



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

*Tradition of Excellence*

# Eagle News

December 2018

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An early snowfall kicked off the month of December at Central

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Holidays! We, at the Central High School Foundation, want to thank you for making 2018 a very special year for Central High School. It is you and your support that allows Omaha's Downtown High School, Central High School, to continue to be a lighthouse for public education all around the country. We are truly blessed and thankful for all of our Foundation supporters who enable us to do great things, every day, for Central High School students, staff, families, friends and alumni!

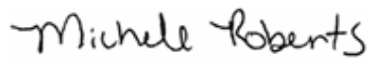


If you are looking for something to do over the winter break in the upcoming weeks, there are several Central High School activities going on! One of the things you can do is come out and support the Eagles at the Metro Athletic Conference Holiday Basketball Tournament. The fourth-ranked CHS Boys Basketball team will take on Millard South on December 29, at 1:45 p.m., at

the Ralston Arena. The CHS Girls Basketball team will take on Westside on December 28, at 3:30 p.m., also at the Ralston Arena. Click to view the [boys bracket](#) and the [girls bracket](#). Good luck Eagles!

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate 158 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence!

Go Eagles!



Michele Roberts  
*Executive Director*

## 'Tis the Season for Giving



Honor someone you love this Holiday season by donating a tribute gift to the Central High School Foundation.

An honor or memorial gift is a thoughtful way to celebrate a special occasion or to honor family or friends. The Central High School Foundation's Honor and Memorial Gift Program allows you to recognize individuals, couples, groups, special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries, or the holidays!

When you make a memorial gift, a personalized card and acknowledgment is sent to the individual or family being honored. You will also receive a letter acknowledging your gift and the gift amount for your records. All donations will be recognized in the CHSF annual report.

For information on how you can give a tribute gift, please [visit our website by clicking here](#).

## Rock the Nest Trivia Night Date Set



We are excited to announce that Rock the Nest Trivia Night will be held on Sunday, March 24, 2019, at the Omaha Design Center! Check our website and future newsletters for more details as we get closer to the event. It will be a great opportunity to reconnect with your high school classmates, have fun, and raise money for your alma mater.

## Omaha Street Named in Honor of Rodney Wead



Alum Rodney Wead recently was honored by the City of Omaha when they renamed a section of 52nd Street between Ames and Fowler Avenues in his name. Wead, who graduated from Central in 1953 and was inducted into the CHS Hall of Fame in 1999, had a profound impact on the Omaha community. Among his accomplishments include building Omaha's first Head Start program and secure the funding for the first black-owned radio station in Omaha (KOWH).

[Click here](#) to read more about Rodney's accomplishments and the ceremony, which took place in September. Congratulations, Rodney!

Photo courtesy of Dirk Chatelain and the Omaha World-Herald.

## Kay Siblings Excelling at USC



Photo courtesy of [Laurie and Charles](#)

Two Eagles have continued their successes from Central into their times at college. Miles Kay and his sister Evie Kay are studying mechanical engineering



in the Viterb School of Engineering at the University of Southern California.

Miles, a 2017 CHS graduate, is a sophomore involved in many activities on campus including serving as the fundraising director for USC's Engineers Without Borders. Evie, a 2018 CHS graduate, is a freshman enrolled in the Resident Honors program. Both are recipients of the USC Presidential Scholarship and hope to do consulting after graduating. Congratulations, Miles and Evie! [Click here](#) to read a feature story about the siblings in the USC Viterbi Magazine. Miles and Evie are the children of CHS graduates Charles, CHS 1988, and Laurie Anderson Kay, CHS 1990.

## Senior Named Runza Student of the Week



Central High School senior Savanna Vacek was recently announced as the Runza Student of the Week. Savanna served as the captain of the volleyball team and participates in clubs including Latino Leaders, Science Olympiad, and National Honor Society.

Congratulations, Savanna! [Click here](#) to view the video detailing all of Savanna's activities and accomplishments.

## Meyer Named Counselor of Year



We're excited to share that Central High School's Angie Meyer has been named High School Counselor of the Year by the Nebraska School Counselor Association Academy! Angie (right) has been at Central since 2001 and helps students with college visits, scholarships, and Senior Recognition Ceremony. Congratulations, Angie!

## AP Government Class Visits Federal Courthouse





Students from Jordan Boyer's AP Government Class had the opportunity to visit the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska in November. The fifteen students were able to meet Senior United States District Judge Joseph F. Bataillon. Bataillon was the Chief Judge of the District from 2004-2011 and took Senior Status in 2014. He spent two hours with the students outlining the structure of our Federal Court System, showed them a Federal Courtroom and Federal Appeals Courtroom, and answered any questions that the students had. He was even gracious enough for pictures at the end! This was a wonderful experience for the students, and Mr. Boyer hopes to make this an annual trip.

## Nominations Open for 2019 Hall of Fame



If you would like to recognize one of your classmates for their outstanding

achievements, nominate them for the 2019 CHS Hall of Fame!

The Central High School Alumni Association's Hall of Fame Selection Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2019 Hall of Fame Class! If you have a distinguished alumni, educator or CHS benefactor that is worthy of this honor, please submit your nomination by December 31, 2018. You can [submit your nomination online](#) or [download a nomination form](#) by visiting our website.

If you have any questions please contact the Central High School Foundation at 402-556-1996. Anyone can submit a nomination, and nominations are good for three years.

## Omaha Central Broadcasting Gets New Equipment



Earlier this month, the Eagle Broadcasting team had the opportunity to learn about and try out their new broadcasting equipment at the Omaha Public Schools Career Center. With financial support from the Central High School Foundation, our Eagles now have two new high-definition video cameras, headsets, a sound board, switcher, television monitor, and MacBook Pro laptop. After a quick demonstration about how all of the equipment was supposed to be connected, students had the ability to practice using the new equipment in a basketball game scenario. Keep an eye out for the debut of this new system setup during the basketball season this fall!

## Update from the Alumni Association

**Recognizing CHS Veterans:** The CHS Alumni Association sponsored a Veteran's Open House in November. Guest Speaker Eric Krelle, a local Military Historian, presented his research on the





photo of U.S. Marines of the 28th Regiment, 5th Division, raising the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, on Feb. 23, 1945. Eric along with Central High School senior John Paul dressed in military gear, which would have been very similar to what was worn at that time.



### Get Your Purple -- Alumni Gear

**Available:** Do you know a CHS Eagle who might like some new Central gear? Maybe someone would like to get a copy of the famed CHS Stylebook. [Shop the Alumni Association On-Line store](#) for your holiday gifts.

### Eagle Business Alliance:

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

December 13, 2018

January 10, 2019

February 21, 2019

5:30-6:30 PM



Swanson Library

90<sup>th</sup> Dodge

Swanson Meeting Room (Lower Level)

Contact the Alumni Association if you need more information: [Central\\_Alumni@Yahoo.com](mailto:Central_Alumni@Yahoo.com)

*Next Alumni Association Meeting:*

*Monday, January 7, 2019*

*Room 131 at Central High School*

## First Class Challenge Ends December 31



The First Class Challenge is an exciting rivalry for classes holding reunions each year. The class that donates the most money by December 31, 2018, will win the 2018 First Class Challenge Award! This friendly class competition began in 2000. As the tradition continues each year reunion planners send classmates letters, asking for their financial

participation to ensure their class wins "The First Class Challenge Award," given to just one of the many reunions happening throughout the year. The class contributing the most money by the end of the year wins! All contributions are tax deductible and are critical to the survival of The Foundation, and help it remain a solid support system for all Central High School students, graduates, and faculty. A plaque is proudly displayed in the



CHS Courtyard and the CHS Foundation office recognizing the winners and the participants from each year.

[Donate online](#) or mail your contribution to:

Central High School Foundation  
Historic Library Building  
1823 Harney Street, Suite 203 Omaha, NE 68102-1913

Good luck and may the best class win!

## 2019 Class Reunion Schedule

### Class of 1959

September 20-21, 2019

Contact: Terry Foster or David Krecek

[etf@cox.net](mailto:etf@cox.net)

### Class of 1964

Date: TBD

Contact: Jeannene Rice Mason

[masonjeannene@aol.com](mailto:masonjeannene@aol.com)

### Class of 1969

August 2-3, 2019

Contact: Rosemarie Lahs Matza

[central69reunion@gmail.com](mailto:central69reunion@gmail.com)

### Class of 1979

Date TBD

Contact: Anne Scott-Miller Roberts

[central79@gmail.com](mailto:central79@gmail.com)

### Class of 1984

Date: TBD

Contact: Pat Salerno

[psalerno@dundeebanking.com](mailto:psalerno@dundeebanking.com)

### Class of 1989

September 6-7, 2019

Contact: Kurt and Julee Goeser

[goeser5@gmail.com](mailto:goeser5@gmail.com)

### Class of 1994

Date: TBD

Jeff Darst

[Jeffrey.darst@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Jeffrey.darst@childrenscolorado.org)

### Class of 1999

Date TBD

Contact: Jane Luethge

[Jmluethge1@cox.net](mailto:Jmluethge1@cox.net)

Class of 2009

October 18-20, 2019

Contact: Doug Knickrehm, Ali Hodges, Chloe McPherson, and Bailey Rutten  
[Doug.mainebased@gmail.com](mailto:Doug.mainebased@gmail.com)

If you haven't set the date for your 2019 reunion yet, contact Sydney Davidson at [events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org) for help getting started.

## 2018-19 Generation C Chairs - The Crossman Family



[Photo by Michele Zephier Photography](#)

Eagle Spirit runs deep for the Chairs of this year's Generation "C" campaign. As a family of multi-generations of Omaha Central High graduates that includes Margaret Crossman Wonn, ('43), and Mary Crossman, ('69), the Crossman Family understands the importance of the exceptional education that they received from Central High School. Rusty Crossman ('66), and his two daughters Elizabeth Crossman Cook ('95) and Allyson Crossman Slobotski ('98), continue to be important members of the Central community. Other Even with their busy lives, they all boast impressive lists of community service and remain passionate about giving back to their alma mater: Central High School.

Rusty ('66) is an Omaha ophthalmologist whose incredible vision for Central High School led to the creation of the Central High School Foundation in 1996. Rusty received his undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College before completing his doctorate degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. His energy and enthusiasm for his alma mater are boundless, and the positive results will impact Central and the Omaha community forever. The most important thing in Rusty's life is his family. Rusty is married to Stephanie



Meyers and has 3 daughters, 1 son, and 5 grandchildren.

Elizabeth ('95) graduated from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a major in finance and a minor in accounting and French. She has been employed with First National Bank for the past twenty-two years, currently serving as the Sr. Director of Talent Acquisition and HR Business Partnering. Liz currently serves on the CHS Hall of Fame Selection Committee as well as the Executive and Human Resources Committees for Heartland Workforce Solutions. Some of her interests include following Husker football and volleyball, playing golf, enjoying country music, and spending time with her husband, Shawn, and her three boys: Evan (9), Nathan (7) and Ryan (5).

Allyson ('98) also graduated from Texas Christian University majoring in accounting and finance. She then received a Master of Accounting from TCU and her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The first five years of her career she worked for Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O. focusing on estate planning and tax disputes. She has spent the past seven years as an in-house state tax attorney for Union Pacific Railroad. Within the Omaha community, Ally served as the first Guild President for the WCA Omaha as well as Treasurer for the Midlands Mentoring Partnership. She currently is the Scholarship Advisor for Chi Omega Sorority at UNO. Ally and her husband Mark have twin boys: Leo and Parker.

To learn more about Generation "C" and to join today, [click here!](#)

## Support While You Shop!

A promotional graphic for Amazon Smile. It features a white background with festive holiday decorations on the left, including a red star, a teal snowflake, and a teal starburst. The text is centered and reads: "Start with a Smile at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) this Holiday Season". Below this, it says "Support us and find all of your holiday essentials including gifts, decorations, and more." and "You shop. Amazon gives." At the bottom is the Amazon Smile logo, which consists of the word "amazon" in black with a yellow arrow under the 'a', and the word "smile" in orange.

**Start with a Smile at**  
**[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) this Holiday Season**

Support us and find all of your holiday essentials including gifts, decorations, and more.

You shop. Amazon gives.

**amazon**smile

Are you shopping on Amazon? Be sure to shop using the link below to support the Central High School Foundation while you shop! 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases will be donated to the Central High School Foundation. Happy shopping!

## Tagg Your Holiday Purchases - Download the App!

You can now TAGG your purchase by taking a picture of the receipt rather than taking a picture of a QR code!



That way if you forget to TAGG your purchase before leaving the restaurant, you can take a picture of your receipt after getting home!

Omaha Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together A Greater Good), an Omaha start-up, to provide an easy and free way to support the Foundation. TAGG offers a smartphone app that, when used at 120 participating local businesses, the business will donate 5% of your purchase, any day any time! The app, available on iPhone and Android devices, is free to download and easy to set up. Here's how to get started:

- 1) Go to the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) and download the free app 'Together a Greater Good' to your iPhone or Android device.
- 2) When it's time to pay at a participating business, click the orange 'TAGG My Purchase' button on the app and tell the cashier that you want to 'TAGG' your purchase.
- 3) On your phone, enter in the total pre-tax amount of your purchase and click 'Next.'
- 4) When you go to TAGG a purchase, you will now have the option to take a picture of your receipt (instead of asking a cashier for a QR code to scan). We ask that you do this within 7 days of purchase.
- 5) On your phone, select Central High School Foundation from the list of organizations.

To learn more about TAGG, check out their [website](#). Happy shopping!

## Like Us On Facebook



Are you on Facebook? [Like our Facebook page](#) to be connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news.

We are continuing to grow our social network! When we reach our 3,250 fan milestone, we will award a great prize from the Central High School Alumni Store. Winners will be pulled from our Facebook Fans!

## Corporate Sponsors



The Central High School Foundation

P.O. Box 31610  
Omaha, NE 68031-0610

Connect With Us:



Phone: [402-556-1996](tel:402-556-1996)

