

# **Message from Association President Morton Harris '52**

During this first half of Columbus High School's 2013-2014 school year, our Association continues to make good progress. We have a great Board of Trustees, each of whom has taken an active role in the Association's expansion



**Morton Harris** 

of its membership and its financial ability to support CHS and its students. During the summer, we successfully completed a matching fund campaign to raise an additional \$140,000 for our Endowment, and thanks to the unsolicited generosity of **Dan Amos '69** and the support of numerous CHS Alumni and friends, our Endowment for Excellence has now reached our original goal of \$500,000. To reach our ultimate goal of \$1,000,000, the Association will continue to solicit additional contributions, which will allow us to broaden our support.

Going forward, our growing endowment will generate a higher level of income to use for new and expanded projects in support of students at CHS. Our annual dues and new member fees will also continue as an important source of income.

As most of you know, the Endowment for Excellence is a permanent fund, the income from which is used to provide supplemental financial support to encourage student participation in the many cultural, educational and leadership activities at CHS, irrespective of their family's financial circumstances.

The Board of Trustees is presently studying a list of student activities where support is needed to help keep CHS financially attractive to students from all economic levels from throughout the city. This not only helps these students in very important ways, but also helps keep CHS one of the top schools in Georgia and in the Nation. This year's selection of CHS as the No. 1 public high school in Georgia was no fluke as our alma mater has consistently been named as one of the top high schools every year for over a decade. We are also considering a new program which will provide an opportunity for students to visit colleges and universities in the Southeast during their junior year. Another new program that will begin this year is a student mentor program which will give students the opportunity to meet with CHS Alumni and others to learn about the realities of various business and professional careers and to discuss their future career interests. If you are interested in being a mentor, please contact Carl Rhodes '04 at (706) 243-6224 or car@hatcherstubbs.com or Ken Broda '87 at kbroda@aol.com.

Our Association will continue to help promote and participate in Class Reunions. If your class has a reunion coming up this year or next, please contact **Vickie L. Rounsaville** '**66** at (706) 566-3462 or *vickier@topproducer. com* so she can include information about your reunion in the next issue of the Orange & Blue. We are also working to provide additional social media contacts to help our membership stay in touch.



Janice White Woodruff '65, Ken Crumpler '61 and Patty Kimbrough Taylor '65



Bonnie Willis '67 and Lynda Brocato '67

This year has started out to be a good one for our Association and its growing abilities to support CHS and its students. As you can see from our Association's leadership and the supporters of our Endowment for Excellence, we can be proud of having established a permanent source of support for CHS and its outstanding achievements in providing superior educational opportunities for students in Muscogee County.

#### What is CHS Alumni Association, Inc.?

 Columbus High School Alumni Association, Inc. was formed in 2009 as a non-profit Georgia corporation with 501(c)(3) charitable status affording tax exempt benefit for <u>all</u> membership dues and contributions to its Endowment Fund.

#### Who can join?

 Anyone who attended or graduated from Columbus High School and anyone (including parents of CHS students and children of CHS alumni) who wants to assist and promote CHS and its students.

### Why should I join?

• To unite with others who support a nationally

recognized, high quality liberal arts high school program.

 To be a part of a large group of people who appreciate Columbus High and the positive influence on its students and the community for 122 years.

#### What memberships are offered?

- Lifetime Memberships for \$200
- Annual Memberships for \$20 per year
- What projects are currently underway?
- The CHS Endowment for Excellence was established in 2010. The Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley manages the Endowment Funds. The income from the invested funds is being distributed

to Columbus High School to help provide educational opportunities for students, both inside and outside the classroom for academic-related requirements such as field trips, school wide annual formal dinner, funding of Advanced Placement course exams for which students can receive college credit, and other assistance to deserving students.

Alumni Association Dream Trip program that sponsors deserving students on summer faculty-led study trips abroad. One student was sponsored on a trip to China in 2010. During the summer of 2011, one student was awarded a trip to Greece and another student a trip to Spain and Morocco.

### **History of Columbus High School**

An institution of learning is known by its capability to teach and the students who go on to be accomplished citizens of their community and the world. Although steeped in history, CHS's Legacy is one of fond memories, friendships and an innate ability to bring out the best in all of us.

The first report of public schools in Columbus, Georgia was in an annual report of public schools in the school year 1867-68. It was referenced in the report that it was hoped that at some time in the future, a high school would be added. This hope was realized in 1875; however, high school attendance dwindled from its beginnings and was abolished in 1877. It was not until 1889-1890 that the beginnings of a high school department were seen which have continued to this day.

Columbus High School began in 1890 at a building known as the Female Academy located at 10th Street and 2nd Avenue. There were 20 students in the first graduating class in 1892, 3 boys and 17 girls. In 1898, the school moved to its first exclusive building (a two-story, red brick structure) at 11th Street and 4th Avenue and remained at that location until 1927. By that time, the graduating class had grown to a total of 90 students (28 boys and 62 girls). In the early 1900s, three alternative educational tracts were offered at CHS, college preparatory, classical and scientific.

In 1913, the first *Cohiscan* was published and a copy is kept in the media center's memorabilia room (now the CHS Alumni Room).

In 1919, the school supported athletic teams including girls' basketball team and boys' football and basketball.

In 1923, the "Blue Devil" name was first used when General John J. Pershing referred to a spirited football team playing against Phillips High School in Birmingham, Alabama. He stated that the team played like devils in winning the game. Previous to that time, several nicknames had been used for CHS sport teams, one of them was "Orange Avalanche."

Prior to that time, Lake Bottom Park was created before the lake at Wildwood Park was drained. A park existed where fishing, swimming and boating on the lake and dancing in the pavilion were popular activities. One got there on a trolley route called the Dummy Line. Some students, who had begun their high school career at the 11th Street School, completed their high school at CHS. Morton Harris' mother graduated from CHS in 1927 when CHS was still at the 11th Street school. After moving to Wildwood, the 11th Street school building became the 11th Street Elementary school in the Muscogee County School System and remained as an active elementary school until the 1970s. The building is now owned by the St. Luke Methodist Church and is used for the St. Luke's day school (K-8).

In 1924, a bond referendum was approved to build a new high school. The 11th street location had become too small to accommodate the growing population of the city, especially after Camp Benning brought an influx of new people to Columbus during and following World War I.

In 1924, sixteen acres in Wildwood Park was selected as the site for the Columbus High School. There were numerous sites considered; however, the final decision was made between two sites, the Wildwood Park site and one on Rose Hill on the highway to Atlanta. The community was much divided on the selection, and the final decision was left to a popular vote which resulted in approval of the Wildwood site. The lot was purchased from John Flournoy's grandfather for \$50,000 and the building and the equipment cost an additional \$350,000. A respected New York Architectural firm, working with local architects, designed the building and the surrounding area including all of the athletic fields, baseball,

football and track. The cornerstone was laid on September 2, 1925 and the dedication ceremony was held on September 16, 1926. The first graduating class from the new high school was in 1928.

On June 12, 1981, the building was burned and it was later determined to be the result of arson; however, no one was ever arrested. The fire began where the school records were stored and much of the early documentation about CHS was lost. During the period of reconstruction, the grades were divided and classes were held at two locations, Rosemont School and Columbus Junior High School. The incoming senior class of 1982 was split into groups who had classes on various campuses; however, they were still considered the CHS Class of 1982 and graduated together in June of that year. On August 27, 1983, a rededication ceremony was held for the reconstructed building. In 1991, AFLAC became its "Partner in Education." In 1992, the Alumni Brick Wall was completed. In 2001, CHS became a total magnet school and continues as such today.

In school years 2004-2005, CHS was named a Georgia School of Excellence and a National Blue Ribbon school. CHS shared the ranking as the top high school in the state of Georgia that year and has consecutively been awarded gold status each year through 2012 as one of the best high schools in Georgia and the nation by the US News and World Report.

Some famous CHS Ålumni include Carson McCulloughs, Frank Thomas of the Boston Red Sox and Nunnally Johnson who was a nationally famous screenwriter for many years. Some of today's local leaders who are CHS graduates include Jimmy Blanchard, Dan Amos, John Flournoy, Don Leebern, Bill and Sue Marie Turner and many others who are well-known business, civic and philanthropic leaders in our community.



### **CHS Class Coordinators**

1939 - Richard Hecht 1965 - Kathy Z. Bickerstaff/ Patty Taylor 1966 - Vickie L Rounsaville 1940 - Nell Turner Spettell . 1944 - Hooper Turner 1946 - Erie Sue Buck 1967 - Lynda Brocato 1947 - Ruth Cliatt Gilbert 1968 - Lee Pierson 1950 - Red McDanie 1970 - Pat Batastini Jones 1951 - Lorrine Jarrell 1971 - Perry Buck 1952 - Cecil Calhoun 1972 - Libby Housand 1953 - Betty B. Bush 1973 - Phyllis Nix Johnson 1954 - Milton Jones 1975 - Nancy S Burgin/ Julie Strude 1955 - Bill Cliatt 1956 - Neil Heidt 1979 - Laurie Wolfe 1957 - Elinor B. Winn 1980 - Mark Magoni 1958 - Judy Boyce 1982 - Teresa Pope Young 1959 - Margie A. Drury 1984 - Wendy Lewis 1960 - Alice Douglas 1985 - Traci Wilson 1961 - Ken Crumpler 1987 - Christy B. Jones 1962 - Gloria Dodds 1992 - Beth Wilheit Carlisle 1964 - Pat Lane 1994 - Karen McNally White 2000 - Josh Orlick

We are missing several years and need your assistance. If you are interested in helping expand our database and gather contact information from your classmates, please contact **Gene Abernathy '58** at (706) 566-9522

or eaberthany2@earthlink.net.

## **Columbus High School Alumni Association, Inc. Membership Application**

home mone	Cell Hione	WorkThone
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Work Phone
Address	City/State/Zip	
Name: First, Middle, Last, Maiden	Spouse's Name	
□ \$200 Lifetime Dues	🗖 \$20 Annual Dues	
Alumni, Class of	☐ Faculty of CHS	$\Box$ Friend of CHS
1 am joining or renewing as:		

Mail application and check to CHS Alumni Association, Inc., PO Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.All dues payments are tax deductible.2072 - 299 - News

### **Columbus High School Alumni Association, Inc. Lifetime Members**

as of November 1, 2013

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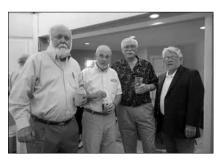
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Dickie Edge '65, Ken Crumpler '61, Jim Ethridge '60, Comer Butler '60

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Name
Graduation Year
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### **Multi-Year Reunion/Social**



John Peacock, Peanut Allen '60, Bill Berry '61, Patty Kimbrough Taylor '65 and Sally Jo Ray Allen '64



Laura Lewis Rutland '67, Cecil Calhoun '52 and Ginger Driver



near future. Additional photos on page 1 and inside!

This spring, a multi-year reunion/social was held at the Hidden Lakes

Club House. Everyone had a great time! We hope to have more in the

Morton Harris '52, Judy Whitt and Randy Whitt



Alice Gentry Douglas '60 and Susan Goodroe '60



Gene Abernathy '58, Marcia Jones Abernathy '58, Weesie Pierce Laney '64, Shirley Dodelin Hewitt '64 and Burton Hewitt '65

### Support the Columbus High Alumni Association



### **Connect With Us**

Email: chsalum@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/ CHSAlumniAssociation

Website: www.ColumbusHighAlumni.com

### Our Mission Statement

- To serve as a liaison between alumni, friends of education and Columbus High School
- To promote loyalty, knowledge and support of Columbus High, its programs and its continued educational excellence
- To encourage alumni association growth, camaraderie and spirit through unity of purpose

### "We are, as always, Columbus High"

