



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

Eagle News

March 2019

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Three teams of Eagles participated in the Metro Community College's Institute for the Culinary Arts High School Culinary Invitational. Read below for more information.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While our Eagles are on Spring Break this week, our teachers are busy moving into the Arts and Library Addition! As the construction crews battle the snow and rain to complete the installation of the limestone on the outside of the building, construction workers are busy inside putting the finishing touches on the new home for our library, art, and performing arts departments.



Thank you to our alumni and friends who attended the Passing Periods luncheon last week. Central has long had a proud tradition of outstanding performing arts students, and former teachers like Bob McMeen and Pete Wilger had a lot to do with that success. Our next Passing Periods luncheon will be during Hall of Fame week on Friday, October 4, so mark your calendars now!

The Central High School Foundation is fortunate to have the support of our fantastic

alumni and community! Each gesture of giving has contributed so much to the success of Central High School. Continuing in the spirit of giving, please consider buying raffle tickets for our [Rock the Nest "Trivia Night."](#) Not only does your purchase qualify you for some fantastic prizes, but it also supports the school. [Check out our website](#) to buy lots of raffle tickets and increase your chances of winning, or to make a tax deductible gift and support your favorite high school!

Again, thank you for helping perpetuate 160 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence! Go Eagles!

Go Eagles!

Michele Roberts

Michele Roberts
Executive Director

McMeen and Wilger Speak at Passing Periods Luncheon



Pictured left to right: Dr. Keith Bigsby, Bob McMeen, Pete Wilger

The first Passing Periods Alumni Luncheon of 2019 was a huge success. Despite the wind and cold, over 120 attendees came to listen to guest speakers Bob McMeen and Pete Wilger on Tuesday, March 5, at the Field Club of Omaha.

McMeen, who was the Music Department Head from 1970-1988, and Wilger, who was the Performing Arts Department Head from 1994-2018, spoke about their teaching tenures. Some of their favorite teaching memories include the Road Show and marching in Seemann Stadium for the first time after it opened in 2005.

Requiem for Room 145



Pictured: Room 145 as an auditorium in 1916

The following text was read at the Passing Periods Luncheon on March 5 by alum Brian Fahey ('03). Room 145 was a vocal classroom until this month, when the vocal department moved into a new home in the Arts and Library Addition.

The last week of A Cappella's tenure in Room 145 is upon us. And while I'm over the moon for the new addition, it seems right to take a moment to remember everything the old choir room did for me and so many others.

My first year at Central (1999–2000) was the last year of dedicated homerooms. 145 was mine, so it was my first stop as a new Central student. Seeing the bones of the original auditorium remade into that rehearsal room underscored the grandiosity and history of our palace of a high school. To a fourteen-year-old, it felt ancient, like Roman ruins or a great cathedral.

I returned later in the day for Junior Choir. Lyn Bouma was the choir director, and her husband, Stephen—who'd sung in 145 as a student—was our accompanist. I'd enjoyed singing in middle school well enough to sign up at Central, but I had no idea what I was in for.

My next four years were punctuated by Mr. and Mrs. Bouma teaching, coaching, but really demanding—unfailingly demanding—our absolute best as singers and musicians. All while introducing us to the greatest music ever written: Palestrina, Brahms, Bach—music so profound and beautiful, it changed how you saw the world. But it wasn't from some recording; it was us. Eighty or so random, awkward teenagers from every corner of the city and globe, making this transcendent music come to life.

We were poor and rich, naïve, worldly, atheist, evangelical, and everything in between. We'd come from expensive homes, foster care, even refugee camps. Some of us were sheltered by privilege, and some of us had already seen a lifetime of hardship.

But in 145, we were this unified, miraculous instrument. And none of us knew

we could do it until it was done—except for the Boumas, who never expected less than a miracle out of us.

It's not a feeling you ever forget—discovering the ability and intellect within you to make a cooperative sound so beautiful, and then looking across the room and seeing the same ability in every one of your classmates. You could almost feel—physically feel—yourself growing into your own humanity.

I remember it best in 2001. I was in 145 rehearsing the State-Spangled Banner with CHS Singers when Mr. Bexten announced over the intercom that the World Trade Center had fallen. Unlike a lot of schools that day, Central kept on: Teachers taught, and we went on as normally as we could manage. But like the rest of the world, we were walking in shock.

I returned to 145 a couple hours later for A Cappella. We were preparing Mozart's Requiem to sing with the Omaha Symphony. We weren't supposed to rehearse the first movement that day, but Mrs. Bouma started with it after reading the translation.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, et lux perpetua luceat eis. and may perpetual light shine on them.

Singing that music, with eighty-five classmates, when all you knew was that everyone else in 145 was as scared and wounded as you were, was the only thing that felt right that day. Nowhere felt particularly safe, but if we were going to make sense of how to build something better out of the agony and terror, that music in 145 felt like the place to start.

That's what makes choral singing—and Central—so special. That you can take hundred, a thousand, or two thousand people from disparate places, separated by societal chasms of race, class, ethnicity, language, etc., and unite them through mutual respect and common purpose. And in the process make something more powerful—more meaningful—than what was possible before. A few months after, still in 145, I met the woman I'd marry ten years later, and who for the past seven years has taught as a choir director alongside Lyn and Stephen in that same room. You see, I really do owe a lot to 145.

Whitman was right when he said a school's not "dead floors, window, rails," but rather "living, ever living souls." But when four walls, a boarded-up stage, and 90 chairs change your life so profoundly, I hope the wheels of progress won't mind if I pause to shed a tear and sing the room's requiem.

Of course, 145 isn't dying; it's about to be reinvented and restored. And the real spirit of the program, Lyn, Stephen, my wife Sara, and their students will be a few feet to the South, making the same miraculous music in a gorgeous new space. But it's a fitting time to remember what these teachers, and Bob McMeen before them, accomplished - the beauty they made and the lives they enriched - in that old, refitted auditorium.

Rock the Nest Trivia Night Registration is Open



Registration is 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.

Eagles Fall 58-56 to Packers in State Title Game



The boys basketball team advanced to its 20th state championship game in school history but fell 58-56 to Omaha South on Saturday night. Following

victories in the quarterfinal (66-63 over Westside) and semifinal (71-57 over Bellevue West) rounds, the Eagles were trying to win their 11th state championship and first since 2013. The Eagles finish the season with a 22-6 record. Congratulations to our student athletes and coaches on an outstanding season!

Rock the Nest Raffle Prizes - Buy Your Tickets Today

To purchase raffle tickets in advance, please call us at 402-556-1996 or fill out and mail in the attached form [here](#) to purchase tickets.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or \$25 for three tickets.

Need not be present to win. All raffle tickets are automatically eligible for the Grand Prize Raffle.



Grand Prize: Trip to Florida

One Week at Surfside Resort in Destin, Florida and 2 round trip airline tickets

Donated by: Matt, CHS 1974, and Sherri Aden

Retail Value: \$4,000.00

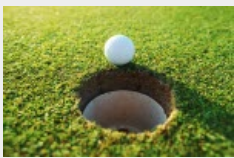


The Perfect Watch

An Apple Watch Series 3, the ultimate device for a healthy life (Space Gray, 38 mm, GPS)

Donated by: Nebraska Furniture Mart

Retail Value: \$279.00



Golf at Dismal River Club

Two days of golf for a foursome including carts and one night lodging in two King suites at Dismal River Club in Mullen, NE

Donated by: Dismal River Club

Retail Value: \$2,600.00



Color Me Purple

14K White Gold Amethyst Pendant

Donated by: Borsheims

Retail Value: \$540.00



2019 International Omaha

4 VIP tickets, which includes VIP Lounge Access and 2 parking passes, to the Speed Jumping Series Final on April 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the 2019 Burlington Capital International Omaha at the CHI Health Center Omaha

Donated by: International Omaha

Retail Value: \$600.00

An Eagle on the 18th

4 tickets to Pavilion #2 at the 18th Fairway on Thursday, July 18 at the 2019 Pinnacle Bank Championship at Indian Creek Golf Course

Donated by: Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Heartland



Chevy Dealers
Retail Value: \$1,000.00



Feel Your Heart Race
4 Grandstand Tickets to the Saturday, May 11 KC Masterpiece 400
Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Race
Donated by: Coca-Cola
Retail Value: \$500.00



Who's on First, What's on Second
Four seats behind home plate to College World Series Finals Game #1
and Game #2 on Monday, June 24 and Tuesday, June 25 with
parking pass for each game
Donated by: Harley ('65) & Beth Schragger
Retail Value: \$500.00



Historical Omaha
Three framed prints from the Omaha Heritage Masterpiece Collection
by Don S. Davis, including Central High, First Street Car, and Court
House; a copy of Citizen Akoy by Steve Marantz ('68)
Donated by: Tim and Doreen Herbert and the Central High School

Foundation
Retail Value: \$230.00

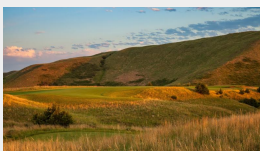


Treat Yourself
\$159 gift certificate to the Magnolia Hotel and a \$150 gift card to

the Flatiron Café
Donated by: Magnolia Hotels and the Jamrozy Family
Retail Value: \$309.00



A Tee-rific Time
ArborLinks Weekend Package includes an overnight stay at a four
bedroom cottage, 2 rounds of golf for a foursome, dinner, and
breakfast
Donated by: Mike & Susan Lebens ('70) and ArborLinks
Retail Value: \$3,000.00



Hunt at Dismal River Club
One and a half day upland bird hunt for four people, including two
nights lodging in a luxury cabin at Dismal River Club in Mullen, NE
Donated by: Dismal River Club

Retail Value: \$6,200.00

Driving to Excellence
Teen Driver Education Course and Central High School Reserved
Parking Spot
Donated by: National Safety Council, Nebraska, and Central High



School
Retail Value: \$365.00

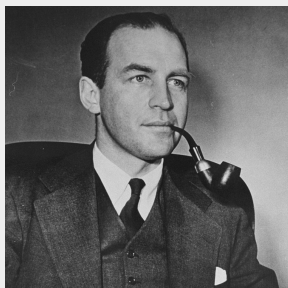


Better ACT Now! - There are Two Opportunities to Win
John Baylor Test Prep in person class for ACT or SAT in Omaha,
Lincoln, or Kearney
Donated by: On To College with John Baylor
Retail Value: \$385.00

3MT Test Prep for ACT in Omaha
Donated by: 3MT Test Prep

Retail Value: \$225.00

Alumni in the News



The Omaha World-Herald recently wrote a feature story about **John Pehle ('26)** and his role in helping save the lives of tens of thousands of Jewish men, women and children during World War II. This is a story you won't want to miss, [click here](#) to read it. Photo courtesy of the National Institute for Holocaust Documentation.



Author and producer **Rachel Shukert ('98)** has been named the showrunner for the new Netflix show "The Baby-Sitters Club." Based on Ann M. Martin's book, "The Baby-Sitters Club" will have 10 episodes and air in early 2020. [Click here](#) to read more about Shukert and her new show.



Tre'Shawn Thurman ('14) helped the Nevada Wolfpack win the Mountain West Conference for the third consecutive season. Thurman, who was a four year varsity letter winner at Central, has started 25 games this year for the Wolfpack.

Culinary Students Serve Up Success in Competition

Last month, three teams of Eagles competed against 25 other teams in the High School Culinary Invitational hosted by Metro Community College's Institute for the Culinary



Arts. 12 of the Eagles who participated are current or former Culinary Skills students, while 3 Eagles are currently in the Foods and Nutrition class.

Practicing for the competition is an extra-curricular activity, and teams have been practicing twice a week for 3 hours each time since returning to school after the holiday break. Competition is separate from, but related to, the classes offered during school hours. In all, students dedicated about 40 hours each, outside of school, to prepare for the competition. Because of so much interest, this is the first year Central had 3 teams competing.

Two of the Eagle teams took home bronze medals, which is a tremendous accomplishment since only nine medals were awarded in total. Congratulations to these students for their hard work and accomplishments! Photos courtesy of Culinary Skills and Food and Nutrition Teacher Brooke Sutton.

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!

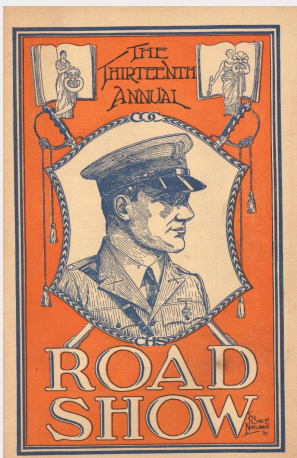


[Rock the Nest Trivia Night](#)

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Omaha Design Center

5:30 - 9:00 pm



105th Annual Road Show

Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6, 2019

Central High School

Friday - 7 PM CST

Saturday - 2 PM CST and 7 PM CST

[OmahaGives! 2019](#)

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

OMAHA GIVES!

powered by the Omaha Community Foundation

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

Eagles Around The World - Send Us Your Photos!



Alum Peter Bock ('10) recently visited the Taj Mahal in Agra, India

Going on vacation? Take a picture in your purple Central attire and you could be featured on our social media! We want to highlight the amazing things that our alumni are accomplishing. Send your pictures and stories to Josh Bucy at josh@chsfomaha.org.

Update from the Alumni Association

Upcoming Events:

Alumni Association Meeting

Monday, April 8 at 6:30 PM

Central High School

Room 131

All are welcome to attend. Come learn about the Alumni Association and the many opportunities for you to get involved.

Compete in the March Madness Bracket Challenge

JOIN THE

EAGLE NATION BRACKET CHALLENGE



March Madness returns next week, and you can join in on the fun! For the 4th year in a row, the Central High School Foundation will be holding a Bracket Challenge where you can compete against other Eagles to win a prize pack donated by the Central High School Foundation.

You will be rewarded as you correctly pick teams that advance in the tournament, and you can see up-to-the-minute point standings of our bracket group online at CBSSports.com or [on the CBS Sports mobile app](#).

Although the official bracket hasn't been released yet, you're still able to join the group now. Registration is FREE and open to those 18 years and older. [To get started, click here.](#) You will be prompted to sign in with your CBS Sports account username and password. If you do not have a CBS Sports account, please click, "Don't have a CBSSports.com Account? Register!" beneath the login text boxes. After signing in, you will be prompted for the pool password. The password is `goeagles` (no spaces, all lowercase).

The registration deadline is 11 a.m. CST on Thursday, March 21, 2019. Best of luck!

2019 Class Reunion Schedule

Class of 1959

September 20-21, 2019

Contact: Terry Foster or David Krecek
etf@cox.net

Class of 1964

September 6-7, 2019

Contact: Jeannene Rice Mason
masonjeannene@aol.com

Class of 1969

August 2-3, 2019

Contact: Rosemarie Lahs Matza
central69reunion@gmail.com

Class of 1979

July 13, 2019

Contact: Anne Scott-Miller Roberts
central79@gmail.com
[Join the Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1984

Date: TBD

Contact: Pat Salerno
psalerno@dundeebanking.com

Class of 1989

September 6-7, 2019

Contact: Kurt and Julee Goeser
goeser5@gmail.com

Class of 1994

October 4-5, 2019

Jeff Darst
Jeffrey.darst@childrenscolorado.org

Class of 1999

September 27-28, 2019

Contact: Jane Luethge
Jmluethge1@cox.net
[Join the Facebook Group](#)

Class of 2009

October 18-20, 2019

Contact: Doug Knickrehm, Ali Hodges, Chloe McPherson, and Bailey Rutten
Doug.mainebased@gmail.com

2020 Reunions

Class of 1960

October 17, 2020

Contact: Steve and Judie Olson
judieolson@yahoo.com

If you haven't set the date for your reunion yet, contact Sydney Davidson at 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!](#)

Download the TAGG App and Support While You Shop



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!

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The Central High School Foundation

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