



# HIGHLANDER HIGHWAY

The official newsletter of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation

Volume XII, Issue I  
January 2019

The Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation will enhance the achievement, heritage and educational opportunities for Oak Hills students and staff by providing alumni and community resources to promote unity and pride, and build a legacy for a stronger community.



Greetings Highlander alumni,

Wow, here we are 60 years later! Oak Hills High School started in 1958 at the building that is now Bridgetown Middle School. At that time there was only a freshman class. The Oak Hills High School at its current location opened its doors in 1959 and the first senior graduating class celebrated in 1961. In these last 60 years, Oak Hills has graduated over 30,000 students. That is a bunch of folks wearing red and black in support of their alma mater!

We certainly have come a long way as we enter into this year of successes and adventures. The students, staff, parents and community of the Oak Hills Local School District will continue to strive to make you proud of our graduates. The Oak Hills Alumni and Educational Foundation exists to enhance the achievement, heritage and educational opportunities for Oak Hills students and staff by providing alumni and community resources to promote unity and pride, and build a

legacy for a stronger community.

The Foundation has been successful in raising funds for several large projects in the past four years. In 2015, we raised money to help build the Green Township Scottie Yard Playground at Oakdale Elementary. This is a beautiful green space that allows children of all abilities to play together. In 2016 we contributed our fundraising efforts to the lone Holt Auditorium Renovation Campaign to help renovate the Oak Hills High School auditorium which is now a state-of-the-art, up-to-date facility. Then in 2017, the Foundation was able to raise the funds to provide musical instruments for each of the five elementary schools in the district. Last spring we donated \$20,000, with your help, to provide Stop-the-Bleed kits for ALL classrooms and transportation vehicles in the district.

The Foundation has been increasingly able to fund more grant requests from teachers due to increased giving from all of you and other partners in the community. These grants exist to provide funds to teachers who are thinking a bit "outside of the box" to enhance their students' experience and desire to learn. In 2015 we were able to fund 21 grant requests and paid out \$12,040. This school year we were able to fund 35 grants (out of 57 grant requests) and paid out \$20,900. Our Foundation has continued to support literacy programs, art, music, civic awareness and STEM programs. Remember your elementary days when you were involved with a musical or an art presentation and how excited you were to show family and friends what you had accomplished? Yes, we help support those as well.

So what can you do? I know you are bombarded, most likely on a daily basis, to give to a charitable organization! Emails flood your inbox and envelopes cover your desk space. Many times we just delete these before even reading or toss them into the trash. And I'm sure you have and will continue to donate to your favorite and deserving charitable entities. Do me a favor, think about the people in and around your K-12th grade educational experiences who helped mold you into the person you are today. Commit to investing in the Oak Hills Alumni and Educational Foundation and give back to the school, the teachers, the coaches, the district that helped make the fantastic YOU that you have become. Let us know if you would like to donate to a specific entity such as a grant of your choosing, particular scholarship or program, or school building and we will make sure your desire is granted. Just think, we have around 30,000 graduates. If each of you gave just the average donation of \$20 per year to help fund excellence in the Oak Hills School District, we could support SO MANY more projects. For those of us who like to dream a little bigger: \$100, \$1,000, \$10,000, \$100,000 or more would allow your alma mater to grow in ways that may not have been conceptualized yet.

Thank you for your time spent reading this letter and for your thoughtfulness in making a decision to give a gift and help leave a legacy.

Respectfully yours,

Joni L. Vest MD '81  
Trustee, Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation

### In this issue:

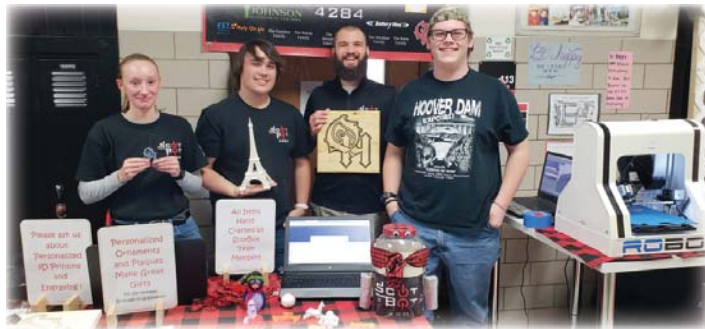
- \* Oakette reunion recap
- \* Boosters Sports Stag
- \* Symphonic Spaghetti Spectacular



Class of 1968 celebrated 50 years in September

### **Oak Hills Band Association vendor fair**

The Oak Hills Band Association spring vendor fair is March 2 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Oak Hills High School. Vendors can register online now at [www.oakhillsbandassociation.org](http://www.oakhillsbandassociation.org). Non-electric booths are \$30/space and booths with electric are \$35/space. If you have questions, contact the Craft Fair Coordinator at [OHBAFairs@gmail.com](mailto:OHBAFairs@gmail.com).



### **The board goes back to school**

In November board members Sherry Gregor, Cheryl Sieve, Joni Vest, Larry Welsh, Mike and Pam Hudson and Jim Schubert went back to school. They visited the media center at Oak Hills High School and participated in some of the makerspace activities coordinated by 2016 Distinguished Staff member and media center specialist Alison Cucchetti, to learn how students are incorporating STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) projects into their daily lessons! We look forward to supporting activities, supplies and lessons involving STEAM in the future. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact [chairman@oakhillsalumnifoundation.org](mailto:chairman@oakhillsalumnifoundation.org).



### **Quality Profile**

For the fifth year in a row, the Oak Hills Local School District proudly released their Quality Profile. We hope you'll take a few minutes to review this impressive report highlighting the #highlanderstrong district! You can find this year's report online at [www.ohlsc.us/parent-resources/about-us-1/quality-profile--17/](http://www.ohlsc.us/parent-resources/about-us-1/quality-profile--17/)



### **Your donations dollars at work**



We are proud to support 35 grant projects this school year. We are impressed by the creativity and ideas of the district teachers and look forward to sharing more with you throughout the year. Several elementary schools delighted audiences with holiday musical productions. You can find the entertaining video clips and pictures on our Facebook page.

### **J.F. Dulles is a National Blue Ribbon School**

On October 1, John Foster Dulles Elementary School was named a National Blue Ribbon School. Last month Rep. Steve Chabot visited the Bears and presented a certificate and American flag flown over the Capitol in Dulles' honor He also read a story to the students, gave a brief government lesson and took questions. It was an exciting day at Dulles! Thank you Representative Chabot. We are so proud of our principals, teachers, staff and students at J.F. Dulles! In addition to this honor, Mrs. Riesenberger received the Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding Leadership. You can find more videos and official press release on the district's Facebook page.



## Oak Hills Athletic Boosters Sports Stag

January 20, 2019

VIP Happy Hour starts at 6:00 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.

General admission event starts at 7:00 p.m.,

doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Emcee: George Vogel

Speaker: Dan Dakich

Location: Oak Hills High School

Featuring: Beverages from 13 Below and Westside Brewing, and local fare.



Dan Dakich played basketball at Indiana University under Bobby Knight from 1982-85 and was team captain during his junior and senior seasons as the Hoosiers finished with an 84-39 record during his career. As a player, he helped Indiana win one Big Ten title, earn three NCAA Championship berths and finish as the NIT runner-up his season year. He is best remembered for his excellent defense against

Michael Jordan in Indiana's upset over North Carolina in the 1984 NCAA East Regional.

Following his playing career, Dakich spent 12 seasons on the Indiana University coaching staff under Bob Knight from 1985-1997. During his tenure, the Hoosiers won a national title in 1987 and earned a spot in the NCAA Championship in each of his 12 seasons. He was head coach at Bowling Green from 1997-2007. At BGSU, he tied for third all-time in victories among Falcon coaches with 156 and also was just one of three coaches in school history to post four 18-plus winning seasons. He also served as the interim head coach at his alma mater following Kelvin Sampson. He currently works for ESPN as a college basketball analyst and is the host of *The Dan Dakich Show*.

WLWT News 5 Sports Executive Producer George Vogel is a Cincinnati-area native who attended Southern State Community College and the University of Cincinnati. He enjoys playing softball, golf, and basketball and is a decent bowler as well. George also enjoys playing computer games and, of course, watching the Reds and Bengals and all University of Cincinnati and Xavier University sports.

This event is sponsored by the Oak Hills Athletic Boosters. For tickets and information visit [www.oakhillssports.com](http://www.oakhillssports.com). Regular priced tickets are \$75 and include, dinner, drinks and entertainment. Raffle baskets and auction items will also be available. We appreciate your support of Oak Hills athletics.

## Class Reunion Review

Is your class hosting a class reunion? Do you need guidance to organize and plan your event? Contact Emily C. Buckley in the Oak Hills alumni office at [513-598-2682](tel:513-598-2682) or [buckley\\_e@ohlso.org](mailto:buckley_e@ohlso.org) for a reunion planning checklist, or find it on our website. Your event will be added to the reunion listings on the website as well as the official Alumni Foundation Facebook page and we'll tweet about it! Reunion information will also be included in future issues of the *Highlander Highway* and the electronic newsletter, *The Tartan Times*, so be sure to keep us updated on your reunion plans and details. Below are the listings of upcoming reunions. Additional details can be found on our website, [www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org](http://www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org).

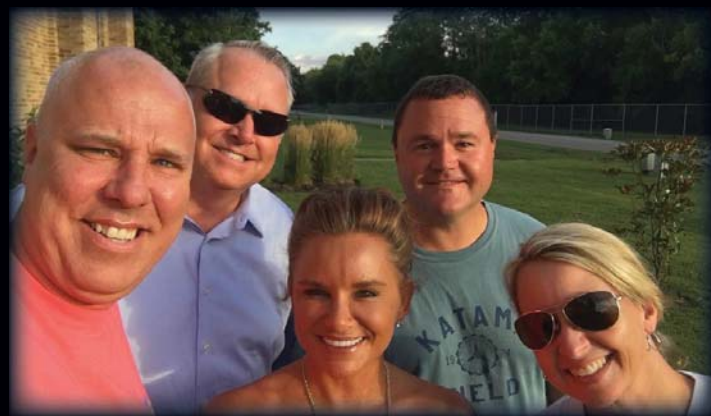
### 2019

**1969:** September 14, 2019 is the date and more details are coming soon. Have questions or want to help? Contact Steve Hill at [stevehill@fuse.net](mailto:stevehill@fuse.net).

**1989 Mega Reunion:** The Oak Hills High School Class of 1989 will hold their 30th reunion at Lunken Airport (4510 Airport Road, Hangar 2) on August 3, 2019. They are inviting all members from the class of '87 - '91 to join in the fun and excitement!

Follow the event Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OHHS89mega/> to stay informed and get frequent updates.

The date is set and the committee [Mike Scherer ('88), Dan Flanigan ('87), Sherry Gregor ('89), Jay Schmalfluss ('89) and Jill Eichorn ('91). Not pictured Nicky Sweet ('90)] are moving forward with fundraising efforts through individuals and business donations and sponsorships. If you'd like to feature your business at this event, please contact the team at [ohhsmegareunion@gmail.com](mailto:ohhsmegareunion@gmail.com).



**2009:** Lisa Waltamath is looking for people to join the reunion planning committee for this summer's 10-year reunion. If interested in helping, contact Lisa at [lisamichelle99@hotmail.com](mailto:lisamichelle99@hotmail.com).

If you don't see your class listed here and you are planning a reunion, please let the alumni office know by emailing [buckley\\_e@ohlso.org](mailto:buckley_e@ohlso.org).

### 2020

**Class of 1970:** A reunion committee has formed. Save the date for fall of 2020. Contact Patty Rauen Overberg to help at [patty\\_p29@hotmail.com](mailto:patty_p29@hotmail.com).

## Thanks for a great golf outing!

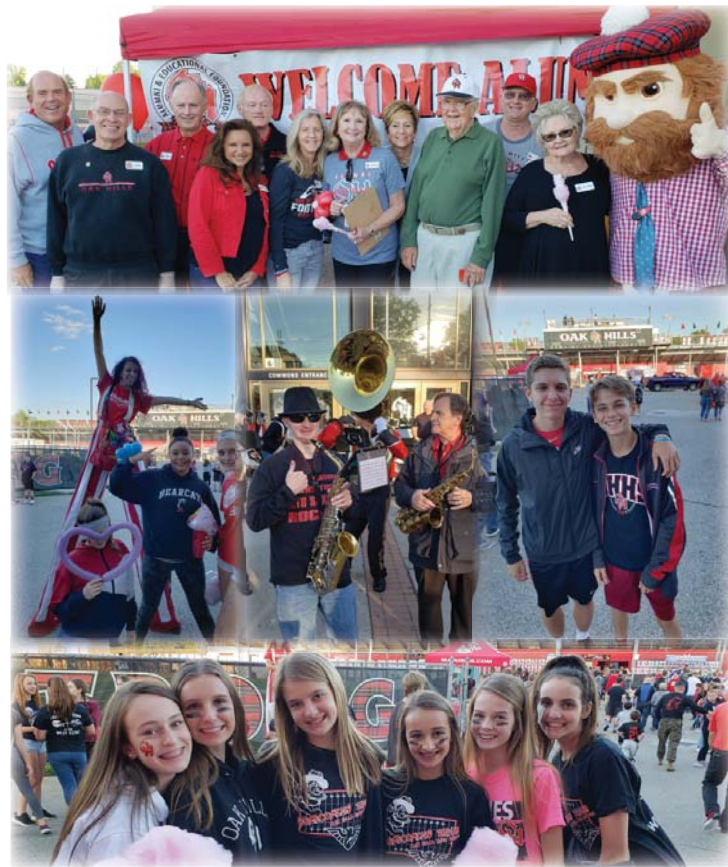
On June 22, the alumni golf outing raised \$12,500 toward our stop-the-bleed kit campaign. The event may have been a little rainy but the spirits of the golfers remained sunny and pleasant. Thank you! We appreciate all of the support from our Oak Hills graduates and community.

Save the date for next year's outing. We'll return to Aston Oaks on **Friday, June 21, 2019**. Registration will open in early spring.



## Homecoming was a hit

The board of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation was pleased to talk with so many of you before the homecoming football game on September 28. The free cotton candy was a hit with guests young and old. Graduates and their children enjoyed balloon hats and animals from Cincinnati Circus and free Highlander swag. We love having our alumni back in Highlander Country. We hope to see you next fall!



To see more photos from the golf outing and homecoming visit our Facebook page. #chooseoakhills

## Highlanders in the Scottish Highlands!



On June 3, 36 Oak Hills educators and graduates took students overseas for a 10-day excursion to visit Ireland and Scotland, with a special trip to the Highlands! Wow, what an experience. They even picked up hats, scarfs and ties in the official Oak Hills plaid ~ Cunningham. How cool is that?

They are pictured above at the Urquhart Castle, after cruising on Loch Ness searching for Nessie, with a *Delhi Press*, of course!

## Highlanders have a new Athletic Director

### Welcome Ben Hageman

Ben Hageman was approved as the new athletic director for the Highlanders by the Oak Hills School Board at the July 10 board meeting.

He is a first-time athletic director who's entering his 20th year working in the Oak Hills Local School District. During his time at Oak Hills he has coached football, basketball and track and field, in addition to teaching.

"After spending the first 19 years of my career in the classroom, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work in athletics at Oak Hills," Hageman shared. "This community has been nothing but fantastic to me. I strive to continue to build upon the academic and athletic opportunities that are available and provide the best possible experiences to our students."





**Oakettes celebrate 60 years!**

More than 250 former Oakettes, coaches and volunteers gathered on November 24 at the Hyatt Regency in Cincinnati to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Oakettes. The group formed a huge kickline and didn't miss a beat as familiar songs were played including the fight song and Highland Fling. Team members and coaches gave speeches and remembered exciting trips to Columbus for competition, wild bus rides to away games and 7 a.m. Saturday practices. The room was full of laughter, hugs and smiles.

Special thanks to the following graduates and small businesses who brought the event to life:

Event co-chairs (and complete rockstars!)  
 \*Kelly Martin '01 and \*Heather McGowan '96 (coach)

*Committee members and volunteers*

- \*Kathy Gabbard Birkofer '92
- Michael Buchert '18 (bagpipes)
- \*Emily Buckley '93
- Maggie Calhoun (coach)
- \*Stevi Gable Carr '03
- \*Katie Carter '15
- \*Katie Kramer Cook '98
- Chris Gaines '99 (JAM Entertainment)
- Jessica Hungler Schierling '95

- Julie Arkenau McCoy '91
- Kelly's Kreations (graphic design)
- \*Lauren Wormald McKinley '00
- \*Dawn Rennick '84
- Tommy Vincent (video production)
- \*Angie Stiens Wise '94
- Martinez Orthodontics
- Underground Sports Shop
- Graphic Village
- \*denotes Oakette alumna

It was a terrific evening dancing down memory lane. To stay connected for the next 10 years, former Oakettes are encouraged to join the Facebook group, Oakettes Alumnae (1958-present). You can navigate directly to it at [www.facebook.com/groups/195754361208578/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/195754361208578/)

Here's to 60 more years of the Oakettes! #everythingineightcounts #madforplaid

To see what the current team is doing, connect online:

- Twitter: @oakettes
- Facebook: @oakhillsdanceteams
- Instagram: @oakhillsoakettes
- Website: www.oakettes.com



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## Calendar of events and activities

### 2019

- 1/19: Rummage sale at BMS  
1/20: Oak Hills Athletic Boosters Sports Stag at OHHS  
2/14 - 2/17: *Anything Goes* at OHHS



- 2/24: Symphonic Spaghetti Spectacular at OHHS



- 3/1: OHHS PTA Ladies Night Out Fashion Show at Receptions  
3/2: Oak Hills Band Association vendor fair at OHHS  
6/21: OHAEF Alumni & Community Golf Outing at Aston Oaks

### Connect your Kroger Plus card to the Foundation

Visit the Kroger website, <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow> to link your Cincinnati Kroger Plus card to the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation today! We are #CV794



## Connect with us!



### "Find us" on the web

[www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/](http://www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/)

Please visit us to find class reunion dates, grant project summaries and updates, and event information.



### Please update your contact information

Visit [www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/contact/](http://www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/contact/) to update your contact information so that we may stay in better contact with you.



### "Watch" us on Vimeo

[www.vimeo.com/ohalumniedfoundation](http://www.vimeo.com/ohalumniedfoundation)

Tune in to see our impact on local Highlanders!



### "Follow" us on Twitter

[www.twitter.com/OHAlumniAssoc](http://www.twitter.com/OHAlumniAssoc)

Follow us to receive instant updates on events, reunions and district news!



### "Like" us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/OHHSAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/OHHSAlumni)

Thank you for liking us and spreading our good news. Share your achievements so we can celebrate you!



### "Network" with us on LinkedIn

Search group: Official group of Oak Hills High School Alumni

Network with other alumni professionals to connect and share your events, job postings and more.