

View this email in your browser



Central's Librarian, Beth Eilers, snapped this pic of the sunrise peeking through the windows in the new wing of the school. It's another beautiful day at Omaha Central High School!



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION

**EAGLE NEWS**  
September 2021



**Dear Supporter,**

We have an exciting October coming up, jam-packed with many opportunities to engage with your alma mater!

First, Eric Behrens, Class of 1992 and Head Boys Basketball Coach, will be hosting our first virtual Zero Hour: MasterClass event of the new academic year! The topic will be: "Eagle Hoops – An Incomplete History (But Everything I Know)." This event will take place this Saturday, October 2nd. You can register by [clicking here](#). Next, the 22nd Annual Central High School Hall of Fame will take place on Thursday, October 14, 2021. The dinner and ceremony will be held at the Holland Performing Arts Center due to delayed restoration work in the Central High School auditorium. You can register to attend the Hall of Fame by [clicking here](#). Finally, our Passing Periods Luncheon Series will be back on Friday, October 15th at the Omaha Press Club. Our guest speaker for this event will be CHS Principal, Ms. Dionne Kirksey. You can register for this event by clicking [here](#).

Keep your eyes open for our 2021 Annual Report! Every graduate and supporter will receive one in the mail over the next couple of weeks. This year's Annual Report details what was accomplished during the 2020-21 fiscal year. I want to thank our Creative Director and Database Administrator, Josh Bucy, for creating the Annual Report. A reminder that if you haven't received our mailings recently, we encourage you to [update your record](#) to ensure that we have your current contact information.

Finally, 2021 [class reunions](#) are underway! If you have a reunion this 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 Eric Behrens!**



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 new Zero Hour MasterClass Series!

*Our next ZeroHour Class is titled “Eagle Hoops – An Incomplete History (But Everything I Know)” and will be taught by Eric Behrens, a 1992 graduate and current Head Boys Basketball Coach at Central High School.*

**Saturday, October 2, 2021**

10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. CST

Ticket: \$5.00

Location: Online (Zoom)

Topic: Eagle Hoops – An Incomplete History (But Everything I Know)

Guest Speaker: Eric Behrens, CHS 1992

[Click Here to Register!](#)

## Sign Up to Attend The 2021 Hall of Fame



The 22nd Annual Central High School Hall of Fame Dinner and Ceremony will be held Thursday, October 14, 2021 at the **Holland Performing Arts Center**. The Central High School Alumni Association is proud to induct 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 are selected by the Central High School Alumni Association and the program is presented by the Central High School Foundation.

We would like to bring your attention to a venue change for the 22nd Annual Central High School Hall of Fame. The dinner and ceremony will be held at the Holland Performing Arts Center due to delayed restoration work in the Central High School auditorium. The date has not been affected, however, and the event will still take place on Thursday, October 14, 2021.

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

Social Hour: 5:30 PM

Dinner: 6:15 PM

Ceremony: 7:30 PM

### **PARKING INFO:**

Valet will be available at the Holland Performing Arts Center for \$15 per vehicle.

Parking is available in the Omaha 13th and Dodge Street parking garage for \$3 per vehicle. Metered street parking on the south side of Douglas Street around the Holland Performing Arts Center is closed until the Gene Leahy Mall redevelopment project is completed. For further information and updates please check the [Riverfront Revitalization Project website](#).

[Click Here to Register!](#)

## Passing Periods Luncheon Series is Back!



The bell has rung! Eagles all across Omaha are brushing shoulders for a quick hello during the Passing Periods: CHS Alumni Luncheon Series, and we hope to bump into you there! For \$20, you can enjoy a great meal, catch up with friends you haven't seen since first period, talk with teachers you haven't seen since homeroom, and listen to our exclusive lineup of guest speakers.

The next luncheon is:

**Guest Speaker: Dionne Kirksey, Central High School Principal**  
**Friday, October 15, 2021**

11:30 AM – 1 PM

Omaha Press Club  
1620 Dodge Street, 22nd Floor  
Omaha, NE 68102

[Click Here for Tickets!](#)

## Alumni Gather for 2021 CHSF Tailgate Party



Alumni and supporters gathered for a meal at the Central High School Foundation Tailgate last week before heading out to cheer on our student athletes! Our Eagles played the Burke Bulldogs, and alumni enjoyed an opportunity to revisit the nest. Guests enjoyed a performance of the CHS Fight Song from the marching band and a special address from our new Principal, Dionne Kirksey.

## Two CHS Alumni to be Inducted into the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame



Two Central Alumni were inducted into the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame this month: Malcolm (Mal) Adams, CHS 1967, and Henry Cordes, CHS 1981!

**Mal Adams** started as a broadcast journalist in Omaha and is now as an entrepreneur in Japan. He worked as a reporter/photographer at KETV in 1969, his sophomore year at Omaha University. He was only the second African American to report on air in Nebraska TV

history and was the first to anchor a regular daily newscast in Nebraska. Adams first went to Japan in 1976 as a news anchor for KNX radio in Los Angeles. In 1981, he became the TV/radio correspondent for the Tokyo bureau of CBS News. Adams helped to start the Cable News Network in Japan in 1984. He produced and hosted CNN's series, "This Week in Japan." He interviewed four U.S. presidents – Nixon, Carter, Reagan and George H.W. Bush. Adams created Totown, the first Black-owned record label in Japan. He expanded it into a lucrative enterprise known as Totown Communications Group Japan and has become an icon in the field of cross-cultural corporate communications. Adams has received the Maejima Prize, Japan's equivalent to the Pulitzer Prize in journalism. He is the only non-Japanese to have received the award.

**Henry Cordes** has been a reporter and staff writer for the Omaha World-Herald for more than 35 years. In 1985, he graduated with a degree in journalism from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and moved to the World-Herald's news division. He served for seven years as the paper's statehouse bureau chief in Lincoln and he's a five-time winner of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Sorensen Award, given each year to recognize the state's most distinguished journalism. He has won national and regional awards for deadline writing, sports writing, feature writing, business writing, enterprise reporting and investigative reporting. His deadline story on a 2007 mass shooting in Omaha was featured in the Poynter Institute's 2008 book, "Best Newspaper Writing." He also has authored four books, including two on the history of Nebraska football, and one on an Omaha serial killer. He served as president of the Omaha Press Club in 2000.

Congratulations, Eagles!

Central Students Celebrate Constitution Day!



Central High School's Social Studies Department Tweeted this picture of students participating in a sidewalk chalk exercise to celebrate Constitution Day. Students used the exercise to dive in deep into the United States Constitution!

**Dr. Rodney S. Wead, Class of 1953, Debuts New Book!**



Dr. Rodney S. Wead, CHS 1953, is a recognized Civil Rights leader in North Omaha, and is known nationwide for his publications, teaching, and leadership for organizations in their outreach to minorities. Now he tells his story in a new book, *Above and Beyond*. In his book, he shares insight into how he used his high school and college athletic abilities and lessons to balance how he achieved countless civil rights victories while achieving economic improvements and describes his eclectic experiences that range from rising from childhood poverty with his best friend, the late Major League Baseball Hall of Famer, St. Louis Cardinal Ace Pitcher Bob Gibson, to founding a credit union, the nation's first black-owned and operated AM/FM

radio station and a community bank. Dr. Wead was inducted into the Central High School Hall of Fame in 1999.

You can buy his new book on Amazon by [clicking here!](#)

You can also read Dr. Wead's Equality Series essay written for the Central High School Foundation in 2020 by [clicking here!](#)

## Announcing Our 2021-2022 Generation "C" Chairs!



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.

**Minority Scholars Visit Film Streams for Viewing of 'Selma'**



Central High School's Minority Scholars Club got out and engaged with the community this month! They walked to Film Streams for a private viewing and discussion of the film 'Selma.'

### Gale Sayers Statue Delayed - 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](mailto: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](mailto:joann.kratky@gmail.com)

**[Class of 1961](#)**

October 15-16, 2021

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

[joycetomich@gmail.com](mailto:joycetomich@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](mailto: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 2001](#)**

September 24-25, 2021

[Ally Freeman](#) and [Quinn Metal Corbin](#)

[Visit the Reunion Website](#)

**[Class of 2006](#)**

October 8-9, 2021

Jim Hubbard

[CHS2k6@gmail.com](mailto:CHS2k6@gmail.com)

**[Class of 2010](#)**

CANCELLED

[Sierra Hogan](#)

402-740-0379

[2010centralhigh@gmail.com](mailto:2010centralhigh@gmail.com)

**[Class of 2011](#)**

October 8-9, 2021

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

**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.

**Support CHSF While You Shop!**

**Support  
Central High School  
Foundation.**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



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.



The Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together 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**

