inscribed with his or her name as "Student of the Year."

2007 Student of the Year Matthew Cronin has participated in a mind-boggling number of leadership activities and volunteer efforts both at CHS and in the community, while maintaining a 3.9 GPA. Cronin will be attending the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, and is interested in degrees associated with Social Justice and Education.

"I wasn't expecting it," said Cronin. "But the recognition made me very proud and gave me positive encouragement that I'm doing something right."

Ryan was presented with a crystal paperweight inscribed with her name as "Teacher of the Year." "I was just awed by this wonderful honor, especially in light of the other talented CHS teachers who have also won this coveted award," said Ryan.

Students nominate themselves for the Student of the Year award by completing the Foundation's nomination form. Candidates list their accomplishments and activities, both inside and outside of school, and submit an essay.

All personal information is removed from the student nomination forms which are distributed to the Foundation's board of directors. The board then votes for its top six choices. The six nominees receiving the Both Rita Ryan and Matthew Cronin's names have been added to the plaques located in the CHS courtyard and the Foundation office.

Ranking as the second largest high school in the state this past year (about 2,450 students), Central High School continues to be a popular choice for students and families across the metro area.

3.

#### **Senior Recognition Day Photos**



Left Photo (left to right): CHS Guidance Director Cathy Andrus and CHS Principal Greg Emmel Middle Photo (left to right): Samantha Chesters '07 and "Teacher of the Year" Rita Ryan Right Photo (left to right): CHS Principal Greg Emmel, "Student of the Year" Matt Cronin '07, Carol Pinard Cronin and CHS Foundation President Dr. Rusty Crossman '66

# **WWII Project**

# **Under The Umbrella**

# CHS Research Project Honors Fallen Heroes While Building Bridges Between Generations

Central's U.S. History and A.P. American History teacher Scott Wilson is known for his ability to bring history to life in the classroom. But even he was surprised by the profound impact his World War II research project has had on his students.

#### "I have never had a project impact my students to the extent that this project has..."

At the start of the last two school years, Wilson has had each of his A.P. U.S. History students select the name of a Central student who died during combat in WWII. The students were then required to conduct research about "their" person – including interviews with family and friends.

"I have never had a project impact my students to the extent that this project has," said Wilson. "I wasn't sure how students from this era would connect to the WWII generation, but they certainly have. I am sure they will remember their person always."

Never one to stand on the sidelines, Wilson also selects a Central veteran to research. Last year, he selected Stan Yergey '41. During the course of his research, he interviewed Stan's wife, Virginia (Gantz) Yergey Thompson '41, who provided information about their life together.

Stan and Virginia were high school sweethearts, who met at the Dundee Theater. Stan joined the service in 1942, and they married in March of 1944 while Stan was on leave. He was killed over Germany on a bombing mission in November of 1944, just eight months after their marriage.

"I was surprised when Scott contacted me, but pleased to talk about one of the happiest times of my life," said Thompson. "The profile he wrote on Stan contained information that I didn't know about his last flight. It was very enlightening."

All of the biographies compiled by the students and Wilson have been incorporated into two bound volumes. To date, 31 of the 70 WWII casualties have been profiled. Wilson plans to complete the project in the next few years before moving on to Korean War and Vietnam War veterans.



Organizations under the Foundation's umbrella enjoy our non-profit status and assistance in raising and managing funds. A listing of these organization's mission and activities is provided in the following paragraphs.

**P.E.P.** - Parents, Educators and Pupils (P.E.P.) supports students, teachers and administrators through a variety of fundraising programs and special projects. Among those programs and projects are the following: Holiday Tea for teachers, Purple Feather Day, refreshments for teachers during conferences and teacher retirement gifts, Teacher Appreciation Week, Post-Prom Party, National Honor Society Brunch and Senior Recognition Day refreshments.

**Athletic Booster Club** - The Athletic Booster Club's mission is to provide support and recognition for athletic teams and coaches by assisting with the annual golf outing; generating funds through the sale of memberships and other fundraising activities; providing recognition for athletes, coaches and other individuals or organizations that support Central athletics; providing support for coaches and athletic teams beyond what the school can afford to provide; and encouraging student support of all athletic teams.

**Band Parent Organization** - The Central Band Parents help provide meaningful opportunities for band students including support of the CHS musical staff; scholarships for graduating seniors; accompaniment to music concerts; transportatoin of equipment to games and parades; instrument maintenance and repair; and assistance to fund camps, clinics and judges.





**Alumni Association** - Charged with "Keeping Central, Central," the Alumni Association uses funds received from annual memberships to support its annual Hall of Fame Dinner, a twice-annual newsletter, reunion assistance, special events, library projects, and historical memorabilia and storage.

**V.O.I.C.E.** - Volunteer Organization Investing in Choral Excellence (V.O.I.C.E.) assists the choral arts program by sponsoring and promoting all vocal music activities and programs, presenting the Madrigal Dinner and Honors Banquet, awarding VOICE scholarships to current seniors and conducting fundraising activities.

Top Photo (left to right): *CHS Student Recruitment Open House in January of 2007* - Dave Schinzel '82, Roy Katskee '60 and James Wilson '92.

Bottom Photo (left to right): *CHS Singers* - Aaron French, Adrienne Anderson, Joe Albright, Elizabeth Erikson, D'Antae Potter, Sara Potts and Kendall Taylor.

# Annual Golf Outing Honored Jo Dusatko While Raising Funds For Athletic Programs

On Monday, June 4, Central's fifth annual golf outing at Ironwood Golf & Country Club attracted a record number of golfers. In addition to providing a fun and entertaining afternoon of golf and reminiscing with Central supporters, the outing raised funds for Central's athletic programs and honored former coach Jo Dusatko.

Coach Dusatko came to Central in 1967 as a teacher. In 1971, when Title IX became law, she coached track from 1971 through 1986. Title IX required all schools receiving federal funds to provide girls and women equal opportunity to compete in sports.

Dusatko coached seven state champion track teams and five runners up. She also established Central's first girls' golf team in 1971, which she coached until 1980, then again from 1986 to 2000. In 1987, Central introduced soccer with Dusatko as the program's first coach.

Maurtice Ivy '84, who was coached in track by Dusatko and currently coaches women's basketball at UNO,



introduced her at the golf outing. "I had many great role models at Central and she was one of them," said Ivy. "She was an overall genuine person and a straight shooter. Her recruitment skills were among her greatest strengths. She quickly established a track dynasty at Central."

"I was very humbled to be honored at Central's golf outing," said Dusatko. "Central has been such an important part of my life. The honor at the outing gave me an opportunity to thank many people that were very supportive of me in my years of coaching, and helped bring girl's sports at Central to where they are today."

Proceeds from the golf outing will support Central's athletic needs. Past projects funded have included a John Deere Gator, trailer and hitch, turf-cleaning machine, hot dog grill and bun warmer for the concession stand, power washer, goal post nets, privacy slats for the Seemann Stadium fence and a video camera for sports events.

Left Photo (left to right): *Golf Outing* - Coach Jo Dusatko and Maurtice Ivy '84

Photo Above (left to right): *Virgina's Front Porch, Sept. 1943* - Virginia (Gantz) Yergey Thompson '41 and Stan Yergey '41.

Right Photo (left to right): *Golf Outing* -Brian Walter '95, Mike Mullen, Clark Lauritzen '95 and Jono Bradford '95



Photo (left to right): *WWII Research Project* - Leslie Stryker '07 and Ben Sylvester '42

### **History Comes Full Circle Through WWII Project**

Ben Sylvester '42, a WWII veteran, conducted the research posted on the Foundation's web site that documents the names, dates and place of death of each Central graduate who was killed while serving in the military during WWII. Sylvester also acted as a resource on the WWII project, answering questions from Scott Wilson's students about his former classmates.

In 2001, Sylvester established an endowed scholarship through the CHS Foundation in honor of his best friend, James Baume Stryker '42, who was killed during WWII in Germany in 1944. Ben and his wife, Lee (Dodge) Sylvester, who live in Guilford, Connecticut, visited the students in Scott Wilson's A.P. History class on a recent trip to Omaha. While they were at Central, Ben had the opportunity to meet Leslie Stryker '07, great-niece of his close friend James Baume Stryker.

"Meeting Ben and Lee Sylvester was a wonderful experience," said Leslie Stryker. "Before I met Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester, it seemed as if Uncle Jimmy existed only within my immediate family. Mr. and Mrs. (continued on page 6)

# **Class Reunion News**

# **Class Of '51 Wins 1st Class Challenge**

Each year, the CHS classes holding reunions are invited to participate in the First Class Challenge, a friendly competition to raise money for the Foundation's day-to-day operating expenses. At the end of the year, the class that raises the most money wins. Congratulations go out to the Class of '51 for winning the 2006 First Class Challenge with a donation of \$6,156 – one of the largest amounts ever raised in the seven-year history of the competition!

The successful reunion was held October 5-7, 2006. On Thursday, the class attended the CHS Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony. On Friday night, the group got together for dinner at Upstream Brewing Company and then attended Central's homecoming football game. On Saturday, the reunion concluded with a tour of Central and dinner at Rick's Café Boatyard.

Organizational meetings for the reunion were held at the Foundation office. Executive Director Terry Price provided mailing lists and labels, helped stuff envelopes and answered questions. "She was like one of our classmates," said Larry Albert '51, who has helped plan his class' reunions since their 20th was held in 1971.

The class still keeps in contact with one another. "I can't explain our connection with Central," said Albert. "It's just inbred and in our blood." The ambitious class is currently actively planning its 60th reunion.



Photo (left to right): *Class of '56 presents check for \$4,665 to the CHS Foundation* - John Goldner, John Emery, Caroline "Rocky" Cohn Stern, Jerry Gray, Dick and Helen Hockabout Kelley, Bob Hall, Murray Newman, Barb Hyland Hagan, Ted Carlson, Monte Mead, Mike Mogil and Larry Hagan (not pictured: Mike Erman and Irene "Midge" Greenberg Bowers)

• **Class of '56** - Approximately 200 classmates and guests gathered in July 2006 to celebrate the Class of '56's 50th year reunion. The three-day event began on Friday evening with cocktails at Rick's Café Boatyard. On Saturday, the class toured Central and then regrouped for a special evening featuring dinner and live music by Juke Box Journeys at the Holland Center.

"It was great seeing people that you haven't seen in 50 years," said Bob Hall '56, who helped organize the reunion. "There is still a very strong connection."

In order to keep costs down and encourage participation, reunion organizers contacted classmates in advance with a request for donations. The appeal was so successful that the reunion planners were able to offer the entire weekend for just \$100 per person.

Helen Kelley '56 created a reunion booklet to mark the 50th reunion. She asked each classmate to send her a 50-word description about themselves. In what she calls a "labor of love," she then drew upon her skills as an English teacher to edit the descriptions and compile them into a booklet.

Although the Class of '56 did not win the First Class Challenge, they came close with a generous donation of \$4,665. The check was presented to Terry Price at the home of Larry & Barb (Hyland) Hagen '56. our most important tool," said reunion organizer Cindy Hadsell '66. "Researching the Foundation archives of other classes for ideas was also helpful and lots of fun."

The class plans to hold its next reunion in 2011 and is currently considering a 60th birthday party next year for those still living in the Omaha area.

• **Class of '86** - The Class of '86 held its 20-year class reunion August 4-5, 2006. Approximately 140 people attended dinner at Castle Barrett on Friday and enjoyed a tour of Central and dinner at 1316 Jones on Saturday.

"There is still a great bond in our class," said Bart Lovgren '86, who helped coordinate the reunion. "It is very intriguing to find where peoples' lives have taken them."

• **Class of '47** - The 60th reunion of the Class of '47 was held June 6-8, 2007. The weekend began on Friday with cocktails and a buffet dinner at the UNO Alumni Center. Saturday featured a tour of Central, a tour of Omaha aboard Ollie the Trolley and dinner and dancing at the Georgetown Club. On Sunday, the class attended brunch at the Sunset Country Club with entertainment provided by Camille Metoyer Moten and Chuck Pennington.

The successful reunion was attended by 105 classmates and guests and was voted "best ever" by attendees. Organizer Ray Barr '47 attributes the success to several factors: two years of planning by a well-organized committee, great entertainment and excellent food.

In addition, the class solicited donations to help underwrite the reunion. "Prior to the event, \$3,000 was donated by generous contributors to make the per person cost more reasonable," Barr said.

• **Class of '57** - Approximately 106 classmates and 63 guests of the Class of '57 held their 50th year reunion May 18-20, 2007. A good time was had by all, according to coordinator Lyla (Wetterling) Thompson '57.

"The reunion was a rousing success," said Thompson. "We achieved all of our goals and many people commented that it was the 'best reunion ever!""

The reunion featured a cocktail reception at the Hilton Garden Inn on Friday, rolls and coffee followed by a tour of Central on Saturday morning, dinner and entertainment at the Holland Center on Saturday evening, and brunch at Rick's Café Boatyard on Sunday.

# **Scholarships**

## New Scholorship Established To Honor Hird Stryker, Jr.



When Hird Stryker, Jr. '36 passed away on January 27, 2007, his three children discussed what type of memorial would be appropriate. "My father always spoke so fondly of Central," said his son, Hird Stryker III, whose daughter Leslie Stryker '07 just graduated from Central and son, Jim Stryker '10, will

be a sophomore this fall. "It seemed only fitting that we would establish a scholarship to honor his memory."

Hird Stryker, Jr. obtained his undergraduate degree at Northwestern University in Chicago and his law degree at the University of Michigan School of Law. His legal studies were interrupted in April 1942 when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served with distinction in the China- Burma-India theater of war.

#### "My father always spoke so fondly of Central...it seemed only fitting that we would establish a scholarship to honor his memory."

Following the completion of his military service and his law degree, Stryker returned to Omaha and practiced law for more than 40 years with the Fraser Stryker Law Firm. He is regarded as one of the most prominent construction lawyers of his generation, having worked for many years as counsel for Kiewit and other construction companies.

"He appreciated the education he got from Central and remained close friends with many of his classmates," recalled Stryker. "He also appreciated the diversity that was a part of the school then as it is now."

Over the next several months, Hird and his sisters, the Reverend Suzanne Stryker Lynch who resides in Springfield, Missouri, and Sandy Stryker Jones, a teacher for the past 28 years who lives in Gillette, Wyoming, will determine the amount and criteria for the scholarship which will be awarded through the CHS Foundation.



# Foundation To Manage Robert Spire Scholarship

The Central High School Foundation will now manage the Robert Spire '43 Scholarship established upon his

passing in 1994. The scholarship vill be awarded annually through the Foundation's Scholarship Endowment Fund to a student who possesses great potential, but limited financial resources.

• **Class of '66** - The Class of '66 got together August 18-20, 2006 to celebrate its 40th reunion. Approximately 150 people attended reunion activities at Sunset Valley Golf Club and the Field Club.

The Foundation's database was used to locate current contact information for classmates. "The database was

"The Foundation made organizing the reunion much easier because of the class information stored in the database," said Thompson. "We didn't have to spend as much time searching for people. We also appreciated the Foundation's assistance with bulk mailings." A distinguished Central alumnus, Spire was inducted into the First Annual CHS Hall of Fame in 1999. He served as Nebraska's attorney general from 1985 to 1990. During World War II, he was a U.S. Army officer with the 25th Infantry Division in the South Pacific. He was both an attorney (Harvard Law School) and a pianist (Julliard School of Music).

"Bob belonged to an interesting class that achieved many wonderful things," commented his wife, Elaine Spire. "They were part of the World War II generation. By the time they graduated, they had already seen friends die. The war forced them to grow up quickly and established a close bond between classmates that continues today."

We need your assistance to continue our support of Central. When making decisions about organizations that are truly making a difference in the future of young people, PLEASE remember Central! An envelope is included for you to show your support.

5.

## 2007/2008 CHS Reunion Schedule

<b>Class Of</b> 1952 (55th)	<b>Reunion Dates</b> Oct. 5-7, 2007	Reunion Contacts Paula Katzman Albert, (402) 334-5622 or pkachs@aol.com	
1962 (45th)	Oct. 19-20, 2007	Patty McFarland Bennett, (402) 493-9554 or pbennett15@cox.net Patti Adair Trotter, (402) 895-4942 or patrotter14@cox.net	
1953 (55th)	Date TBD (Fall '08)	Judy Gray Seigfreid, (402) 397-0318 or asig@cox.net Kay Talty Corell, (402) 493-2479 or kcorell@cox.net	
1958 (50th)	Date TBD 2008	Pat Salerno, (402) 553-7414 or pjsandjgs@cox.net Nelson Gordman, (402) 571-2020 or ngordman@yahoo.com	
1998 (10th)	Date TBD (August '08)	Sarah Price, (808) 557-7211 or sarahprice80@yahoo.com Ally Crossman Slobotski, (402) 203-2770 or acsoftball@aol.com Jaclyn DiGiacomo, (402) 679-8007 or jacksdig@yahoo.com	

# **Scholarships**

# **Families Going The Distance**

# Anonymous Donors Award Scholarship To Deserving Student

An anonymous donor who reviewed the 2007 Student of the Year applications was so moved by one application that they and their spouse decided to award the student a very generous scholarship. The scholarship will be applied to the student's first year of college. If certain requirements are met, the scholarship will continue all four years of college.

"We were touched by the student's selfless actions in helping others instead of being defeated by difficult circumstances in his personal life, his ability to maintain high grades and be active in school while dealing with difficult home issues, and the respect he has earned from his peers," said the donor.

# Funds Donated To Honor The Memory Of Eleanor Quelvog '32

Upon the passing of Eleanor Christina (Windtberg) Quelvog '32 on March 9, 2007, her children requested that in lieu of flowers, remembrances in her name be sent to the CHS Foundation.

"Central High was always so important to her," said her daughter, Susan Douglas. "Her teachers gave her a love of literature, understanding of Latin and grammar and a sound foundation of business skills. In fact, she credited her Central business classes with helping her get work after our father died and she became a widow with five children to support."

Born in Winner, South Dakota to Arndt and Beebe Windtberg, Eleanor was raised in Omaha and graduated from Central in 1932. She married Morris Donnelson in 1934 and was widowed in 1945. Following Morris' death, she was employed as a secretary at Minneapolis-Honeywell for seven years, until her marriage to Forest Quelvog in 1953. The family lived in Lincoln and later moved to Denver.

Forest and Eleanor spent their retirement years in Omaha and Lincoln, often traveling to visit their widespread family. After Forest passed away, Eleanor lived with her daughter Susan in Sacramento, CA for 10 years until her death.

## History Comes Full Circle Through WWII Project (Continued from Page 5)

Sylvester gave me back a part of my family and

Central High School attracts students from all parts of Omaha from a wide range of economic, religious and social backgrounds. The following comments from the Wolford, Lomneth and Doghman families help explain why so many families choose Central.



Left Photo (left to right): *Wolford Family* - Barb (Jaksich) '84, Megan, John and Matthew '10 Middle Photo (left to right): *Lomneth Family* - Rich, Theresa '10, Phil '08, Carol and Clay '06 Right Photo (left to right): *Doghman Family* - Mary, Sara '11, Maya '08 and Mohamed

#### The Wolford Family

#### Barb (Jaksich) '84 Wolford, Parent

I, being a 1984 graduate of Central High School, know what an incredible place Central High School is. I had attended a private school prior to transferring my junior year and always tell people that it was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

When coming to a decision on where to send my 15year-old son, I always kept Central in the back of my mind. But when the time came, I really wanted him to be part of that decision. We had attended several open houses, including parochial and public schools. I narrowed the choices to three or four schools, then gave him the opportunity to choose, trusting that he would make the right decision for him.

After attending several open houses, we sat down as a family, thinking of all the pros and cons of each choice, to help him narrow his decision. I was very pleased with his choice - Central High.

My husband and I have met many parents of Central students and those individuals share the same pride I do in Central High. The activity opportunities are endless, the academic opportunities are limitless and the investment in the future is priceless.

#### Matt Wolford '10

I had a great freshman year at Central. The classes have a laid back atmosphere that makes learning enjoyable. The teachers really see the promise in students and try to make the student realize it in themselves.

Diversity is one of Central's greatest assets. I feel this institution gives students an open environment unlike the sheltered environment of parochial schools. (I know this because I went to a parochial school.) I really enjoy Central, and I look forward to the next three years.

### **The Lomneth Family**

#### **Carol Lomenth, Parent**

As a parent, there are a couple of things I really love about Central. First and foremost are the teachers. In the classroom the teachers are caring, enthusiastic, committed to high standards, and know how to get the students to rise to a task while still making learning fun. In addition to being good educators, many of the teachers at Central also have the gift to inspire.

Another feature of Central I have come to love is the diversity of people with which the kids have the opportunity to interact. Their lives have been deeply enriched by having the opportunity to develop friendships with people of different religions, races and socioeconomic standing.

#### Philip Lomneth '08

The teachers here at Central are more than just amazing. After going here for three years, I am still astounded at all that they do. The time and effort all of the teachers put into not only their teaching jobs, but in coaching, directing, and sponsoring clubs is unparalleled.

Next, I think the students at Central deserve credit for making it such a wonderful place. They are welcoming and friendly to everyone. In addition, many students are involved in at least three or four extracurricular activities and are excited about each and every one.

Another great thing about Central is the building itself. Whereas most high schools look like long, boring boxes, Central has an amazing neo-classical façade all around. Inside the building, instead of cold tile floors, there are wooden floors almost everywhere one goes.

Lastly, the opportunities Central has to offer cannot be beat. There are about 80 different clubs and organizations. There are at least six different sports one can play in spring or fall, and two during the winter. There always seems to be something going on at Central, and if it doesn't fit one person's tastes, then it won't be long before something that will satisfy them will come along.

### **The Doghman Family**

#### Mary Doghman, Parent

Why do we love Central? My daughter, Maya Doghman '08, has always been a good student, but Central made her push herself hard to be able to achieve the grades she was accustomed to receiving. What she was doing was good, but her teachers wanted more.

Through the open minded attitudes at Central, she has found her voice and feels the responsibility to be involved in the community and public policy. I love the way the student council is socially active in the community and is involved in multiple community service events, including vision impaired shopping spree, honey Sunday, fundraising for the food bank, Holiday Helpers babysitting for teachers, swim meet timers, relay for life, etc.

For my other daughter, Sara Doghman '11, there was no other choice but Central. Just as with Maya, we encouraged her to look at all the OPS schools, but Sara knew that Central was the only choice for her.

Sara has always been her own person, and her "individuality" was not always accepted by her peers. She is excited about being at Central where students are accepted for who they are.

brought me to love the school that he loved even more than before."

Subsequent to the Sylvesters' visit, Leslie was awarded the James Baume Stryker Endowment Scholarship. She plans to use the scholarship to help fund her studies at Trinity University located in San Antonio, Texas.

"I was completely shocked to find out that I had received the James Baume Stryker Endowment Scholarship," said Stryker. "It felt amazing. To me, it means that someone thought I was upholding his legacy at Central in a way worthy of recognition."

In another serendipitous twist, the Sylvesters visited the Foundation office during their visit to Omaha. The building the Foundation is located in was originally N.P. Dodge Company, Lee's family's business. Lee recalled many fond memories of the office including how she used to come in and help her father, N.P Dodge, II, with secretarial work as a young girl.

6.

My final comment about why I love Central is because I believe it is a gift to our community. It's a great example of what is right with the public school system. Central offers the chance to learn in a rich educational environment with terrific teachers and lots of opportunities for everyone, not just a select few.

Has it been hard or difficult to send our daughters to school across the city? Absolutely. The drive is long and expensive. We are pushed out of our comfort zone as parents when our daughters are invited to do things in neighborhoods we are unfamiliar with. Do we regret our choice? Absolutely not. Has it been worth it? More than we ever dreamed.

# Award-Winning Documentary

Michael Walsh's '09 research on the life of Norman Allen Grove '42, a WWII casualty, inspired the creation of an award-winning documentary. His documentary won a regional National History Day competition in Omaha and took second at the state-level competition which qualified him for the national competition held at the University of Maryland this June. Michael's film won fifth-place at the national competition and received the U.S. Marine Corps Special prize for the entry that best showed the history of the Marine Corps.

Photo (left to right): Michael Walsh '09 and CHS AP American History Teacher Scott Wilson

# **Donations - July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007**

This listing includes the name of people who gave to one or more of the following groups through the CHS Foundation: CHS Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund, P.E.P. (includes Auction 2007), Alumni Association (including Alum. Assn. memberships), Athletic Booster Organization (including Golf Outing 2007), V.O.I.C.E. donations and Band Parent donations. Unrestricted and resticted gifts are included. All are listed alphabetically. The general donation list includes honorariums and memorials.

I homas Fike '3/ Helen (Winberg) Porter '48 In memory of Eleanor (Windtberg) Quelvog '32 Ann Marie Birky John & Sheila Donnelson

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In memory of Amy (Rohacek) Sutton '33

Gabrielle (Middlekauff) James '51 Joanne (Jacobs) Kohn '51 Anita (Reznichek) Riedinger '51

Anita (Reznichek) Riedinger '51 In memory of Don Swartz '65 Marc Kaplan '65 In memory of Tom Toft '67 Steven Epstein '67 In memory of Sandra (Edstrand) Tompkins '55 Gifford Tompkins '55 In memory of Edward Trabold '45 Jeanne Trabold '42

Joel Bergquist '61 In memory of Peggy (Aufenkamp) Wheeler '84 Jodie Martinez Lessa (Sundt) Scherrer '84

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Donald Buresh '62 Bernard & Sally (Sloboth) Burns '51 William Burri '68 Harvey Burstein '40 David Bushey '88 Daniel Bye '84 Diane (Rich) Calvert '58 H. Marvin Camel '42 Judith (Dolgoff) Cannon '70 Patricia (Roessig) Carlson '44 Donald Carlson '48 Theodore Carlson '56 Peggy (Havek) Carrell '66

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- William Horwich '60 In honor of Christopher Kelly '99 Bill & Marilee Kelly

- Bill & Marilee Kelly In honor of Jeremy Lerman '93 Lindsey Miller-Lerman In honor of Lothar Luken '64 Tanya (Luken) Supenski '94 In honor of Lindsay Lundholm ('94) recognized as one of ten outsanding Omahans by the Jaycees T. Geoffrey '64 & Anne Lieben In honor of Mary Moberg's ('51) volunteer work for The CHS Foundation Thomas & Terry Price In honor of Gaylord 'Doc' Moller Sharon (Simon) Friedlander '64

#### N-Z

- In honor of Cynthia Newberg Kathleen Ransom In honor of Harlan Noddle's ('54) induction into the CHS Hall of Fame
- Robert & Robyn Freeman In honor of Patrick Olson '06 & Sean Olson '08
- Margo Young In honor of Virginia Lee Pratt '37 Rebecca (Bohi) Reilly '77 In honor of Emily Roberts '04

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- In honor of Harold Slosburg '38 Jill (Slosburg) Ackerman '66 In honor of Norman Sorensen William Podrouzek '39
- William Podrouzek '39 In honor of Kathryn (Taylor) Tucker '64 my fight against cancer Kathryn (Taylor) Tucker '64 In honor of David & Carol Van Metre's induction into the CHS Hall of Fame Thomas & Terry Price In honor of Elene (Stoler) Wacks's ('64) 60th birthday

- 60th birthday Esther Stoler In honor of Evelyn (Adler) Zysman '27 Charlotte (Brodkey) Moore '58

#### **Memorials**

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- In memory of Incodore Curry 39 Ulysses Curry 39 In memory of Martha (McMillan) Daniels '48 Edward Daniels In memory of Frank Durham '65 Wesley Howard '65 In memory of Katherine (Ritcher) Evans '21 David Evans

- F-J In memory of Harry Farnham Peggy (Hayek) Carrell '66 In memory of Donald Findley '51 Barbara (Findlay) Moore '50 In memory of Joe Fisher Mary (Hanson) Fisher '47 In memory of Joephine (Pubeire)

- Mary (Hanson) Fisher '4/ In memory of Josephine (Rubnitz) Fraenkel '35 Estate of Josephine (Rubnitz) Fraenkel '35 In memory of Virginia Frank '55 Carole (Lind) Jeffrey '58 In memory of Doris (Cain) Frazier '51 Donald Cain '50 In memory of Ora (Saunders) Frohardt 1905 Buth (Greehord) McGrouw '27
- In memory of Ora (Saunders) Frohardt 190: Ruth (Frohardt) McEnery '37 In memory of Dorothy (Getzschman) Geihs Gilbert Geihs '57 In memory of John Goodsell 1891 Patrice (Goodsell) Hinchey '76 In memory of Norman Hahn '41 Ludith John '60

- In memory of Norman Hann '41 Judith Hahn '69 In memory of Harold Hampton Marilyn (Conrey) Hampton '55 In memory of Linda Harder '66 Patricia (David) Davis In memory of Robert Herbes '51 Marilyn (Herbes) Horner '52 In memory of Michael Herzog '57 David Harzon '55
- David Herzog '55 In memory of Paul Hickman '45 Class of 1945
- Liass of 1945 In memory of Daniel Hollis '60 Roy Katskee '60 In memory of Sam Hooi '73 Tony Hooi '67

- In memory of Sant Fron 75 Tony Hooi '67 In memory of Louis Houser '19 Glenn Houser '49 In memory of Alexandra (Hunt) Hooker '50 Laura (Dopita) Marling '50 Barbara (Hanley) O'Farrell '50 In memory of Susan (Reinsch) Jackson '72 Patsy (Schulz) Reinsch '50 In memory of Alan Jacobs '40 Phyllis Jacobs In memory of Michael Jamison '84 Daniel Bye '84 In memory of Lisie (Swanson) Jensen Joanne (Moron) Van Natta '55 In memory of Linda (Cummings) Johnson '61 Perry Johnson '61

- K-O In memory of Donald Kalisek '55 Roger Robinson '55 In memory of Zelig & Rachel (Grinbaum) Karpman
- Karpman Lea (Karpman) Karpman '67 In memory of Vivian (Rasmussen) Karschner '43 Eloween (Rasmussen) Clure '47
- Eloween (Kasmussen) Chu In memory of John Keenan Frances Hornstein '65 In memory of Paul Keller '41 Marie (Swoboda) Stitt '41

Robert & MaryAnn Boscardin Mary Hannon Maureen Hannon

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Charles Rice '50 Dorothy (Jacobson) Rice '50 Donald Rice '45 Barbara Richardson '78 Harry Richman '46 Martin Ricks '61 Anita (Reznichek) Riedinger '51 Linda Riekes '64 Helen (Handler) Rifkin '46 Linda (Veret) Rindler '57 Arnold '43 & Joan (Muller) '46 Ring Esther (Petersen) Rishel '40 Chad & Anna Rivedal Dorothy (Graham) Roberson '34 Carolee (Disney) Roberts '52 Bill & Kim Roberts Linda Robertson Nancy (Gassaway) Robinson '54 Charlene (Womack) Robinson '54 Charlene (Womack) Robinson '54 Charlene (Womack) Robinson '54 Charlene (Womack) Robinson '54 Charlene (Komack) Robinson '54 Charlene (Konte) '71 Maynard Rosenberg '66 Myrna (Kaiman) Rosenthal '49 Bette (Jafek) Rosse '60 Louie Rossitto '65 Janet (Rosenstock) Roston '42 Corinne (Houser) Rotella '52 Michele Rothkop '71 Marie (Williams) Rountree '47 Raymond Rowan Ronald Ruben '67 Ben Rubin '54 Sarah (Paskins) Rubinstein '60 Myron Rubintz '41 Midred (Kuncl) Rusek '42 Elaine (Hess) Russell '51

#### S-Z

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> > 9.



# **Central High Alumni Association**

Alumni Register

Central High School, Omaha, NE • Volume 9, Number 1 • Fall 2007

# Save the Date: 2007 Hall Of Fame Ceremony is October 4

The lives of 11 individuals whose paths from the halls of Central High School led them to the highest levels of achievement in business and community service will be celebrated in an awards ceremony slated for October 4, 2007. The 9th annual Hall of Fame dinner begins at 6:30 pm in the Central High School courtyard. The induction ceremony, which is free and open to the public, begins at 7:30 pm in the school auditorium. Photographs and biographies of those honored this year are featured below. A reservation form for the 6:30 pm Hall of Fame dinner is available on page 11.



#### Joanne Dusatko (Distinguished **Educator**)

An Iowa native and Wayne State graduate, Joanne joined Central's faculty in 1967 and spent her entire thirty-three year career at Central. Initially teaching business education

courses and sponsoring the cheerleaders, she established Central's Pom-pom squad in 1968; and as girls interscholastic athletics became a Nebraska reality, she moved quickly into the role of coach. Three firsts stand out. She was Central's first girls golf coach in 1971, first girls track coach beginning in the same year, and the first girls soccer coach beginning in 1986. Success followed success. Her track teams won the state championship seven times, came in second five times, and went undefeated for six seasons. Her recognition by the Nebraska Coaches Association included track coach of the year in 1979, 1980, and 1981 and overall girls coach of the year in 1984. She has served on the scholar athlete committee of the Greater Omaha Sports Committee since 1977, chairing it for the past twenty years. She also served on selection committees for the Nebraska Sports Hall of Fame, the World Herald's top 100 Nebraska athletes, and the Outland Trophy. Her own induction into the Nebraska Sports Hall of Fame came in 2002.



#### Christopher G. Foster (CHS '80)

Chris Foster graduated from Central in 1980. He attended UNO and graduated from the Institute of Computer Science. For the past twenty-three years, he has worked for the Peter Kiewit organization, currently

serving as its Information Technology Manager. Beyond his daily occupation, Chris has been an active leader since 1989 in his Gifford Park neighborhood community, organizing annual events and activities for adults and children. For the past 13 years, he has led a summer youth tennis program involving many volunteers to teach tennis to hundreds of children. Youngsters have benefited from the program, learning not only the game but sportsmanship and life skills. The Nebraska and Missouri Valley Tennis Association named Chris and his parents, "Family of the Year." In addition to his youth tennis program, he has used his own money and additional grant money to purchase land to start a community garden where his neighbors can cultivate gardens, growing their own flowers and vegetables. Neighbors have characterized Chris as "the driving force," "unsung hero," and "human dynamo" in the Gifford Park neighborhood. Leo Wilwerding wrote in the Gifford Park Newsletter: "Whether it be neighborhood cleanups, neighborhood walks, lining up Music in the Park, the Show Wagon, bike rodeo, tennis lessons, or putting up Christmas lights at 33rd and California Streets, Chris is always in the forefront." He received the Suzanne & Walter Scott neighborhood grant for improvements at Gifford Park.



### **Richard A. Frank** (CHS '54)

While President and CEO of the nonprofit corporation, PSI (Population Services International), Richard oversaw the distribution of health and family planning products and services to approximately 60

developing countries. The mainly preventive products and services included providing point of use, clean water solutions and oral rehydration salts, AIDS prevention and family planning products, insecticide-treated nets, preventive and protection procedures to reduce malaria mortality, media campaigns, and technical assistance and training in the fields of maternal and child care. In addition to his work with PSI, Richard has served as an Under Secretary of Commerce and Administrator with NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Prior to that work, Richard served as the Director of the Center for Law and Justice and Social Policy, dealing with topics related to health care, women's rights, consumer rights, and environmental law. Richard also served as Assistant Legal Advisor for Economic Affairs, having supervisory responsibilities related to trade, ocean and fishing issues, transportation, international business and banking, and water rights. Richard has also written several publications related to foreign policy, the environment, and maritime law. Before beginning his legal and government career, Richard served in the United States Army achieving the rank of First Lieutenant before being honorably discharged.

### John C. Goldner (CHS '56)

Dr. John Goldner is well-known for his work as a neurologist having established a strong private practice while serving many of Omaha's hospitals, including the University of Nebraska Medical Center,

Bishop Clarkson Hospital, Children's Hospital, Douglas County Hospital, Immanuel Medical Center, and Nebraska Methodist Hospital. His professional honors have included the William C. Menninger Award, the UNMC Presidential Hippocratic Dignity Award, and the UNMC Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Goldner has been an active member of the AMA and the Nebraska Medical Association, and he has held all offices in the UNMC Alumni Association. Dr. Goldner has also been involved in community service, being a recipient of the Westside Education Association School Bell Award for his service on the school board (President 1981-83). He has also served on the Mayor's Committee on Alcoholism, the Department of Motor Vehicles Health Advisory Committee, the Citizens Commission for the Study of Higher Education, as a Director of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and as a trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation, serving as its chairman, 2001-2003. He has been both the author and co-author of many medical-related articles covering such diverse topics as snakebite, liver function, public health, stroke, and medical history.



### **Richard Holland** (CHS '39)

A 1939 graduate of Central, Richard attended UNO, majoring in chemistry; but he returned after his World War II service as an officer in the chemical corps to major in art and even surprised his mother

by making the dean's list. After graduation, he followed his father into the advertising firm that the elder Holland had founded. Richard built it into the company that would handle such accounts as the First National Bank, Uniroyal, Valmont Industries, and beyond those commercial ventures, a number of successful political campaigns. It wasn't long until he discovered that his fortuitous investment with "the first person whose ...ideas made sense" in a venture that was to become Berkshire Hathaway would enable him to pursue his and his wife's philanthropic interests. The Holland Center for the Performing Arts is but one very noteworthy example of that generosity. Opera Omaha, the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, the Child Saving Institute, the Winners Circle, Joslyn Art Museum, and the Omaha Symphony are just a few organizations that have benefited. Beyond Dick and Mary Holland's generosity to the arts, a dominant giving goal has always been "to get a whole lot of people out of poverty." That's exactly what they have done.

### **Maurtice Ivy** (CHS '84)

A 1984 graduate, Maurtice A. Ivy is noteworthy as a high school, college, and professional athlete. She is presently assistant basketball coach and Internship Coordinator at UNO. She was

the highest scoring player for her four years at Central, putting 1,928 points on the board. She started all four seasons in high school, finishing with fifty straight victories and two Class A Championships. The World Herald named her high school athlete of the year in 1984. In addition to her basketball prowess, she earned six gold medals in track, helping her team win the two state championships. Her college career resulted in her being Big Eight player of the year in 1988, Kodak All-American in 1987 and 1988, and a member of the All Big Eight team in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Maurtice earned her B.A in Communications from the University of Nebraska Lincoln and her M.A. in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation from UNO. Beyond her athletic and academic life, Maurtice has been in the forefront of community service and youth development at Head Start and the YWCA. She was an inductee into the Nebraska Black Sports Hall of Fame, the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1998, and the Omaha Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.



# **Thanks for your** support of Central!



### Elaine Lagman Jabenis (CHS '38)

Fashion consultant, radio and television personality, actress, author, and business executive are words that describe some of the many successful endeavors that characterize the life of Elaine Lagman

Jabenis. Throughout her life, Elaine has looked for challenges, and she has achieved greatness in meeting those challenges in so many fields. In the business world, Elaine served as fashion adviser, coordinator, and corporate fashion merchandising director for 23 years at the former Brandeis Department Store, and, later, she established "Elaine Jabenis Productions," an agency which she created to produce fashion shows. As a television personality, she worked for WOWT, KETV, and KMTV. She wrote two books, used in the U.S., Canada, and Japan, on how to become a fashion director. As an actress, she achieved great distinction for her performances in productions at the Omaha Community Playhouse, including twice winning the Fonda-McGuire Award for Best Actress, being a co-founder of the Playhouse Studio Theater Series (now called the Howard Drew Theater), and receiving a "Career Award" in 2003. She also received a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Theater Arts Guild. After 54 years as an actress -- and still going strong -- Elaine is most deservedly recognized as being the grande dame of Omaha community theater.



#### **Orville D. Menard** (CHS '51)

As a professor of political science, Orville D. Menard, Ph.D., dedicated 34 years to teaching students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. During his distinguished career, Dr. Menard received

many honors and awards, including the Nebraska Council for Social Studies Paul Beck Award for Outstanding Achievement in Social Studies Education, a UNO Ralph Wardle Professorship for distinction in teaching and research, the Great Teacher Award, and the Chancellor's Medal, UNO's highest honor. His writings include books, articles and writings on French topics and Nebraska history. Other recognitions received by Dr. Menard include selection as a Gilbert Hitchcock Fellow, Fellow for the Center of Great Plains Studies, Fellow of the Society for Values in Higher Education, and a U.S. State Department Senior Faculty Fellow. He was a President of Pi Gamma Mu, the International Honor Society in Social Sciences. Dr. Menard conceived and formulated UNO's Annual European Studies Conference, the Arts and Sciences Honors Program, and the Interdisciplinary Studies Major. In community service, Dr. Menard has made presentations to more than 150 Omaha groups, and he has served on the Board of Directors of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association, the Douglas County Historical Society, and the Central High School Alumni Association.



### **Henry Pollack** (CHS '54)

Dr. Henry Pollack, a 1954 graduate of Central, has enjoyed a distinguished academic career in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Michigan for over four decades.

His undergraduate work was at Cornell University, but he returned to Nebraska for a Master's degree, went on to Michigan for his PhD, and then to Harvard for post-doctoral research. He has also conducted research at universities in Canada, England and Africa. His honors include fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Geological Society of America, and the American Geophysical Union, as well as several teaching awards and lectureships in the USA and abroad. His recent book, Uncertain Science ... Uncertain World, written for a non-scientific audience, addresses current issues such as global climate change in the context of scientific uncertainty. In this book he points out that although uncertainty always obscures understanding, waiting for clarification is often just an excuse for maintaining a dangerous status quo. He argues that policy must be made in an environment of uncertainty, but that mid-course corrections can later accommodate new developments. He believes that uncertainty, rather than hampering problem-solving, actually stimulates creativity and promotes progress.

# **Roger W. Sayers**

In 1962 and 1963, while competing for UNO, Roger won consecutive NAIA championships in the 100 meters while also winning the 200 meter championship in1963. In 1962, Roger was

selected as a member of the United States Track Team, competing in dual meets against both Poland and the Soviet Union. While a student at Central, Roger set records in track and was selected to the All-City Football Team. Roger has been inducted into the University of Nebraska at Omaha Hall of Fame, the Nebraska Black Sports Hall of Fame, the Omaha Sports Hall of Fame, and the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame. Roger's business achievements include a 26 year career with the Union Pacific Railroad, and he also served the City of Omaha as its Director of Human Relations. Roger's community service activities have included Board President of both the La Fern Williams Stage Theatre and the Urban League of Nebraska, Nebraska Coordinator of the United Negro College Fund, and member of the Board of Directors of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Nebraska. Roger was also twice selected as a recipient of an Outstanding Young Omahan Award. Roger has continued his community service as a trustee of Salem Baptist Church.



## From The President...

What a privilege it was to say, "Welcome back," to over 300 Central High alumni and their guests at the All-School Reunion on June 30th.

A majority of those who gathered in the courtyard were people I had never seen. But they weren't strangers. The vitality they brought to CHS still lives and breathes in the hallways and classrooms.

Those of us who have experienced Central High School as more than a building, more than books and lessons and an interval between childhood and college or the workplace, never really put it behind us. Something of each spirit remains... and we are all the richer for it.

Sincerely,

## James Wilson

James Wilson '92 CHS Alumni Association President 2007

P.S. I look forward to seeing you at the Ninth Annual Central High School Hall of Fame ceremony on October 4th. This is your chance to honor the new inductees, greet your fellow alums... and soar with the Eagles once again!

### More Than 300 Eagles and **Guests Flock To All-School Reunion** (Continued from back cover)

They laughed as Martin Hoopes recited (perfectly) the list of 50-plus prepositions his English teacher had required the class to memorize.

They filled two books with their written memories. A few of the pages bear a smudge or two, where sweet reminiscences overflowed, spilling from eyes that saw so clearly "the way we were." There will be more books-next year, and the year after, into a future as rich and precious as Central's storied past.

Even as they enjoyed the luxury of air conditioning, marveled at the innovations, and celebrated the progress that has kept Central dynamic and relevant, alumni from the class of 1935 to the class of 2007 have a common heritage.

Because whatever it is about Central High—an ambience, a heartbeat, a kind of magic that 50 prepositions and all the parts of speech in the dictionary can't define... whatever it is that unites its alumni from every year, in every place... whatever it is that is essentially Central-hasn't changed at all.

# (CHS '60)

### Please Cut And Return By Sept. 26, 2007

### **9th Annual CHS Hall Of Fame Dinner**

Thursday, October 4, 2007 Dinner - 6:30 pm in the CHS Courtyard / Program - 7:30 pm in the CHS Auditorium **Dinner Price - \$40 per person or \$320 for a table of eight** 

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\_\_\_\_\_ Class Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to reserve space for people at \$40 each.

I would like to reserve a table for eight for \$320. (*Please provide us a list of your guests' names.*)

Please make your check payable to the CHS Foundation. Your check must accompany your reservation and be received by September 26, 2007. If you have questions, please contact Judy (Church) Blazek '58 at (402) 397-4444, Jan (Norton) Weidenhammer '66 at (402) 758-9247 or Pat Salerno '58 at (402) 553-7414 or pjsandjgs@cox.net

Mail To: CHS Foundation / Hall of Fame Dinner • P.O. Box 31610 • Omaha, NE 68131-0610





Top Photo (left to right): Sisters Ida (Gorelick) Herzoff '37 and Reva (Gorelick) Rubenstein '37 Bottom Photo (left to right): Richard Velez '61 with stepdaughter Tracy Barrientos '86



### Alumni Register Inside

The Fall 2007 issue of the CHS Alumni Register can be found on pages 10 - 12. Don't miss the CHS Hall of Fame on Thursday, October 4th!



### **Keep In Touch!**

Please help us keep our information current. If the mailing information on this newsletter is outdated or incorrect, PLEASE let us know by calling (402) 556-1996 or emailing chsfoundation@cox.net.

The CHS Foundation Needs Your Support Today! See Inside Envelope For Giving Opportunties.





Visit us on the web at www.centralhighomaha.org

# **Alumni Association News**

## "Birds Of A Feather" More Than 300 Eagles and Guests Flock to The First Annual All-School Reunion

Ruth S. Fox was there. She graduated from Central almost 70 years ago, in the class of 1938. Martin Hoopes '39 was there too, all the way from California. Hoopes is a World War II historian and writer for the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Association. Toby Fellman hadn't set foot in the building since she graduated from Central in 1954. Maybe you saw her, helping out at the registration table.

In all, some 200 Central alumni and about 130 guests turned out for the first annual CHS All-School Reunion on June 30. They gathered in the courtyard, which many remembered as an open-air patch of weeds intersected by sidewalks. They toured the building, guided by seven enthusiastic Student Council members.

"Where are the wooden lockers?" some of the alums wondered aloud. They looked in vain for the girls' and boys' stairs (left and right sides, respectively) with their tiny restrooms on the landings. They gaped at the spacious new gym and the magnificent stadium. They stood in the old-gym-turned-cafeteria and remarked on how nice it must be not have to climb to the fourth floor for lunch. But the Eagles didn't gather just to look at architecture. They enjoyed the bits and pieces

of history displayed in two cases in the courtyard. They looked for photos of their friends and themselves in old yearbooks. They bought mementoes to take home and treasure or give to children or grandchildren, hoping to convey something of the essence of Central with the gift. And they reminisced. A lot of conversations began, "Remember the time...?" *(continued on page 11)* 



See Pages 10 & 11 For Hall of Fame Bios and Reservations!

Not everyone was unfamiliar with the changes. "Doc" Moller, who oversaw many of them in almost 30 years as principal, was there with his wife, Betty. Alumni from every decade, including the current one, were in the group that came together that warm June afternoon.

Left Photo (left to right): Classmates Joan (Krasne) Marcus '55 and N'Zingah Al-Shams '55 Middle Photo (left to right): Dr. Jack Lewis '52 and Alumni Board Member Gary Willis '70 Right Photo (left to right): Mary Moberg '51 and brother Frank Moberg '55 CHS All-School Reunion photography by: Howard K. Marcus '79

# **Thanks To Everyone Involved; All-School Reunion To Become Annual Event**

"We plan to make this an annual event," says Joanie (Labenz) Eledge '76, coordinator of the First Annual All-School Reunion. "I'm just so thankful it was a good 'first.' We've already talked about improvements for next year."

Eledge wants to make sure everyone who helped gets credit for the day's success:

Special thanks go to CHSAA President James Wilson and CHS assistant principal Dionne Kirksey, "who opened the event and made everyone feel welcome."

CHS Student Council members, "who did a fantastic job leading the school tours."

Reunion committee members Joan (Krasne) Marcus '55, Mary Moberg '51, Roy Katskee '60, and Jim Leslie '59.

CHS Foundation executive director and treasurer Terry Price, "who can always be counted on for tremendous help."

CHS principal Greg Emmel, who "was so efficient at pulling together all we needed."

Alumni board members Pat Salerno '58, Barry Combs '50, Gary Willis '70, and Dave Schinzel '82.

"We were also fortunate to have three other alumni offer to help," Eledge adds: "Toby Fellman '54 at registration;

Phylis (Caniglia) Andrews '77 with refreshments; and Howard K. Marcus '79 captured the event as a professional photographer."

In conclusion, "The custodial crew was fantastic, and KETV Channel 7 did a nice piece on the 10 p.m. news. Have I forgotten anyone?" Eledge asks rhetorically. "Do I sound like one of those Academy Award winners who go on and on?"

In case you're wondering... Eledge does plan to go on and on coordinating the all-school reunion event—for next year, at least. "It should be easier," she says hopefully, "now that we've done it once."