



# ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Association



P.O. Box 152578 • Arlington, Texas 76015  
www.ahscolts-alumni.org

Volume 20, Issue 2

Spring 2016

## THE 19TH ANNUAL ALUMNI OPEN HOUSE



**ALUMNI CHOIR** meets to rehearse at 9:00 in Choir Room. All former choir members are welcome.

**ALUMNI BAND** plays at various events throughout the year at several venues. To join, contact **Tanya Terrell-Weideman, '81**, [shadowlr@swbell.net](mailto:shadowlr@swbell.net).



**SATURDAY • JUNE 11, 9:00 - 12:00 • AHS CAFETERIA**



Special guests include Reunion **Classes of 1956, 1961**, the Golden Anniversary **Class of 1966**; Alumni Scholars and Distinguished Colts for 2016.

Pictured left is **Class of 1964** assembling on risers for their 50th reunion photo. Right are 2014 Scholars, **Bailey Harris and Rebekah Tate**.



### *President's Letter*

With "hearts that are brave and true" the AHS Alumni Association Board of Directors was honored and thrilled to be invited to meet with AISD Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos and Trustee **Bowie Hogg, '96**.

Dr. Cavazos presented the scope of the ongoing bond work, particularly, that which is earmarked for Arlington High. In addition to the MAC (Multi-purpose Activity Center, pictured at right) being built on the west side of the campus, AHS is getting major upgrades to Fine Arts, technology connectivity, athletic dressing rooms, parking lots, heating and air-conditioning, fire alarms, plumbing, windows, doors, landscaping. Thank you voters of Arlington and the AISD! For more information and more pictures, go to [www.aisd.net/bond/](http://www.aisd.net/bond/).



MAC seen from the air to be completed this year. Football practice field upper right.

school campuses, the second-oldest one—ours!—has not been allowed to decline. This makes it a good school environment for its district neighborhoods **AND** for the **727** students who **TRANSFERRED IN** to AHS for this year.

Since both the district and the city support its public

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That fact alone speaks volumes about the magnetic draw of Arlington High School and the steady spread of its **SPiRiT**, **PRiDE**, and **TRADiTiON**. All this assures us Arlington High will remain the successfully diverse school it has become with students from every part of town who love being AHS Colts!

See you at Alumni Open House where you can see the improvements on campus for yourselves!

Remember to save the date—June 11—and join the hundreds of AHS alumni celebrating their Colt heritage. Looking forward to seeing you there. **KICK ‘EM, COLTS!**



**Ana F. Pettit,**  
**Class of 1974**

## Milestones

**Louise Meiers Nelson, '51**, November 2015...**Wayne Hopkins, '54**, March...**Gloria Powell Neal, '56**, December 2015...**Tricia Flenniken Box, '57**, February...**Ben Whitten, '57**, February...**Steve Osgood, '63**, April...**Robert Cain, '64**, February...**Vernon Russell, '68**, August 2015...**John Balfour, '71**, February...**Daniel DeFrank, '78**, April...**\*Mike Semler, '80**, June 2012...**Sam Schultz, '95**, March.

**\*Mike Semler**, head of Royal Caribbean's reservation center, was memorialized recently when the cruise line named their call center after him. On Facebook his classmates



remembered Mike, who died suddenly and unexpectedly at 50, as the boy “we all loved” with “a great heart.” Recently, classmate **Lori Richman** found this photo of the site.



**Kevin Day** has a big celebration planned for his 20th birthday on Feb. 23. The **Arlington High School Class of 2014** alumnus and TCU sophomore will be at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas to hear the Dallas Wind Symphony perform the composition “Fireworks.”

It's not just any composition – it's *his* composition.

“Fireworks” was selected from hundreds of entries in the Dallas Wind Symphony 2015 Fanfare Contest. Hundreds of entries from around the world, that is. Now Day, a music performance major at TCU, will hear his composition played by the symphony featuring world-renowned trombone player Joseph Alessi. “I'm blessed and shocked,” said Day, who was in band at Hill Elementary, Bailey Junior High and Arlington High School.

Day's composition, which he wrote in two days, was one of seven selected by the screening committee. The pre-concert Fanfare has been a Dallas Winds tradition since 2000. The compositions are usually short and lively, designed to set a festive mood in the lobby prior to the main concert. Fanfare isn't just for patrons coming in and heading toward their seats inside – many gather on the concert hall steps to listen.

“Kevin is an extraordinary young talent and a gifted composer,” TCU Director of Bands Bobby Francis said. “Even renowned composer John Mackey, composer in residence at TCU last spring, was impressed and predicted Kevin would become a great success in the world of music and composition.”

Arlington High School Director of Bands Michael Hejny called the honor “a really, really big deal. It's the beginning of many great things for him.”

Day, who comes from a musical family (father is a producer; mother taught him piano), plays the tuba, euphonium, piano, drums, guitar and bass. “I have had so much support,” Day said. “Not just from my parents but also from my high school and grade school and the teachers at TCU. They want you to do well and do what they can to get you where you want to go. It's a blessing. I don't take it for granted.”

Above: Kevin Day poses on the TCU campus. He plays in the TCU Wind Symphony and in the Horned Frog Marching Band. (copy courtesy of Arlington ISD)





Thank you, **Peggy Martin**, for the pictures on this page.



### Code Green Week

—a tradition to celebrate AHS and all its Colts—debuted in 2012. Occurring every four years, this no-holds-barred explosion of Colt spirit gives every student a chance to experience once during their four years at AHS its **SPRIT, PRIDE, TRADITION** in

a week where everyone—students, staff, administration—knows they belong to **THE** Arlington High. What Colts say about Code Green: “The tight sense of community at AHS bloomed for me during Code Green Week my sophomore year.” — “During Code Green Week the entire school was on fire with pride and love for AHS.”

The AHS Alumni Association has given \$1,000 to each Code Green Week and with your continued support will be able to do so again in 2020.



*\$\$ Money Matters \$\$*

**\$118,873.05**

*Since 2003, the total amount of scholarship dollars awarded to 64 graduating seniors.*

**\$63,200.00**

*Grant funding supporting the Arlington ISD Education Foundation dedicated to grants for Arlington High School or the elementary and junior high schools full of future Colts.*

**\$33,992.60**

*Code Green 2012 & 2016 · Colt Band Color Guard uniforms · Booster Club support · events for staff and students · Cash for Classrooms · Memorial for Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Colonel Neel Kearby, '28 · PTA Courtyard Renovation*

**\$21,680.45**

**OUR GIFTS TO ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND STAFF  
FEBRUARY 1996 - MAY 2016**

**Arlington High School Alumni Association  
Budget 2016**

	<u>2016 Budget</u>
BEGINNING BANK BALANCE	
Operating Account	\$14,810.92
Scholarship Fund Account	871.37
(Per December 31, 2014 Bank Balances)	\$15,682.29
INCOME (RECEIPTS) -	
RECEIPTS	\$17,000.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$17,000.00
EXPENDITURES -	
A NEWSLETTER COST	\$ 3,000.00
B POSTAGE & PERMITS	1,000.00
C SPECIAL EVENTS-	
Open House & Homecoming	1,200.00
D LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL	250.00
E GIFTS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS	8,400.00
F COST OF PINS/CAPS/T-SHIRTS	600.00
G PROMOTION, ADS & WEBPAGE	1,250.00
H PAYPAL FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES	200.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$15,900.00
CASH FLOW (INCREASE[DECREASE])	\$ 1,100.00
ENDING BANK BALANCE	\$16,782.29

The 2016 budget was presented by outgoing treasurer Rusty Ward and approved by the AHS Alumni Association Board of Directors on January 12.



## Alumni Scholar Update

**K**ayla Estes, '15, exclaims, "My first semester of college was great!" She attributes that success to the great relationships she had with her teachers at Arlington High. The closeness of those relationships led her to choose Dallas Baptist University as her college. Furthermore, because she maintained a tremendously busy schedule in high school, she was not overwhelmed by the amount of work and activities at DBU. "Time management was one of the most important tools I was given at AHS."



To the 2016 seniors, Kayla advises them to take advantage of dual credit. Never forget every grade matters. Tour colleges until you know you have found the perfect one. Take lots of pictures, and spend time with friends; they won't be nearby forever.

Kayla's major in biology is unchanged because "the Lord has reaffirmed my decision to go into the medical field. Although the classes are challenging, I know that it will all be worth it in the end. Since starting at DBU, I have grown closer to the Lord, joined a sorority, made amazing friends, and learned to appreciate home-cooking!"

To Kayla's successful first semester add this surprise. "I never realized the cost of college would be so tremendous. I am so grateful for this scholarship that helped offset the cost of my tuition."



**J**ana Ahmad, '15, reports that her major is still business at UTA. She advises the current crop of seniors at AHS to apply for as many scholarships as they can. "You may think you're not going to get it, but you could be surprised." Like Kayla, Jana says, "Enjoy these last few months of high school; you'll definitely miss it."

**C**eleste Campbell, '12, graduates from TCU this Spring with a degree in accounting. After her current internship with a large accounting firm in Dallas ends in March, she hopes to receive an offer from them.

Celeste scheduled two extracurricular opportunities which combined advantageously for her. During her freshman year, she and 31 other students were selected for the BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe) Neeley Leadership Program. The skill set for leadership taught her, among other things, "to reflect on both her triumphs and failures." Through this program her cohort has traveled to Chicago, London, and Scotland learning from speakers including the former CEO of BNSF Railways.

Her leadership skills proved valuable in her position as president of the TCU Women's Club soccer team when she created eight new positions and established an Executive Board.



The club played in the national tournament in Phoenix, raising more than \$10,000 to defray its expenses.

In addition, she volunteered her cohort to revamp the Neeley Basketball Tournament on campus. The purpose was to offer a chance for faculty and students to relate outside the classroom. Since Neeley's motto is "Making Business Personal," she used that as the foundation for the tournament. Celeste's version of this event saw competition expand to 120 participants on 15 self-selected teams.

*Editor's note: Celeste is pictured above, third from right with her club team. Here she is shown with the editor at Open House in 2012. Celeste was the first recipient of the Cathy Bontley Brown scholarship. Aren't we lucky*



*to have the opportunity to support outstanding Colt Alumni Scholars like Celeste, Kayla, and Jana through our AHS Alumni Association? Always remember, the more members we bring into the Association, the more*

*"Celestes" we can help.*

**Recruitment is the key to helping more future Colts make their way through college. YOU hold the key!**

**Recruit, Recruit, Recruit new members for your**

**ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!**

## Grant Day



From left: Principal Tiffany Benavides, Paul Swartz, Arlington Education Foundation Director Brian White, Sharron Merrill, Mac Martin, teacher Mark Cooper, Doris Whitlock, Kathy Einhaus, Leslie Recine, and our president Ana Pettit.

**A**rlington High School Alumni Association funded another AISD Education Foundation grant in 2016. Mark Cooper, teacher at Bailey Junior High—which funnels 100% of its students to AHS—received \$3,666 with \$2,500 donated by **us!** His project titled “Shake, Rattle & Roll (Engineering for Earthquakes)” is a project-based activity engaging students in problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity. Students will investigate and design structures to be tested in a simulated earthquake environment and will analyze the results of the activity.

Back in 1996, our Association formed under the umbrella of the AISD Education Foundation. Within a couple of years, we declared our independence, but have continued to support AHS and its feeder schools through the grant mechanism of the Foundation.

## Membership &amp; Donations

## MEMORIAL MEMBERSHIP

Tom Wheeler, '69,  
by Judy Johnson, '60

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Diana Nation Shelton

NEW MEMBER

Blake Wade, '06

## GENERAL FUND

Bobby & Sandra Cahill  
Andy & Karen Chambers  
Gene & Maudie Lam

**COLTS ROUND-UP**  
2016

## AHS Alumni Association New Member Form

S2016

Join online at: [www.ahscolts-alumni.org](http://www.ahscolts-alumni.org)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_ GENERAL FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP FEES \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNUAL

Individual = \$25 with \$15 annual renewal

Household = \$35 with \$15 annual renewal

Payable To: AHS ALUMNI \* P.O. Box 152578 \* Arlington, Texas 76015 \* 817.879.7162 \* [ahs\\_alumni@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ahs_alumni@sbcglobal.net)

## LIFE

Individual = \$125 paid once

Household = \$175 paid once

## MEMORIAL FOR DECEASED

\$35 paid once

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST) (LAST) (MAIDEN)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(STREET)

(CITY) (STATE) (ZIP) (PHONE)

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Form of Payment:  CASH  CHECK

Check your preference:  Newsletter by U.S. Mail  by email notification

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Membership \$35:

(one time only fee for deceased classmate)

(NAME)

(CLASS)



## Reunions

- Class of 1956** · June 11 · Alumni Open House · Lunch David's BBQ · **Carol Sawyer Boring**, 817.460.8359
- Class of 1961** · June 10 & 11 · Friday: Golf for ladies and men · contact **Andy & Linda Wright**, [awtexan@aol.com](mailto:awtexan@aol.com)  
 Evening: casual gathering at Lake Arlington Activity Room · Saturday: Alumni Open House, Upstairs Gallery, White Room · **charmahan61@hotmail.com**, **juanicey@gmail.com**
- Class of 1966** · June 11 · Open House · Ladies' Lunch · Tierra Verde for all · **Jo McGovern**, 817.888.2194 · [arlingtonhsclassof1966@gmail.com](mailto:arlingtonhsclassof1966@gmail.com)
- \***Class of 1971** · September 24 · **Jerrell Womble**, [jwwomble@tx.rr.com](mailto:jwwomble@tx.rr.com)/817.946.9939 · **Gera Banks Winchester**, [gerawinchester@aol.com](mailto:gerawinchester@aol.com)/817.504.0314
- Class of 1981** · September 30 & October 1 · **Facebook: AHS Class of '81** · **Andrew Underwood**, [underwoodunderdogs63@sbcglobal.net](mailto:underwoodunderdogs63@sbcglobal.net), 512.767.8178
- Class of 1986** · No plans yet · **Facebook: Arlington High School Class of 1986, Arlington, TX**
- \***Class of 1996** · TBD, probably October · **Facebook: Arlington High Ninety-Six**
- Class of 2006** · July 29-30 · Friday: JGilligans · Saturday: Reception/picnic in AHS cafeteria · Evening at Grease Monkey · **Facebook: AHS Colts Class of 2006 Reunion** · **Annie Williams**, [annieray14@gmail.com](mailto:annieray14@gmail.com)

\* Both these classes wanted to schedule for Homecoming weekend. With that date set for the Friday of Labor Day weekend, both groups punted to later in the fall.

### Arlington High School ~ History 101 ~ Spirit—Pride—Tradition



**Aydia and Elijah Terrell** model letter jackets won by their grandfather, Life Member **Ron Coker, Class of 1963**. In Ron's day Ousley Junior High was located in the first building to house Arlington High School on Cooper and Abram. That first AHS campus opened in 1923 from its previous location in the South Side school which also contained the elementary grades. The only other school at that time was the North Side School which served first through eighth grades. This school was eventually renamed Kookken. AHS moved to its current campus in 1956 and today is second only to Kookken as the oldest campus in town. In 1968, the Ousley staff and students moved into Bailey Junior High. Old AHS was sold to UTA where it houses the School of Social Work. Many years later, AISD honored—for a second time—AHS English/journalism teacher **Emma Ousley** as a namesake for a brand-new junior high school. **Elijah** and **Aydia** just might earn their own letters from Arlington High School in the **Classes of 2024 and 2026**.

### Arlington High School ~ Spirit—Pride—Tradition ~ Lasting 50+ years

As a follow up celebration to their 50th reunion in 2014, **Colts, Class of '64** and friends got together for a cruise to Cozumel in January. Since Erin's World View Travel business organized such a fun trip, plans are underway for an Alaska adventure in 2017. **'64 Colts just keep on kickin'!**



Back Row: Vicky Pollock, **Aaron Pollock**, '69, **Joe Beaver**, **Joe Harvey**, Dave Adama, **Sharon Crowder Adama**, **RJ (Buddie) Hrabal**, Gail Davis; Front Row: Linda Kearney, Dee Beaver, **Sherry Rothermel Harvey**, **Sue Pierce Jones**, **Cynthia Jennings Henry**, **Larry Henry**, **Susie Peterson Dixon**, Don Dixon, **Erin Hawkes Chaney**, Mark Chaney.

# Alumni Open House ~ 1997 - 2015



Alumni Open House first used the auditorium for its venue. A few years later, we used the old cafeteria for both the program and refreshments. When the cafeteria was demolished, we moved to Gym B. In 2013, we settled in the fantastic new cafeteria. Wherever we are, we are so glad to be there, celebrating our history and our love for AHS.



## Alumni Association Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

- President: Ana Pettit, '74
- Vice-President: Blake Wade, '06
- Secretary: Debbie Koehl Ericson, '68
- Treasurer: Verne Hargrave, '68

### CHAIRPERSONS

- Membership: Sharron Chapman Merrill, '61
- Corresponding Secretary: Karen Giorgio Logos, '68
- Webmaster: Mac Martin, '61
- Growth & Development: Heather McMillen, '90
- Product Sales: Paul Swartz, '59
  - Assistant: Linda Garner Gipson, '61
- Reunions: Doris Collard Whitlock, '59
- Distinguished Colts: Jerrell Womble, '71
- Special Events: Erin Hawkes Chaney, '64
- Newsletter: Michelle Barlen, CBC
  - Editor: Cathy Bontley Brown, '63
- Scholarship: Peggy Martin, '66
- July 4th Parade: Kathy Einhaus, '69
- Archives: Leslie Cox Recine, '81
- Alumni Band: Tanya Terrell-Weidemann, '81
- Member-at-large: Mike Enger, '74



Boards members and AISD luminaries: Mac, Verne, Bowie Hogg, Leslie, Kathy, Doris, Jerrell, Superintendent Cavazos, Debbie, Sharron, Ana, Paul, Peggy, Tanya, Blake



The Directors listen carefully to Dr. Cavazos and to Bowie as they detail the bond allocations for Arlington High School.



Thanks to archivist Leslie Recine for photos.