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Students and Supporters enjoy a meal with a great view at our Passing Periods Alumni Luncheon Series on October 14th! Our guest speaker was Central's new Principal, Ms. Dionne Kirksey!



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

EAGLE NEWS

October 2021



Dear Supporter,

Fall is in the air and Halloween is on the horizon. I hope you 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 160 years ago. Gifts and donations from the extended Central community are essential to the Foundation's ability to enhance the Central experience. [Click here to join Generation "C" today!](#)

I'm excited to share that we will be hosting our next Zero Hour Master Class event this fall: "Maximize Your Momentum: Central Marketing and DECA Through the Years" with Harry Gaylor and Vicki Wiles! This event will be on Zoom. [Sign up today](#) to guarantee your spot!

Finally, 2021 class reunions have wrapped up! If your reunion was rescheduled or is scheduled for next year, scroll to the end of this email for the most up-to-date information. Also, make sure you [update your record](#) on our website so that your

physical invitation and event communications will be mailed to the correct address. Especially for recent graduates, we often have parental addresses instead of graduate addresses.

Thank you for helping perpetuate 160 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence!

Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle!

Michele Roberts



Executive Director

Register Today for Zero Hour: MasterClass Series with Harry Gaylor and Vicki Wiles!



Do you remember trying to squeeze an extra class into your schedule when you were a student at Central? And the only hour you had available was Zero Hour? Well, even after graduation, Zero Hour is still available for you to fill with fun, unique “extra-curricular” learning! Join us for our Zero Hour MasterClass Series!

Our next ZeroHour Class is titled “Maximize Your Momentum: Central Marketing and DECA Through the Years” and will be taught by former Central High School Marketing Teachers, Harry Gaylor and Vicki Wiles.

Saturday, November 13, 2021
10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. CST
Ticket: \$5.00
Location: Online (Zoom)

[Click Here to Register!](#)

Class of 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees Honored at Ceremony



The 22nd Annual Central High School Hall of Fame Dinner and Ceremony was held Thursday, October 14, 2021 at the Holland Performing Arts Center. The Central High School Alumni Association inducted 12 individuals whose paths from the halls of Central High School led them to the highest levels of achievement in business and community service. Inductees were selected by the Central High School Alumni Association and the program was presented by the Central High School Foundation.

Ann Axtell Morris (1918). Morris became one of the world's earliest and foremost female archaeologists. Her excavations helped document the civilization and culture of cave dwellers in the Southwest.

John Pehle (1927). During the Holocaust, Pehle ran a secret U.S. government program that saved tens of thousands of Jews from Nazi death camps by issuing false ID papers and visas, paying bribes and supporting evacuation efforts. He also issued the first official public report on the systematic extermination of millions.

Olive Odorisio Circo (1937). Circo was the first woman to serve as president of Creighton's journalism class and also the first woman to become a cheerleader at the school.

Marlene Bernstein (1950). Bernstein became a beloved longtime English teacher at her alma mater. She mentored Central's academic decathlon team and was the school's first winner of an Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award.

Ray Somberg (1954). An Omaha businessman, Somberg co-founded the First Responders Foundation. It has raised more than \$2 million to buy equipment for firefighters and police officers and provide free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for low-income homes.

Richard and Helen Hockabout Kelley (1956). Richard worked for a half-century as an investment adviser. Helen served on the Westside school board for 13 years, including several terms as president, and as president of the Nebraska Association of School Boards.

Kathy Bigsby Moore (1962). The founder of Voices for Children, Moore has been a leading advocate for Nebraska's low-income and at-risk children. Her group's

lobbying efforts resulted in new laws and services related to child health care, child abuse prevention and behavioral health.

Ron Blumkin (1966) and Irv Blumkin (1970). With Irv as CEO and Ron as chief operating officer, they strategically led Nebraska Furniture Mart for decades, opening new stores in Kansas City and Dallas and creating a strong online sales presence.

Cynthia Hadsell (1966). Hadsell spent 41 years with Northwestern Bell and its successor companies. She was the first woman to serve on the Omaha Jaycees board and was a founding member of the Omaha Women's Fund.

Victor Lewis (1968). Lewis established himself as an acclaimed jazz drummer, laying the beat for many top artists and performing all over the world.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees!

[Click Here to Submit a Nomination for the Hall of Fame](#)

Hall of Fame Inductees Return to CHS's Classrooms!



Our 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees revisited the place where it all started for them: the classrooms of Central! They spoke to current Eagles about their legacies in their field, what they've learned from their experience, and answered questions from students.

Ron Blumkin, Class of 1966 and an executive at Nebraska Furniture Mart, spoke to Honors Personal Finance students; Cynthia Hadsell, Class of 1966 and the "unofficial historian" of Northwestern Bell in Omaha, spoke to the Omaha History

class; Kathryn Bigsby Moore, Class of 1962 and Nebraska children's advocate, spoke to a sociology class; Richard Kelley (pictured), a long-time investment advisor and community leader from the Class of 1956, spoke to Honors Economics students; and Ray Somberg, Class of 1954 and co-founder of the First Responders Foundation, spoke to JROTC students!

[Click Here to Learn More About the Hall of Fame Inductees](#)

CHS Student Named a National Merit Semifinalist



Congratulations to Logan Simmons, who was named a National Merit Semifinalist! The National Merit Scholarship Program is a nation-wide academic scholarship competition for recognition and university scholarships administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Simmons posed for a picture with Principal Kirksey in celebration of his designation as a semifinalist!

Reunion Recap: Classes of 1985 and 1986 Join Forces for a Great Weekend!



The CHS Class of 1985 and 1986 celebrated their 35th and 36th reunion on the weekend of September 16th. For the Class of 1986, the long weekend kicked off with a bike ride on the West Papio Trail from Kros Strain Brewery to the Bellevue Berry Farm, where the group enjoyed live music and tacos! On Friday night both classes met at Central's Seemann Stadium and enjoyed cheering on the Eagles as they won their homecoming game against Lincoln High 40-28! Following the game the Class of 1986 met at Brickway Brewery & Distillery in the Old Market and the Class of 1985 met at the Dundee Dell.

On Saturday morning both classes joined together inside Central High School for a tour of our old stomping grounds and were blown away by all of the wonderful renovations, especially the new Arts and Library addition! Saturday night was full of conversation, catching up, and cocktails for the Class of 1986 at Spirit World in Ak-sar-ben Village, and at Inner Rail at Ak-sar-ben Village for the Class of 1985. Classmates visited each others' reunion parties as they were close by!

Make sure you [update your record](#) with the Central High School Foundation to get up-to-date information about your upcoming class reunion!

[Click Here for the Class Reunion Schedule](#)

Passing Periods Alumni Luncheon: Dionne Kirksey Speaks About Her Path to Becoming CHS's Principal!



This month alumni and supporters gathered at the Omaha Press Club to hear from Ms. Dionne Kirksey. Her interview with Dr. Keith Bigsby was an excellent opportunity to learn about Ms. Kirksey's background and her journey to becoming the new Principal of Central High School!

[Click Here to Listen on Apple Podcasts!](#)

Join Generation "C" Today!



The DiGiacomo family is honored to be this year's Central High School Foundation Generation "C" Chairs. As the 2021-2022 school year begins and our Eagles get ready to go back to the nest in person, we hope you and your family are looking forward to spending more time with friends, family, and colleagues face-to-face. As media professionals, small business owners, and healthcare professionals, we too are excited to interact more with our communities in person and reinvigorate our local economies. Like the wider community around us, our Eagles are also transitioning back to in-person activities, and we need your help to make this transition a success!

We, as Generation "C" members, recognize the importance of the exceptional education and life-defining experiences we received during our time at Central. After a year of online and hybrid learning, we know that our Eagles are also eager to return to the classroom full time. **Therefore, we are asking you to help us provide them with the same life-defining educational activities, club experiences, and**

athletic opportunities that were afforded to us during our years at Central High School. Your Central High School Foundation Generation “C” membership is a simple and easy way for you to give back to the next generation of Eagles.

Michael DiGiacomo, CHS 1991



A 1991 graduate of Central, Mike studied broadcasting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. Mike has spent his career working in television, starting at KOLN/KGIN in Lincoln before becoming the Capital Bureau reporter for KETV in 2001. In 2010, Mike moved to KMTV Omaha where he co-hosted “The Morning Blend” talk show for 8 years. Mike currently does freelance work for KMTV and hosts a local cooking show on KPAO in Omaha. A third-generation trumpet player and former member of the Cornhusker Marching Band, Mike is active in his 90’s-2000’s alternative horn band, GroovePuppet. In addition to his freelance work, Mike is busy with the two-family businesses: Social Holdings LLC and Best Card Payments. Mike is married to his wife Erin. They have three children and two dogs, Miley and Emmy Lou.

Dominic DiGiacomo, CHS 1995



Dominic is a 1995 graduate of Central. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in International Business from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dominic is a managing partner for Best Card Payments, a credit card processing company serving small businesses and medical clinics across the United States. Dominic is also a co-founder of Social Holdings LLC with Mike and Jaclyn. Engaged with the Omaha community, Dominic serves as a member of the Santa Lucia Festival Committee and also enjoys helping fundraise for Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and CRCC, both Omaha based organizations that specialize in kids with medical and special needs. Dominic is married to his wife Megan and has three wonderful daughters.

Jaclyn DiGiacomo Oltmans, CHS 1998



Jaclyn graduated from Central in 1998 and from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in Exercise Science. Jaclyn studied Physical Therapy at Creighton University and graduated in 2005. After graduation, she moved to Chicago and especially enjoyed Lake Michigan and the Chicago Cubs. Now back in Omaha, Jaclyn has spent the last 11 years working for Accelerated Care Plus, specializing in long-term care with an emphasis in Dementia. She is also the co-founder of the family business, Social Holdings LLC. Jaclyn and her husband Chris spend their free time traveling, playing pickle ball, and playing and golf. But their favorite pastime is watching the activities of their three daughters: Olivia, Arianna, and Lola.

Gale Sayers Statue to Be Erected in 2022!



The unveiling of the planned bronze statue of [Gale Sayers](#) outside Seeman Stadium at Central High School has been delayed to Fall 2022 because of supply chain delays of raw materials as a result of COVID-19.

However, we still need your help to make this memorial statue a reality! Make a memorial donation in Gale's name to assist in the erection of this monument. Thanks to three generous alumni, and the Class of 1961, your contribution will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$85,000! Make a memorial donation by [clicking here](#). When you make a memorial gift, a personalized card and acknowledgment is sent to his family. You will also receive a letter acknowledging your gift and the gift amount will appear on your donor acknowledgement for your records. All donations will be recognized in the CHSF annual report.

Gale Sayers (Class of 1961), a great Eagle athlete, friend of the Central High School Foundation, and former Chicago Bears star passed away September 22, 2020. Gale is considered one of the greatest running backs in the history of the National Football League. He is the youngest person to ever be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame at age 34. "I Am Third," his autobiography which inspired the film "Brian's Song," was critically acclaimed. It told the story of his family, of the crippling knee injury that almost destroyed his career, and, most of all, it recalled the story of Gale's short but unforgettable friendship with Brian Piccolo. He was a member of the Central High School Hall of Fame, and was a proud supporter of Central High School and the Central High School Foundation until the end of his life.

Littleton Alston, Eagle parent and owner of Alston Art Studio, has been selected as the sculptor to design and construct this bronze statue. The Victory Eagle will be forever soaring over one of Central's greatest athletes!

[Click Here to Support Sayers Memorial!](#)

Join the 1859 Society Today!



Named for the year of Central's founding, the 1859 Society honors donors who have included The Central High School Foundation in their estate plans. By arranging for such deferred gifts, alumni, parents and friends of CHS play a vital role in securing the future of Omaha's oldest educational institution. Combining financial planning, estate planning, and tax planning techniques, planned giving enables donors to make gifts of significance often with tax and financial rewards. If you're interested in joining the 1859 Society and making a planned gift, contact Michele Roberts at the CHSF Office at 402-556-1996 or michele@chsfomaha.org.

[Click Here for the 1859 Society Brochure](#)

Share Your Memories From Your Time at Central!



Did you know that the Central High School Foundation collects the memories of our alumni to paint a full, bright picture of life at Central for future generations? In fact,

you can read all of the memories others have submitted on our [website!](#)

We would love to hear from you!

Submit your memory to the Central High School Foundation!
You can also share photos of your time at Central, which will be entered into our archives!

[Click Here to Submit Your Memory](#)

2021 Class Reunion Schedule



After almost 2 years of planning, the “Purple Reign” class of 1985 gathered for their 36-year reunion on the weekend of September 17, 2021!

Please look below for an update and a person of contact for your reunion. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Central High School Foundation.

[Class of 1960](#)

RESCHEDULED – October 22-23, 2021

JoAnn Kratky

joann.kratky@gmail.com

[Class of 1961](#)

October 15-16, 2021

Chairs: Dick Zacharia, Suzi Seglin Mogil, Joyce Anderson Tomich

joycehtomich@gmail.com

[Class of 1966](#)

POSTPONED UNTIL 2022

Cindy Hadsell
402-312-4929

Class of 1970
POSTPONED
July 25-26, 2025

Class of 1971

RESCHEDULED – October 7-8, 2022
Linda Niebauer, Danny Slosburg, Denny Brown
303-909-8227 (Linda)
linda.niebauer@cuanschultz.edu
[Join the 1971 Facebook Group](#)
Check out Omaha Central Class of '71 [website](#)

Class of 1990

POSTPONED – Fall 2022
[Ben Rouch](#)
402-598-2669
[Join the 1990 Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1991

October 8-9, 2021
Contact: [Sara Torrens](#), Michelle Moerke, and Seraphim Carlson
[Join the Facebook Group](#)

Class of 2006

October 8-9, 2021
Jim Hubbard
CHS2k6@gmail.com

Class of 2011

October 8-9, 2021

Completed: 1976, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1986, 2001

No Reunion: 1950, 1955, 2015

Cancelled: 1965, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date for your 2021 reunion or would like to look at postponing or cancelling it, please [contact Erika Buffington at \[events@chsfomaha.org\]\(mailto:events@chsfomaha.org\)](#) or call 402-556-1996.

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The Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together

If you're buying Back to School supplies or books on Amazon, make sure you click on the link below first! We have partnered with AmazonSmile so that you can support the Central High School Foundation while you shop.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Central High School Foundation! Click below to get started shopping.

A Greater Good) to provide an easy and free way to support the Foundation. The app, available on [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) devices, is free to download and easy to set up.

Using the app, you can snap a photo of your receipts from [participating businesses](#), and a percentage of your total will be donated to the Central High School Foundation. Visit their [website](#) to learn more!

Follow and Like Us on Social Media!



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)? Follow and Like us across the social media platforms to stay connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and supporters, all while receiving the latest news. As we hit fan milestones on each platform we will be giving out great prizes! Keep an eye out!

Thank You to Our Adopt-A-School Partner



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