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Congratulations to the Central High School Class of 2022!



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

EAGLE NEWS
May 2022

Dear Supporter,

We hope you, your family, and friends, are well! And for those celebrating graduations, congratulations!

First, coming up on Monday, June 6th is our 20th annual Golf Fore Eagles Golf Outing! This year's event will honor Central's retiring Basketball Coach, Eric Behrens, CHS 1992. This event is sold out, but there is still a chance for you to participate! Our [silent auction is open](#) now through Monday, June 6th at 4pm CT! There are some excellent items available to bid on, and, as always, proceeds from this event will go to support the needs of our students and staff at Central High School through scholarships, classroom grants, capital grant projects, and much more.

Second, the unveiling of the [Gale Sayers](#) memorial statue outside Seeman Stadium at Central High School will take place at Central's first home game of the season on Friday, August 26, 2022. Mark your calendars now for this special event.

Lastly, we wanted to offer our heartfelt congratulations to our Executive Director, Michele Roberts, who was married this past weekend at a private ceremony. We welcome James to the Eagle Family!

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

Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle!

The Central High School Foundation



Golf Outing Silent Auction is Open Now!



The 2022 Golf Outing Silent Auction is now LIVE! Bid on a wide variety of great packages from now until Monday, June 6th at 4pm CT!

The silent auction is open to all, regardless of if you are attending the Golf Fore Eagles Golf Outing! There are some great items to choose from including GolfTec Swing Evaluation & 5 Golf Lessons; Family Day Pass to The Durham Museum; Foursome with Carts at Field Club of Omaha; Central Embroidered Computer Backpack; 4 College World Series Tickets to Game #4 on Saturday, June 18 & CWS Basket; and more!

As always, proceeds from this event will go to support the needs of our students and staff at Central High School through scholarships, classroom grants, capital grant projects, and much more. Our community's commitment to protecting each other by social distancing doesn't mean we can't creatively show up for our students. Our mission remains the same: to support the current and future students of Central. Through your support, the Foundation can continue to honor the past, live successfully in the present, and plan for the future.

[Click Here to Begin Bidding!](#)

Eagle Nation Welcomes the Graduating Class of 2022 to its Alumni Community!



The Class of 2022 graduated on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 7pm at Baxter Arena. We are proud of the hard work of this resilient class, and welcome them to the larger Eagle Alumni Community!





Hall of Fame 2022 Inductees Announced!



It is our pleasure to announce the incoming Class of 2022 of the Central High School Hall of Fame! These inductees have exemplified the Eagle spirit of excellence in their respective communities, in their professional endeavors, and in their ceaseless efforts to give back to others. **The 2022 Hall of Fame ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at Central High School.**

Keith Bigsby

Harry Gaylor

Jennifer Gruber, CHS 1994

Richard Fellman, CHS 1953

Stephanie Kurtzuba Coakley, CHS 1990

Thomas Novotny, CHS 1965

Christine Andreasen Pellman, CHS 1982

Gennean Scott, CHS 1994

Joel Stebbins, CHS 1895

Michael Thompson, CHS 1955

Keep an eye out for their forthcoming biographies and photos! Congratulations to all who were inducted!

Is there someone you would like to see in the Central High School Hall of

Fame? Remember, for them to be considered by the Central High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame Selection Committee, they have to be nominated! [Click here to nominate an Eagle for the CHS Hall of Fame!](#)

Central High Teacher One of 30 U.S. Educators to Receive National Music Award



Central High School vocal music teacher, Sara Cowan, was one of 30 educators from across the U.S., and the only one in Nebraska, to receive an award from the Country Music Association Foundation earlier this month.

The Omaha Public Schools announced Wednesday that Cowan received the award, along with a \$5,000 prize. Cowan can use \$2,500 to invest in her classroom and \$2,500 as a personal stipend, according to a district media release.

The CMA Foundation is the national music education nonprofit and the philanthropic arm of the Country Music Association. The foundation created the Music Teachers of Excellence program in 2016 to recognize the best music teachers from Nashville and around the U.S.

Cowan was selected for her dedication to bringing a quality music program to her students. She will join other honorees at an awards ceremony on Oct. 19.

[Read More from the Omaha World-Herald](#)

Casey Denton named 2022 CHS Teacher of the Year





Casey Denton was awarded the 2022 Teacher of the Year Award

The Central High School Foundation hosted the 2022 Senior Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00pm in the Central High School Auditorium. This year, the graduating Class of 2022 earned more than \$14 million in national and local scholarships: a demonstration of their outstanding work ethic and resiliency, as many of them attended a portion of their high school careers online during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to these national and local scholarships, 50 seniors earned Central High School Foundation Scholarships, totaling in more than \$200,000.

The 2022 DeEmmett Bradshaw Zerbe, CHS 1943, and Mason Speltz Zerbe, CHS 1948, Central High School Students of the Year Scholarships were awarded to Livia Ziskey and Emilio Parra-Garcia. The 2022 Teacher of the Year Award was awarded to Casey Denton!

This year, the Central High School Foundation is pleased to announce three new student scholarships: the Stephen, CHS 1981, and Lyn Bouma Performing Arts Scholarship; the Dean, CHS 1964, and Susan Scott, CHS 1965, Hokanson Scholarship; and the Richard and Helen Hockabout Kelley, CHS 1956, Scholarship.

Congratulations to Ms. Denton and to all of our scholarship winners!

CHS Alum and Generation "C" Chairperson, Jaclyn Oltmans, Named the 2022 Nebraska Woman of the Year by LLS



Each year, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) launches its Man and Woman of the Year fundraising campaign, and this year Jaclyn Oltmans, CHS 1998, was honored to be named the 2022 Nebraska Woman of the Year! Jaclyn and her team raised over \$60,000, which will go directly to LLS in support of its longstanding goal: a world without blood cancers.

"I am joining this fight in remembrance of

my Aunt Patty," said Jaclyn. "I am joining this fight for all the children suffering from blood cancers. I am joining this fight for the families who spend countless hours in the hospital with their loved ones. I am joining this fight for all the healthcare workers who would love nothing more than to see their patients' cancer free. I am joining this fight for a world without blood cancers."

Congratulations, Jaclyn!

Marcy Mahoney Selected for the Willa Cather Summer Teacher Institute



Central High English and Literature teacher, Marcy Mahoney, is known for her expert teaching of "My Antonia" by Willa Cather. Her passion for the author is known by generations of Central English and Literature students. This summer, Ms. Mahoney will build on that passion and expertise! She was selected for the Willa Cather Summer Teacher Institute and will get to spend several days immersed in Willa Cather's writing and the Nebraska history she found so meaningful. Congratulations to Ms. Mahoney!

Gale Sayers Statue to Be Unveiled at First Home Football Game, August 2022!



The unveiling of the planned bronze statue of [Gale Sayers](#) outside Seaman Stadium at Central High School will happen at Central's first home game of the season on Friday, August 26, 2022.

[Click here to watch](#) KMTV 3's News Coverage of this story!

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, had been selected by the Central High School Foundation 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 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.

Join the 1859 Society Today!



What is Your Legacy?

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](#)

2022 Class Reunion Schedule



Old friends reunited at the CHS Class of 1961 class reunion!

The 2022 Reunion Season is upon us! 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 1962](#)

October 14–15, 2022

Please contact any of the committee members for information: Rochelle Sommer Ban, Patricia McFarland Bennett, Susan Gilinsky Cooper, Lois Greenberg Finkel, Dora Gerber Goldstrom, Susan Lucas, Deborah Barger Sandstedt, Beth Alexander Sargent, Linda Siref Simon, Pat Dunham Trotter, Terryl Milder Zacharia

[Class of 1966](#)

August 26-27, 2022

Cindy Hadsell
402-312-4929

<https://omahachs66.com>

omahachs66@gmail.com

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 1972](#)

October 7– 8, 2022

Nancy Johnson, Val (Acuff) Johnson, David Kutler, Michael Muskin

omahachs1972@gmail.com
[Join the 1972 Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1978

August 12, 2023
Field Club of Omaha

Class of 1982

September 16-17, 2022

[Contact Joan Larsen](#)

Class of 1990

October 21-22, 2022

[Ben Rouch](#)

402-598-2669

[Join the 1990 Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1992

September 9-11, 2022

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and haven't finalized a date for your 2022 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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Amazon donates.

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

amazonsmile

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.

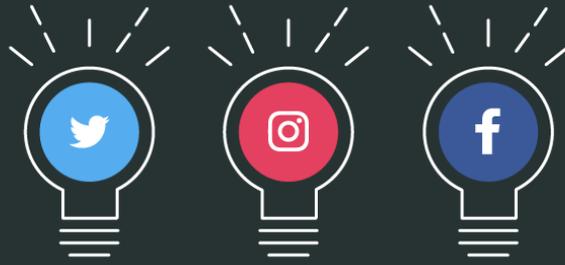
AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Central High School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



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