



CPS Foundation Alumni Association

Linking the Past, Present and Future



# The Anchor

Spring 2021





## CPS partners with Foundation to create new Academic Hall of Fame

The Columbus Public Schools Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of a new academic hall of fame that will be displayed at Columbus High School.

"Columbus Public Schools has a strong and proud history of distinguished students who have walked the halls of our schools," Superintendent Troy Loeffelholz said. "This Academic Hall of Fame should be about showcasing the academic and creative accomplishments of past and present Discoverers. It is time for the academic successes of our students to be recognized."

Following a donation by the Raimondo Family in memory of their mother Jeanne Raimondo, Foundation Director Nicole Anderson brought the idea of an Academic Hall of Fame to Loeffelholz and CHS Principal Dave Hiebner.

"This is a big project which started with an idea and a question from

an alum during the Class of 1969 reunion tour of the high school," Anderson said. "The question of 'why don't we have an academic hall of fame?' was a great question and inspired great conversations. I'm excited about this project and am looking forward to this new area at the high school that will showcase the academic talents of our past, present and future students."

Together they are currently working together on what items would be included as well as what a Distinguished Discoverer wall may include in order to showcase the amazing things CPS alumni have done following their time at CHS.

"There have been many great accomplishments by our students and alumni over the years. Whether they graduated six years ago or sixty years ago this is to serve as a recognition of their talent," Loeffelholz said.



CHS Music Teacher Jacob Ritter (Class of '01), directs vocal music students in front of the donated electronic keyboard. Ritter has said the piano provides for better rehearsals and has been put to use already.

## Class of '58 member gives CPS students gift of music

Joan Sipes Roe has always had a love for vocal music from the time she spent attending Columbus Public Schools to becoming a vocal music teacher.

With fond memories in mind, Joan worked with the CPS Foundation to provide a gift to further enhance the current programs at Columbus High School and Columbus Middle School. This gift allowed for the purchase of a new electronic keyboard for Columbus High School and Boomwhackers for Columbus Middle School.

Gifts such as these allow the programs offered by Columbus Public Schools to continue to grow and provide additional opportunities for students.

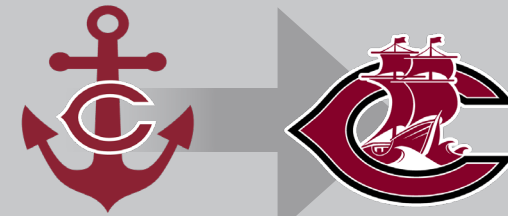
If you have an area of interest that you would like to support, contact Nicole Anderson by email at [andersonn@discoverers.org](mailto:andersonn@discoverers.org) or phone at 402-563-7000x12847



A CMS music class, including the student pictured left, review sheet music while practicing with the Boomwhackers. The colorful tubes are tuned to notes and used to teach music students all levels the components of a song.




**fresh healthcare careers.  
apply today.**



## Connect to CHS, Help Association

CPS alumni association is partnering with the CHS National Honor Society (NHS) and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) student organizations to update the alumni database.

In the middle of March, alumni will begin receiving calls from our CHS students and alumni association to gather information so that we can update our alumni database.

We also want to learn from you what you would like to read about in your alumni newsletter which is currently mailed twice a year as well as emailed to our database twice a year.

Alumni will be asked to confirm their mailing address, best phone number and email address. Students will also ask the following questions:

- Would you like to receive the alumni newsletter in the mail twice a year?
- Would you like to receive the alumni newsletter in your email twice a year?
- What types of things would you like to see in the alumni newsletter?
- What activities did you participate in during high school?
- Who was your favorite teacher and why?
- What was your favorite memory from high school?

This is a great opportunity for you to connect with a current Columbus High School student and feel free to ask them questions about their high school experience.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our Lifetime and Annual Alumni Association Members. Your support has allowed us to grow the number of newsletters that we can produce as well as offer new engaging events such as the Discoverer Dash and the Lighting of the Anchor. As we continue to grow our membership we look forward to adding additional events both in and out of Columbus.

View current Lifetime & Annual members online at: [www.cpsanchor.com/alumni/current-anchor-alumni-association-members/](http://www.cpsanchor.com/alumni/current-anchor-alumni-association-members/)

## AlumniClass.com not affiliated with Columbus Public Schools Foundation

It has been brought to our attention that CPS alumni are being contacted by a company called AlumniClass.com.

This company is not affiliated with Columbus Public Schools, CPS Alumni Association, CPS Foundation, Kramer High School or Columbus High School.

This is a company that sells memberships to their social media platform.

Memberships that are paid go 100% to this company and NONE of these fees come to the CPS Alumni Association.

If we are able to develop a more interactive alumni site in the future correspondence will come from Columbus, NE and the CPS Foundation.

If you have signed up for alumni-class.com thinking that you are purchasing a lifetime or annual

### Our CHS '66 Alumni Community

COLUMBUS ALUMNI

Hi

Our CHS class of 1966 community is growing! We would love to find more of our classmates so it's easier to plan future reunions or events. Help by sharing our CHS alumni site on Facebook (if you use Facebook):



membership for the CPS Alumni Association please contact Jen Augustin at [augustinj@discoverers.org](mailto:augustinj@discoverers.org) or 402-563-7000 x13033 and she will provide you with a person to contact at [alumni-class.com](http://alumni-class.com).

Help!

## Alumn seeks items from Class of '62

To the class of 1962 residing in Columbus, I would love to obtain a copy of a reunion from a 30, 40 or 50 year Class of 1962 since I know so many of them. Please help. I will gladly pay postage, copying expenses etc., to anyone who can help me.

— Mark Loseke, Class of 61.

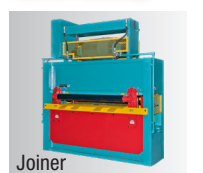
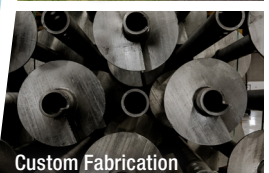
Contact Jen Augustin to be put in touch with Mark. 402-563-7000 ext. 13033



Behlen Mfg. Co. has a **Great Heritage** built by innovation and a **Bright Future** focused on providing excellent customer service and quality products. We are looking for individuals who are willing to share their strengths in a team environment.

**Behlen offers competitive wages and an outstanding benefits package.**

*Behlen Mfg. Co. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*



**Apply Online Today! [www.behlenmfg.com/careers](http://www.behlenmfg.com/careers)**



Columbus Public Schools gives its students the tools they need to succeed in life - wherever that may take them. While some alumni choose to make a life in their hometown, others go a bit father from home. The following have made a life abroad. In their own word (edited for length), they tell us about their experiences living in other countries, their favorite school memories and how CPS prepared them for their lives abroad.



Bolligen, Switzerland  
46.9756° N, 7.4971° E

**Haley (Kohtz) Haas**  
CHS Class of 2000

Haas has been living in Bolligen, Switzerland for the past 12 years. (Bolligen is about 15 minutes away from Switzerland's capital city, Bern.)

**Why did you move to Switzerland? What led you there?**

I was visiting a fellow Columbus grad in LA for a weekend in 2007 and I met this very cute Swiss guy! After two years of long-distance dating, we were married in Columbus and I moved to Switzerland to be with him.

**What is your work and home life like in Switzerland?**

We live in a refurbished farmhouse which is around 200 years old. I work at a small private school called the British School Bern where I am the year 2 teacher for 6-7-year-olds. We follow the British curriculum but our school also teaches German and French.

**What do you love most about living in Switzerland?**

Right now, not much. COVID is messing up a lot of things. When times are good, I know I am so fortunate to work part time as a teacher. I work mornings while my kids are at school and I can go home with them in the afternoon.

I love that we can go to the mountains for a day if we feel like it and hiking has quickly become one of my favorite pastimes. Most

Swiss hikes end with a restaurant at the end which serves French fries and beer!

**What do you miss about living in the U.S.?**

I miss so much, especially now that I cannot go home because of COVID. Usually, we are fortunate enough to go home to Nebraska every summer and at Christmas, but it has been more than a year since we have gone back.

After 12 years, I still miss my family and the simplicity of life in Nebraska. I also miss all the food - all the unhealthy food which has become such a treat to enjoy when we go back, like Runza, Cheetos, Pizza Hut and cream soda.

**How did your time with Columbus Public Schools help prepare you to live abroad?**

Sadly, I took Spanish in high school. If I had only known that I would be living in a German-speaking country, I would have taken German. That would have been so helpful. Learning German has been my biggest challenge! I live and work in English, so it has taken me too long to learn it. It is slowly coming now that my children are in the Swiss public school system.

**What are your favorite memories of Columbus Public Schools?**

I was on the swim team and I always had so much fun. Practices were hard, but we found ways to mess around. Swim meets were scary, but the swimming part only took minutes and the rest of the day was spent laying around and hanging out with friends. The spaghetti feeds before meets were always special and some of the friendships I made would last a lifetime.



Poland  
51.9194° N, 19.1451° E

**John Stewart Lohr**  
CHS Class of 2001

Lohr currently lives in Poland. He moved there in July 2020, and

he also lived there from Aug. 2010 to Aug. 2017.

Since leaving Nebraska in 2007, Lohr has also lived in Germany, Switzerland,

land, Thailand, India and Spain.

**Why did you decide to live abroad? What led you there?**

My wife, who I actually met while studying abroad in Germany is Polish. After living together in India for two years, we became pregnant and decided being close to her family in Poland would be best for raising our child. So, we moved.

While in Poland, I worked for an online company which allowed me to do my job from anywhere and although I technically lived in Poland, I spent most of my time traveling for business in Europe and Asia.

I am the director of development for Hosco (www.hosco.com) the world's largest hospitality network. Hosco brings together all of the hospitality talents, schools, employers and jobs into one online network. It's like a LinkedIn for hotel, tourism and restaurant people.

My role for the last five years has been to drive the development of our school and strategic partnerships as well as to contribute to the innovation strategy.

Barcelona is the headquarters of Hosco and I moved the entire family there to be closer to my work from Aug. 2017 to July 2020.

**What are your favorite things about living in Poland and Spain? What do you love most about living abroad?**

To be honest, the first time I lived in Poland I did not like it. We had moved out of necessity rather than for our own interest (baby on the way) and for the first year I lived with my wife's parents which

brought its own stresses. In the following years, we got a small apartment, but as I did a huge amount of international travel for Hosco, I did not integrate much into the society.

Now, being back in Poland and having recently bought a house here, I feel more at home and am ready to better embrace the culture, language and people.

I now really appreciate the Polish people (very salt of the earth and similar to Nebraskans in a way), nature (Poland has 23 national parks, is bordered by the Baltic sea to the north and the Carpathian Mountains to the south and is covered with lakes, farmlands and hills in between) and the

food (if you are a lover of sausage, fish and

**NEVER FAR FROM HOME**

By Amy (Busteed) Blaser  
CHS Class of 1988

CPS alumni share their experiences living abroad

fresh garden vegetables, then the Polish cuisine is heaven).

**What is one place in Poland that you think your fellow**

**alumni should visit that often gets overlooked?**

Definitely the Baltic sea. The water might be a bit chilly in the summer, but the culture and vibe are fantastic.

Families are running around everywhere with their children, little bars and cafes are littered across the beaches, people are slowly getting drunk everywhere, but not

causing any issues (public drinking is allowed everywhere in Poland), and at night, everyone is rambling around the small, beautiful sea villages, dancing in the cafes and in general enjoying life

**What do you miss about living in Nebraska?**

Space, any European will tell you that the sense of openness and freedom you feel in the U.S. and in particular, in the Midwest, is an underappreciated luxury.

I really miss driving down the road with my el-

Each has its own town center, supermarkets, gas stations, schools, parks, etc. and all are at a basic standard of quality. In Poland, in the big cities, you can find every possible modern convenience that you would in any big city in Europe or the U.S., but once you get into the smaller towns and villages, you really feel like you have traveled 30-40 years back in time.

It's for this reason that so many young people leave the small towns for opportunities in the cities.

**How did your time with Columbus Public Schools help prepare you to live abroad?**

I couldn't attribute the result of my international travel and life directly to my public school experience in Columbus. Certainly, it was a great education especially in the areas of the sciences where I still count Mr. Callan and the Griffiths as the best teachers I had. They really pushed me to excel and I believe that became a deep part of my character today.

I think rather growing up in Nebraska, a very safe but

somewhat isolated state, drove my longing to get out and see the world. A joke I make over here is "When you are from the middle of nowhere, everything is interesting for you."

Of course, I then explain all the benefits Nebraska has as well.

The other influence or rather gateway, was foreign languages. I took German in high school which I followed up with at the University of Nebraska and am thankfully fluent in it.

**What are your favorite memories of Columbus Public Schools?**

Music and theater. Both taught me a lot about leadership, hard work, creativity and humility and some of the best friends I made came from my times in music and theater.

Also, the band and theater teachers, Mr. Rathbun and Ms. Schlobohm were some of the toughest, but best, teachers I had.

I'm thankful for my Nebraska upbringing, for my parents who gave me all the opportunities they could and for the mentoring, guidance and patience that all my teachers provided me during my CPS days.



Wellington, New Zealand  
41.2924° S, 174.7787° E

**Jason Lescelius**  
CHS Class of 2005

Lescelius lives in New Zealand's capital city, Wellington. He and his wife moved there in Feb. 2016.

**Why did you move there? What led you there?**

Back in 2011, I spent a year in New Zealand working and traveling. I really fell in love with the country at that point and when my visa ended, I knew I wanted to return.

In 2016, my wife and I had an opportunity to move to Wellington so I could pursue further education and she could gain international work experience as a nurse. After school, I was fortunate enough to secure a government policy job at the Ministry of

Justice for some practical-work experience before we planned to move on.

Over time, however, we decided this was our forever home and are working toward settling here permanently.

**What did you love most about living in New Zealand?**

This is such a difficult question! There are so many things we love - my wife and I both really enjoy the outdoors and New Zealand has some incredible landscapes (mountains, volcanoes, fjords, beaches etc.) to explore.

If had to say just one thing though, it would be the way of life. It's hard to put into words exactly, but there is a real sense of trust, amiability, and decency here that helps

to foster great work/life balance and an overall positive social/community well-being.

**What is one place in New Zealand that you think your fellow alumni should visit that often gets overlooked?**

Tourism is pretty big here so all spots that come to mind are already well covered by travel books, online reviews, blogs etc. If someone has the time and ability, I'd recommend they stop at a few places not on everyone's lists.

They are often small and off the beaten path with some fun or quirky thing to see that is unexpected and the people can be friendly and interested in chatting. New Zealand also has some world-famous hikes and I'd definitely recommend them, but they can get really crowded so if you're keen for an outdoor adventure and peace and solitude, you can also map out your own path through some stunning and isolated terrain.

**What did you miss about living in Nebraska and the U.S.?**

Not being able to see family with relative ease is probably the number one thing. New Zealand is quite expensive to travel to/from and so we have to alternate years between traveling and visiting family in the States.

The thing I miss most about living in Nebraska are hot summer nights and thunderstorms.

Wellington's climate is mild in general (upper 30s in winter and lower 70s in summer) and it cools off quite a bit in the summer evenings.

Though it tends to be very windy and can have heavy rains, there is hardly ever lightning (once every few years or so). I miss being able to take a walk in the evening in shorts and T-shirt, feel warm summer rain, and the power and sometimes intimidation of a sudden and torrential storm

**What are the biggest differences between living in New Zealand compared to the U.S.?**

When we first arrived some of the obvious differences related to day-to-day life such as driving (on left side of the road), units of measure (metric),





## "Never Far From Home"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

some spelling differences (e.g. colour, realise, metre), different names for things (e.g. plaster = band aid, biscuit = cookies, togs = swimsuit, stuffed = tired (or full as well), jam = jelly, jelly = jello, iceblock = popsicle, lollies = candy) public health care, sales tax included in the price of things (so what you see on a price tag is what you pay), no tipping, higher cost of goods.

These things are surface-level differences, but it wasn't until after we lived here a couple of years that we really started to notice the deeper cultural differences. This is a simplistic example, but the U.S. tends to stress individual achievement and competition (e.g. 'be the best,' 'have the best') more than New Zealand which focuses more on maintaining social harmony (e.g. being a 'tall poppy' - roughly someone who tries to be better than others - is frowned upon).

**How did your time with Columbus Public Schools help prepare you to live abroad?**

The one thing that stands out in my mind was Mrs. Velasco's upper-level Spanish courses. Learning another language was nice, but I think the main thing I really appreciated was studying under someone who had made the transition herself. I think before that point, living outside the U.S. was more of a dream, but hearing about her experiences really planted the seed that living in another country was something that I could do as well.

**What are your favorite memories of Columbus Public Schools?**

Definitely elementary school. No bills or responsibilities and I spent all day learning new things and playing in recess and P.E. Beyond this, I really do appreciate the wide array of experience and activities available to me, both the academic (e.g. psychology, anatomy and physiology) and extracurricular (e.g. tennis, track, soccer, Destination Imagination).

**What would you tell current CPS students who may be interested in living and working outside of the United States?**

I would absolutely encourage it. There are some downsides to living overseas and the adjustment can be difficult, especially if the culture is quite different, but the positives far outweigh the negatives. For me, the most valuable thing that comes from living and working in a different country is the chance to see things from a different perspective. It's really an enriching and humbling experience and helped shape some of my views, beliefs and assumptions about life and the world.

## Let us help you plan your reunion

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU:

- Class list and mailing labels
- nonprofit bulk rate for qualifying mailings
- tours of CHS and CMS
- tips on planning reunions

Contact: Jen Augustin

PO Box 947, Columbus, NE 68602-0947

Phone: 402-563-7000 ext. 13033

Email: AugustinJ@discoverers.org

## Time to mark your calendars! 2021 Summer Reunions

Classes of 1965 and 1966 - June 25-26

Classes of 1965 and 1966 will be having a joint reunion Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 26. Friday evening at the Isaac Walton and Saturday night at the VFW. Other activities during the days will be announced later. For more information contact:

Carol Loshbaugh Syslo (65) @ 308-550-0451 or Janie Peterson Thomas (66) @ 402-606-9844. Or visit our Facebook pages: Columbus Nebraska High School class of 1965 or CHS class of 1966

1970 - August 13-14-15, 2021

Rescheduled 50-Year Reunion in conjunction with Columbus Days Activities to include "class bonding" on Friday evening; golf and school tours on Saturday with the CHS Class of '71 followed by a joint banquet and dance featuring "Freedom Road"; and a Sunday farewell. Details will be included with invitation. For more information, please contact Terri Drozd Hoesly at tohesly@hotmail.com or Leta Oppliger Greene at lmaegreene@hotmail.com.

Class of 1990

30 (+1) Class Reunion ... coming this summer!

Plans TBD - Please contact juli.thelen@outlook.com or Facebook Group CHS Class of 1990 to be part of the planning process and/or to be updated on Event Dates/Times.

Class of 1982 - CHS 40th Reunion coming 2022

Contact: JT Tarnick at jimtarnick@gmail.com or Cathy Lococo at studiovoce@sbcglobal.com Please provide your updated contact information - email, address and phone or fill out the updated contact information link on the CHS Alum Page.

1960 - August 14 - For more information, contact Gayleen Hingst at 402-563-2109 or fghingst@gmail.com

1961 - September, 26 2021.

For more information, contact Donna (Evert) Dubsy at 402-615-2053

## GREAT PERSONAL SERVICE WITH LOCAL DECISION MAKING

At Great Plains State Bank, we understand that life plans change. That's why we make decisions with your best interests at heart. We are local people making local decisions that support you and your family.

Give us a call and let's talk.

**GPSbank**

GREAT PLAINS STATE BANK

100 YEARS OF GREAT PERSONAL SERVICE

Columbus · Omaha · O'Neill · Petersburg | (402) 564-6077 | GPSBanks.com



Players, student managers, coaches and friends; You are invited to a reunion with basketball coach Jack Johnson on Aug. 11-12, 2021, in Columbus, NE.

**Wednesday, August 11, 2021**

■ Social starting at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres at Elks Country Club, 5113 63rd St. Columbus.

Cost \$17/person. Cash bar.

**Thursday, August 12, 2021**

■ Golf 4 Man Scramble (Teams will be assigned) at Elks Country Club, 5113 63rd St. Columbus. \$65/person. Golf fee, cart and prizes. Shot gun start at 10 a.m.

■ Meal and program starting with cocktails at 5:30, dinner buffet at 6:30 and program at 7. Cost \$25/person. Cash bar.

**Register online:**

<https://www.cpsanchor.com/news-events/jack-johnson-reunion.html>

Can't attend the events but would like to make a donation in Coach Johnson's name? Contact Nicole Anderson at 402-563-7000x12847 or andersonn@discoverers.org.

## Reunion Information

1956 - Meets at 10 a.m.

the first Wed. of every month at Stack & Steak for morning coffee. All classmates welcome.

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 Maximus at 11:30 a.m.

1962 - Meets the first Friday of every month at 9 a.m. at Picket Fence. All classmates and spouses are welcome.

1990 - Postponed until Summer of 2021. For more, visit their Facebook page.



@The\_Anchor\_CPS

@TheAnchorCPS

@CHSAnchorAlumni

[www.cpsanchor.com](http://www.cpsanchor.com)

## Anniversary fast approaching

Centennial's 20th Anniversary is just around the corner and will take place during the 2020-2021 school year. **The 20th Anniversary Celebration and Family Night has been rescheduled to Friday, May 14th from 5-8 p.m.** Principal and Class of 1992 alum, Andrew Luebbe would

like all Centennial alumni to submit photos that could be shown during the celebration. Please send digital images to luebbeaj@discoverers.org or mail copies or duplicates of printed photos to Centennial Elementary School c/o Andrew Luebbe, 500 Centennial St, Columbus, NE 68601.

# kwELITE

## KELLERWILLIAMS®



Why be basic, when you can be ELITE!

4471 41st Ave #202 | Columbus, NE 68601  
[www.kwELITEcolumbus.com](http://www.kwELITEcolumbus.com)



# LET'S GET SOCIAL

We're ready to connect with you!

**COLUMBUS**  
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

[columbushosp.org](http://columbushosp.org)

Columbus Public Schools Foundation

PO Box 947

Columbus NE 68602-0947

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Columbus, Nebraska  
Permit No. 72

# NEVER FAR FROM HOME

CPS alumni share their  
experiences living abroad



INTERVIEWS  
FEATURED  
ON PAGES  
4-5 INSIDE

## CPS Foundation new scholarships focused on teachers, paraeducators

CPS is proud to announce two new scholarships that have been made possible by former Columbus High School math teacher Judy Temme, known to many as Mrs. Owens.



Mrs. Temme was a beloved Columbus High School math teacher for 34 years. She was a lifelong learner who spent four summers in Greeley, Co where she earned a master's degree in Mathematics at Colorado State. She spent an additional two summers of learning at the University of Wyoming and one at the University of Kansas. Mrs. Temme always wore her maroon proudly and believed in the mission of Columbus Public Schools.

Upon her passing this past June, the CPS Foundation received a surprising phone call that we were the beneficiary of a retirement account, leaving the foundation just over \$43,000.

The CPS Foundation has set up a trust account in Mrs. Temme's name to provide an annual scholarship for one teacher and one paraeducator to continue their lifelong learning. If you'd like to contribute to the Judy Temme Memorial Fund, contact Nicole Anderson at 402-563-7000 ext 12847 or [andersonn@discoverers.org](mailto:andersonn@discoverers.org).

## Support the Alumni Association Become a Sponsor!

- Newsletter Ad
- Lighting of The Anchor
- Discoverer Dash

For more information,  
contact Nicole Anderson at  
402-563-7000x12847 or  
[andersonn@discoverers.org](mailto:andersonn@discoverers.org).

CPS Foundation and Alumni Association  
The Anchor: Spring 2021