

# Champaign Central High School Alumni Newsletter Issue 17



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**Mission: To facilitate and promote the educational purpose of creating and maintaining life long learning and to help foster ongoing relationships with the Champaign High/Champaign Central High School, its alumni and the community.**

## Notes from the Alumni Association— Tommy Lockman

### Special points of interest:

*Whatever happened to ...*

*Do you know Max?*

*Alumni Garden*

*Distinguished Alumni*

Hello fellow Champaign alumni. I write to offer the perspective of a young alumnus who believes that the concept of being an alumnus revolves around giving back to the institution that had a strong impact on us during our formative years.

I graduated from CHS in 2000 and was excited and ready to move on to the next phase of my life. As high school seniors often decide, I had plans for the rest of my life and they did not involve staying in Champaign. However, in the seven years I was away at school in larger metropolitan areas, I began to recognize the benefits of living and working in Champaign. Sure, manageable commutes and a greater degree of control over my own schedule are nice, but the strong sense of community and the flexibility and opportunity to give back to that community were the most important factors in a decision that ultimately drove me to return to Champaign.

While I did not realize it at the time, Central was a place where I learned the value and im-

portance of these concepts. During my time at Central, I was fortunate to have Central alumni as teachers, coaches and mentors who passed along the Central 'spirit' to the students. While that spirit is difficult to quantify, it is something that has led me to remain involved at Central, helping coach the men's swim team and being a member of the CHS Alumni Association.

Those of us in the younger generation are lucky to have advances in technology that have made staying in contact with friends and teachers from high school much easier than it used to be. While communication certainly is easier, it is also somewhat more impersonal. What I have enjoyed most about my work on the CHS Alumni Committee is the opportunity to work with fellow alumni from all eras of life in an organized effort to support our school.

I would encourage alumni of all ages to join the association to become aware of events and changes that are going on at the school.

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## News from Joe Williams, Principal

Wow! The first semester has flown by at Champaign Central High School. It is very easy to become caught up in the day to day business of a school until opportunities to write notes like this give cause to slow down and reflect. I am extremely proud of the community members, parents, students, faculty and staff – of their hard work and dedication to curricular and extra-

curricular success. During the day, of course, one is able to see firsthand the strong academic focus and support for students. After school, the extracurricular activities abound. I find great enjoyment in witnessing the drive of our students. If you haven't had the opportunity lately, please take the time to visit. You will be proud of your connection to Central when you return.

One of the highlights this fall has been the dedication of the new electronic marquis and Alumni Garden on the corner of University and New. The sign stands out, not only proclaiming the many activities, announcements, and general Maroon spirit, but also as a symbol of the countless volunteer hours and donations of the Alumni Association to make it all a reality. Cont. on page 2

## Whatever happened to..... Dorothy Munger

I interviewed Dorothy Munger by phone on November 6. She told me that she will be 91 soon, and I hope I am as with it as Ms. Munger is when I grow up. It was such a pleasant conversation. Her health is good, although walking and getting out to the store is getting harder. There is longevity in her family, and she is looking forward to the possibility of making it to 100 in good health.

Dorothy absolutely adored her time at Central High School. She started as a student teacher in 1939-40 and never left us. She served us for 38 years as a teacher, business department chair and

the girl's dean. In fact, she remembers the time so well because, at the beginning of her career, Nazi Germany had just invaded Poland. During the war she would teach all day then after school was out, she and other staff members would issue food and gas rationing stamps.

Dorothy recalled fondly her home-room teaching assignments. She got to know her students and enjoyed her time counseling them. In fact, she remembers what an important duty that was during hard economic times. She also remembers one student in particular who was always challenging

her. This student later admitted to being the one who threw her erasers on top of the light fixtures. This same student later joined the Marines and later admitted in writing that he was a challenge. He ended up with a doctoral degree and wrote a book on education. In his book, he thanked Dorothy by referring to her as "my dear Ms. Munger". He was one of her favorite students.

Another story Dorothy told me was how she still wants to find out who was spreading limburger cheese on the radiator. Twenty one of Dorothy's 38 years were as a dean. She still keeps up with Central. In fact, she was disappointed that we drew Simeon High School in the first round of last year's state basketball tournament. She thought our assignment would be easier. She still remembers winning the state tournament in 1947 and how good that was for the school. Dorothy has been retired since 1977. She has traveled to every continent but Australia. Dorothy is still smarter than most of us. She is the best.

Thank you to Mr. Dennis Sparks for providing our "What ever happened to" articles.

## Notes from the Alumni Association — Tommy Lockman

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You may discover things about the history of CHS and become aware of opportunities to contribute your time and talents to the school.

The storied tradition and history at CHS and the experiences you have while there stay with you the rest of your life. I recently began working as an attorney at Meyer Capel law firm, where I work with other CHS graduates and sometimes even eat lunch in the same park as I did when I was a freshman. Sometimes things just come full circle. If you would like to

join the CHS Alumni Association or get involved with the CHS Alumni Committee, please let myself or another member of the Committee know. Go Maroons!

### Alumni Spotlight

The CHS Alumni Association is looking for alumni to Spotlight in each of our newsletters. If you know of some one who is a graduate of CHS or CCHS that is worthy of being mentioned send me, your name, contact information (phone or email) their name, year they graduated, and a little bit about what makes them so special so we can spotlight them in our newsletter. Send all information to Tish Stanner '81 at [stannele@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stannele@sbcglobal.net)

## Joe Williams Continued

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Every alumnus ought to be proud of the Alumni Garden – it is truly a "sign" of the strong dedication to enhancing the tradition at Champaign Central.

We are moving quickly forward at Central with that tradition of excellence in mind. Central is formally planning for restructuring under the No Child Left Behind Act.

As always, the Maroon spirit and pride are keeping this experience positive and we are very optimistic that over the next few years the redesign of the curricular program and supports will enhance the tradition, making Central the flagship school in the Unit 4 and setting the bar for all high schools. Keep your eyes on your alma mater as we make giant leaps forward – this is an exciting time!

## It's Membership Renewal Time

Please take a moment to renew your membership for 2009 if you haven't already done so. Your generous support makes it possible to continue making a difference at Champaign Central High School through ongoing projects and scholarships that help today's students.

## Alumni Garden—Reprinted with permission from the News Gazette

CHAMPAIGN – Pause a moment outside Central High School and have a seat on one of the benches at the southwest corner of the school. In the spring, enjoy the maroon and white flowers planted there, and check out the new electronic sign to see what events are happening at the school.

The new Alumni Garden was put in this summer and fall, and it will be dedicated Friday at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited. The project has been in the works for several years, said Penny Porter, who graduated from the high school in 1966 and helped form Central's alumni association in 2001. The alumni association was looking for a project, and former Principal Don Hansen wanted improvements at that corner.

"It was a muddy path in the wet weather," said Judy Owens Yost, a member of the Class of 1962 and the alumni association.

"No grass grows. The sign was in such disrepair." The alumni association raised \$20,000 from donations from Central graduations and class-reunion gifts to pay for a new electronic sign and an expanded flower garden at the corner. The Champaign Park District maintains a small flower bed of annuals there, but Porter said those working on the project wanted to enlarge it. "We felt it didn't really do justice to what we wanted the corner to look like," she said. The alumni association enlisted the help of the Master Gardener program. For them to be involved, the project needed an educational component. Tish Stanner, a special-education teacher in the Champaign school district and a Central graduate (Class of 1981), contacted Central teachers to ask them to include the garden in their curriculum. Students in a functional-life-skills class at Central use the garden to talk about the weather and calendar and when the plants need water. They are weeding and watering the garden and picking up trash on the corner, she said. The Master Gardeners will put up signs identifying the maroon and white perennials by their common and scientific names. Science classes will use the



Penny Porter '66 and Judy Yost '62 show off the newly dedicated Central Alumni Garden with Brick name pavers and electronic marquee.

garden to identify the different parts of plants, learn their scientific names and observe how the seasons affect them.

Child-development students, who work with the Little Maroons preschool program, will use the garden as a sensory experience for the children to identify colors and learn about smells and textures. Yost said her class put a bench in memory of a classmate on the northeast side of the school. She thought selling paving stones with an inscription for the garden area would be a good way for Central graduates to memorialize someone and for the alumni association to raise money.

"Once they're in, it will give alumni get-togethers a place to stop and spend a moment, recognizing their classmates, recognizing their teachers," Yost said.

Nearly 70 stones have been sold at a cost of \$100 each.

Two benches at the corner were donated by the Class of 1941 and the family of the late Marjorie Davenport, a longtime business teacher at Central. The school district put in a curving sidewalk and a fence, and it tucked pointed the brick structure holding the new sign. "I'm delighted with how everything has turned out," Porter said.

So, apparently, are the students. Yost was weeding the garden at the start of the school year while students were outside.

"More than once, kids stopped and said, 'Thank you for doing this,'" she said.



## Alumni News—C-U High School Alumni Make a Difference in the World

Each year the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation hosts the Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon. This year the Foundation will be honoring two living alumni and for the first time, they will be posthumously honoring an alumnus.



Sabina Alkire is a 1986 graduate of Champaign Central High School. Sabina is also a 1989 graduate of the University of

Illinois. After being named a Rhodes Scholar in 1991 she went on to receive

her Doctorate in Economics in 1999. Sabina's compassion for the poor has led her to pursue the study of world poverty and its effects on society, her life's work. She has spent time as a volunteer learning first hand about poverty in some of the poorest regions such as Pakistan, India and Bosnia. Dr. Alkire also found time to pursue theology and is an ordained Episcopal priest. She is currently the director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative at Oxford University, UK.

Nancy Thies is a 1975 graduate of Urbana High School. Nancy came to

prominence as a world class gymnast in the early 1970's. She was the youngest member of the 1972 U.S. Women's Olympic Gymnastics Team helping to lead them to a fourth place finish, the highest achievement of any U.S. team in modern gymnastics history until that time. Nancy continued her gymnastics career while a student at the University of Illinois where she led the team to two Big Ten Team Championships and earned a degree in History and Journalism in 1979. Following college, Nancy has worked in Olympic program development, sports promotions and sponsor-public relations. Continued on page 6

## Do you know Max

Do you remember Max Maroon? Do you know how Max came to Central? Do you know how he got his name? After talking with many graduates of Champaign High School, searching through old Chronicles, and reading many year books this is what is known about Max.

Max was started simultaneously by two separate students who independently created Max. "Max" the name actually came first. During the 1952-53 school year Max metamorphed from a radio program out of Chicago, to a "character" in the Chronicle, then on to physically appear as the CHS mascot, all within weeks. Don Scott, a sports editor for the school newspaper, the Chronicle, wrote a weekly feature called "On the Spot with Scott". It was he who would take Max Yeaglin, an imaginary character who did

strange and funny things as part of a radio show out of Chicago with Bob Arbogast and Peter Robinson and placed him at Champaign High School. Scott began to invoke him in his jokes at school. He would talk about "Max" during lunch periods as if he were a real acquaintance and others around would wonder who he was talking about. So as students questioned who Max was he "laid it on" and made up stuff. He then put Max in a couple of his columns as if "Max" had attended one or more of the CHS football games.

Close to that time, another student, Susan Black, with the help of her mother, created a costume that consisted of a body suit with a paper mache' head. Susan with the help of her friend, Mary Ann Stahl, would come to basketball games dressed as this character. She

started by just wandering in and making friends. Eventually she began to jump up and down and cavort a little bit. Initially just a 'good-will ambassador' who would also shake hands with the out of town guests she slowly began to "shake her booty" and cheer a little. The following year, Patty Wilburn took over the job of Max and started a club called the Peparoons. This club cost \$0.50 to join with most of the money going to make pom poms.

It was 1955 and the functions of this club were to charter buses to away games, make pom poms, decorate the school halls, and create floats; all so the students would show more school spirit. Max was part of this club and officially became the school mascot. Since that time Max has been the Mascot of Champaign

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## Max continued



High School now known as Champaign Central High School. For the first thirty-three years a student wore the bear outfit at every football and basketball game to generate school spirit at these events.

Max was created to help the school show their spirit but it is probably not a coincidence that a "maroon" is a bear from Russia, reportedly a fierce fighter. Originally the identity of Max or Maxey sometimes called early on, was often kept secret until after the school year concluded. Max cheered and danced with the Peparoons, later called the Pepettes, until 1971. At that time he became part of the varsity cheerleading squad. He remained with the varsity squad until 1986. In the 1986-1987 school year no one tried out for Max. Since then there were many years that Max Maroon was almost forgotten. But in 1998 a group of alumni, with the help of PTA, purchased and donated the current Max—a large, carved, black bear who resides permanently in Seeley Hall.

A few years later, Jeff Scott, then the Athletic Director, spent money to purchase a costume to represent Max. Thus the students of Central do not let him lay dormant. On occasion there is still a young man or women who will make arrangements with the current athletic director to wear the costume of Max and "shake his or her booty" and cheer a little bit at sporting events. Whenever Max appears he draws lots of enthusiasm and increases school spirit with the identity of that student not known until after the event.

All information was collected from the Chronicle, the Maroon (yearbook), and various alumni especially Mary Ann Stahl Baker, Philip Matteson, Don Scott, Patti Wilburn Busboom and Chris Gerrard Dunn.

## A list of all who have portrayed Max

The following are the names of the people who have served as Max Maroon when he was a part of the Peparoons, Pepettes, or the Cheerleaders squads.

1953 Susan Black	1961	1974 Mary Patterson
1954 Patty Wilborn	1962	1975 Cindy Cler
1955 Patty Wilborn	1963 Mitzie McGuire	1976 Cari Dunn
1956 Pat Kortkamp for football and Easter Bundy for basketball	1964 Jo Ellen	1977 Cari Dunn
1957	1965 Becky McCloud	1978 Shauna Wallace
1958	1966 Cindy Wright	1979 Kim Bash
1959 Nan Turnbull for football and Kay Claybough for basketball	1967 Suzy Blair	1980 Peggy Frasca
1960	1968 Gay Inman	1981 Susie Wehring
	1969 Donna Cox	1982 Susie Wehring
	1970 Kim Rubenaker	1983 Alice Moore
	1971 Nancy Patterson	1984 Nigel Bright
	1972 Nancy Patterson	1985
	1973 Cynthia Mattox	1986 Barbara Cook

## Alumni Store

### White Alumni Polo Shirts for Sale:

We have very attractive white polo shirts with original CHS logo and "Alumni" underneath the logo for purchase. Alumni members \$25.00 non members \$30.00



**Brick Order:** If you are interested in a brick please visit [www.CUSchoolsFoundation.org](http://www.CUSchoolsFoundation.org) for order information

Alumni members \$100.00 non members \$125.00.



These items plus additional Alumni Merchandise are available at our alumni store on the CU Schools Foundation website as well as the Central Alumni website.

To order send the appropriate amount to:

CU Schools Foundation  
303 East Green St.  
Urbana IL 61801

## Deceased

Thanks to Judy Forte Brown class of 1956 for the following information.

January

Richard Ahlstedt - '61

February

Carolyn Carlson Jolliff - '52

March

Rozella Hammel Hardy—'52

April

Delt Orlando Baines - '61

May

Sharon Dodd Myler - '61

Connie Graham Robinson - '57

Kay Lowry Greger - '59

July

Churck Schrader - '54

Ted Wooley—'59

August

Larry Hinderliter—'61

September

Drew McDaniel—'01

October

Steven Newman ' - 78

November

Phillip Wise—'51

The Central Family also lost a long time English Teacher. Elizabeth Hamilton died at the age of 94, on August 30, 2008. She taught at both Edison Junior High and Champaign Central for many years.

If you know of a classmate who has passed away this year, please let us know so we can include their information in our next newsletter. You can send information to Tish Stanner at: [stannele@champaignschools.org](mailto:stannele@champaignschools.org).

## Alumni News continued

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She has also focused on free lance journalism and has consulted in the areas of athlete wellness.

David Foster Wallace graduated from Urbana High School in 1980. After graduating with a major in philosophy from Amherst College in 1987, he then enrolled in a creative writing program at the University of Arizona. While studying there he published his first novel "The Broom of the System".

Following quickly, Mr. Wallace published a collection of short stories "Girl with Curious Hair" followed by his novel "Infinite Jest" which became a literary sensation. Mr. Wallace was regarded as one of the best writers of his generation. Mr. Wallace was also a caring and compassionate professor of English who taught at Illinois State University and at the end of his life, at Pomona College in California.

These three distinguished Alumni will be honored on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the I-Hotel in Champaign. The event is open to the public, contact the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation for tickets. 217-384-4332 or [info@cuschoolsfoundation.org](mailto:info@cuschoolsfoundation.org)

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Joe Williams, Principal, willajoe@champaignschools.org

William Freyman, Past Principal,

Don Hansen, founder, hansedo@insightbb.com

Penny Porter, Chair '66, penny.porter@sbcglobal.net

Betty Doolan, '46, Doolen@sbcglobal.net

Judy Owens Yost, '62, jdyost@earthlink.net

Jane Eisner Green, '63, onedaquirie@aol.com

Paul Hobbs, '78, phobbs@bhm-insurance.com

Gail Glende Rost, '74, arost@sbcglobal.net

Tish Smith Stanner, '81, stannele@sbcglobal.net

Phil Brunson, '82, philip.brunson@agedwards.com

Jen Keller Shelby, '83, jensolwin@net66.com

John Woods, A.D.,  
woodsjo@champaignschools.org

Tommy Lockman, '00, tlockman@meyercafel.com

## Membership Information

Email us at: [CentralAlumni@SchoolsFoundation.com](mailto:CentralAlumni@SchoolsFoundation.com)

This newsletter is the communication tool for the members of the Champaign High School / Champaign Central High School Alumni. Please contact Penny Porter, penny.porter@sbcglobal.net, if you would like more information about the newsletter or any of the Alumni Committee activities. We gratefully acknowledge the staff of Central High School for their meeting space and their help to the Alumni Committee!

GO MAROONS!

*SEND US your email address! Save money for the organization! This newsletter will be sent electronically unless otherwise specified.*

I would like to become a member of the CHS Alumni Association.

Please return this form along with your membership check and mail to **P.O. Box 1166, Champaign, IL, 61824-1166**. Please make checks payable to: **CUSF** (Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation.) with the words **Central Alumni** in the memo line

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Basic Membership (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ 10 year membership (\$125.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Life Time Membership (\$500) \_\_\_\_\_

Levels of giving: \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ If renewing your membership

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check to indicate an address change or correction.



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