



CHS

Alumni Association

Volume 1

March 2009

Number 1

FIRST EVER FOR CHS

Early in 2008, a small group of interested CHS alumni began meeting with school officials to consider how best to (1) celebrate the school's upcoming 100th anniversary football game with Jordan High School and (2) organize and establish a permanent and ongoing CHS Alumni Association.

After recruiting a large committee of key representatives of alums from as many graduating classes as possible, the date for celebrating this first-ever football classic was set in coordination with school and city officials for September 5, 2008. Jordan High School was invited to join our planning. As the word began to spread with mailings and TV, radio and newspaper coverage, excitement grew among both young and old alums. Of special interest was the change of venue for the game back to Memorial Stadium after years of gridiron competition elsewhere. The Mayor (having attended one of the two schools) invited committee members to Columbus City Council at which time the centennial event was granted full sanction and a formal proclamation from the Mayor was read at the pregame ceremonies.



Festivities were planned for the centennial weekend which included a series of diverse events: tailgating get together at Memorial Stadium which included (*continued*)

FIRST EVER FOR CHS

(from Page 1) tents and trailers for classes to meet and greet before the game, pregame ceremonies with all ex-football players, cheerleaders and band members from both Columbus and Jordan on the field, the game ball flown in by the Ft. Benning Silver Wing paratroopers, the game itself and half time activities with all alumni from both schools entering onto the field behind banners of the decade years. (Score not to be mentioned, but rematch was requested.)



Festivities spread into the next day: lunch was catered by Country's Barbecue in the CHS cafeteria, tours of the school were available and a book signing was held by Buddy Sullivan, author of *Dress Her in Orange and Blue*, which chronicles CHS athletic history. A Saturday night dinner-dance at the River Mill culminated the fun-filled weekend activities.

In summary, the first ever alumni event included a broad array of enthusiastic alums from some seventy years, meeting friends of years past from distances of 1,000 miles or greater and attending events of their choice. While individuals might not have recognized everyone else on first contact, embarrassment was lessened by each displaying a special name tag shaped like a CHS football. Without exception, a fabulous time was had by all. Before leaving for home, the question was already being asked, "When are we having the next one?"

NOTE TO ALL ALUMS

PLEASE let us have your CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESSES...it greatly facilitates our communication with you, keeps mailing costs down and gives us a greater opportunity to keep in touch. Email us at chsalum@gmail.com. If you do not have a computer, we will be happy to mail a copy. Thank you so much for your interest!!!

Look at what fun you had
(or missed) →→→→→→→→



MEMBERSHIP

From 0 to 558 in 6 Months

Thanks to those alumni who are the charter members of the CHS Alumni Association and for those who also made donations to get us started. We heard from approximately 950 alums and that process is still ongoing.

Interesting Tidbits.....

...the oldest alum was from the Class of 1937

...4 alums were from the Class of 1939

...62 were from the 1940 era

Ongoing Membership Campaign

Annual membership dues are \$10.00 or a lifetime membership is \$100.00. Please send checks to:

CHS Alumni Association
1700 Cherokee Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906

Info needed: name, address, telephone, email address and year of graduation.

Alumni Email Address
Chsalum@gmail.com

TREASURY REPORT

We were overwhelmed by the reception of the initial activities of the CHS Alumni Association! The \$40,162.50 received for association dues, game tickets, books, spirit items, Saturday's lunch, Saturday night's dinner-dance and donations resulted in a balance of \$10,882.48 after expenses were paid. We are grateful for those who gave us seed money to get the organization off the ground and others who contributed along the way so we could have the funds to begin supporting alumni projects for the school.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Columbus High School Alumni Association seeks:

...To serve as a liaison between alumni and Columbus High School

...To promote loyalty, knowledge and support of the school, its programs and its continued educational excellence

...To encourage alumni association growth, camaraderie and spirit through unity of purpose

(Approved 1/15/09 by the Steering Committee)

CLASS REUNIONS

1959 – 50th on April 24-25, 2009.

Contact Margie Alexander Drury '59 at margiedrury@bellsouth.net.

1999 – 10th on July 25, 2009. Contact Duanne Ebron Warner at

bluedevels1999@yahoo.com.

If you are planning a reunion for your class, please let us know by way of our alum email: chsalum@gmail.com.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS

We sincerely thank the following CHS faculty, staff and students for all their help:

Susan Bryant, Principal
Judy Whitt, Assistant Principal
Kay Jones, CTAE Teacher
Columbus High FBLA

EVENT FOR 2009

We will be planning an event for 2009. If you have any special ideas or thoughts, please send them to us by email. If you would like to volunteer to help with this year's event, we would love to hear from you. Everyone on our list will be notified of when, where, etc.

<p style="text-align: center;">What's Happening at CHS</p> <p>No doubt areas of interest to all alums might be: (1) what is currently going on both academically as well as outside formal education at CHS and (2) what might an alumni association do financially to assist with school continued improvement and success?</p> <p>Today, Columbus High Liberal Arts College Preparatory Magnet offers a rigorous academic program for students who are highly motivated and are focused on a challenging curriculum to best prepare themselves for college success.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Project Wish List for CHS</p> <p>As a matter of interest to all alums, here are some stated CHS improvement needs with associated cost estimates:</p> <p>Lamp Post Flags (\$4000) – to highlight awards and accomplishments Furniture for Classrooms (\$3000) – continued replacement of classroom desks and chairs Audio/Visual Equipment (\$5000) – two professional cameras and a mixer board to use in producing morning broadcasts New CHS Marquee (\$8000) – update or replace current sign on Cherokee Avenue Memorabilia Room of Media Center (cost not determined) - provide new shelving for displaying items of historical interest</p>
<p>Recent School Recognitions:</p> <p>___ Academically ranked #1 Georgia Public High School (2004, 2005), #3 (2007) and #2 (2008) ___ National Senior Project Certification (2008)___ U. S. News & World Report America's Best High Schools, Top 3% of 21,000 (2007, 2008) - Silver Award Recipient ___ Magnet Schools of Excellence (Magnet Schools of America – 2005) ___ National Blue Ribbon School (2004)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Alumni Steering Committee</p> <p>Below is a list of the CURRENT Steering Committee for the CHS Alumni Association. There have been fifty plus others who have helped since our inception and this list is not intended to slight them.</p> <p>Cecil Calhoun '52, Morton Harris '52, Betty Brinson Bush '53, Milton Jones '54, Jimmy Self '54, Elinor Brandt Winn '57, Margie Alexander Drury '59, Ken Crumpler '61, Gloria Jones Dodds '62, Pat Hill Lane '64, Cathy Zimmerman Bickerstaff '65, Vickie Logan Rounsaville '66, Nancy Sullivan Burgin '75, Julie Lucas Strupe '75, Kathy Dykes Bruer '77, and Wendy Lewis '83.</p>
<p>Recent Student Accomplishments:</p> <p>___ National Achievement Finalists– 2009(5), 2008(3), 2007(1), 2006(4), 2005(4), 2003(2) ___ National Merit Finalists – 2008(6), 2007(4), 2005(4), 2003(2) ___ Math Team – 1st State (2007 Georgia State Math Tournament); State ranked for the last seven years ___ One Act Play – Georgia State Champions (2007, 2006, 2003)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Future Planning in Progress</p> <p>The above-listed volunteer Steering Committee is looking to the future for the proper formation of the Alumni Association. Application for a non-profit 501(c)(3) status is in the works, bylaws and a charter are being written, a start-up Board of Directors has been identified with officers who desire to serve in the best interest of <u>all</u> the alumni.</p>
<p>Recent Athletic Accomplishments:</p> <p>___ CHS Athletics ranked 4th in AAA Schools in state (2008, 2007), 2nd (2006, 2005) ___ Currently two thirds of the 1330 student body participates on 21 varsity sport teams ___ 18 Varsity Sport Teams in last 10 years – State Champions <i>(more to follow in next newsletter)</i></p>	

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1700 Cherokee Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906

ADDRESS
