



Central High Alumni' Echoes

October-November 2003

CHS Alumni return to campus

On October 17th, 2003 Central High School alumni will make school history. Never since the beginning of the school in 1957, have alumni been asked to return to campus *en masse*.

The event marks the 40th Homecoming celebration at Central High; a tradition, begun by the Class of 1963. Although celebrated annually, the event has never included alumni. Today's Bobcats see the event as "theirs"; however, our attendance will make it everyone's.

October 17th will showcase the 1st Annual All-Graduates' Alumni Fall Picnic. The picnic begins at 5 p.m. and will continue until 9 p.m. The picnic is catered by The Barbecue Company who will provide the food for all to enjoy. Chair person of the Homecoming Picnic is Sheri Bostrom-Tower, Class of '64.

The event is open to graduates, CHS students, parents and their families. The Central High family of course includes all current and former administration, faculty and staff members. The game is against Carl Hayden High School.

Student clubs will make sure everyone



is supplied with beverages and desserts—mostly ice cream treats. Student tickets available in the Student Bookstore (it's not where we remember it), and alumni can order their tickets by calling the Alumni Association at (602) 764-7505 or email at info@centralhighalumni.org

Adult tickets are \$5; current Central student tickets are \$3; and \$.50 tickets for the beverage and dessert for the meal.

Alumni will be asked to participate in Homecoming half-time ceremonies on the field.

Please wear walking shoes.

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Honorary co-chairs "honored to serve"

Featured on page 3 of this newsletter is information about the new Honorary Co-chairpersons of the Central High Alumni Association. The planning committee welcomes them to the position and we are proud that such a outstanding group of Phoenix citizens and Central graduates has agreed to participate.

Each invitee had the opportunity to express their feelings regarding their nomination to serve. Each one said, with each using different words to say the same thing,

that they are honored to be selected during the inaugural year of the Association. In talking with them, they were in fact humbled by our invitation. It is very, very apparent that this group cares deeply about their roots and the institutions from which they came.

Each one is active—very active—but all realize that the future of our city, state and Nation rests with the effectiveness and successes of schools and students. Together, we have much work to do.

Special points of interest:

- ♦ *An Association succeeds with members: Join us!*
- ♦ *An essential of our vision is to help CHS and education*
- ♦ *There are many, many ways to help*
- ♦ *Look for our Honorary Co-Chairs on page 3*

Chairman's chatter

by Charles D. (Chuck) Sankey, Ed.D.

Last month's newsletter gave you a list of the Alumni Association Planning Committee members. Sometimes the term Board of Directors is used—but that name is not yet correct.

During September and part of October, the committee worked diligently to draft the Bylaws for the Association. The Bylaws, as of this writing have been approved by individual members; and, we will meet to ratify the Bylaws at our next full-committee meeting on October 20th, 5 p.m. in the CHS Staff Conference room. Prior to that meeting, the Bylaws are available for your review on the website.

The Bylaws dictate that we must hold elections for the Board of Directors and officers at the Annual Meeting to be held each February. Thus in February 2004, we must hold elections. If you are inclined to really participate in the Association, you are encouraged to begin attending meetings now. Get to know the committee members and make your

voice heard.

As of this moment, I have no idea which committee members will run for officer of the Association. Designated positions to be filled are: president, first and second vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer. In addition to the officer positions, there are committee chairs and committee memberships fill.

They are (Bylaws, pp. 11-12): Governance, Marketing / Publicity, Membership, Athletics, Social / Extra-curricular, Fund-raising / Sponsorships, Education / Mentoring, Hall of Fame, Treasurer's and Scholarships, Traditions; and Info. Technology / Technology. Each committee is described on the website.

Please consider adding your skills and abilities to help the Association. Our twin missions of "Connecting" and "Helping" are at our core—as they should be.



Planning Committee members

Recognize any names here? If not, add yours by attending a committee meeting and become involved in making the Association work for all of us.

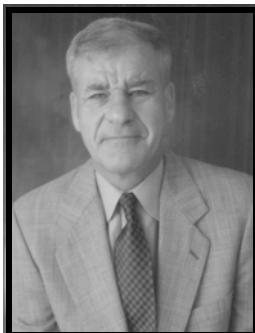
- Charles D. (Chuck) Sankey, Ed.D. A/Chair, 1963
- Stephen Ahearn, Webmaster, 1976
- Steve Rhue, CPA, Treasurer, 1976
- Sheri Tower, 1964, Homecoming Picnic Chair
- Cynthia Weatherford, Secretary-designate
- Diana Krauss, 1967, CHS Faculty Member
- Gaye Gifford-Kelley, 1967
- Mike Ball, 1972, Membership
- Timothy D Hogan, J.D., 1970, Legal Committee
- Tracy Swain-Thompson, '89, Telephone & 10-17 event
- Philip C. Tower, J.D., 1962, Legal Committee
- David Lujan, PUHSD Governing Board
- Nancy Kloss, Principal, Central High School
- Dr. Monica Ennis, Vice-Principal, CHS
- Wende Dragoset, Admin Assistant to Ms. Kloss

Association announces Honorary Co-chairs

The Planning Committee of the Central High Alumni Association is pleased to announce the Honorary Co-chairs for the Association's first year. This first Association year ends December 31, 2004.

Volker K. Sonntag, MD ('63)

Dr. Sonntag is vice-chairman of Barrows Neurological Institute, St. Joseph's Hospital, Phoenix, Arizona. Volker is a world-renowned spinal cord surgeon with a list of honors and achievements that take 120 pages in his *vitae*. While an expert surgeon, he is known for his leadership in the neurological medicine profession; and as a world-class teacher. He has been honored seven times at Barrows as "best teacher." When asked about his nomination, Volker said "I am very happy to be able to continue my association with Central High. My time at CHS was special. It is a good school and I am honored to serve the Association." Volker and Lynne Sonntag are loyal Bobcats.



Cindy Hensley-McCain ('72)

Cindy McCain is a well-known and respected civic leader in her hometown of Phoenix, Arizona. Mrs. McCain remains active in her own class activities, while working for the benefit of many organizations in Arizona. As the spouse of Senator John McCain, Mrs. McCain lends her name and energies to causes she believes in. When discussing Cindy's possible involvement, Mrs. McCain said that "attending Central High remains an important part of my life. Not only did I make many friends with students and teachers, the education I received there was wonderful. Working with so many high achievers was inspiring in itself. My bond with CHS remains strong."



Jimmy Walker ('61)

Jimmy Walker is a nationally known and respected civic-minded businessman and philanthropist. While both student body vice-president and exceptional student - athlete, Mr. Walker went on to play college basketball at ASU under famed Coach Ned Wulk.

His business enterprises include providing management and insurance needs to many of the best known athletes and celebrities in America. To visit his office is to see first hand the number of noted Americans he values as friends.



Jimmy was humble in his acceptance as he said "there are so many others worthy of this recognition. I accept the invitation because it is a great honor." Mr. Walker may be best known nationally as the Chairman of the Board of the Mohammad Ali "Fight Night" for Parkinson's Disease Research. His efforts have raised over \$20 million for Parkinson's research at St. Joseph's Hospital's Mohammed Ali Research Center. Mr. Walker and his wife Nancy, are active in many charitable programs. Jimmy's family has a long-history helping disadvantaged youth and children.

Phil Gordon, J.D. ('69)

Phil Gordon, just off a vigorous and victorious campaign to be Phoenix's mayor, expressed pride in being asked to co-chair the new Alumni Association. Mr. Gordon came to Arizona from Illinois in the mid-'50's. He attended Madison Schools, Central, has a U of A BA, and law degree from ASU. He has a history of service Phoenix schools; with particular interests in Neighborhood Watch programs, child protection issues and Education is important in his election platform. Mr. Gordon's 20-years on the Phoenix City Council and prior service as chief of staff for Mayor Rimza, provided a strong background to run for the mayor's office. He is proud of his contribution to the passing of "Shannon's Law" which prohibits random gunfire in the city. Mr. Gordon is married to Christa Severns and they have four children.



Susan Clouse Dolbert, Ph.D. ('74)

Susan Clouse Dolbert quickly stated "how can I refuse such an important opportunity to serve something as important to me as Central High School." With those words, Susan enthusiastically joined the honorary co-chair ranks. Susan has a history of helping and giving to Central High and its students. She along with her husband Tom Dolbert, are giving scholarships to deserving and needy Central High graduating seniors. Her affection for CHS shows everywhere.



Recently, Susan left ASU as the Director of the Alumni Association. She developed and managed the Association for seven years and was responsible for herding 260,000 ASU graduates. In mid-2003, she accepted a position with the Mayo Hospital in Scottsdale where she is working in the Development Office. Susan has worked in Education for over 25-years. Her knowledge will help the Association address important alumni recruiting and growth issues.

Update on Central High School achievements

By Craig Pletenik, Public Affairs, PUHSD

(Editor's Note: This article was solicited by the editor in order to gain insight into good things happening at Central High. While the media does "pieces-parts" on various education issues and sometimes features CHS, there is no single document which expresses a compendium of recent student, faculty and staff successes. Thank you **Mr. Pletenik** for preparing this article.

Central High, long known for its academics, faced a challenge from the federal and state accountability measures of *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB), and Arizona LEARNS last year. Both programs began labeling schools based on improvement in AIMS tests, dropout, attendance and graduation, and Central was in the unenviable position of not performing according to government expectations.

The school's administration, staff and teachers along with students and parents have made great strides, implementing several strategies to boost reading, writing, math and attendance, and the positive results are coming in. Work continues this year with a new reading program called READ 180 that targets freshmen and sophomores reading below grade level. National experts in math curriculum and instruction are also meeting regularly with math teachers to improve teaching techniques aligned to the State standards.

Central made the biggest gains of any school in the District in the latest AIMS results released in September. The 10th grade AIMS scores from 2002 to 2003 increased by 11 percentage points in math, 5 percentage points in reading and 15 points in writing. Compare that with the State average gains of 2 points in math, 2 points in reading and a loss of 6 points in writing, and Central is closing the gap. The Bobcats' 56 % who met or exceeded in reading, is tops in the district. This year, the AIMS tests will carry even more weight because sophomores (the Class of 2006) are required to pass three AIMS exams to graduate.

Because of the improvements in every subgroup, the school was designated as making "*Adequate Yearly Progress*" according to the federal government's NCLB. One more year of progress, and the school climbs out of the "School Improvement" category. CHS is also anxiously awaiting the Arizona LEARNS Achievement Profiles, hoping to move into the "*Performing*" category. Those designations are due out October 15.

Other signs of success include the attendance rate, where Central increased from 92.3 % to 96.9% in one year. The Academic Year Dropout rate fell to a new low of 4.6 %, from 7.5 % a year ago, and from a high of over 17 % in 1995-96. Four-year graduation rates continue to climb, as well. Central went from 53.8 % in 2000-2001 to

66.8 %, a jump of 13 points in two years.

Stanford 9 scores for ninth graders showed improved scores in each category—Reading, Math and Language.

In other news, principal **Nancy Kloss** and her team of students and teachers will begin a promotional tour called "A Taste of Central," October 20. This eighth grade outreach program will visit eight feeder schools with a student assembly during the day, and a follow-up evening meeting with parents, touting the school, and its curriculum, including honors and the International Studies Magnet program, athletics and activities.

Betty Fairfax, 85 years young, and still working as a Dean Emeritus at Central, was presented with this year's **Jewell Award**, presented by Channel 3 at a luncheon program, September 10. The award, named after the **Jewell Lewis**, one of the founders of KTVK TV, is given annually to a woman who has contributed to the betterment of the community.

Fairfax has been with the district for 54 years, beginning as a teacher at the all-Black Carver High School, before moving to Phoenix Union as a counselor. **Fairfax** is well-known for her civic leadership, and philanthropy. She and her sister Jean received the ASU Martin Luther King Jr. Servant-Leadership Award in January. The pair has awarded scholarships to inner-city students who pledge to finish high school since 1987. Principal **Nancy Kloss** and Central science teacher **Steve Seidler**, who nominated Fairfax, were at the event. Fairfax received a beautiful pendant and a \$500 donation to the charity of her choice. **Ms. Fairfax** still puts in half-days at CHS and welcomes alumni visitors anytime.

In sports, the badminton team has begun defense of its State Championship, and so far, **Emily Yan** and **Nicole Echavarria** are undefeated in singles matches.

The Bobcats have a new varsity baseball coach, **Mike Espinoza**. Mike graduated from St. Mary's & Grand Canyon University, and is a teacher in the Creighton District.

The Cross Country team has over 20 runners out for the team, a huge improvement over last year's three runners.



*Ms. Betty Fairfax—
Still the youngest
spirit on campus*

Central Achievements (continued)

Athletic Director Rob Barnes credits the new coach.

Did you notice *The Arizona Republic's* sports spotlight on Central High in the October 3 paper? It spotlighted recent state titles (Badminton (2002) and Volleyball (1995)); and recalled two undefeated state football champions in 1969 and 1972. **Dr. Dave Silcox**, a former teacher, principal and now Governing Board President remembers when a tennis squad didn't lose a dual match for some 14 years. Yes, **Dr. Silcox** was the coach.

Speaking of **Bobcat** bragging, here are more accomplishments to know. **John Snowberger ('03)** earned a prestigious Flinn Scholarship last year and is attending the University of Arizona Honors College. He is one of only 20 Arizona students to win the award, valued at over \$42,000. Central has had three other **Flinn Scholars- Renee Rider** in 1993; **Keith Schon** in 1992 and **John Duty** in 1988.

Snowberger also earned a National Merit Scholarship Corporation Letter of Commendation last fall, along with **Matthew Smith**. Central has had 95 students recognized by the National Merit Scholarship in the past 12 years.

In 2001, CHS graduates won the **University Cup** from the University of Arizona. The cup recognizes the best performing freshmen from a state high school. Twenty-four former Bobcats combined for a 3.26 GPA as freshmen.

The 2002 Centralian shines as a superb yearbook. The yearbook received an Award of Excellence in page design from Taylor Publishing Company. As a result, sample pages are featured in Taylor Publishing's **Yearbook Yearbook**. Of the 8,000 published by Taylor, only five percent are selected for the reference book. **Kelly Downes** is Central's yearbook advisor. **(Kelly has yearbooks to sell.)**

Join the CH Alumni Association

(attach business card)

Check	Membership levels	Cost
	Charter Member (drive ends 12-31-03)	\$50
	Sustaining Member	\$30
	Initial (1st year only)	\$15
	Renewal (beginning 01-01-05)	\$10
	Donation to the Association	\$



Please fill-out and mail your
Membership application and
check to:

Central High School Alumni Association
c/o Central High School
4525 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Fill-in the following	Print here
First name	
Last name	
Graduation class	
Maiden Name	
Occupation Title	
Organization	
Street Address	
Address (con't)	
City	
State / Province	
Zip / Postal Code	
Country	
Work Phone	
Home Phone	
FAX	
E-mail	
Website, if	

Central High Alumni Association

c/o Central High School
4525 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Phone: (602) 764-7505

Fax: (480) 829-0507

Eml: info@centralhighalumni.org
or PhxCHSAA@aol.com



"Bringing old and new

The Central High Alumni Association is a non-profit association not affiliated in anyway with Phoenix Central High School or the Phoenix Union High School District.

Reunions:

'63, Oct 24-26, Fiesta Inn, Tempe
'83, Oct 17-18, La Posada, PV
'73, Nov 28-29, Pointe Squaw Peak
'93-'94, Nov 29, The Monestary



We've found and recorded the original *Alma Mater* music. It's been lost for 25-years. Thanks to Joan Elardo, Class of '63.

Call for memorabilia

A long-term project of the Association is to develop a Hall of Fame or Honors' Gallery. The hall will showcase the work of Central graduates. The Association is seeking donation of items suitable for inclusion in the Hall. Some items are: Books written, copy of a dissertation and/or thesis, donated artwork of any kind, copies of awards or prizes, memorabilia about life at Central throughout its history, photos, pictures, renderings of the Bobcat throughout the years, and general memorabilia you think of interest to others.

The Association will collect these items and spend several months sorting and cataloging each item and begin to develop the hall.

At this point, please do not send the original of anything except copies of books, academic writings and other items you have multiple copies of. For photos and other keepsakes, please send us a photocopy of what you have, and we can then decide which items we should ask for. The concern is that if the item is submitted and not used, we do not want to deprive you of the meaning of the article. Send your items to the CHS address above on this page. Include name and address.

Alumni information night

The Association is exploring hosting an all-alumni information night at the school in December or January. As you read about Central High, the District and Public Education in general, you are reading parts of stories and never get a big dose of multiple issues confronting our schools, the students and the administrative issues.

Many of us have grown children and may not be in-touch with what is going on at CHS and elsewhere. We know that the student population is different, the curriculum is different, but just how different and why is it so?

In order to fill the knowledge gap that exists for many, the Association seeks six persons to serve on a planning committee for the event. Dr. Chuck Sankey, Ed.D., Alumni Association chair will work with the committee to develop the program, coordinate with the school and district, and develop handouts and other informational items. Volunteers should have current knowledge on issues of education, psycho-social development, learning methods, physical, diversity, extra-curricular, and administrative issues confronting educators & students. E-mail your résumé or *vitae* to Chuck at CDSankey@aol.com. FAX or call Chuck at (480) 829-0507.