

CHS Alumni Newsletter

Issue 16

January 2010

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News From Our Alumni

1938

1940's

Class contact:
Albert Sharpton
albert@e9usn.com

1951

1952

Class Contact: Don Wilcut
WILCUT@aol.com

1953

1954

1955

This year for Christmas 2009 our son and his family (Navar, Jennifer, Chris and Jeremy) from northern Wyoming arrived to spend the Christmas holidays with us. Haven't seen them in many years and it was the first time we had met Jeremy their youngest. Having left often sub-zero weather, they really enjoyed our warm sun. I think they dreaded flying back to the cold.

1957

Class contact: Joyce Brown
joyceb374@yahoo.com

Harwell "Pete" Holmes

You can glean a lot of our 2009 info & happenings from our annual Christmas eCard newsletter at:

<http://pianopete.com/2009christmas/2009christmascard.html>

However

Beginning with Halloween 2009 the Holmes house has been a busy place ... sorta like a B&B. Lots of visitors (kids, grandkids, friends ...) stayed with us and it is just winding down now after Jan 1, 2010. Seems Sandra has been cooking big meals and caring for everyone for more than a month. I think Sandra and I need to power down and rest for a month or so and just enjoy the warm south Florida winter months sitting on the patio in the sun.

I'm debating whether to take another "Native Plant Identification" course at the local college this winter. I took one last winter and it was great ... this year the course is on native grasses..... a weekly field trip type of course.

Still active on amateur radio as K4CFQ. If anyone reading this newsletter is into amateur radio, join us in the evening on the Night-Watch ... 7.190 Mhz SSB.

Happy 2010 New Year to all

Harwell "Pete" Holmes
pianopete@comcast.net
<http://pianopete.com/>

1959

1960

1961

Class Contact: Becky Kirk kirkbcrafty@aol.com

Ed Edmondson

The CHS Graduating Class of 1961 is working toward having a Fifty Years Reunion sometime in 2011. Any class member who has not been contacted can contact Eddie Edmondson at 256-736-4682 or uncle_ed@bellsouth.net to obtain information. Faithful CHS'61 members get together inside Rumor's Deli's backroom the last Saturday of each month. These get togethers start at 10:03am and go on until we get run out. Fun is had by all please come & meet with us.

1962

Ron McFarland

We have not been in this part of the country since graduation in 1962 so I have not kept in touch with folks from my class. Here is some updated information on my family:

Ron McFarland, married to Evelyn Rucker of Nashville in 1966. We have three daughters and five grandchildren. After serving 27 years as minister for the Dover, DE Church of Christ, in 2007 we began teaching English in Jingzhou, Hubei, China. This is our third year and we love our work, but the culture is very different. The concept of privacy, if it exists at all in China, is very different from the US. They ask your age, you weight, what you paid for everything, pick up and examine or read anything they can reach in your home, ask you, "Why are you so fat?", and give you advice about everything, always assuming that if your action is different from their experience it is likely "bad for your health" (like drinking cold water instead of the hot water they usually drink at meals). But they are not intending to be rude. On the contrary, they work very hard to be especially kind and helpful to us, they just don't think like Americans about "privacy."

We do not speak Chinese, but then we teach Oral English. All Chinese students study English from the seventh grade up, so many of them are fairly good at reading and writing English. What they lack is experience speaking English with a native speaker. Most of our students tell us we are the first foreigners with whom they have ever spoken, and at first, they are very shy to try to communicate in English. Soon they learn that we are easy to talk with and begin to ask many questions. One of the most interesting ideas they have about America is they believe that parents here do not help their children after they turn 18. I

think they confuse this with reaching legal maturity, presuming that we quit helping them at that point.

We have a home in Murfreesboro, TN where we stay when we are in the US for ten weeks each summer and during the six week winter break between semesters. Their long break is due to their largest festival of the year, Spring Festival, or Lunar New Year. Classes never resume until this festival is over. It lasts for seven days and is like our Thanksgiving and Christmas all rolled into one big get-the-entire-family-together time. We are told that 500 million people travel to be with family that week. That's 50% more people than live in the US! During this break we come back to TN for some holiday time with our girls and their families, especially the grand children. We will return to China about February 15.

We have had opportunity to visit several great sites in China including the Great Wall, the Terracotta Warriors in Xian, and the Three Gorges Dam. We live in a "small city" (for China) of 1.5 million. But, what we love most about being there is working with so many students. Typically we have 70 to 100 students visit our apartment each week. We live in one of the boy's dormitories in a modest, but very adequate three room apartment. We even have heat in our apartment! Considering that the winter weather is very close to Cullman's, we are glad we do! However, the other parts of the campus have no heat; not in the dorms, cafeteria, administration offices or classrooms.

We expect to be in China for one to two years more, then to decide whether to go longer. The Chinese government usually does not allow teachers to teach at the same university for more than five or six years. If they end our time at Yangtze University we will likely come back to the states rather than start over in a new city and new university.

We wish everyone a wonderful, blessed new year. Now that we do get a little time in the middle-TN, north-AL area we are reconnecting with a few people and would love to see more of you.

1963

Harold Jinks

Recently retired from Alfa Insurance Companies. Wife of 42 years (Linda) and I have been blessed with three wonderful daughters, and currently 5 grandchildren (3 boys and two girls). Life is good. Still remember good times and good friends at CHS. Still one of the favorite times of my life. May God Bless.....

1964

Class contact: James Roden

rodenj@MSN.com

Eric Thomas

A highlight of our year 2009 was the CHS class reunion, the monthly gatherings, and the cajun night. Rhonda and I have both thoroughly enjoyed becoming reconnected to our Cullman roots. A recent blessing was Rhonda's report that she is considered cured of her disease after 7 1/2 years. And our younger daughter seems to be recovering well from her medical threat. I have de-

cided to work another two years at the pipeline research firm in Northern Virginia, and we have moved to a larger, nice apartment. We invite anyone in the DC area to visit with us.

Bill Baker

The grands are growing, Madisen 11, Gavin 7 and the youngest Tyler 4 years old. Still Married to the same lovely, wonderful wife Charlotte Ann. I retired in 2000 in the computer/programming field in the Federal Government. Now I work for Jacobs Engineering as an administrative professional team leader in support of the Marine Corps as a team leader. When we can we do lots of traveling. We also got a little place at Lake George in Eufaula Alabama where we enjoy fishing, boating and what ever else the lake offers us. Also our immediate family is very important to us and we enjoy them when we can. Also in 2006 I was the Master of Dougherty Masonic Lodge 591 Also I have been the treasurer of the lodge since 2000 and I am the president of our home owner association where we live today.

1965

Patricia Patterson Boozer wishes all a Happy 2010! 2009 brought us twin grand daughters, making our count now 3 beautiful, smart, and talented girls. Ages: 2 1/2 yrs. and 4 months! Ah, the life of "Mimihood".

Ron Johnston

My wife Sheila and I moved to Las Vegas three years ago, and we love it here. We miss our friends and family back in Alabama, but we don't miss the humidity! Living in Las Vegas is pretty much like living anywhere else, except we have the some of the country's best restaurants and world class entertainment available just a few minutes away. Even so, we stay in our corner of town most of the time. We probably visit the strip casinos less than some people in Alabama. Thankfully, I never got the gambling bug. Een if I did have the bug, there is gambling at every gas station, convenience store, grocery store and pharmacy, and there are "local" casinos all over town.

My work as Regional Sales Manager for Webb Wheel in Cullman takes me to 10 states and two Canadian provinces, so I am living out of a suitcase most of the time. When I'm home on the weekends, we enjoy our friends here in Vegas. It's neat having neighbors from every state and many foreign countries.

I hear people talking about retirement all the time, but I have no plans to retire ever. I like working, and will likely have a job until the day I kick the bucket.

If any of my classmates are coming to Las Vegas and need a local guide, just let me know at ronjohnston31647@yahoo.com

1966

Class contact: Jane Connell fconnell1@bellsouth.net

Gail Steel and **Elwin Arnold** passed away this year.

Linda Keenum

I have enjoyed hearing from several classmates recently, lots of us are retired now!

I have two sons, Dax and Whit. Whit and I have just recently moved to Huntsville, Alabama, where he is working for a com-

puter company and I am writing children's books, and doing some interior design. We are both active members of Willowbrook Baptist Church and work in some local ministries. Dax still lives in Auburn, Alabama. We all three enjoy getting back to Cullman occasionally and visiting grand parents and friends. No grand kids for me yet! But we do have precious grand dogs and cats!

Jane Ann Fields

In May I will be retired from teaching for 12 years. I really miss being around the children. My husband, Larry and I are blessed with five grandchildren who keep us very busy. Next fall four of them will be at the school where I taught for about 30 years. The youngest is 19 months so it will be a while before he makes it. We live in Hartselle and though I keep in touch with many from our class on Facebook and through email, I wish that we could get together some time. We are not getting younger.

1968

Class contact: Ron Dunn

ronsdone@bellsouth.net

Larry Daniel

This past football season, I turned 60, as should most of the class of '68. But I still have one vivid memory of football season at CHS. This season of 2009 will mark the 41st anniversary of one scary, rainy night for 3 of us. Mike Hill, Jimmy Fleischamel, and I were freshmen at Jax State. We had just attended a Friday night football game where Cullman had played a team in Gadsden, AL. Thinking we knew the back roads well enough, we decided to take a cross-country shortcut. So, off we went in my '62 Oldsmobile F-85. I think Jim was sound asleep in the backseat. Right in front of Green Valley Drag Strip, at about midnight, a VERY large cow wandered out onto the dark roadway. I won't even guess our speed, but we hit her broadside, with little or no notice. Needless to say, we survived, however, the cow did not, and neither did my F-85.

We were lucky that night, 40 years ago.

Can you believe it?

Glenna Webb Lambert

My husband & I have had an early most blessed Christmas gift from God, our first grandchild. Hayden Joseph Lambert, born at U.A.B. on 12/21/09 weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz., 21 & 1/4 " long. Pics will be posted on Face Book probably in the near future. Merry Christmas and a most blessed 2010!

1969

1970

Class contact: Connie Booher

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

Allan Thraikill Pelletier

It is time for a **40th year class reunion for '70's** graduates! Barry McGriff and I are planning to get a meeting together with those persons interested in helping to make plans. If you are

a member of the graduating class of 1970 and are interested in a reunion this summer please call me at 256.734.8219. Leave a message if I'm not home and I will get back to you.

1971

Class contact: Rickey Kreps

rickeyk@oecullman.com

Loretta J. Dotson Valdez

My first grandchild was born this morning at 5:46 am January 8, 2010. His name is Simon Giles Strickland and weighed in at 7 lbs. 8 oz., 20 inches long. Baby and family are all doing great. I am now living in Michigan.

1972

1973

Richard Taylor

I would like to mention in your news letter that I appreciate being able to finally getting in contact with some of my school mates through Facebook. This past year I finally became a grandfather to a beautiful little boy name Luke Richard McEachin. My oldest daughter is pregnant with twins due at the end of March. Be careful what you wish for, but I am now blessed with grand kids.

Time to start spoiling. I celebrated my 40th year of playing drums professionally and I have been a Video Engineer with the nations leading cable provider for 16 years. My wife and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary last year in Jamaica. I plan on coming to next years class reunion for the first time in 37 years. Even though I'm up here in Michigan I still support the Bearcats, and when University of Michigan is not doing so well, I support University of Alabama ROLL TIDE!!

1974

Class contact: Ellen Stubblefield

estubble@yahoo.com

Lisa K. Moran, class of '74. Living in Nashville, TN the past 5 1/2 years. Contemplating a warmer climate (Florida perhaps) in the next year or two. My dad, Mickey Moran, who was the Navy Recruiter in Cullman from 1970 - 1973 passed on in October of 2009. Some CHS alumnae knew him - some he put in the Navy. I do contract computer/project management work. I recently implemented a new business entity system for the Tennessee Secretary of State. I am still working there, currently doing system support and hopefully in the near future adding some other small systems into the new system.

1975

Class Contact: Ian Frost

itfrost@hotmail.com

1976

1977

Class contact: Teri Hansen

dnhansen@charter.net

1978

1979

1980

1981

Class contact: Regina Quick

rmqpc@mindspring.com

1982

Class contact: Jonathan B. Green

green-jb@ieee.org

1983

Class of 1983 would like to recognize **Philip Clemmons** recent promotion to Colonel in the United States Army and his service to our country.

1984

Class contact: Suzanne Harbin

sharbin@cullmanhosting.com

1985

Matt Schoenbachler just published his first book. The title is "Murder and Madness: the Myth of the Kentucky Tragedy.

Byron Morrison passed away this year.

1986

Class contact: Jan Kraft Gaw

Jangaw@aol.com

1987

Class contact: Angie Grayson Solomon
angiedawn87@yahoo.com

Missy Ferguson Wright

Media Specialist, Walker Elementary School
Springdale, Arkansas
Work e-mail:
mwright2@sdale.org
Home e-mail:
stanmissywright@att.net

Family information:
Stan Wright, husband
2 daughters:
Savannah Jane Wright
Abigail Grace Wright

1988

Class contact: Lynn Gordon Edmonds
Elmirajones@aol.com

Darren Pettie, just finished a play, Melissa James Gibson's "THIS," at Playwrights Horizons in New York. He currently lives in Brooklyn.

1989

Class contact: Deborah Kraft
deborahmkraft@yahoo.com

1990

Class contact: Susan Nielsen Bowen
susanandbryan5@aol.com

Dana Pettie Atchison

I am currently finishing my master's degree in Special Education at Valdosta State University. I live in Alpharetta, GA with my ten year old son. My son recently came in second place in a YouTube video contest. His videos can be seen at www.moagonyjunior.com He is quite the little celebrity at school!

Brian Hagood

Hello from Memphis! It's been several years since I have submitted something for the newsletter. I figured I would "prep the battlefield" on the eve of our 20 year graduation anniversary by letting everyone know what's been up with the Hagood's. I am still married to the wonderful Cecelia Hagood of Russellville (who by the way Cullman can never beat in football). We're going on 16 years! My daughter's Lauren (10) and Lydia (7) are awesome young ladies. I spend a lot of time coaching them in soccer and basketball. My wife is currently a Music Educator in the Shelby County School System in the Memphis, TN area, and I am an Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Memphis. After three deployments to Iraq since 2003, I was blessed to

land a more peaceful job for the time being. I spent a total of 10 years as an active duty Army Officer and am currently a Major in the Tennessee National Guard. Yes, I am still a Crimson Tide fan! Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is released, we'll be celebrating another National Championship. Roll Tide! Yes, I am on facebook, but I am not good at checking my page and updating the info (too busy chasing kids and cleaning the pool). My family and I spend most of our time going on adventures, fishing, duck hunting and playing sports. Hope we have a 20 year reunion. I look forward in reconnecting with some old friends. Take care and may your days be richly blessed. You can contact me at bhagood@memphis.edu.

1991

Beunka Evans Newton

I am married and live in McCalla, AL. I just recently celebrated my 12th wedding anniversary. My husband, Mark, and I both are Pharmacists in Birmingham. We had our first child (a boy) July 2008, named Reed.

Karen D. Cook

Hometown - Hanceville AL
Three children - Hope Olivia, Elizabeth Lily and David James Bailey
Funeral Director at Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home, Birmingham AL
Assistant Team Leader with S-MORT (State Mortuary Operations Response Team)
Assistant Booker for The Heaton Brothers Band

Nicole Brown Hetrick

My daughter, Maggie Hope Alexandra Hetrick, was born May 15, 2008. Maggie Hope joined her big brother, Jackson, who turned 10 in November. I also started a new business this year: Charming Nicole Jewelry.

Tannis Tankersley McCombs (Class of '91) and Brian McCombs (Class of '90) welcomed their new daughter, Ava Cate, June 2008. They have another daughter, Hayden Claire, who is now 7.

1992

Class contact: Beth Michael Solze
ElizabethSolze@aol.com

1993

Class contact: Ashley Holt Green
ashleyhgreen@adelphia.net

1994

Class Contact: Jennifer Huffstutler Parker
gnjayparker@bellsouth.net

Dee Black

Hello Gang. Andrea and I had a great time at the 15 year reunion. There were some classmates there that could not attend the 10 year and that was good to see. I hope everyone makes plans to attend the 20 year because it will be our best chance to have fun again. I want to thank the ladies that put it all together. They did a great job.

Just in case you haven't talked to me in a while I got married in 2008 on July 26th at Ross Bridge in Birmingham. If anyone wants my info here it is. Or if anyone comes to the Auburn area please give me a call.

Dee Black

1207 Sawyer Drive

Opelika AL 36801

2567102388

sputtermill@yahoo.com

1995

Class contact: Summer L. (Roberts) Kemp

summerlou98@aol.com

1996

Class contact: Joe Lambert

lambe012@bama.ua.edu

Stephanie Nolen Usher

Still working at Brookwood Medical Center, 1 1/2 year old son "Lane"..Love being a mom! It is the best thing that has ever happened to me!!

1997

Class contact: Laura Barnes

lkabarnes@yahoo.com

Amy (Smith) Alexander

My husband, Bo Alexander, and I would like to announce the birth of our son, Case Ingram Alexander, born June 3rd, 2009.

Brandea Burks

I have gotten married, my name is now Brandea Burks Covell.

1998

Class contact: Misty Angle

mlynnangle@hotmail.com

Kelly Brock

This has been an exciting year! My husband and I traveled the world for three years while we were living in London, and we took off the entire month of October 2009 to rent a car and drive around Europe. We visited 11 different cities and countries, and our trip culminated with my 30th birthday celebration in Berlin, where some friends of ours from London flew in to celebrate with us and see us off back to the US. We landed Stateside on November 1st and are now back for good (or at least for the foreseeable

future!). We and our two dogs are getting settled in here in Atlanta, and I've started a new job – a marketing position with law firm Arnall Golden Gregory.

Leslie McDade

Hello Class of 98, Things are going well here in Nashville. I now have another job in addition to the theater job. I work at Ruby Tuesdays in Brentwood as a Hostess and I am loving every minute of it. By the summer I am leaving the movie theater and going full-time with Ruby Tuesdays. I hope everything is going well with everybody and I wish you a Happy New Year.

1999

Class contact: Schenaye Mauldin

csmauldin@hotmail.com

2000

Class of 2000 is having a reunion labor day weekend 2010 more details to come.

The CHS Class of 2000 will have a 10 year Reunion on Saturday September 4, 2010. Please contact Lauren Heatherly Rhodes for information. laurenheatherly@hotmail.com or Cell # 256-338-6767

Amanda Cernosek married Chris Herrick on New Years Eve in Temple, TX

Meghan (Jones) Creasey

Just a little update on myself and whats going on with my family. My son, Dakota, is doing very well in school,A/B honor roll. He's now in Cub Scouts as well as recently finishing his 3rd year of football for Vinemont Youth Football Association. We've had a pretty good year in 2009. We bought our first home and have been doing our own renovations to it. Slow going but we're getting there. Not really anything more exciting than that has been going on for us, but I have been trying to get in touch with some old friends. I saw Sheena Sartin and Blair Jackson, both of them are doing well. I look forward to hopefully seeing everyone at a 10 year reunion in the new year if one is planned. All my love to everyone.

Leslie Dellinger Mertz is expecting a baby boy in mid-March. She and her husband live in Murfreesboro, TN.

2001

2002

Class Contact: Austin Hall

ahall@gray.com

2003

Ashley Vest Moore

I would like to include the birth of my daughter, her name is Ava Grace Moore and she was born on 4/13/09.

Emily Hayes

I am entering my second year with WZEW and WNSP here in Mobile. I am the on air talent for Zew and produce for NSP. I finished second place in the Category of "DJ who's voice leads you to believe you want to see them naked" for the city paper (Lagniappe). These awards affectionately called the Nappies (they recognize everything from restaurants to music venues to sassy homeless folk and politicians) are very prestigious and I must say I was flattered. Personally-I am not married, I have no kids and I couldn't be happier to have the ability to live my life and not be tied down. That being said, I've got a project in the works for overseas. More on that when it is time for the next newsletter. Ah, and at the end of the month, my bar stool at my favorite bar in Mobile (The Blind Mule) will have a brass plate with my name on it celebrating the year anniversary of when I became their "Norm".

Once again a special thanks to all of the class contacts for their help in putting together the January 2010, Alumni Newsletter. If your class doesn't have a class contact send the information that you want listed in the newsletter directly to me: whbagley@bellsouth.net If your class isn't listed in the newsletter it is because that class has never submitted information to be included in the newsletter.

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

Cullman City Schools Foundation

Who We Are

Cullman City Schools Foundation is a community partnership of individuals, businesses, industry, civic organizations, and education professionals committed to promoting academic opportunities and educational excellence within Cullman City Schools.

What We Do

Cullman City Schools Foundation strives to provide grants to CCS educators for worthwhile and long-lasting projects so that all of our teachers, students, parents, and the entire community may benefit from the CCS Foundation's efforts. Cullman City Schools Foundation seeks to provide funding for enrichment of all types; enrichment that may not otherwise be available to our entire school community--from Cullman City Head Start to Cullman High School.

Cullman City Schools Foundation
PO Box 1323
Cullman, AL 35056

visit our website

www.cullmancityschoolsfoundation.org

From the editor's desk:

Bill Bagley