



Making it Happen

Alumni giving provides CHS grads chance to pursue dreams

See Inside, Pages 4-5



2012



GRADUATION 2022
See Page 8 For More Photos



2022

Linking the Past, Present and Future



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- Amy Blaser**, Class of '88, Vice President
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- Annie Sokol**, Class of '98
- Abbi Hellbusch**, Class of '02
- Amy Blaser**, Class of '86
- Morgan Kapels**, Class of '05
- Cara Barnett**, Class of '98
- Megan Valorz**, Class of '03

Past, Present, Future

On The Cover: (2012) Columbus High School graduates enter the current middle school gymnasium, during the 2012 Commencement. **(2022)** Members of the class of 2022 walk in front of a full house at CHS during their graduation ceremony on May 22.

Stay in Touch



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@CHSAnchorAlumni

www.cpsanchor.com

The Columbus Public Schools Alumni Association wants to help link the past, present and future alumni and students by keeping in touch. Check out our pages for an easy way to stay connected daily.

A Legacy Secured



Columbus High School principal David Hiebner (pictured left), watches as a portion of the Academic Hall of Fame is installed. The beam, which came from the former Kramer High School, will be fixed alongside the Discoverers of Distinction in the entry at the high school.

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Athletic Hall of Fame to induct class of '22; banquet scheduled

Join Columbus Public Schools Foundation in the excitement as we celebrate all of the athletic achievements that have been accomplished while attending CHS.

The Discoverers Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, August 25. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., Rivers Edge Convention Center, 265 33rd Ave, Columbus. But come early, (doors open at 5:30) to catch up with all the attendees.

[Click here to register!](#)

Or visit: <https://bit.ly/3M1aQkk>

2022 Inductees

Meritorious

Dick Luebbe
Verl Wertz

Coach

Betsy Rall

Athletes

Craig Thalken, Class of 1984
Bill Bomberger, Class of 1966
Tom Alt, Class of 1982
Steve Sliva, Class of 1984
Nick Gragert, Class of 1997
Cathy Luebbe, Class of 1995
David Kincaid, Class of 1970
Mitch Slusarski, Class of 1990
Ben Tryba, Class of 1921
Clarence Miller, Class of 1922
Paul Insinger, Class of 1925
Elmer Brock, Class of 1926
Merle Hasselbalch, Class of 1927
Harry Hall, Class of 1930
Elmer Hall, Class of 1932
Charles Brock, Class of 1935
Richard Davis, Class of 1935
James E. "Tom" Brock, Class of 1939
Kenneth Johnson, Class of 1939
Ted Kenfield, Class of 1942
Clarence Gates, Class of 1944

Teams

1988 Boys Tennis State Champions

John Clemons, Ray Hoffart, Ryan Bargaen, Chad Swantz, Mark Bordy, Cory Hunzeker, Rob VanFossen, Chad Hunzeker, Lee Steinbrook, Christ Roth, Steve Scheidegger, John McPhail, Eric Mueller and
Coach Gary Duranski

2004 Girls Volleyball State Runner Up

Kristin Micek Weinand, Amanda Iwansky, Heidi Zoucha, Liz Creighton McKelvey, Brooke Ramboour Cemper, Angie Baker Phillips, Morgan Pillen Kapels, Paige Massman, Jill Micek Ainsworth, Amanda Gates Sjuts, Amber Kobus and Karlee Nadrchal Eaton
Coach Betsy Rall, **Assistant Coach** Wendy Willets Shotkoski,
Assistant Coach Keith Spiehs

1989 Girls Dbl Tennis State Champs: Marie Srb Kapels & Cindy Srb Tederman

1982 Boys Dbl Tennis State Champs: Brad Scheidegger & Carey Castner



The CPS Foundation is now part of the Benevity Causes Portal making it easier for our alumni who work for over 750 fortune 500 companies to support Columbus Public Schools.



27th Annual

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DISCOVERERS SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB

Golf Tournament & Silent Auction

Saturday, August 6, 2022

Elks Country Club - Noon - Shotgun Start

\$100 per person entry fee.

(18 holes, 1/2 cart, mulligans & two meals provided)

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sbarnett@midstateengineering.com



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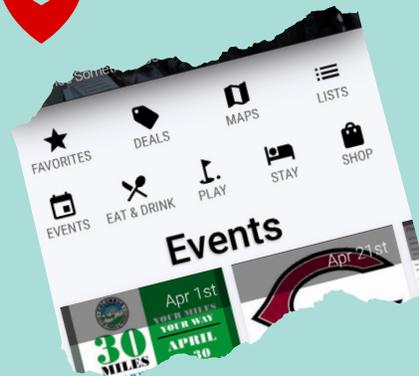
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Making it Happen

Alumni giving provides CHS graduates chance to pursue dreams

Over the years, Columbus Public Schools has produced thousands of graduates who are a testament to our school district's high quality. Some of our alumni have set up CPS Foundation scholarships so that other graduates can pursue their educational dreams. Here are a few of the alumni who have chosen this path.



Jim Crebbin

Class of 1973

Anton Micek-Vincent Mausbauch Memorial Scholarship and The Discoverer Way Scholarship

Jim established his scholarship in memory of two very dear family members. "My grandfather, Anton Micek, and my father-in-law, Vincent Mausbach, were both hard-working farmers who raised their families based on solid values," he says. "This memorial scholarship is a great way to honor them both, and at the same time, provide financial assistance to the students at Columbus High.

"The scholarship promotes using the six values my grandfather and father-in-law used in raising their families: Faith, Family, Fellowship, Integrity, Stewardship and Gratitude. The scholarship rewards students who embrace these values and show it in their words and actions."

Jim worked in the financial services industry, most notably for the financial arm of General Motors. He is now retired. He says growing up in Columbus, Nebraska, was a great memory in itself. "The best memories of school center around all the activities you experienced with your classmates," he says. "These memories really do last a lifetime! In addition, the work release program at CPS enabled me to start working full-time jobs at a very early age.

"This helped me mature more and set the stage for me to readily take on new challenges in my work life. I am thankful for these experiences, and have often thought back on them and how they positively impacted me in my career."



Joyce Malena Memorial Scholarship

Jenny Johannes Hascall

Class of 2000

Jenny established her scholarship in memory of her grandmother, Joyce Malena. The award honors female students who not only excel academically, but who are also employed and serve as leaders in their school and community.

"Grandma believed women could do anything they set their minds to, and my mother, Judy Johannes, instilled these same beliefs in me," Jenny said.

"Mom encouraged me to be an independent thinker and leader and to dream big. I want current female

students at CPS to know that they can indeed do anything they set their minds to, and offer some scholarship support to them as they dream big."

Jenny works as the senior administrator for the Departments of Plastic Surgery and Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Kansas Health System in Kansas City, Kansas.

Her fondest memories from high school were serving as a drum major for the CHS marching band and playing the trumpet in the CHS jazz band at basketball games.

Ron Callan Scholarship

Joel Leininger

Class of 1966

Joel says his high school biology teacher, Rob Callan, motivated him to continue a career in science. Now retired, Joel spent many years as a veterinary pathologist and toxicologic pathologist. He worked as a professor at several different colleges, then joined the National Toxicology Program in North Carolina before finally working as a laboratory scientist for the multinational pharmaceutical

company AstraZeneca.

"Mr. Callan's class helped develop the foundation of my lifetime career," he said.

His favorite school memories involve playing on the middle school and high school football teams. "I played only one game in high school," he says. "It was during my senior year. I was the right guard on offense. In one game, the center was told to hold onto the ball during the 'snap,' and I was supposed to grab it and go around the left end.

"Well, it didn't work out, since I fumbled the ball. I never played in another game, but I enjoyed the friendships I had with the teammates."

\$29,050
awarded
in 2022

The 2022 CPS Foundation Scholarship Winners

The CPS Foundation awarded \$29,050 in scholarships at the May 4, 2022 CHS Honors Night. This year's recipients are:

Nielsen Family Scholarship
Grace Holys - \$5000

**Anton Micek/Vincent Mausbach
Memorial Scholarship**
Alexandria Freshour - \$2500
Cole Hottovy - \$1500
Caleb Smith - \$1000.

The Ron Callan Scholarship
Briana Marques - \$2500

Class of 1940 War Memorial Scholarship
Ean Luebbe - \$2,000

**Christopher Saalfeld
Memorial Scholarship**
Colby Salak - \$1800

**Sara Rae Claborn
Memorial Scholarship**
Caleb Paden - \$1500

**Columbus United Federal Credit Union
Scholarship**
Hannah Kwapnioski - \$1000

**Edward A Babka
Foundation Scholarship**
Claire Renner - \$1000

Speice Scholarship
Anthony Mudloff - \$1000

Wilson-Covert Centennial Scholarship
Addison Rosno - \$1000
Jacey Hughes - \$1000

**Speice Memorial Scholarship
to Benefit the Trades**
Kyson Krepel - \$500

**Discoverers Athletic Hall of
Fame Scholarship - Female**
Logan Kapels - \$500

**Discoverers Athletic Hall of
Fame Scholarship- Male**
Blake Thompson - \$500

**Future Educator
Class of 1969 Scholarship**
Nicole Hackett - \$500

The Discoverer Way Spirit Award
Ashton LaPointe - \$500

Don Schupbach Memorial Scholarship
Caleb Smith - \$500



Nielsen Family Scholarship

Leslie Nielsen Hitchner
Class of 1979

Supporting the CPS Foundation is a family affair for Leslie. Her parents, Ed and Jolaine Nielsen, and her aunt, Roberta Saalfeld, have all generously given to help students continue their education.

"Colleges and universities are expensive for most families," Leslie said, "and I wanted to continue that tradition to have a scholarship that would help defray a little bit of the costs.

"Each year the foundation shows me the profiles of some of the students who apply and receive scholarships, and I see how

difficult a decision it is for them to choose who it should go to."

Leslie now lives in New Jersey and is vice chairman of the board of trustees at Monmouth University in Long Branch, New Jersey.

She has three children who now live in Seattle, Denver and the Bahamas, and she has traveled the world with them.

She says some of her favorite memories from Columbus High School are her friends, the sports teams and figuring out how to get through Mr. Dixon's chemistry class.



Lanny Neese Memorial Wrestling Scholarship

Tom Sackett
Class of 1980

When Tom heard about his former wrestling coach Lanny Neese's declining health, he decided to do something he'd been thinking about for years: He established a scholarship in Lanny's name. Initially, he wanted to honor both Lanny and his friend Doug Rice, who passed away shortly after graduation.

However, he heard that Lauri Rice Echelberger was establishing a scholarship to honor her brother, so he created the second scholarship in Lanny's memory.

Tom worked for more than 26 years as a sergeant in the Douglas County Sheriff's Office in Omaha, Nebraska. Now, he

works in protective service work as a contractor.

He loves spending time with his two grown sons and his true love, whom he met four years ago. He says his best memories from school are the great teachers, classmates, and friends he had.

"Athletically, my best memory was making a huge comeback in a wrestling match during a tournament in Columbus," he said. "I was down 11-2 and came back to win 14-12. The gym was packed, as always, and the fans were the loudest I ever heard. We had terrific support! Our team winning two state championships had to be the best, though."

Rice Family Memorial Wrestling Scholarship

Lauri Rice Eichelberger
Class of 1977

Lauri is a retired opera singer who now lives in Seattle. She created this scholarship to remember three very important people – Lanny Neese, the former CHS wrestling coach who died earlier this year; her brother Mike Rice, a wrestler and member of the Class of 1975 who died in 2020; and her brother Doug Rice, also a wrestler and member of the Class of 1980 who passed away two years after graduation. Both brothers were quite successful in their wrestling careers at CHS.

“I am proud of such amazing brothers,” she said. “It is a great honor to present this scholarship to the next generation.”

Speice Memorial Scholarship Speice Memorial Scholarship for the Trades

Byron Speice
Class of 1955

When Byron retired, he began dedicating his life to supporting organizations in which he believed. That included the CPS Foundation.

He has especially fond memories of Columbus Public Schools because his mother, Margaret Speice, was a teacher in the system during the 1960s and 70s.

When she retired, she was principal of the now-closed Highland Park Elementary School. Byron established the Speice Memorial Scholarship in her memory. He also takes great pride in sharing that his great-grandfather,

Charles Speice, was one of the first settlers in the area and the Platte County superintendent of schools.

Byron graduated from college with a degree in mechanical engineering, and later received a Master of Business Administration degree. He spent most of his career as a high-level manager in several industrial companies.

His fondest memories from school revolve around the sports he played – football, basketball and track. He is especially proud of competing in the state track meet for three different events.

Winners *Continued From Page 5*

Joyce Dohmen Education Scholarship
Nicole Hackett - \$500

Joyce Malena Memorial Scholarship for Female Students
Abby Loeffelholz - \$500

The Trevor Luckey Memorial Scholarships
Anna Ragonese - \$500
Kassidy Heisterman - \$500

The Todd Schlender Memorial Scholarship
Logan Brown - \$250

Pinnacle Bank Scholarship
Ericka Keep - \$250

Pinnacle Bank CCC Scholarship
Kyson Krepel - \$250

Vocal Music Boosters' Scholarship
Gabriela Fuentes-Cabrera - \$250
Carter Braun - \$250

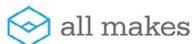


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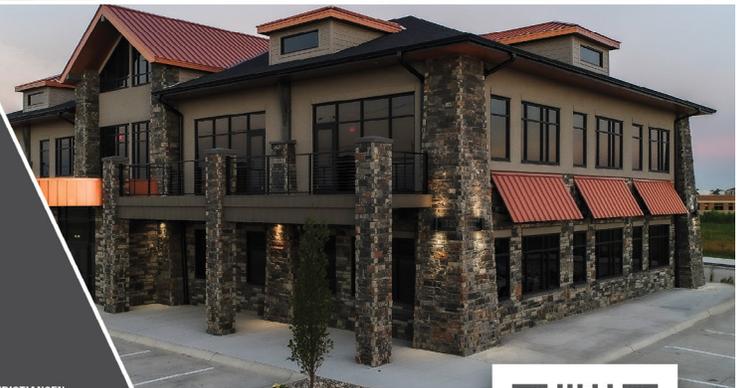


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Time to mark your calendars!

Upcoming CHS Reunions

Class of 1982 - CHS 40th Reunion

You're invited to the 1982, 40th Columbus High School Reunion! Friday and Saturday June 10 and 11, 2022.

Friday, June 10; 4:30 p.m. at Columbus High School
Saturday, June 11; 10-11 a.m. Class of 82 CHS 3-Mile
Donation Walk (at Pawnee Park).

Saturday, June 11; 5 p.m. at Wunderlich's

Who's ready to party like it's 2002?!?!

Class of 2002 20 year class reunion. Join us at 6 p.m., June 18, 2022 at The Oak Room at the Friedhof for live music, cash bar, food, laughs and a great night of fun! \$30 per person by May 1st. Venmo @Ted-Cemper Paypal @cempted.

Please RSVP by May 1st to:

call or text Ted Cemper (817) 600-0574

or ted.cemper@doane.edu

Facebook or Messenger Co-host: Stacy Birkel

1987 - CHS 35th Reunion, August 12-14

Our reunion is the same weekend as Columbus Days Celebration. Hotel blocks and weekend activities to be shared later. Have questions, contact:

Kerry Hicks Calverley at kscalverley@msn.com or
Joan Hembd Dorr at maddied_home@outlook.com.

Please provide your updated contact information using the alumni association update online form <https://www.cpsanchor.com/alumni/update-contact-information.html>.

Class of 1977 - 45 Class Reunion

Saturday, August 20, 2022; 3 p.m. - 1 a.m. at Maximus Restaurant. RSVP by July 1, 2022. Call or Text Steve Aegglen - 402-276-7328; Time Cave - 402-942-1979; Scott Harsh - 402-910-5626; Rick Haney - 402-910-1811; Gina (Milburn) Mickek - 402-943-8759. Please share with other classmates. Can follow on Facebook: Columbus High 1977 40th Reunion.

1972 - 50 Year Reunion

September 22-24, 2022. For more information, contact Larry Kobus at larrykobus@gmail.com

1962 - 60 Year Class Reunion - Save The Date!

Class of 1962 will host a 60 year class reunion on Sept. 25, 2022, in Columbus. More details will be published as the date nears, however, if you have questions please contact

Josette Kluck

by email at blmjkluck@yahoo.com.

Reunion Information

1956 - Meets at 10 a.m. the first Wed. of every month at Stack & Steak for morning coffee. All classmates welcome.

1958 - Class lunch the first Wednesday of every month at noon at Maximus. All classmates and spouses welcome.

1959 - Meets the second Thursday quarterly (January, April, July and October) at Stack n' Steak at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and conversation. Classmates and spouses are welcome.

1960 - Meets the first Tuesday of each month at Maximus at 11:30 a.m.

Let us help you plan your reunion

Find out what we can do for you, today!

Contact: Jen Augustin

PO Box 947, Columbus, NE 68602-0947

Phone: 402-563-7000 ext. 13033

Email: augustinj@discoverers.org



Join us on September 23, 2022
for the **6TH ANNUAL DISCOVERER DASH**
around Pawnee Park Memorial Stadium!

Online Registration Now Open!

www.cpsanchor.com/news-events/discover-dash.html

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GREAT HERITAGE. BRIGHT FUTURE!



Above: CHS graduates await their name called. Right: The New World Singers perform their last song with the senior members.



The Columbus High School Class of 2022 celebrates after they receive their diplomas during Commencement ceremonies May 22.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Columbus High School Class of 2022



It was all smiles (left) for the Class of 2022 as they exit the Columbus High School gymnasium following the May 22 Commencement Ceremonies. Nearly 300 graduates walked across the stage in front of a full-house of family and friends.



CPS 2022 Staff Awards



Clockwise from left are:
Educator of the Year
Tracy Dodson
STS Teacher at CHS

Operations Employee of the Year
Cody O'Berg
Custodian at North Park

Outstanding New Educator
Kelsey Newman
Science Teacher at CHS

Pictured with our winners are superintendent Dr. Troy Loeffelholz (above left) and presenter Brian Christensen ('76), CEO of Columbus United Federal Credit Union.

LET'S GET SOCIAL



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