

The Anchor

CPS Foundation and Alumni Association working together to honor the past and invest in the future of all Discoverers!

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New Look, Stronger Partnership!

By Shelly Schmidt
Alumni Association President

Hopefully you noticed that the Alumni News has a new look! It is now a joint production of the Columbus Public Schools Alumni Association and the Columbus Public Schools Foundation. The new name, "The Anchor," is in recognition of all those who have been students in the Columbus Public Schools as well as those who support the district in a variety of ways. One definition of an "anchor" is "a person who provides strength and support" – what better term could describe the alumni and patrons of the Columbus Public School District!

For 26 years, the Alumni Association has been printing and mailing over 11,000 copies of the Alumni News at least twice a year. The cost to produce and mail each batch of newsletters is over \$5,000 – that is over \$10,000 per year! The Alumni Association has been able to continue this service with the financial support of the CPS Foundation. However, after a lot of thought and discussion, the Boards of the Alumni Association and Foundation have decided that these funds may be better spent towards projects that improve our schools. We recognize the importance of staying in touch with graduates and supporters of the Columbus Public Schools and will continue to print and mail a newsletter once a year, as this also allows us to update our alumni database. We will also continue to disseminate information about our alumni and school activities through digital avenues.

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Visited/worked in 40 different countries

Lohr learns from travels

By the age of 33, John Lohr worked or visited 40 different countries.

"I take good and bad from every country," he said. "There is a curiosity about Americans, and if you respect people when you are there and abide by their cultural norms, you will be fine."

Sometimes learning the cultural norms can be challenging.

"I go to report the first day at my job in Thailand, and my boss is telling people about me and how I'm from Kansas in the United States. When he is done, I stood up and corrected him and said

I was from Nebraska. All the other workers looked down and the boss walked away after I did this."

Lohr said he learned the valuable lesson that in Asia, a person does not correct their boss in public.

"You take all these tools and put them in your tool belt and don't make that mistake again," he joked.

The 2001 CHS graduate didn't start off with the intent of heading out of the United State to work. When he first went to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he planned on majoring in biochemistry.

After working in the field



and studying abroad in Germany for a year, he decided it wasn't the career for him.

"CHS has a very strong science program, and it really influenced me," he said about his original career choice. "Frankly, I realized I really didn't like research

and numbers. Basic research is very repetitive."

Lohr switched his major to international studies and German. The opportunity arose for him to work at a resort in the Baltic Sea.

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Now Trending: The Anchor in Social Media

By Morgan Pillen Kapels
Class of `05

How many of us use social media on a daily basis? Sites such as Facebook, Vine, Instagram, and Twitter have become apps and websites that we view periodically each day. With the click of a button or tap of a screen, we are instantly updated on the latest news and trends of friends, family, and even world leaders. The Alumni Association would love to help you in #KeepingUpWithCHSAlumniNews.

Efforts to become more accessible to our alumni are going digital and making the change is easier than what you might think. You can access these social media sites by visiting their website or adding the free app to your smart phone. Since newsletters will no longer be printed and mailed out quarterly, we want to make sure

to keep you informed on both past and current happenings around CHS. By following The Anchor on social media our alumni have an easy way to stay informed, add content, and reminisce about our alma mater. When alumni get involved in social media by tagging photos or using our unique hashtag, we can connect both near and far effortlessly.

Currently, an Instagram account has been created with other social media outlets coming soon. Follow us on Instagram @The_Anchor_CHS to view photos. Feel free to tag us in any CHS alumni related news! You can also use the hashtag #TheAnchorCHS to find any Columbus High Alumni content that may include photos or videos that have been uploaded. We look forward to more daily interactions with you. As always, #GoDiscoverers!



Last Class to graduate from current building

Rebecca Feagin
Class of 2016

Editors Note: The Class of 2016 will in all likelihood be the last class to graduate from the current high school. Since the first students entered the building in the fall of 1958, there have been 14,115 students who earned their diploma prior to this year's class. The building has also changed over the years with additions/renovations done in 1965, 1976, 1988 and 2006.

Columbus High School has served me well for these past four years, just as it has served many other people in the community. This building has been a safe ground to some, an encouragement to others, and maybe even a pain for some students. Regardless of how sometimes I dreaded coming to school, I reflect back now and see a place where I had wonderful educators, caring adminis-

trators, and a safe building to call my high school home.

Being a part of this senior class was special for me as I knew of the upcoming plans to build a new high school. I do feel rather honored to be the last class to graduate from this building. The class of 2015 was a very tough act to follow; however, I believe my class had the opportunity to prove that we are just as strong, determined, and talented as the class before, given that we received much attention as the last class to graduate from the old high school building.

We had a great chance to make an impact, and I believe we did. This class has a wide variety of people and personalities, and the many students who represent our class have a high sense of responsibility and decorum, and provide a respectable image for the school. I am proud to say I am part of the class of 2016, and I hope that somewhere, someone from the class made an impression on someone else's life.



Continues on Page 4

Shevlin named Teacher of the Year

Kim Shevlin helps her students be successful not only in her class but in all classes.

For the impact she has left on students, Shevlin was named the 2016 Educator of the Year. This honor goes to an educator that shows commitment to providing their students with a quality education, not only in the classroom, but also through leading by example in their school and community.

One nomination said, "She has a way to help all kids feel loved and respected in her classroom." She makes effective connections with students, is a teacher leader, and effective classroom teacher."

Shevlin keeps all her students engaged 100 percent of the time using various teaching techniques. She also assisted with the K-12 alignment of reading and writing curriculum with CPS and served on the Apple Core team.

Shevlin believes many students come to school not being able to learn because they are worried about what is going on at home. She strongly feels that building positive connections with adults improve students' success, and by meeting the basic needs of students, she can help keep them focused and ready to learn while at school.



ALL ABOUT THE KIDS - CMS Silver Seventh Grade Language Arts Teacher Kim Shevlin helps a student out during class.

Foundation Representative Landon Wietfeld said Shevlin does an excellent job of demonstrating what the award means.

"This award is given to educators in the District who go above and beyond and dedicate each day to creating opportunities and inspiring learning," Wietfeld, said.

Nominations for Educator of the Year were accepted from CPS staff, administrators, parents, students, school-supporting organizations, and the general public. Shevlin re-

ceived a \$1,000. There were 14 people nominated for the award. Lost Creek second grade teacher Sherry Thompson was the runner-up, and she received \$500. The Columbus Federal Credit Union donates the cash awards for both the Educator of the Year and the runner-up.

Other nominees were: North Park special education teacher Christine Church; North Park kindergarten teacher Alice Frasier; and CHS math teacher Peggy Meyer.

Lassek chosen as Operations Employee of the Year

Kerry Lassek helps students realize their fullest potential as students and human beings.

For this and many other reasons, the CHS Special Education Para Educator received the Operations Employee of the Year Award. This honor is given to a district employee who excels in his or her service to the teachers and students at Columbus Public Schools.

"Operations employees are the glue that holds the district together," Landon Wietfeld, Foundation rep-

resentative said. "They enable CPS to be a more efficient and effective organization."

Lassek monitors grades and works closely with teachers on a daily basis to try and implement a plan for success.

She monitors student's grades and works closely with teachers on a daily basis to try and implement a plan for success. When a student is struggling she not only asks the question of what the student could do better, she asks what she can do

in order to make sure the student succeeds.

"She is funny, awesome and cool etc., but most importantly she always helps students no matter what they need," said one nomination.

Another nomination said, "She is a very smart, talented individual. She truly is an asset."

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CHS grad works on new high school

A summer internship turned into a full time job and the opportunity to build a new high school in the town he grew up in.

When Mike Medlar graduated from Columbus High School in 2011, he never imagined he would be a part of building the new high school. He said it is exciting to work on something that will be a part of his hometown for many years down the road.

"I've lived in Columbus my whole life," he said. "To build a project in Columbus was a great opportunity for me."

After high school, Medlar graduated from the University of Nebraska Kearney with a degree in construction management. He landed an internship with Hausmann Construction, which turned into a full-time job.

A high school wood working class sparked the initial interest in construction.

"(CHS woods teacher) Craig Post got me involved," Medlar said. "He was a good teacher, and I was fascinated with what construction was and what it entailed."

College helped him to decide the aspects he liked most about construction.

"There were a lot of different college courses that got me to a place where I'm ready to take on (manage-



ment) responsibility," Medlar said. "It did prepare me for what I wanted to go into."

He has been involved in both the labor and management side of construction and prefers management.

"On the management side, you get a bigger picture and stay ahead of the game," he said. "You have a whole project point of view."

He said the end product is what is important, and although the money is nice, it is not why he does the job.

"I love handing over a quality product at the end of the day and making sure the customer is happy," Medlar said. "I'm not there just for the paycheck."

Memories from CHS

From Page 2

As I begin to make a transition into college and adulthood, I realize how small a part of life high school is. When you are a freshman, or even a junior, four years seems like forever. But standing here now in my senior year of high school, I cannot even begin to describe the feeling of looking back on the past four years of my life and going, "where did the time go?"

High school will change how you live your future life one way or another, and I have been incredibly blessed to have gone to school here at CHS. I cannot help but think that if I had been somewhere else, under a different roof, my life would have been completely different. The people here have shaped and mold-

ed me into the person I am today, and that's the most beautiful thing about this building change; the classrooms and the hallways and the desks and the cafeteria and the auditorium may all be different, but the people that make this school great are going with everyone else. The same teachers and administrators and staff members that watched me throughout my four years are going to be there for all of

the other students, and I pray that no one ever takes them for granted.

The new school is going to be amazing, and the class of 2017 will have the honor of being the first class to graduate from it. Both my class and theirs will end their high school careers on one of the best notes they possibly could.

There are a lot of firsts and lasts in life, but as one age ends, another era begins.

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Columbus Alumni Association

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



Hall of Fame to host all sports reunion

By Steve Anderson
Class of '68

The Discoverers Athletic Hall of Fame Committee would like to invite all former male and female athletes back for an "all-sports reunion" in conjunction with the 5th induction ceremony banquet to be held Thursday, August 31st, 2017. Anyone, including athletes, cheerleaders, band members, coaches and fans, who participated in CHS/Kramer sports is invited.

We will group people by class year, so they can have a mini reunion as they watch the induction ceremony. In the Spring of 2017, additional information will be posted on the Columbus Public Schools Hall of Fame website <http://columbuspublicschools.org/Alumni/Athletic>.

Tickets will need to be purchased in advance and will not be sold at the door.

Save the date and watch the website in the Spring of 2017!

Building a strong partnership with the Foundation

From front page

Through a partnership with the Columbus Public Schools Foundation, the Alumni Association will be able to remain the primary source of information regarding our alumni, Foundation activities and current school developments. The Alumni Association remains available to assist with coordinating reunions and providing current contact information. With the assistance of Mor-

gan Pillen Kapels, the Alumni Association will be increasing its digital presence on Instagram, Facebook, and other apps. Please seek us out on the Internet and your favorite social media!

The Foundation Board wants to ensure that all Columbus Public School alumni and supporters are aware that the Foundation provides an avenue through which private support can flow to

the Columbus Public Schools. Tax deductible donations have become essential in helping to keep the Columbus Public Schools strong.

For those who wish to continue to receive a printed copy of the newsletter in the mail, send your written request to the Foundation Office on the form, on page 7 of this edition of The Anchor, and we will continue to mail your printed copy.

For those who wish to receive The Anchor digitally, please use the enclosed form on page 7 to send us your email address, or better yet, just send us an email to cruisem@discoverers.org, and we will inform you by email when The Anchor is available for download. The newsletters can be found at: <http://columbuspublicschools.org/newsletters/>.

Join us in being an **Anchor!**

Columbus Alumni Association

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 2016.

_____ 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



Lohr travels the world

From front page

At the time, he was considering going back to school to get his MBA. Someone at the resort suggested he might want to consider the hospitality industry and attend a well-known school in Switzerland.

“(The year at the Switzerland school) that really opened the international door,” he said.

The school required an internship, so he went to Thailand and worked a year at a five-star resort as a manager in training. Lohr said surprisingly knowing German also proved to be a plus.

“If I didn’t know German, I would have never gotten the job in Thailand,” he said. “Thailand is a big travel destination for people from Germany.”

His next job took him to India where he was the head of guest relations and worked with Americans and Austrians because they spoke German. He reconnected with the girl he met while in college studying abroad for a year in Germany, and eventually she came to India to see what she thought of the country.

Lohr said before his girl friend, Angelika, moved to India, she needed to learn English. He said she was from Poland and spoke Polish and German, and they communicated in German.

“I sent her to the United States for three months to live with my parents to learn English,” Lohr said. “My mom enrolled her in English classes at the college, and I came back to the US at the end of three months.”

He said he shocked his parents by proposing in the airport when he landed in Omaha. They married and lived in India, but after she became pregnant, they decided they didn’t want to raise a family there.

“We moved to Poland with no idea of what I would do for a job,” he said. “The idea was to be closer to her family. I couldn’t get a job because I had paper work for Poland but couldn’t speak Polish, and I could speak German but didn’t have paperwork for Germany. It was a rough time.”

While attending a trade show, he was offered a job to promote educational and training programs with hospital-ity schools and five-star hotels in Europe. Lohr was later recruited to be the director of development school relations for Hosco. He said Hosco is a relatively new company that he describes as being similar to LinkedIn, but for only people in the hospitality field or business.

He said his job is to encourage graduates of hospitality schools to join so hospitality employers can see who is available. Lohr said this way a graduate just has to upload their information to one spot, and it can be seen by many employers.

Lohr attributes much of his success to the education he received at CHS. He said band teacher Larry Rathbun and Ruth Schlobohum were both excellent teachers who didn’t coddle him and made him try his hardest. Lohr said his speech and debate experiences also helped tremendously.

For now, Lohr said he just takes things one day at a time. “I go with the flow,” he said. “I have nothing against coming back to the U.S. I’m just enjoying the ride.”

Lohr and his wife have two children, Aleksander, 5 and Stefan, 3.

Lohr also recently received the Early Achiever Award from the foreign language department at UNL. This award is given to someone from each department to recognize an alumni who has demonstrated excellence in their chosen work.



Columbus Public Schools Foundation



Yes I wish to support the schools with a **tax deductible** gift to the Foundation.

Here is my donation in the amount of \$ _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

If you would like someone to contact you about including the CPS Foundation in your estate plans, please call Jen Augustin at 402-563-7000 Ext. 1103 to set up an appointment. The role of the Foundation is to provide the students of CPS with as many educational opportunities as possible by filling gaps created in the regular school district budget from funding shortfalls or regulatory constraints. The Foundation helps optimize the future of all Discoverers by creating funding for grants, after school programs, alternative educational opportunities, scholarships for current and graduating students, and recognition awards.

Please make checks payable to the CPS Foundation.

Return to: CPS Foundation * 2508 27 St. * PO Box 947 * Columbus NE 68602-0947.



The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Lassek helps students realize potential

From page 3

There were 19 people nominated for this award. The other finalists include: Beth Jones, Emerson secretary and Bonnie Keller, special education para education for the Advantage Plus Program at CHS.

Nominations were accepted from CPS staff, students, school supporting organizations and the general public. Kerry will receive a \$500 award, sponsored by Bob Markham (CHS Class of 1976) and his wife, Chris.



USING MATH SKILLS - Kerry Lassek helps students wrap a box. The students used math to figure out how much paper it would take to wrap their box and then seeing how close they came.

Saalfeld named Philanthropist of the Year

Makes a difference to CHS students

Roberta Nielsen Saalfeld makes a difference in the lives of CHS students. Thanks to her generosity, 27 CHS graduates were able pursue their education after high school. Roberta has been a supporter of the Columbus Public Schools Foundation for more than 20 years.

For this generosity, she was named the 2015 Philanthropist of the Year by the Philanthropy Council. CPS Foundation Representative Landon Wietfeld said he appreciates all Roberta has done.

"We are grateful for Roberta's dedication in making these funds endowed with the Columbus Public Schools Foundation," he said. "Her gifts will help students for many years to come."

The Kramer High School graduate provides two scholarship opportunities for CHS students. The first one is the Edward M. Nielsen Sr. and Edward M. Nielsen Jr. Memorial Scholarship, created in 1997 to honor Roberta's father and brother. Both men were active in the community as well as in education. The scholarship goes to a person attending the University of Nebraska at Lincoln who will study either business or agriculture.

The second one started in 2008. The Christopher John Saalfeld Memorial Scholarship was created in memory of

her son, Christopher, who graduated from CHS in 1979. He went on to receive his mechanical engineering degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas in 1983. The scholarship is awarded to a student with exceptional ideals in furthering his or her education in music or engineering at a Nebraska college or university.

"It's been gratifying to follow these students. One is a concert pianist, and one is pursuing banking," Roberta said of two students she kept in touch with.



Keeping informed

If you are interested in receiving a printed newsletter or being notified electronically when the newsletter is available online, please fill out the information below. If it is easier, you can also email the information to cruisem@discoverers.org. Please mail this back to: Alumni Association, Attention: Michelle Cruise, PO Box 947, Columbus NE 68602-0947

I would like to keep receiving a printed Alumni newsletter in the mail.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip code: _____

I would like to be notified through Email when the Alumni newsletter is available.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____



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Columbus Alumni Reunion Plans for 2016 & 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.).

1946 - '46 locals meet the first Friday of each month for lunch. All classmates welcome. Contact: Ruth Olson Babka, 402-564-5991 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.

1954 - The Class is having a get together on August 20, 2016. Classmates can meet any time after 3 p.m. at the American Legion, 2263 3rd Ave. This will be followed by the Columbus Days barbecue in downtown Columbus. For more information, contact Colleen McEnerney Willman at 402-564-4780.

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

1956 -60th Reunion – August 19 2016. For more information, contact Wanda Schild Eihausen at 402-564-5119 and Donna Flamme Murray at 402-564-6777.

1958 - Sept. 15, 2006 - Meet and greet at Ramada Inn. Sept. 16, lunch at Issac Walton.; 2 p.m. tour of the new high school; 7 p.m. CHS football game vs. Norris at Pawnee Park and eating at the Burger Bash prior to the game.

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

1959 - Meets the second Thursday quarterly (January, April, July and October) at Stack n' Steak at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and conversation. Classmates and spouses are welcome.

1960 - Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at Maximus.

1962 - Meets the first Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Picket Fence. All classmates and spouses are welcome.

1966 - 50th Class Reunion - Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2 and 3, 2016. There is a group created on Facebook named CHS & Scotus Class of '66 Reunion. Please feel free to add yourself to that group if you have a Facebook account.

1976 - 40th Reunion - August 5, 2016 at the Columbus Horse Races. Meet at the front grandstand, and after the races, go to Maximus. August 6, 2016 – 2 p.m. tour of the high school followed by a tour of the new high school. After tour, please meet at Glur's Tavern. For more information, contact Linda Krumland at fatcatz@neb.rr.com.

1996 – 20th Reunion – August 5 & 6, 2016. Friday – horse races and Saturday – noon family picnic at Pawnee Park and evening gathering. For more information, contact Salena Hirschbrunner at shirsch@live.com.

2006 - 10th Reunion - July 30, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at Maximus. For more information, contact Nathan Wagner at 402-910-8533.