



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

*Tradition of Excellence*

# Eagle News

## January 2019

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[Click the picture to view a time-lapse update of the Arts and Library Addition through January 2019](#)

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Central High School Foundation hopes your holiday was full of much needed relaxation and family time.

Our newest time-lapse video is now available, be sure to click on the picture above to watch the construction progress of the Arts and Library Addition! Teachers are expected to begin moving in over spring break, and we are excited to see the addition in the final phase of construction.



We are officially immersed in event-planning mode, and are looking forward to the first [Passing Periods](#) Alumni Luncheon of 2019 on March 5th and [Rock the Nest "Trivia Night"](#) on March 24th. Please mark your calendars to attend these great events to benefit Central High School. We would love to see all our

Eagles there!

The Central High School Foundation has a [Facebook page](#), and with a click of the mouse, you can be connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news. Be a part of Central's growing online community! 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 at random from our Facebook Fans.

Finally, the results are in and we are pleased to announce the winners of the First Class Challenge for 2018. The Class of 1958 raised the most money and also had the most unique donors! Thank you to all classes and alumni who participated this year. Thank you for all you did to make it such a success!

As always, thank you for helping perpetuate 160 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence!

Go Eagles!

*Michele Roberts*

Michele Roberts  
*Executive Director*

**And the First Class Challenge Winner is...**



2018 was a fantastic year for reunions, and the classes of 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998, and 2008 really impressed us with their dedication and motivation to aid Central High School with their donations to the First Class Challenge.

The results are in, and we are pleased to announce that the winner of the First Class Challenge for 2018 is the Class of 1958. Congratulations! The Class of 1958 had the most unique donors and also raised the most money among the participating classes.

Thanks to the sustained gifts and donations from our Central family, the exceptional educational experience offered at Central continues to endure. Congratulations once again to the Class of 1958!

## Mark Your Calendars

Your favorite events are back! Plans are well underway for our spring events, and you won't want to miss out on all the fun! These are great opportunities to reconnect with your high school classmates, have fun, and raise money for your alma mater. We hope to see you there!



### [Alumni Luncheon Series: 'Passing Periods'](#)

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Field Club of Omaha

11:30 am - 1 pm

Guest Speakers: Bob McMeen, Performing Arts Department Head 1970-1988  
Pete Wilger, Performing Arts Department Head 1994-2018



### [Rock the Nest Trivia Night](#)

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Omaha Design Center

5:30 - 9:00 pm



### [OmahaGives! 2019](#)

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Stay tuned for more information on Omaha Gives! 2019

### [CHS Golf Fore Eagles](#)

Monday, June 3, 2019

Field Club of Omaha

Morning Flight: 7:30 am

Afternoon Flight: 12:30 pm



## Rock the Nest Trivia Night Registration is Open



Registration is now open for the 2019 Rock the Nest "Trivia Night." Mark your calendar to attend this fun interactive event on Sunday, March 24, 2019, at the Omaha Design Center (1502 Cuming Street.)

Start rounding up your team now: former classmates, neighbors, coworkers or really anyone who is just plain ole fun, add "watch Jeopardy!" to your to-do list, and get ready for an evening full of fun, prizes, dinner, and some "very special guests"...

[Click here to join the fun!](#)

Rock the Nest "Trivia Night" is an interactive trivia contest played in teams of eight. Teams will take part in six rounds of ten questions each, with fun categories ranging from movies to history and everything in between. There will be something for everyone. The fun doesn't stop there, however. There will be plenty of chances to win prizes, through a raffle and trivia winnings, and dinner will be provided.

## Join Us for the First Passing Periods Luncheon of 2019



speakers.

Eagles all across Omaha are brushing shoulders for a quick hello during the Central High School Foundation's [Alumni Luncheon Series: 'Passing Periods,'](#) and we hope to bump into you there! For \$15, you can enjoy a great meal, catch up with friends you haven't seen since first period, talk with teachers that you haven't seen since homeroom, and listen to our exclusive lineup of guest

Our Next Luncheon Date is:  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Field Club of Omaha  
3615 Woolworth Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68105

**Guest Speakers:**

Bob McMeen, Performing Arts Department Head from 1970-1988  
Pete Wilger, Performing Arts Department Head from 1994-2018

To register online, please register and pay using the online registration link below. You will receive a confirmation email upon completion of your online registration and payment.

To register by mail, please mail your check to:  
Central High School Foundation  
1823 Harney Street, Suite 203  
Omaha, NE 68102-1913

Please register by Friday, March 1, 2019. If you have any questions please contact Sydney Davidson at 402-556-1996 or [events@chsfomaha.org](mailto:events@chsfomaha.org).

[Click here to register!](#)

## 2019 Student and Teacher of the Year Nominations

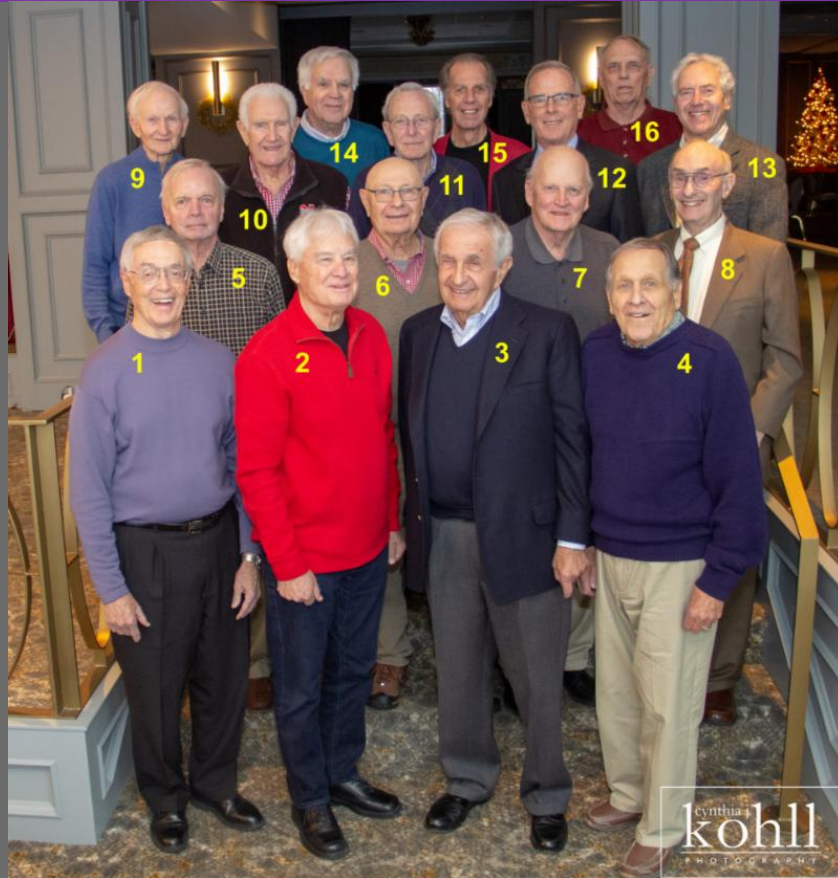


Pictured left: 2018 Student of the Year Alec Rome  
Picture right: 2018 Teacher of the Year Diane Allen ('86)

It's that time of year where you have the opportunity to recognize your favorite teacher as well as an outstanding senior student at Central! To submit a nomination for the 2019 DeEmmett Bradshaw Zerbe ('43) and Mason Speltz Zerbe ('48) Central High School Student of the Year Scholarships or Teacher of the Year, [visit our website by clicking here](#) and sending the

completed forms to the Central High School Foundation office. The deadline to apply is Monday, March 25, 2019.

## Class of 1956 Meets for Holiday Lunch



Classmates from the Class of 1956 gathered for their annual Men's Holiday Lunch on Thursday, December 13. Here's a great picture of everyone who attended:

1. Jerry Gray
2. Frank Anania
3. Mike Erman
4. Tom Kessler
5. Bob Anderson
6. Steve Rosenblatt
7. Bob Hall
8. John Goldner
9. Larry Hagan
10. Wally Bryans
11. Mike Mogil
12. Dick Kelley
13. Murray Newman
14. Tom Wiese
15. Keith Christian
16. Stu Westphal

What a fun tradition!

## CHS Thespians Star at Nebraska Thespian Festival



The CHS Drama Department recently attended the Nebraska Thespian Festival and received many awards and recognitions, including the Improv team winning first place in the team challenge!

5 students received Festival Showcase callbacks/semi-finals for their performances: Flora Griffith, Evelyn Hill, Liliana McMahon, Lilly Weak, and Jesse White.

13 students received Superior Ratings for their Individual Event performances: Flora Griffith-Solo Musical, Evelyn Hill-Solo Musical, Liliana McMahon-Solo Musical, Willa Rauch-Solo Musical, Lilly Weak-Solo Musical, Jesse White-Solo Musical, Henry Wisneski/Colin Burk-Duet Musical Theater, Lydia Baum-Monologue, Stella Erhart-Monologue, Bria Gilmore-Monologue, Lacey Grabowski-Sound Design, Ana Reiff-Stage Management.

Congratulations to our Eagles for their performances at the Nebraska Thespian Festival!

## Roberts Shares Building Progress with Optimists Club

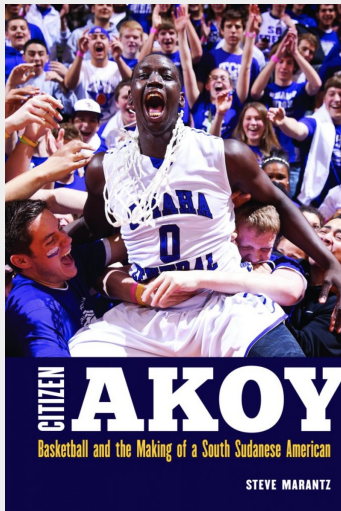
Central High School  
Foundation Executive Director  
Michele Roberts shared an  
update of the Arts and Library  
Addition with the Omaha area

Optimists Club during their lunch meeting on January 16. It was an opportunity to share the goals of the project and show a time-lapse video of the construction project with members of the Omaha community.

Pictured at right are Jerry Bexten, Former CHS Principal, Dr. Bill Caster, Class of 1962, Bob Howell, Class of 1948 and Michele Roberts, CHSF Executive Director.



## Order Your Copy of *Citizen Akoy*



Reserve your copy of [\*Citizen Akoy: Basketball and the Making of a South Sudanese American\*](#) today! This new book, available on February 1, comes from author Steve Marantz. Marantz, a 1968 graduate of CHS and author of *The Rhythm Boys of Omaha Central: High School Basketball at the '68 Racial Divide*, spoke at the fall Passing Periods luncheon in October about his new book.

There are three ways to order the book:  
[University of Nebraska Press](#)  
[Amazon](#)  
[Google Books](#)

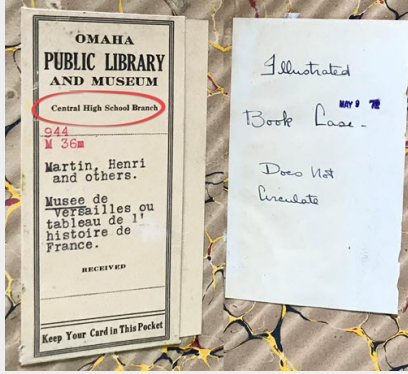
## Update from the Alumni Association



The CHS Alumni Association has several very active committees including: Alumni Arts, Technology, History, Special Events, Military Veterans, Hall of Fame, Recruitment and Eagle Business Alliance This month we are spotlighting one of the oldest committees, the History Committee, which was formed in 1997.

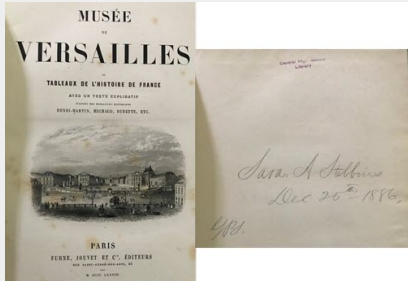
**History Committee Spotlight**





Its mission is to gather artifacts pertain to the history of Central High School. An early task completed by the committee and continued today is to digitize all O-Books and Registers, which are [available on-line](#).

Committee members review artifacts that are donated and they also maintain a database of all items. Merrilee Miller, History Committee Chair shares they are always looking for wonderful additions to our collection. Not sure if it is something they want -- just [contact the History Committee members](#). They will pick up your Central High-related goodies from your home!



The committee meets several times throughout the year to assess ideas for the archives and to assess new items for inclusion. Their meetings are very casual, and full of good humor. If you would like to get more information on this committee, please [contact the Alumni Association](#).

### Interesting History Artifacts Collected by the History Committee

The book, *Musee de Versailles ou tableau de l'histoire de France*, was donated to the archives by the CHS Art Department (thank you Tanya Simmons). It has two interesting features.

First, as the card packet shows, the CHS Library was listed as the Omaha Public Library and Museum, Central High School Branch. It is unknown how long that association lasted.

Second, it is inscribed by Sara Stebbins, Dec. 26th 1886. Jim Wigton (CHS Historian) believes Sara taught at CHS.

Another artifact is a vintage projector, thanks to Janis Elliott, head of the Science Dept. is a 1950's vintage projection microscope. This was used to project slides on walls, the table, etc. using this device.

Can you believe the Central's cafeteria once had official china? Merrilee Miller shared a picture of a CHS china plate. She also shared a spoon that shows OHS (Omaha High School). It is believed that graduating girls would get sterling spoons rather than class rings.



#### Upcoming Events:

##### Alumni Association Meeting

February 4 at 6:30 PM

Central High School

Room 131

##### Eagle Business Alliance

February 21 at 5:30 PM

Omaha Public Library

Swanson Branch Meeting Room

90<sup>th</sup>& Dodge

## Eagle Recognized as a Big Red Scholar



Simon Schoenbeck, a 2018 Central High School graduate, received recognition for being in the top one percent of the 2018 freshman class at the Big Red Scholar reception on Friday, November 16 at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. This special reception was designed to recognize the accomplishments of our highest achieving students. Simon is picture in the second row second person in from the right. Congratulations, Simon!

## 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**

July 13, 2019

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**

September 27-28, 2019

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!](#)

## 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



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