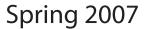


Columbus Public Schools

Alumni News





Students adjust during construction project

Amy Busteed Blaser Class of 1988

As the graduating class of 2007 nears the completion of their high school careers, students reflect and share insights, experiences and opinions following completion of the high school construction project which spanned a period of June 2004 through November 2006.

Shayna Janssen - Class of 2007

"Construction in the fall of 2006 was distracting – especially when you were taking tests. Over time, I got used to the noise. Now that the construction project is complete, I think the whole school looks a lot nicer. It took a lot longer than people were anticipating, but now that it is done, it is wonderful! In my opinion, the greatest improvement to the school is the cafeteria; it is nicer, bigger, and a lot more modern. Additionally, the IMC (media center) is bigger and more modern."

Josh Korth - Class of 2007

"I was at school during the summer of 2006 for football practice. Slowly things were starting to get done, and you could tell it was going to look nice. In the fall, you learned to ignore the drilling and dust. The construction began during my sophomore year and spanned a period of approximately two years. The gym floor still needs refinishing. It does not look very good. I'm just glad the construction project is done. It is so much cleaner. When something looks cleaner, it makes you want to be there. The greatest improvement is the IMC (media center) and cafeteria. Both are a lot more spacious."

Kyle Luckey - Class of 2007

"The construction project was not a personal distraction. It really was not that much of a change for me. The overall appearance is great – bigger bathrooms, the hallways definitely look more up-to-date and modern. For some students, the construction project was very chaotic but for me it was not."

Patrick Siemek - Class of 2007

"During the construction project there was a lot of drilling, cutting and dust in the air. At times the hallways were blocked due to the construction, so students were



NEW CAFETERIA –The cafeteria is two stories high with translucent panels around the perimeter, which makes for a very light and airy facility.

required to travel different routes. Now that construction is complete, the greatest improvement has been in the cafeteria area and no more leaky ceilings! The cafeteria is open and looks like a cafeteria you would find in a really, really nice place (such as) in a school in a larger city. The completion of the construction project has improved employee morale. No construction distractions, no more leaky ceilings – it has created a sound, stable environment. You can definitely concentrate more. The school is a lot different than it was. A great improvement for future students to enjoy!"

Jess Thompson – Class of 2007

"The teachers and administration should be praised for the way in which they dealt with the construction. They found ways to accommodate their teaching methods in a dirty and dusty environment. I did not feel I was ever personally in danger during the project. Administration set a due date for the completion of the project, and in the end, the date the project was complete was really close to their goal. I know that was difficult to predict. Overall, the completion of the construction project will put our school back on top and reinstate school pride – a much better environment in which to learn. I thought the contractors did a really great job!"

Class of 1956 donates chimes to CMS

Once again, bells will be ringing at the Columbus Middle School band concerts.

The Class of 1956 made this possible with a donation, which enabled the band department to purchase a new set of chimes. The previous chimes, which were between 18 and 20 years old, fell apart.

"(CMS Principal Doug Kluth) sat down in the front row to observe my class," Band Director Jeff Peabody said. "The first song we played, we hit the lowest chime, and it fell off and landed in front of Mr. Kluth."

Peabody said he would not have been able to afford to buy the chimes for several years because many other instruments had to be replaced first.

He said the chimes he purchased were top-of-the-line, and he received a good deal because a friend of his works for Taylor Music in South Dakota. Peabody said the listing price for the chimes was \$7,000 and he got them for about half price.

The Adams Chimes are an inch and a half in diameter and are chrome.



CHIME DONATION – The Class of 1956 donated chimes to the Columbus Middle School. Standing by the chimes are front row from left: Donna Flamme Murray `56, Wanda Schild Eihausen `56, eighth-grader Sami Marzorati and eighth-grader Drew Gay. Back row from left: Sharon Behlen Caley `56, Jolaine Loseke Nielsen `56, Noyes Rogers `56, CMS Principal Doug Kluth and CMS band director Jeff Peabody.

"They are slightly bigger, so they have a much fuller sound," Peabody said.

He said it was not hard to immediately notice the better quality.

"The sound is remarkably different," Peabody said. "We couldn't believe it the first time we heard it (how much better it sounded)." In the past, there were not many songs written for chimes because many schools did not have this instrument, he said. However, this is not the case now.

At his performances, the chimes are used for several songs.

"We are really thankful to get these," he said about the donation.

Winter Sports Round-Up

Bob Markham Class of 1976

The wrestling team's sixth place finish at the state tournament was one of many highlights for CHS sports this past winter. Austin Carmichael took the championship at 140 pounds. Louie Rambour (112 pounds) and Evan Bohnet (215 pounds) both placed second with Brandon Wilbur-Sohl (285 pounds) taking fourth. The grapplers qualified nine wrestlers including Hector Maya, Jacob Kloppel, Zach Ridgeway, Seth Ziemba and Michael Ziola. Six state qualifiers return to lead coach Rick Benson's squad next season.

The swim teams coached by Jan Boeding had an up and down season with senior Jared Sharman returning from a near season ending injury to qualify for the state meet in the 100 yard freestyle and backstroke events. The Discoverers' other state qualifiers included Anna Boeding in the 100 yard freestyle and she joined teammates Kristin

Jacobson, Taylour Kumpf and Mary Boeding for the 200 yard and 400 yard freestyle events.

The Girls basketball team led by coach Dave Licari posted a school best 18-5 record. A 49-47 loss to rival Grand Island ended the girls' season with them narrowly missing a wild card berth to the state tournament.

The Discoverers were led by seniors Jodie Boss, Erica Soltero, Jordan Loschen, Leah Travnicek, Stephanie Powell, Lindsey Shannon, Caitlin Ludden, Brooke Sjuts and Laura Groteluschen. Alexi Boettcher returns to lead a young but talented team next season.

The CHS boys posted a 4-17 record that included 8 losses by five points or less. The Discoverers' season ended with a 47-39 loss to Kearney in district competition. They were led by Seniors Jason Schlautman, Trevor Wilke, Dan Kramer and Dwight Coulter. Dustin Groteluschen, Brian Cleary and Kurt Farmer return to lead a team that will sport a new coach next season.

Continued on Page 4



Jazz band takes trip to Chicago

A trip to Chicago turned out to not only be fun but also a learning experience for the Columbus High School Jazz Band members.

Over spring break, 18 students saw the Blue Man Group, watched a Bulls game, toured the city, performed at an elementary school and spent time with a professor at DePaul University.

"This is the type of stuff they remember in 10 or 15 years," CHS band instructor Marty Antholz said.

He said the trip served a dual purpose – to help the students improve in jazz and also be a reward for all their hard work.

"We worked with a professor (from DePaul University) for a couple of hours," Antholz said. "He said some nice things about our group and helped us a lot."

Senior Nathan Mueller said the clinic with the professor was helpful in showing the group how to improve.

"He taught us a lot about blending and style," the trombone player said. "He also showed us how to set up a band and where everyone should sit."

Senior Andrew Nitz said the



SHOWING OFF THEIR SKILLS – The Columbus High School Jazz Band showed a professor at DePaul University their musical skills. They worked with him for a couple hours.

professor offered tips to improve their sound.

Mueller said he also enjoyed the opportunity to play at the elementary school.

"It is always fun to play in a different environment," he said. "It makes you want to perform better when you are playing for someone you don't know."

Drummer Derek Pasonault

said he learned to exaggerate the sound and yet to play more simple. He said playing jazz is just fun.

"It is a different type of style," Pasonault said.

Nitz also enjoys jazz because of its unique style, and since he plays several instruments, this gives him more flexibility.

"You get to do a lot of improvising," he said.

Schaefer finishes term as president

Jim Schaefer Class of 1970

When 2003 Columbus High School graduate Matt Schaefer stepped on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus for the first time, little did he know that in three years he would be the first student from CHS or Columbus to be the student body president. Schaefer said he has always been interested in politics, but his interest really took off when he went to Washington D.C. with a group of CHS students as part of a Close Up trip. The purpose of the trip was to learn how government really works. Schaefer recalled after that trip, he attended Boy's State and has been hooked on

politics ever since.

Earlier in high school he was interested in going into engineering, but after Washington D.C. and Boy's State, he changed his major to Political Science.

Once at UNL, Schaefer had a roommate who was very active in local and state politics.

Continued on Page 4



Winter sports wrap-up

From Page 2

Bob Hopp, who has coached the maroon and white boys for the last 13 years, resigned at the end of the season.

Dave Hiebner has been named the new head boys basketball coach. He will join the social studies department as a history and government teacher at CHS.

Hiebner has taught social studies and served as the school guidance counselor at Centennial Public Schools for the past three years, as well as the head boys' basketball coach. During his time at Centennial, his teams were Southern NE Conference (Eastern) Regular Season Champions, 2005-06; Malcolm Holiday Tournament Champions 2004-05; Sub-district Champion 2006-07; District

Runner-up 2006-07.

He has previously taught and coached at Harvard Public Schools and was assistant basketball coach at Bethel College.

CHS staff members interviewed eight candidates.

Schaefer ends term as president

From Page 3

This person got him involved in several elections. Later, Schaefer ran for Student Senate and won. The next year, Schaefer and his friends, went after David Hergert, a Board of Regent from out west who used questionable and illegal campaign tactics to win his seat. Schaefer and his friends led the charge to get Hegert kicked off the board, which he ultimately was after the State Supreme Court convicted him of charges the legislature had impeached him on.

Schaefer later that year set up a party called N Power to run for student government elections. In the spring of 2006, that party had 54 of 55 candidates win the spot they were seeking. Schaefer won a three-way race for student body president. He attributes his success to the hard work of his party members and from the lessons he learned from working on several campaigns on the national and state levels.

Schaefer said this was the first major election campaign that he worked on that he had won. He campaigned on eliminating the sales tax on college textbooks and building a new multicultural center on campus.

In office, Schaefer was able to introduce a bill in the Nebraska Legislature to eliminate sales tax on textbooks, but the bill was languished in the Revenue Committee. However, he was pleased that his efforts on the multicultural center were fruitful and building will begin soon.

As student body president, Schaefer was also a member of the Board of Regents. Although a non-

voting member, Schaefer's job was to give a voice to the 22,000 students he representing at UNL. He said his one-year on the board was very interested because of the people he met. Schaefer met national political figures such as Sen. Ben Nelson, Sen. Chuck Hagel, Karl Rove and Supreme Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Locally, he met most of the state's senators and the governor.

Schaefer said it was exciting to see how the Regents approved funding for new building plans for several campuses. He cited the Nursing College that will be built in Norfolk as one of many projects the Regents approved.

Schaefer was also present when the turmoil at the University of Nebraska at Omaha was discussed, which led to the resignation of several officials including the chancellor. While a student regent, he was deeply involved in fighting and defeating Initiative 423, which would have had dire effects on the university.

Another benefit to being student body president was visiting new places. He was invited to Israel last summer, but was forced to abort his plans until Christmas due to fighting in the area. Schaefer said he really enjoyed his trip to Israel. He was also invited to Washington D.C. where he toured the White House.

Schaefer's one-year term ended this spring. He will graduate in May and be attending law school in the fall. Schaefer plans to pursue a career in public policy or public service when he graduates.



What's Happening

Mae McCray Otto `22 – Is 101 years old and doing well. Turns 102 on May 30, 2007. She remembers and speaks a lot of her life in Nebraska. She resided at Madonna Hill Elder Care in Carlsbad, California for the past four years.

Jay Brown `26 – At 97, I'm glad to be here. Best regards to my classmates.

Arthur Garbers `37 – Served three years in the United States Navy, 2½ years in the Central Pacific, was wounded in Okinawa `45. Graduated from University of California Berkeley `47 with a degree in engineering. Retired from Walt Disney Company in 1983.

Ronald Morgan '40 – Just retired. Charlotte Binkholz Nordeen '41

- Taught 18 years at NENT college – knitting, macrame, crewel embroidery, counted cross stitch and others.

Bette Alice Woods Leatherbury

`42 – Keeps busy volunteering at local hospital and BPOE 1538.

Violet Klug Thessen `43 – Remarried in February 2006.

Charlotte Johannes Katerges
`45 - Retired.

Charles "Bud" Boettcher `46 – Enjoyed the 60th reunion and thanked those who put it together.

Joyce Klug Keith `47

Celebrated 55th anniversary.
 Graduated in 1951 from HPH School of Nursing, in Los Angeles, CA.

Wayne Schild `48 – Wayne and his wife, Darlene, have been to 173 countries and island groups. They visited in 2005 Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation from Valdivostsok to Moscow by the Private Trans-Siberian Railroad. In 2006, they visited Bolivia, Peru (including a six day cruise on the Amazon River), the Chilean Fjords and the Patagonian Wilderness (including a five day cruise to the Southern Ice Field, which is the

third largest in the world) Albania, Macedonia, Greece and Bulgaria.

Frank Schwartzer '48 – Retired. Betty L. Gottberg Smith '48

 Retired RN. Plays hand bells and sings in choir at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Enjoys bowling, gardening and reading.

Don Kuhn '49 – Retired. ES (Bud) Van Berg'49

- was inducted into the Colorado's Agriculture Hall of Fame on February 23, 2006. He died on July 26, 2005.

Barbara Vaught Zeller `51

- Just completed her fourth book.

Jim Ludwig `57 – Professional Engineer – retired.

Rod Goering `58 – Semi-retired – consulting engineer.

Bill Henke `59 – Son, Brad Henke, played a character in "October Road" on ABC.

Pat Prososki 62 – Retired from State Farm Insurance on June 1, 2006, after 43 years of service.

Janell Kummetz Cromwell `64 – Retired in 2005.

Randy Krumland `64 – In 2006, took a jungle trek in the Amazon, Mediterranean cruise, and spent a week in London. In July 2007, going to Peru to visit Machu Piccchu.

Scott Nelson `66 – Retired on 1-1-07 after 35 years in the insurance business with the last 26 years in York, NE, owning his own insurance agency.

Dr. David M. Kincaid `70 – Has been an optometrist in South Sioux City, NE for 28 years. Been appointed by the Nebraska Board of Health for a second five year term on the Nebraska Board of Optometry. Board members' duties include but are not limited to recommending the issuance or denial of licenses, changes in legislation and regulations, complaint screening and making recommendations for disciplinary actions.

Sandy Boehm Sample `72

 Named teacher of the year for 2004-05 at Folsom Elementary School in Thonotosassa, Florida. Served the school as crew captain and lead teacher the same school year.

Kurt Micek `73 – owns a lumber and flooring wholesale business, pizza outlets and import company. Has three children, two sons and one daughter.

Eugene "Sonny" Bokelmann `74 – Became a grandfather for the first time. Grandson Ryan Eugene Bokelmann was born on his 50th birthday, 2-13-2006.

Sue Mason Greenwald MD `75 – Practiced pediatrics in Kearney for 18 years. Husband, Dale, is a teacher and coach. Has two children.

Victoria Conkel Turney `76

– Director of marketing & corporate relations.

Cindy Nadrchal Vandenberg `76 – Cindy and Dick are the new owners of Nebraska Cycling & Fitness in Columbus, NE.

Karen Brunken McLaughlin `77 – Married on 4-1-2006 and enjoying first grandchild who is 2.

Randall Ritnour `77– Ended term as Johnson County Attorney on January 3, 2007. Elected as Gage County Attorney and took office on January 4, 2007.

Tammy Osterhoudt
Grotelueschen `78 – Teacher's aide.

CMDR Michael Whetstone `80 – U.S. Navy Commander, Fighter Pilot F-14 and F-18.

Dave Divis `81 – Living in Sykesville, MD, working for the DOD, two kids (seven and five and one on the way), life is good.

Jodi Miller Holen `86 – Area Business Manager for Biogen Idea. Married to Brad Holen and has two daughters, Brittany 11 and Morgan 8.

Continued on Page 6



What's Happening

Matthew Petersan `87 – Holds a bachelor of arts degree in electrical engineering works as an electrical engineer.

Jay Hegemann `89 - Owns a manufacturing business called Flying J Machine. Has two kids.

Aaron Petersan '90 – Holds a bachelor of arts degree and works as a financial consultant for Smith Barney.

Denise Wallace Kracl '91

- Graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law in May 2007. Gave birth to Kodie Jean Kracl on 2-3-2006.

Eric Bush-Silvester `91 – Going in for spinal surgery after an injury.

Heather Hassebrook Rieth '93 - 2-year-old son and served four years

in the Air Force.

Daniel (DJ) Brandenburg '94

- Married Becky on July 1, 2006. DJ's daughter, Mackenzie, turned 5 in March. He is the owner of Comfort Specialist Heating and Air in Columbus, NE. His wife owns Steps Dance Academy in Central City, NE and also teaches at Barb's School of Dance and Desiree's Dancers.

Jamie Neuhaus `94 - Earned Interior Design Degree in May 2006 and had first child in June 2006.

Melanie Williams Whitman '94

- Married for five years. Owns and manages a landscape design company, Melanie Williams Landscape. Her husband, Dale, is a manager for Starbucks Coffee Company. We have three dogs. Love L.A.

Derek Willis '94 - Project Coordinator – Network Engineering Technologies.

Joni Andreasen Armbruster `95 Married in 2003 to Colin Armbruster of Brisbane, Australia. Live and work as an RN in Denver, CO.

Bridget Held `95 - Received LPN May 2005. Three children, 9, 6 and 4.

Holly Vollbracht `96 - Loan officer and realtor in Phoenix, AZ. Graduated from ASU in 2000.

Kristy Johannes Hansen

`97- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 2001. Master of Professional Accountancy in 2002 all from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Present job CPA at KPNG, an accounting firm in Omaha, NE.

Chad Marquis `97- Got married on June 26, 2005. New job at Quik Serve Solutions, and earned a degree in management from Bellevue University.

Lindsay Berlin Ogle '98 – JD, Academic accountant manager with Westlaw.

Robert G. Miller ` 99

- Graduated from Chadron State College in 2004. Currently working at Sentinel Building Systems in Albion, NE. My wife and I had our first child in November of 2005. Got married in June 2004.

Danielle Hill '00 – Son, Evan David Reab born on September 20, 2005.

Jennifer Epley McDonald `00

- Graduated from Doane College in May 2004 and works in the Nebraska Legislature. Is married and had baby in March.

Tyson Thomas `00 – Began career with Peter Burwash International, a tennis management company. Currently working at the JW Marriott's Desert Springs in Palm Desert, Calif.

Nick Pelster `01 – Currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corp.

Book to be released in fall

It is not too late to update your information. The Columbus Alumni Association has partnered with Alumni Research to help update our database.

The hardbound directory book should be available this fall, and we would like to get our database as updated as possible. Alumni Research is also offering an online subscription.

The online community is currently available. All alumni have access to certain information. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, a person must first register as a new user. Alumni can choose their own user name and password. After that, Alumni Research sends an email telling the individual he or she can now go online.

Address and other information can also be updated online.

Columbus Alumni Association

2508 27 St. ~ PO Box 947~ Columbus, NE 68602-0947 Phone: 402-563-7000 Ext. 1102 ~ Fax: 402-563-7005

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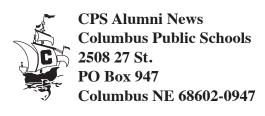
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Columbus Alumni Reunion Plans for 2007 & Beyond

- 1932 Contacts: Caroline Siebler Siefken, 2880 29 Ave., 564-8223.
- **1935** Local class members meet every 4 months for lunch (Oct., Feb., Jun.). All '35 grads welcome.
 - 1937 Meets 1st Wed., every 4 months (March, July, Nov.).
 - 1945 Meets the last Monday of the month at Picket Fence at
- **1946** '46 locals meet the first Friday of each month for lunch. All classmates welcome. Contact: Regina Giersdorf Gondringer, 402-564-7000 or Laura Eller Stuefer, 402-564-2057.
- **1949 -** Locals meet the first Monday of the month for breakfast at Picket Fence Cafe. All classmates welcome. Contact: Rosella (Blaser) Norris for info. 402-564-7498.
- **1952 -** 55th Reunion, Oct. 5, 6 &7, 2007. Contacts: Goldyn Hook Liebschwager at 402-606-4111 or Alta Michaelsen Nauenburg at 402-564-5760.
- **1953** 55th Reunion, June 20, 21 & 22, 2008. More details later. Contact: Gerald E. Karlin at GerNaKarlin@aol.com.
- **1956** Meets at 10 a.m. the first Wed. of every month at Stack & Steak for morning coffee. All classmates welcome.
- 1957 50th Reunion, Aug. 31, 2007, Country Shadows, Sept. 1, 2007, 8 a.m. breakfast, 10 a.m. tour of high school, afternoon open and evening at Dusters (informal with DJ).
- **1958** Class lunch the first Wednesday of every month at noon at Maximus. All classmates and spouses welcome.
- **1958 -** Labor Day Weekend August 31 and Sept. 1, 2008. More information will be mailed. Contacts: Marva Eckmann VanVelkinburgh, 402-562-7831, Sheri (Sharon) Welch Lehr, 402-465-4610.
 - 1960 50th Reunion in 2010. Details to follow later.
 - 1963 We are considering getting together possibly in July of 2008.

- If you are interested in having a 45th year reunion, contact Jean Wombold at garjean@megavision.com or at 402-478-2579.
- 1964 45th Reunion, Memorial Day Weekend 2009. Details later. Contact: Suzy Viergutz Engel at 402-564-0948, Carolyn Hasek Fitzke, Gary Fouraker, Jim Hellbusch, Randy Krumland at 800-467-0244 or John and Bonnie Knight Kennedy at bonjohnken@msn.com.
- **1967** 40th Reunion, August 3 & 4, 2007. Details will be mailed out soon. Contact: Lynn Turner Behlen at 402-564-8719 or sjklug@frontiernet.net.
- 1972 35th Reunion August 4, 2007, hog roast at Brian Gaver's cabin.
- **1977** 30th Reunion, June 30, 2007, at Camp Pawnee. More information to follow later. Contacts: Gina Milburn Micek at 564-6277 and Rick Haney at 564-0731.
- **1987 -** 20th Reunion, July 13, 2007, 7 p.m. informal gathering at Dusters; July 14, 2007, 10 a.m. tour of CHS and dinner at Elks. Contact: Joan Hembd Dorr at maddied@verizon.net.
- **1997 -** 10th Reunion August 3, 2007, informal get together at 7 p.m. location to be determined; August 4, 2007, 10 a.m. tour of CHS followed by tour of CMS; get together with hor'd'oeuvres at Elk's Country Club at 7 p.m.

Let us help you plan your reunion!

Contact Michelle Cruise: Phone: 402-563-7000 Ext. 1102 or by E-mail: mcruise@esu7.org.