

# Eagle News

October 2018



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

*Tradition of Excellence*



Congratulations to the Hall of Fame Class of 2018!

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Dear Supporter,

Fall is in the air and Halloween is on the horizon! I hope you all are having a wonderful autumn!

At the beginning of this month we celebrated the induction of 12 new members into the Central High School [Hall of Fame](#)! Thank you to everyone who made this possible, and congratulations to all of the inductees. Special thanks to the Central High School Alumni Association who helped make this event the best it could be!



Our annual campaign, [Generation "C,"](#) is in full swing. This annual giving campaign makes it possible for your generous contribution to help the Foundation maintain the legacy of excellence that was established at Central more than 159 years ago. Gifts and donations from the extended Central community are essential to the Foundation's ability to enhance the Central experience. [Please donate to Generation "C" today!](#)

We're excited to be partnering with alum Nate Gasaway, CHS 2000, with Göswen Visual Marketing. Nate is documenting the construction of the Central High School Arts and Library Addition. Please [click here](#) to view a time-lapse video of the progress being made.

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate 159 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence!

Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

*Michelle Roberts*

Michele Roberts  
Executive Director

## Eagles Inducted into Central High School Hall of Fame



Left to Right: Michael Lebens ('70), Merle Rambo ('69), Susan Strauss Lebens ('70), and Harry A. Koch Jr. ('47)

Eight individuals and two couples joined the ranks of the Central High School Hall of Fame on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at Central High School. The event, sponsored by the Central High School Alumni Association and Central High School Foundation, featured a dinner in the courtyard and induction ceremony in the auditorium.

On Friday morning, the inductees had an opportunity to speak to current Central students about their experiences and share some wisdom about their time as an Eagle. Michael Lebens ('70) chatted with two math classes; Merle Rambo ('69) conversed with a group of JROTC students; Susan Strauss Lebens ('70) shared her wisdom with the Fashion Marketing class; Harry A. Koch Jr. ('47) spoke with a U.S. History class; Sam Johnson ('81) talked to an English Language and Composition class; Stephen and Judith Hutton Olson ('60) spoke to a biology class; and Jerry Slusky ('63) chatted with an economics class. The

finale of the Hall of Fame weekend was the Passing Periods luncheon at the Field Club of Omaha.

Do you know of someone worthy of being inducted into the Hall of Fame? Nominations for the Class of 2019 are now open through December 31, 2018! Anyone can [submit a nomination](#), and nominations are good for three years. Click here to submit a nomination online. Congratulations again to the Class of 2018, the 20th Hall of Fame class!



Left to Right: Sam Johnson ('81), Judith Hutton Olson ('60), Stephen Olson ('60), and Jerry Slusky ('63)

Show Your Central Pride with a Special Edition T-Shirt



Buy your special edition shirt today!

We have some very exciting news! We have teamed up with Nebraska Loves Public Schools for some Central High School t-shirts! Pre-order your limited edition Central High School / I Love Public Schools t-shirt and help us raise money for the CHS Gardening Club to build a Community Garden. [Click here](#) to start shopping! Shirts are available online only until Friday, November 2, 2018. Up to 20% of the proceeds go back to our school.

Our friends at [Nebraska Loves Public Schools](#) make more than shirts - they make films to raise awareness about what's happening in our schools. After you pre-order your shirts, check out their Most Watched film playlist. Questions? Email the Central High School Foundation at [foundation@chsfomaha.org](mailto:foundation@chsfomaha.org) or Jenny at [jenny@neloveps.org](mailto:jenny@neloveps.org) for help. Thanks in advance for your help supporting Omaha Central High School! Go Eagles!

Click to Buy a Shirt



Steve Marantz ('69) and Eric Behrens ('92) were the guest speakers at the October Passing Periods luncheon

On Friday, October 5, the Central High School Foundation held its final Passing Periods: CHS Alumni Luncheon for 2018 at the Field Club of Omaha. More than 150 Eagles were in attendance as well as members of the 2018 Hall of Fame class and former Hall of Fame inductees. The guest speakers for the event were writer Steve Marantz ('69) and CHS head basketball coach Eric Behrens ('92). Steve, who is a 2012 Hall of Fame inductee, explained what he learned when he wrote his new book, "[Citizen Akoy: Basketball and the Making of a South Sudanese American](#)." The subject of the book, Akoy Agau ('13), won four state basketball championships in four years at Central and was coached by Behrens.

While this was the final luncheon for the year, we will continue this tradition next year with two more luncheons in 2019, one in the spring and one in the fall. Stay tuned, as we will reveal dates and speaker information in upcoming Eagle Newsletters. Go Eagles!



Doc Moller (center) with four of the five CHS principals since Doc's retirement. Left to right: Jerry Bexten, Keith Bigsby, Doc, Ed Bennett, and Gregory Emmel

## 55 Year Reunion a Success for Class of 1963



The Class of 1963 reunited for their 55 year reunion on Friday, September 21, and Saturday, September 22. Eagles gathered at Ryan's Food and Spirits for some light hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Following a tour of Central on Saturday morning, classmates met

for dinner and drinks at the German-American society on Saturday night.

## Central Students Named National Merit Semifinalists



Continuing the Central tradition, Central High School seniors Rosalie Dougherty (left), Hudson Hooper (center), and William (Billy) Svols were recently recognized as National Merit Semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Program. We are so proud of these talented Eagles! Finalists for the National Merit Scholarship Program will be revealed in February 2019. Congratulations to these Eagles on their fine academic achievements!

## Class of 2008 Meets for 10 Year Reunion



The Central High School Class of 2008 gathered for their 10 year reunion on September 7 and 8. Classmates met for a tailgate on Friday night before watching the football team take on the Burke Bulldogs. The Friday festivities concluded with a post-game reception at the Crescent Moon. Saturday morning, Eagles toured CHS and got a sneak peak at the new Arts and Library Addition. The reunion weekend concluded with a formal reception at Blue Sushi Sake Grill in the Old Market on Saturday night.

## Scott Wilson Named Nebraska Teacher of Year Finalist

Central High School history teacher Scott Wilson was named a finalist for the Nebraska Teacher of the Year award by the Nebraska State Board of Education. Announced as a finalist in September, Mr. Wilson finished in second place for the award to Lincoln High School English teacher Sydney Jensen. However, Mr. Wilson will be honored as the Award of Excellence winner by the State Board of Education at a luncheon in November. The Teacher of the Year program recognizes the contributions of classroom teachers who are exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled and who have the ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn, and winners are selected by a panel of Nebraska educators. To learn more about the



Teacher of the Year program, [click here to read the press release.](#)

Mr. Wilson, who has been teaching at CHS since 1997, is pictured at left with Omaha Public Schools superintendent Cheryl Logan.

Congratulations, Mr. Wilson. We're proud to call you an Eagle!

## Memories Made During Class of 1988 Reunion Weekend



Old friends reconnected and new friends were made at the 1988 class reunion on Friday, September 14, and Saturday, September 15. The 30 year reunion began with a dressy

casual dinner at the Venue at the Highlander. Saturday was filled with fun activities. The day began with a tour of Central High School on Saturday morning followed by a potluck picnic at Elmwood Park. The reunion weekend concluded with a fun night at Barrett's Barleycorn Pub and Grill.

## Veterans Day Program to be Held at Central



Photo Courtesy of Joe Rosenthal/the Associated Press

The Central High School Alumni Association is holding a special Veterans Day program at Central High School on Saturday, November 10. Here are the details:

OPEN HOUSE for CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MILITARY VETERANS

Saturday, November, 10, 2018

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Meet in the courtyard

Presenter is Eric Krelle, a local Military Historian

To RSVP, contact Roy Katskee at [rkats1@cox.net](mailto:rkats1@cox.net). There is no cost to attend.

## Join Us for a Madrigal Feaste

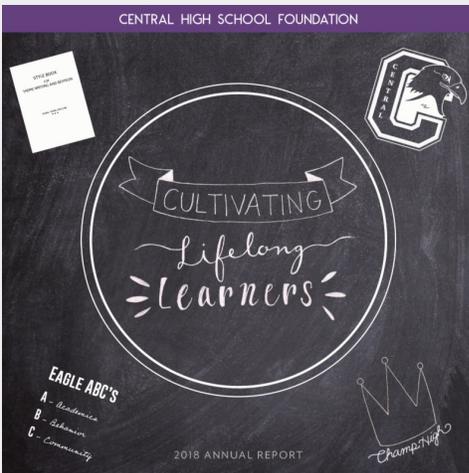
Start your holiday season by celebrating the 25th anniversary of the CHS Madrigal Dinner! Enjoy a Homemade Chicken Pot Pie dinner, complete with salad, bread, drink and

dessert. Entertainment will be provided by the CHS Singers, Bel Canto Singers, Men's Chorus and CHS Handbell Choir. Royalty for the evening will be Dr. Cheryl Logan, OPS Superintendent. Alumni of CHS Singers and Bel Canto will be invited to sing their signature songs. Raffle Tickets will be available for Theme Baskets (\$2 per ticket, \$5 for 3 tickets), and drawings will happen throughout the evening!

**25th Annual Madrigal Feaste**  
Saturday, December 1, 2018  
7:00 p.m. in the CHS Courtyard

To sign up, please contact Lyn Bouma at [lyn.bouma@ops.org](mailto:lyn.bouma@ops.org).

## The 2018 Annual Report: Available Online!



This year's annual report highlights our annual events, class reunions, and how Central High School cultivates lifelong learners with passion. To read an electronic version of this year's annual report as well as annual reports from previous years, [click here!](#)

If you did not receive a copy of the annual report in the mail, contact the Foundation office at 402-556-1996 and we would be happy to send one to you! Please [update your record](#) so we have your current contact information.

## Upcoming Class Reunions

### 2019 Reunions

**Class of 1959**

September 20-21, 2019

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

Contact: Terry Foster or David Krecek

**Class of 1969**

August 2-3, 2019

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

Contact: Rosemarie Lahs Matza

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.

**CHS Fall Musical Tickets on Sale Now**

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PROUDLY PRESENTS

# Guys & Dolls

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MTI  
MUSIC & LYRICS BY FRANK LOESSER, BOOK BY JO SWERLING AND ABE BURROWS

**FRIDAY**                      **SATURDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 2**            **NOVEMBER 3**  
**7 PM**                            **2 PM & 7 PM**

**TICKETS:** TO PURCHASE TICKETS,  
**ADULTS \$10** PLEASE CALL THE BOX  
**STUDENTS (K-12) \$8** OFFICE AT 402-557-3332

FOR MORE INFO: CONTACT SCOTT MEAD (SCOTT.MEAD@OPS.ORG)  
OMAHA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL 124 N 20TH STREET OMAHA, NE 68102  
THIS PRODUCTION IS MADE POSSIBLE BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MTI. MTISHOWS.COM



The Central High School Drama Department proudly presents its fall music *Guys and Dolls!* There will be three showings: Friday, November 2 at 7 PM; Saturday, November 3 at 2 PM; and Saturday, November 3 at 7 PM. Contact Scott Mead at [scott.mead@ops.org](mailto:scott.mead@ops.org) or 402-557-3300 to purchase tickets or for more information about upcoming shows at Central High School!

## Are You a Published Author or Musician?



If you are an author or musician with published works, let us know! We have a wonderful library with the work of CHS alumni. We invite you to donate two copies of your work to the CHS Foundation office. One copy will be proudly displayed in the Central High School courtyard in a display case with other Alumni authors, and the other copy will be given to the Central High School library. To view a complete list of works currently in the collection, [please click here.](#)

## 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!](#)

## TAGGing Just Got Easier!



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!

## Connect With Us on Twitter!



Are you on Twitter? Follow the Central High School Foundation [@CHSFOmaha](#) for the latest news and pictures of CHS events. Twitter is a micro-blogging social media platform that is available for free for any smartphone. We want to be an active part of your network, so connect with us today to get started.

## Stay in the Loop and Update Your Record!

Haven't received information from us in a while? It might be because we don't have your new mailing address or email! Look for your name on our ['Lost Alumni'](#) list, then [fill out the form](#) to update us on how to get in touch with you!

All alumni who have graduated in the past 10 years are strongly encouraged to visit our website to [update their record](#), especially if they have not received updates and mailing from the Central High School Foundation at their own address. For many of our younger alumni, we send mail to the home they lived in upon graduating from Central.

## Corporate Sponsors



First National Bank

[Donate Now!](#)



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