

CHS Alumni Newsletter

Issue 12

December 2006

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News From Our Alumni

1938

cured and not too crowded. It was very easy to get around and nothing very far from each other.

Victoria, BC was beautiful with good public transportation. Many friends had told us about it so we went there to walk and see the sights. However, they now have a tremendous homeless problem. The homeless were everywhere - sleeping on grounds of government buildings, in doorways of business establishments and constantly stopping you on street asking for money. We had to walk out of our way or across the street to avoid being approached. If you're planning a visit there, postpone it until Victoria solves its homeless problem."

1940's

Class contact:
Albert Sharpton
albert@e9usn.com

1951

1952

Class Contact: Don Wilcut
WILCUT@aol.com

Edna (Perkins) Griffith

"See some photos of our journeys to Coastal Maine, Atlantic Provinces and Victoria, British Columbia at www.picturetrail.com/gri_globetrotter/htm. We enjoyed each; however, our favorite has to be Prince Edward Island. Everything was so clean and well mani-

1953

1954

1955

1957

Class contact: Joyce Brown

joyceb3@hiwaay.net

Pete Holmes

Our 2006 Christmas eCard can be viewed at:

<http://pianopete.com/2006christmas/2006christmascard.html>

In addition to being a brief reflection on the past year, this year's slideshow is comprised of 170 photos (about 11 minutes viewing time) selected from our albums of digital photos, and a few photos sent to us from family and friends. I'm sure some will not recognize all the folks, events, and locations in the slideshow, but it gives a brief window into our year 2006..... enjoy.

Same as with previous Christmas eCards, the slideshow requires that you have Real Player installed (most folk do, but if you don't it is available as a FREE Basic download for both PCs and MACs at <http://www.real.com/player/index.html>). I have checked the slideshow using Windows 2000 and XP, and a MAC running OS-X. No problems on either platform. Background music plays along with the slideshow, however, I didn't program the background music to play on the MAC.... just on a Windows machine.... maybe next year I'll include all. There is also a link on the eCard to our online photo albums.

Wishing a very Merry Christmas and joy filled holiday season.

Pete and Sandra Holmes

pianopete@adelphia.net

sandrah@adelphia.net

1959

1960

Virginia Lee Wilder Stevens recently retired after almost 30 years as librarian with the Virgin Islands Department of Education. Now she and hubby, Stiles, play tourist every day on St. Croix, going to the beach, walking on the boardwalk and all the things that "working" in America's Paradise prevented her from doing until now.

1961

Class Contact: Becky Kirk kirkbcrafty@aol.com

1962

1963

1964

Class contact: James Roden

rodenj@MSN.com

The class of 1964 has monthly meeting. If you can make it please contact **Courtney McKoy** at courtney@mindspring.com

Remi Huppert, who was the first foreign exchanged student at Cullman High, was awarded the Legion d'honneur (French Legion of Honor) France's highest award, at least for civilian. It was for his continuing past contribution to underprivileged countries. He also writes novels and management textbooks.

1966

Class contact: Jane Connell fconnell1@bellsouth.net

Greg Mayo is currently the SA Prevention Coordinator at Mental Healthcare of Cullman. His son, Adam is a Senior at Auburn and daughter Laura is a junior at Auburn.

War Eagle!

gmayo325@yahoo.com

1968

Class contact: Ron Dunn

RONSDONE@aol.com

1969

1970

Class contact: Connie Booher

booherc@ten-nash.ten.k12.tn.us

Carolyn Swann Arrington's husband, Jimmy Arrington, passed away February 21st, 2006. He had been with the Cullman County Sheriff's department over 30 years, first as a deputy, then investigator, becoming a Lieutenant for many years. When he passed away, he was the first Director of Work Release at the new Cullman County jail.

1971

Class contact: Rickey Kreps

rickeyk@oeccullman.com

1972

Jim Prescott

There has been some discussion about having our class reunion the weekend of home coming football game. This will be 35th year for us but it all depends on the football schedule that has not been planned yet.

jtprescottjr@hotmail.com

1973

Sonya Knight Hembree, (class of 1973) passed away September 17th following an 11 month battle with pancreatic cancer. During her illness she was an encourager to all who came in contact with her. She stayed strong to the end. Her family thanks all who prayed for her and continue to pray for us. Shari Knight Hurt (class of 1977)

1974

Class contact: Ellen Stubblefield
estubble@yahoo.com

1975

Class Contact: Ian Frost
itfrost@hotmail.com

1976

Randy Tucker

Many thanks to those who put in the hard work to make our 30th Class Reunion a success! It was a wonderful evening. Most classmates are holding their own - not many changes, but had some trouble recognizing others. Thank goodness we have class reunions to keep those precious memories close to heart. Best of luck to "Bama's Pick" for continued success and happiness.

1977

Class contact: Teri Hansen
dnthansen@charter.net

1978

Dennis Trimble is now pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Cullman.

1979

1980

Kevin L. Bardon, RN

Wallace State Community College - A.S. 1984
U of North Alabama - B.S. 1991
U of Alabama in Huntsville - B.S.N. 2006
Critical Care
FCC Amateur Radio license: KG4RCP
Alabama Fire College - Volunteer Fire Fighter I
Board of Directors, Old Railroad Bridge Company (501(c)3 historical preservation), Florence, AL
Volunteer, Community Free Clinic, Huntsville, AL
Incorporating Huntsville Amateur Radio Club as 501(c)3

1981

1982

Class contact: Jonathan B. Green
green-jb@ieee.org

Jim Gray is in Franklin, TN and has his own music production company writing a lot of string and horn arrangements for albums as well as for some live shows. He is also doing television specials for CMT, GAC, and A&E. In addition to that he is the prin-

ciple arranger for The Nashville Symphony.
E-mail – jim@cubbysmusic.com
Web – www.cubbysmusic.com (coming in Feb. or March)

Kurt Heinecke (kurt.heinecke@bigidea.com) is in Franklin, TN, too. He is the Music Director for Big Ideas, Inc. They're the folks that do the Veggietales and 3-2-1 Penguins which are on NBC on Saturdays as well as on videos still.

1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania Army National Guard

Public Affairs Office
Bldg. 9-79, Ft. Indiantown Gap
Annville, Pa. 17003
May 25, 2006
CONTACT:Capt. Cory Angell
(717) 861-8829

Local Soldier chosen as non-commissioned officer of the year

Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.(May 26, 2006) – A local soldier received the rare distinction of being named the non-commissioned officer of the year for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Merritt of Harrisburg, Pa., received the honor recently at Fort Indiantown Gap. Merritt has served for over twenty years in the National Guard. He initially served with the Alabama National Guard before coming to the Eastern Aviation Training Site as an instructor for helicopter crew members on UH60, Blackhawk.

“This is a great honor,” said Merritt. “There are many great non-commissioned officers in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and I am simply proud to be among their ranks.”

Merritt was a long time resident of Hanceville, Alabama and a **1983 graduate of Cullman High School** in Cullman, Alabama. Among his awards are; The Master Aircraft Crewman badge, The Army Achievement Medal, The National Defense Medal, The Army Overseas Training Ribbon, The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, The Army Good Conduct Medal, The Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal and The Pennsylvania Commendation Medal.

1984

Class contact: Suzanne Harbin
sharbin@cullmanhosting.com

1986

Class contact: Jan Kraft Gaw

Jangaw@aol.com

Class web page:

http://www.geocities.com/cullman_1984/

1987

Class contact: Angie Grayson Solomon
angiedawn87@yahoo.com

Lori Reichmann Connors gave birth to a son, Brodie Vincent Connors, on November 20th, 2006. He is welcomed home by his big sister, Jaclyn.

In July **David Veal** and wife Robyn welcomed their first child, a healthy baby boy named Summer. They currently live in New York City where David is a Vice President in the research department of Morgan Stanley.

David.Veal@morganstanley.com

1988

Shane Sanford is a Captain in the US Army and is stationed in Bryan, TX. Shane is the Brigade S6 (communication) in a Combat Engineer unit.

elder.sanford@usar.army.mil

1989

Class contact: Deborah Kraft
deborahmkraft@yahoo.com

Deborah Kraft

My company was in New Orleans, the Mid-City area. After the levee breaches, we had 6 feet of water in our building. After evacuating to Tuscaloosa, I immediately flew to Houston, TX 4 days after Hurricane Katrina, where our company set up offices (we are a national company and could not shut down). My husband, Michael, had to stay behind in New Orleans; he worked for a hospital and was considered essential personnel. I set up new offices, located missing employees, arranged for their transportation to Houston, etc. Our company was located in Houston for 4 months; and our Board of Directors decided to permanently move the company to Denver. I agreed to help move the company to Denver, to hire and train new employees; and I have been here since January.

My house did suffer quite a bit of damage, but not like what you saw on TV. I lost my roof and the ceiling caved in, I lost some furniture, plus clothing, shoes, carpeting, tile, etc. My house is now almost back to normal, and in livable condition. It's time for me to go back home, I've been separated from my husband, family, and friends since August 28. I will finish up what I have to do for my company and move back home in early April. I'll find a new job, and move on. To quote the Louis Armstrong song... "I do know what it means, to Miss New Orleans"

Donald K. Taylor

Paramedic HSE
C-1 COB Speicher
Tikrit North, Iraq
APO AE 09393

kenny.taylor3@kbr.com

1990

Class contact: Susan Nielsen Bowen
susanandbryan5@aol.com

Warren Trimble has left the US Army after 10 years and is working for the Department of Defense (DOD) as an Air Traffic Controller. Warren is working at Fort Polk in Louisiana.

Stephen Wright

Occupation: Sr. Engineer for Pratt & Whitney (Dallas, TX)
Hello Everyone! In March, I was offered a promotion to return to Pratt & Whitney in Dallas, TX as a Sr. Engineer, and my wife and I made the move permanent in April. My new line of work has me overseeing repairs of turbine components on jet engines. We are blessed to both be able to work in the fields we desire (aerospace and teaching) while enjoying the perks of the DFW area and being closer my wife's family. While we don't get back to Cullman as much as we would like, you'll probably see us around town during the usual holidays.

Shane Guest and Kristi Carter Guest had their 3rd child on 9/18/05 and her name is Shana Lillian. They also have Carter who is 4 years old and Faith who is 2 years old. Shane has fun staying home with all three of them!

Brian Hagood

I am currently living in Lacey, Washington with my wonderful wife, Cecelia, and my two precious girls - Lauren (6) and Lydia (3). Well, I am not this minute in Washington; I am actually living in Iraq. Once again I am deployed to Iraq. I am on my third deployment to beautiful, dusty, hot Iraq. Yea, I am coming up on nine years of service in the Army with the rank of Major in my sights. My mom and dad are still living in Cullman and are both retired. God has truly blessed me with such a caring and understanding wife. Cecelia and I are approaching 12 years of marriage, and I can honestly say, though we've hit our share of bumps in the road, it's getting better every year! My oldest girl, Lauren, is Miss Athletic and a bit of Tom-Boy. She is as beautiful as my wife and can wrestle a bear! Lauren attends kindergarten at a Christian school in Lacey. Lydia is Miss Pris! She loves to dress up in princess dress-up clothes and wear Mommy's high heels! She is three going on 30 and she looks just like her daddy! Both of the girls are actively engaged in gymnastics and the Awana Program at Westwood Baptist Church. Cecelia is currently teaching Music Education at Lauren's school and is also teaching KinderMusik at another Christian school and out of our home. Cecelia is an awesome pianist and has a tremendous teaching gift. She loves teaching kids how to appreciate music! Our home in Lacey is about 45 minutes from Seattle. Seattle is pretty cool! People up here do coffee! Where we in Alabama have a church on every corner; they have a coffee stand on every corner and we're talking good coffee (Starbucks)! When I am home in Washington, I like to salmon fish, go crabbing, take trips to Mt. Rainer, drink coffee, play guitar in my church, and spend time doing whatever with my family. It's too bad we didn't have a 15 year reunion! I actually could have made it between my last deployment and now. Well, take care.

CPT Brian Hagood

Brian.hagood@us.army.mil

1991

Class contact: Carrie Cabri Witt
CBCWITT@aol.com

Tonja Henson

Hello! My family has moved back to Fort Myers, Florida again (from Daytona Beach).

My new address is:

Jim & Tonja Henson and family
3171 Sea Trawler Bend #3
Fort Myers, FL 33903

1992

Class contact: Beth Michael Solze
ElizabethSolze@aol.com

1993

Amy (Freeman) Williams

My husband and I have welcomed another baby--a baby girl, Maggie, born in July. She joins her big brother Clay, who is 3 years old.

Doug Butts

Early March, I accepted a promotion to Senior Meteorologist and transferred to the National Weather Service in Shreveport, LA. As part of my responsibilities here, I also serve as the station's NOAA Weather Radio Meteorologist. This fall, I will graduate with an M.S. in Meteorology from Texas A&M University. It only took me 9 years.

1994

1995

Class contact: Summer L. (Roberts) Kemp
summerlou98@aol.com

Jeff Twilley

My wife "Jessica" and I have a new baby boy that was born in June. His name is Jacob Noah Twilley if you would like to check out the bundle of joy the site is listed below.

<http://twilleyhome.net/myshows/WWE%20Pictures/Jacob/>

Our main site is www.twilleyhome.net

Other birthday announcements include my other 2 children Jeremy seven and Gina five. Wow! Where does all the time go?

I don't get much news about back home and I am glad to see things haven't changed that much in Cullman. I spent 4yrs in the USMC and 2 ½ yrs in the Army. I left the Army because of my children, I just couldn't deploy any longer. I went to many places while I was in the military such as Norway, Turkey, Germany, Afghanistan, and Iraq. I believe Cullman High School is teaching great things to students and the knowledge that they are receiving

will take them far in life. I now work for the Army as a contractor helping our troops when ever I can.

1996

Class contact: Joe Lambert
lambe012@bama.ua.edu

Jamie Luker Troutman

Jamie and Billy Troutman announce the birth of their daughter:

Blaire Marie Troutman

September 7, 2006

7 lbs. 0 oz.

19.5 inches

1997

Class contact: Laura Barnes
llewis@uniquedigital.com

Clint Jordan and wife Carlie have been married 3-1/2 years they have one son Draven that is two years old.

Email: cjid7773@comcast.net

Career: Inventory Specialist for Plastag Holdings and Globe Ticket

Laura Barnes Lewis is now living in Houston, TX
llewis@uniquedigital.com

Jennifer Graham

It was a long four years, but I finally graduated in May 2006 from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Preschool Education. The day after graduating, I moved to my mom's in Sylvania (Toledo), OH. I finally went on a vacation after 10 years. My mom took my sister, her fiancé, myself, and my moms boyfriend. We had a good time at Oak Island, NC on the beach. The weather was great and the skies were unpredictable.

I currently work at a preschool down the road from where I live. I am a head ELI teacher for the 3yr. old class. Over the summer, I was able to spend time with my grandfather before he passed in late August. The summer was a very busy with the preparations for my sisters (Sheila Graham Miano) wedding in September. I spend my free time playing on the computer with my sister, hanging out at her house, and spending time with family. Nothing else is going on at this time except preparing for the upcoming reunion.

Sheila Graham Miano

It has been a crazy year. I was planning and making arrangements for my wedding that took place in September. I traveled to see my sister graduate college in May and helped move her to OH. It was a busy summer for me and my husband. We went on vacation with my mom and sister to Oak Island, NC. It was a well deserved time off to relax at the beach and just relax from the stress of city life.

About a month before our wedding, my grandfather passed away and about 2 weeks after his death, my husband's grandfather passed away. The wedding was wonderful. I couldn't have asked

for a better day. The weather was perfect and the rain held off until late in the evening. My sister and my best friend, Misti Allison, were in the wedding and I was glad they could share in the fun. It was a lot of work, but I managed to plan my own wedding and I am ready to do it all over again! It has been two months and everything is going well. My husband and I are planning on having children someday, but for right now the new addition to our family is getting all our attention. We have adopted a lab/beagle mix puppy that is as spoiled as can be. Her name is Maggie and she is a joy to spend time with. She is still a puppy and gets into everything, eating whatever she can get her teeth into, and just licking your face off when ever she gives kisses. I am looking forward to the upcoming reunion and can't wait to see everyone.

1998

Class contact: Misty Angle
mlynneangle@hotmail.com

Leslie McDade

My new job is going well. I quite enjoy the change from working for my dad full time to doing it part time. We had a busy summer, my parents and I flew out to Vancouver, Washington last July to celebrate my niece Kailey's 5th birthday. It was wonderful; we even went to the coast. In August my parents, my sister, my brother-in-law, nephew and me went to Gulf Shores for Alecs birthday. I can't believe this year is almost over. I hope to have more news in the coming New Year.

1999

Class contact: Schenaye Mauldin
csmauldin@hotmail.com

Casey Hardeman

I graduated from Auburn University in December of '05 with a double major in Accounting and Finance. I now work for a "Big Four" accounting firm, Ernst & Young and I will soon be a CPA. It is always nice to hear about our class, especially since I haven't seen many of them in years.

casey.hardeman@gmail.com

2000

Chad Johnson

I just recently was hired as the new Jr. High youth minister at Hope Presbyterian (Hopepres.com) in Memphis, TN. Of course, Memphis is where I currently live as well. I am also in the process of writing a number of books, some have to do with family and relationships, and others are just fiction for young adults. My shelf debut has yet to be determined, considering the publishing process can be quite the hassle. As far as my running career, I am on a bit of a leave from being sponsored by Mizuno sports to pursue my newest passion of teaching and writing.

Forever remembering Cullman High and my family of 2000
In Christ,
Chad Johnson

Leslie Dellinger

I will graduate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary on December 16, 2006. My degree is a Master of Arts in Christian Education with an emphasis in Childhood Education. I am currently living in Nashville working for Christian Women's Job Corps, which is a non-profit organization that provides impoverished women with life and job skills.

2001

Lynsey Stansberry graduated from UAB in May 2006 with a Bachelor's Degree in History and a minor in Secondary Education. She is currently working as a retail manager with Cracker Barrel Old Country Store.

From the superintendent's desk:

Dr. Jan Harris

What Did You Read Last Night?



Dr. Jan Harris
Superintendent
Cullman City Schools

Cullman City Schools' innovative reading initiative started this year with an emphasis on Alabama's authors. This program was created by a dynamic committee of system educators who developed a motto for the program entitled *What Did You Read Last Night? (WDYRLN?)*

The year began with Alabama Author Kathryn Tucker Windham addressing all employees at Institute Day. Ms. Windham pronounced that if you can read, you can learn anything. Her admonition to listen to children, love children and promote reading inspired educators and moved many to tears during her extraordinary presentation. During the year, schools continue to welcome visits from other Alabama authors also. Recently, Susan Oliver visited West and East Elementary Schools where she read her book, *Gelbo's World: Remembering Colors*, to students and shared her original artwork with them.

In addition to promoting Alabama authors, the com-

mittee decided to encourage reading by organizing a WDYRLN? student art billboard contest. Over 700 students participated in this fresh contest. Five billboards in the Cullman area now display our students' artwork; the billboards pose the question *What did you read last night?* The students who won include Beth Morris, Christine Reiners, David Turner, Britni Wix, and Eric Rodriguez. Local businesses that sponsored the billboards include Ron Mann from EdwardJones, McGriff, Midnight Properties, Boozer Eyecare Associates, and the Cullman City Schools Foundation.

Students and adults can be seen throughout the community sporting attractive yellow bracelets that ask the WDYRLN? question in black. The Cullman City Schools system proudly presented its first ever WDYRLN? calendar for 2007 in November. Calendars can be purchased for \$10 at central office or all school locations. Inside the calendar, one can find photos of students from each school as well as local citizens who are shown reading their favorite books. Some of these distinguished citizens include the mayor and city council, firemen, police chief and officers, Lions Club members, and school board members.

If these activities are not enough to grab one's attention and remind one to read, then maybe a song would help to stay focused on the importance of reading. East Elementary Teacher Cindy Pass wrote the words and music to the song entitled, you guessed it, *What Did You Read Last Night?* Music Teacher Tim Clemmons arranged this beautiful song. Ms. Pass, along with the help of her fellow teachers and students, created a heart-warming video containing a plethora of reading photos that demonstrate the sheer joy of reading.

Reading is a priority for students and teachers in Cullman City Schools. Because we realize that reading is the foundation for all learning, we actively seek new ways to communicate its importance to our intelligent and hard-working students. We strive to model the love of reading to them by demonstrating an interest in reading ourselves. It is interesting to observe the frequency of conversations that center around reading a wonderful book. This observation reminds me of several books waiting to be read. But, first, I was wondering.....*What Did You Read Last Night?*
[Click here to view billboard winners](#) or go to:
<http://chs.cullmancats.net/billboard.htm>

From the editor's desk:

Bill Bagley

Once again a special thanks to all of the class contacts for their help in putting together the December 06 Alumni Newsletter. If your class doesn't have a class contact send the information that you want listed in the newsletter directly to me: wbagley@mindspring.com If your class isn't listed in the newsletter it is because that class has never submitted information to be included in the newsletter. If you know any Alumni that do not receive the newsletter please have them send their email address to me and I will add them to the mail out. Because of a glitch with Bellsouth some Bellsouth email address were deleted from my address book.

Thanks,
Bill Bagley
CHS Alumni Page

As always if you do not want to receive alumni information send an email to: wbagley@mindspring.com with remove in the subject line, include your name, year of graduation, and email address in the body of the message.