



Columbus Public Schools Alumni News



Spring 2010



VIADUCT - CHS 1970 graduate Dave Anderson oversaw the work down on the viaduct in Columbus.

CHS grad oversees roads

By Jim Schaefer
Class of 1970

Everyday hundreds of vehicles of all sizes and shapes use the highways and roads around the Columbus area. Every so often work has to be done on the roads and highways that crisscross the community.

The job of overseeing the welfare of our road system in Platte County as well as Butler, Colfax and Boone counties belongs to Dave Anderson, 1970 graduate of CHS. Dave is the overall project manager with the Nebraska Department of Roads. It is Dave's job to make sure your state and federal tax dollars are spent wisely and correctly.

When a project such as the recent viaduct was going on, Dave had to make sure it was done right. He had to get all the players involved with the project together and figure out how this project was going to get done, how much it would cost and when it would start and end.

Dave and his staff must get contractors, sub-contractors, city personnel, law enforcement agencies, city officials, state officials and business people on the same page. This type of undertaking takes time and the cooperation of many individuals and agencies for it to work and for the project to be completed. Lucky for us, Dave has been in this business a long time and has had a lot of experience in overseeing large projects like the viaduct.

Dave began his career with the Department of Roads in 1971 after a short career with JcPenny and Johanson Construction. He started in the engineering department and wanted to make

sure the road work being done was according to state and federal standards.

Dave said he wished he would have paid more attention to his math teachers at CHS because his job required a strong math background. He also said later when he was working with a crew with a lot of Spanish speaking workers, his Spanish skills were pretty rusty.

Dave said when he first started he had to get familiar with a slide ruler and now everything is done with computers. Dave, like a lot of older CHS graduates, did not have computer classes and what computers were around then took up a whole classroom. Now thanks to computers that are small enough to fit in the palm of his hand his job is a little easier.

Dave reported that his biggest headaches now are funding. Before higher gas prices, the State of Nebraska depended on gasoline tax money to fund much if not all of the highway improvements and expansion. Now it is federal dollars that help with keeping our roadways in good working order.

The northern bypass in Columbus is a good example of using federal dollars, according to Dave. He explained that the project was halted at one time due to a lack of money to finish the job. When the Feds were handing out stimulus money the project qualified because it was already "shovel ready."

Dave does not know what will happen in the future when the stimulus money runs out.

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The Scheideggers

Mike Scheidegger

1. Graduating Year?

1979. The year John Travolta starred in Saturday Night Fever. 79 was the year Reagan announced his candidacy for the Republican Presidential nomination. McEnroe won the U.S. Tennis Open and the Steelers beat the Cowboys in the Super Bowl.

2. Favorite Class / Teacher?

Mr. Bacon, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Wibbles

3. CPS Teacher That Influenced You The Most?

Although I did not recognize it then, all of my teachers had an impact in various ways. I gained a great appreciation for music through Mr. Bacon's choir classes and learned chemistry was not going to be my forte. One teacher that provided a large influence is Mr. Jackson. The experience from his typing class really helped after high school because I could type and keyboard using all 10 fingers pretty well. But his teaching outside the classroom as my baseball coach over the years made a difference to me. He worked with each kid and instilled confidence and an expectation that work and practice would make the difference.

4. Your Most Memorable High School Experience?

I had a lot of great experiences. A kid growing up through Columbus High could be involved in many different activities plus you knew everyone. With lifelong friends from K through 12, there are great high school memories from playing on the tennis teams, baseball, choir (upper class girls were in the choir). Most of the memories are really the times running around with friends. One of my favorite New Years is during high school, and it was snowing like crazy. Leslie Nielsen drove her mom's station wagon loaded with her girlfriends plus Rathkamp and me to all of the parties. We ended up at Art's house for the last stop before midnight. When I am back during holidays, Glurs is usually the place to meet old buddies,



Mike is sitting in the back. Craig is in the middle left and Steve is middle right. Brad is standing.

and it's just like yesterday remembering some of the fun times we had during high school.

5. What would you change if you had to do high school all over again?

Nothing, except have selected a broader range of class subjects in business.

6. Where do you live currently? Your family? Your career? Other interests?

After high school, I went to Doane College then Kearney State and played on their tennis teams. I've been in Dallas for the last 21 years. I worked for Mutual of Omaha for many years and have been consulting for the last 10. My parents are doing great and still live in Columbus. I haven't been married yet. For fun, Dallas is full of sports teams so I attend quite a few of the pro events, mostly the Mavericks and Stars Hockey. Of course, anytime the Huskers are close, I'll see them.

7. Also, if you have any other close relatives (mother, father, aunts, uncles, cousins, kids) to mention that are CHS grads as well?

Mom is from Scotia and Dad from Pawnee City so it's just the brothers, Craig, Brad and Steve that became fighting Discoverers.

Craig Scheidegger

1. Graduating Year?

1980

2. Favorite Class / Teacher?

Up front I would say either Calculus with Mr. Dixon or Physics with Mr. Griffith. However, after thinking about this a little more, I'd have to say typing with Mr. Jackson was my favorite class. I can type without looking at my fingers because of that man! The fact that there were mostly women in the class doesn't hurt either.

3. CHS Teacher That Influenced You The Most?

I have two...Mr. Jackson and Mr. Wibbles

4. Your Most Memorable High School Experience?

I still can't write about my most memorable high school experiences, if my parents ever found out I'd probably get grounded again. So, I guess I'll just say it was the ski trip to Steamboat Springs our senior year during spring break and leave it at that.

5. What would you change if you had to do high school all over again? The legal drinking age!

6. Where do you live currently? Your family? Your career? Other interests?

I currently live in Carlsbad, California. Still single, never married, no kids. After serving in the Marine Corps for 21 years, I retired in January, 2009. Now I'm working for my Dad's company in an effort to expand business to the Southwest United States. It's a great job because I get to spend half my time in California and the other half in Nebraska.

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Brad Scheidegger

1. Graduating Year?

1984

2. Favorite Class / Teacher?

Speech

3. CPS Teacher That Influenced You The Most?

Gary Duranski was my tennis coach for four years, so being part of the team under him was very memorable. We were a close group and had a lot of fun on the road trips.

4. Your Most Memorable High School Experience?

I really enjoyed participating in athletics. Our tennis team won the State Championship in 1983, and I won the State singles title in 1984. I also enjoyed playing basketball for Al Schnabel and Bob Hopp as they were great teachers of the game. Outside of sports, Tony Dworak, Marty Sipple, Tom Nelson and I hung out a lot. Tony's New Year's Day football watching and pool tournaments still make me laugh.

5. What would you change if you had to do high school all over again?

I wouldn't change anything.

6. Where do you live currently? Your family? Your career? Other interests?

Frisco, TX basically North Dallas. After graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Communications and playing on the tennis team, I went to work for the University of Nebraska-Kearney as the Men's and Women's tennis coach. I moved to Dallas where I am an Insurance Broker. With my brother Mike living here as well, I enjoy going to a lot of professional sporting events with him.

Steve Scheidegger

1. Graduating Year?

1989

2. Favorite Class / Teacher?

Ron Callan. I would have never thought a biology class could be so intense, and there were a lot of memorable field trips, some of which friends and I still laugh

about today.

3. CPS Teacher That Influenced You The Most?

Although he qualifies as a coach and teacher, it is most definitely Al Schnabel. After more than 20 years, I've yet to meet a kinder person.

4. Your Most Memorable High School Experience?

Involvement in athletics provided the most memorable experiences and several life long friendships.

5. What would you change if you had to do high school all over again?

I would have made a few more baskets during our state championship basketball game. Actually, I have such fond memories of Columbus High that I can't

think of anything that I would change.

6. Where do you live currently? Your family? Your career? Other interests?

I live in Chicago, IL and am engaged to be married in July of this year. I work for Barracuda Networks and manage our sales and marketing throughout the Midwest. After enduring the Chicago winters, we really enjoy the outdoor cafes, neighborhood festivals and lakeside activities during the spring and summer months. There are so many things to do and see in Chicago but nothing compares to an afternoon at Wrigley Field. Some guilty pleasures include reality TV, Nintendo Wii (if only real golf was that easy) and I'm a new subscriber to Facebook – look me up!

Keeping the roads in good shape

From front

He said that he is busy this spring and summer with a project that the federal government wants done, which is to check all 135 bridges in his four county area to be sure they are safe and in working order.

Dave is very proud of what he does and says he has achieved his current position with the state by hard work. He said that many of the project managers elsewhere are college graduates. Dave tried to go to Central Community College-Columbus during the evenings, but it did not work out.

Dave said he found the job he loved, and through hard work and learning, he worked up the ladder. He said college is fine but on the job training and hands on experience are also important.

Dave said he has been at his current position since 1998 when his prior boss retired, and he was appointed to take over. He has worked on several major area projects, such as, the four lane express way from Columbus to Norfolk; the four lane express way from Columbus to Schuyler; the northern bypass around Columbus; the 23rd Street and 33rd Avenue widening projects in Columbus; and the Columbus viaduct project.

Dave said he was involved in all these projects and is proud that these projects have improved traffic flow in Columbus and the surrounding areas.

Dave said he will be retiring soon and when he does he will be looking forward to traveling, with his wife of 35 years, to drag and speed races. Dave also said he wants to check out some famous highways such as Route 66 and Highway 1. He said he is looking forward to seeing how well these highways are being maintained.

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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What's Happening

Jane Shuster Mitchum `99 – of Seneca, SC has passed the NCLEX-RN licensing examination, which is required to become a registered nurse in South Carolina. She recently graduated from Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, SC after completing the associate degree in nursing program. She is employed by AnMed Health in Anderson, SC. Mitchum plans to continue her education at Clemson University to obtain her Bachelors Degree in Nursing. She and her husband, Arthur have a 5-year-old son, Jase. Mitchum wore the same cape that her Grandmother, Barbara (Wadsworth) Collins received when she graduated from nursing school. Wadsworth-Collins was a 1941 graduate of Kramer High School.

Bette Alice Woods Leatherbury`42 – Still active as a volunteer for a local hospital. This year she was named to the Board of Volunteers at Marian Medical Center.

Del and LouAnn Ross `50 – 11 grandchildren. Del was chancellor at UNO for 20 years. They were married 55 years. They have traveled the world.

Boyd Jones `57 and Cheryle Jones `58 – Both sort of retired. Boyd still works part-time in our glass business and Cheryle is still doing some nursing. Only one move from Columbus 27 years ago and that was to Yankton, SD.

Foundation brochure

In past articles, we have revealed that the Alumni Association and the Columbus Public Schools Foundation have formed a partnership.

In this edition of the newsletter, we have enclosed a brochure that provides information about the Foundation, it's mission and the opportunities it hopes to promote with support from you, the alumni of Kramer and Columbus high schools.

Please consider the Foundation when you are planning your annual charitable giving or working on your estate planning.

Columbus Alumni Association

Let's Keep in Touch

Please use this form for address corrections or changes, what's new information, or if you wish to pay dues.

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Class of _____
(Please include maiden if applicable.)

Spouse _____ Last Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

What's New (job, degrees, comments, suggestions etc.) _____

I/we would like to become an annual member(s) for the year 2010.

_____ Annual Single \$10 _____ Annual Couple \$15

or

I/we would like to become a lifetime member(s).

_____ Lifetime Single \$200 _____ Lifetime Couple \$300

Return to: Columbus Alumni Association * 2508 27 St. * PO Box 947 * Columbus, NE 68602-0947



Carl Kramer

Steve Anderson Class of 1968

Many of you who attended Kramer High School in Columbus may not know anything about the gentleman the school was named after. Here is just a snippet of one of the most active and notable citizens of Columbus, Nebraska.

Carl Kramer was born in Germany in 1845. At the age of 12, he migrated to the United States and settled in Chicago. He traveled across country holding numerous jobs until, at age 20, he and his brother started the "Famous Clothing Store" in Chicago. He moved West with his brothers and owned stores in Columbus, Schuyler, Kearney & North Platte. He was married

and had 4 children.

That's the background, now for the good stuff. Probably no other man in the history of Columbus ever held as many different positions of public trust as Carl Kramer. He served on the City Council, County Board of Supervisors and 40 years as a member of the Board of Education, of which much of the time he was president.

He was Postmaster 18 years and Chairman of the Republican County Committee and a member of the Republican State Central Committee. Carl was secretary of the Columbus Cemetery Association, served as President of the YMCA Business Men's Club, President of the Commercial Club and Director of the Columbus Baseball Association.

Wait, there's more.

Carl was President of the Nebraska State Association of School Boards, member of the Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Wow, this guy was busy! The Loup River Bridge was built while he was a county supervisor. The waterworks system was built when he was mayor, and all of the school buildings were built when he was on the board of education.

He was often referred to as the Father of the Schools. For these efforts, the City acknowledged his work by naming Kramer High School in his honor.

As Paul Harvey often said, "Now you know the rest of the story!"

Help with distinguished alumni award needed

Amy Busted Blasaer Class of 1988

Calling All CPS Alumni - Committee Members Needed For An Exciting New Hall of Fame Recognition!

Many people have expressed interest in hosting a dinner to recognize alumni

who have distinguished themselves in their careers since graduating from Columbus High School.

A core group of volunteers is forming to make this venture a success. If you are interested in assisting with this event, please contact Michelle Cruise at 402-563-7000, ext. 1102 or michelle.cruise@

cps-ne.org. Both local and out of town volunteers would be a welcomed addition to the committee. This event holds promise to be as exciting as the recent Athletic Hall of Fame banquet, and all energetic and talented volunteers will be greatly welcomed! Thank you in advance for your consideration here.

Anne Cruickshank Hughes Class of 1990

Girls' Basketball

The girls' basketball team finished with a 7-13 record this season. The team worked extremely hard and learned what it will take to improve next year. There were no seniors on this year's team. All of the returning players are looking forward to the opportunity to get better.

Boys' Basketball

The 2009-2010 basketball season was a success in many areas. Although the team went 5-15, this team was statistically the second best defensive team in CHS history .7 points per game behind the 2001 State Runner-Up team. A 2-1 showing at the GNAC was a high point of the year. This year's seniors Josh Bech, Derek Grutsch, Craig Jarosz, and Jordan Pinion will be missed and their hard work and dedication set a

standard for our program in the future. With a number of underclassman receiving playing time this season, we look forward to a competitive season in 2010-2011.

Boys and Girls Swimming

The 2009-2010 swim team ended their season with four state medalists. Ryan Miksch took home a 5th place finish in the 50 Free and 4th place in the 100 Free. Miksch along with Matt Boeding, Tommy Ernst and Brett Brune medaled 6th overall in the 200 Free Relay.

The girls swim team ended their season 4-5 in duals, 4th overall in conference and 19th at State. The boys record in dual action was 6-3, runner-up at conference and 15th at State.

Wrestling

The wrestlers finished their dual season with a 12-5 record. The five losses came from the top three Class A schools in the State Tournament – Grand Island,

Kearney, and Millard South. Another loss was a one-point defeat to Council Bluffs Lewis Central. They finished 7th in the Iowa State Tournament. Our fifth loss was to Lincoln Southwest in January, and the team avenged that loss two weeks later.

The tournament season found us winning the Lincoln Public School Classic in the non-LPS division and finishing in second place at the Norfolk Invitational and Districts. The team was third at Kearney, Bellevue West, Sioux City Hellan Dual Tournament and the Greater Nebraska Athletic Conference. The Discoverers finished sixth at Millard West and tenth at the State Tournament. Columbus qualified 12 wrestlers for the State Tournament and ended with three senior wrestlers placing at State. Chase Johnson finished with a second place medal, Nick Ridgeway finished at 3rd and Jacob Kloppel ended his career in 4th place.





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Columbus Alumni Reunion Plans for 2010 & Beyond

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 noon.

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.

1958 - Class lunch the first Wednesday of every month at noon at Maximus. All classmates and spouses welcome.

1955 - 55th Reunion - August 27 and 28, 2010. August 27 - 5 p.m. tailgate party at Ag Park. August 28 - 1-4 p.m. Terry Gaver's cabin; 6 p.m. social and dinner at 7 p.m. all at Wunderlich's.

1956 - Meets at 10 a.m. the first Wed. of every month at Stack & Steak for morning coffee. All classmates welcome.

1960 - 50th Reunion - August 27 and 28, 2010. August 27 - 5 p.m. cocktails with dinner at 6:30 p.m. - Country Shadows. August 28 - 10 a.m. tour of CHS; 5-7 p.m. cocktails, class picture at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Contact: Gayleen Hingst - dghingst@email.com.

1965 - Classmates will meet the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Valentino's Pizza. Contacts: Carol Loshbaugh Syslo - 308-536-3167 or Glynn Kay Olson Hinrichs - 402-564-6080.

1965 - 45th Reunion - Save the date - Sept. 3-4, 2010. More information to follow. Contact: Glynn Kay Olson Hinrichs at 402-564-6080

1970 - 40th Reunion - July 30-31 and August 1, 2010. For more

information contact, Jim Schaefer at 402-564-4274 or jschaefer001@neb.rr.com or Terri Drozd Hoesly at thoesly@hotmail.com.

1980 - 30th Reunion - July 31, 2010. Tour at CHS 1 p.m.; 7 p.m. at Izaac Walton Cabin. Contact: Julie Barnes Sansoni at 563-1680 or gsansoni@neb.rr.com.

1985 - 25th Reunion - August 13, 2010. Classmates meet at the horse races in the north bleachers at 5 p.m. First race is at 6:30 p.m. Meet up out back at Glurs Tavern following the races around 10:30 p.m. Pass the word along on Facebook. **This is the only invite, nothing will be mailed.** Contacts: Kim Smith, Cheryl Wiehn and Tam Dworak.

1990 - 20th Reunion - July 16-18, 2010. July 16 - Informal gathering TBA. July 17 - 10 a.m. CHS tour; Noon Matt Moore Memorial Golf Scramble at Quail Run; 6:30 p.m. cocktail hour with dinner at 7:30 p.m. at New World Inn. Contact: Anne Cruickshank Hughes at shughes@neb.rr.com; Abbie Alfson Tessendorf at abbietess@hotmail.com or Dan Wolfe at dwolfe@fastenal.com.

2000 - 10th Reunion - August 21, 2010. Activities available to participate in include: golf outing, CHS tour, dinner and disc jockey. If you are a class member and have not been contacted, please notify Brett Bieber at bieberb@mercyhealth.com or call 605-422-2196.

Let us help you plan your reunion!

Contact Michelle Cruise: PO Box 947,
Columbus NE 68602-0947; Phone: 402-563-7000 Ext. 1102;
E-mail: michelle.cruise@cps-ne.org.