



# HIGHLANDER HIGHWAY

The official newsletter of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation Volume XI, Issue I  
June 2018

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.



Hello Highlander Family!

On May 20, 2018, we increased our family by 665 when we welcomed the 58th graduating class of Oak Hills High School! It is always great to see the number of "generational" graduates in the class. It was inspiring to see parents and grandparents welcoming the new graduates into an aspect of their lives to share as a family! Every year the Highlander students present us with more reasons to burst with pride! This year's class was awarded \$24 million in scholarship opportunities. Congratulations class of 2018!

The tradition of outstanding life accomplishments and contributions by a Highlander grad is recognized annually by the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation. Nominations from classmates, family and friends are received in the spring. After they are reviewed by a selection committee the winners are presented at our annual recognition dinner. This year's alumni winners were John Maher '72 and Pete Scalia '91. The outstanding staff member for 2018 is also a member of our Highlander family, John Beckemeyer '73. You'll find pictures from the evening in this newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Pete Scalia & Cheryl Sieve at OHHS graduation, May 20.

The "times they are a-changing!" is a line from a song that many of you may remember, but never has it been so relevant as it pertains to education. Every year the Foundation has promoted, solicited and completed a project to enhance the educational opportunities of our Oak Hills students. Musical instruments, inclusive playgrounds and numerous teacher projects that promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are among our accomplishments. But the time and the critical environment in our schools today has led us to recognize that school safety and the ability for our students to feel safe in order to learn and enjoy all that Oak Hills has to offer must be this year's action to promote and enhance education in our Oak Hills schools. Therefore, this year's priority drive is to place a stop-the-bleed survival kit in every classroom and pray that they are never needed.

In the event of a school emergency, act of terror or active shooter scenario we want to provide our students and staff with survival options and skills. Stop-the-bleed kits will enable teachers to apply immediate first aid to victims of life-threatening injuries before first responders arrive on scene. Think back ... remember fire drills, even bomb survival skills that you may have learned in school? I warned you that times are a-changing. I hope many of you will consider a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation to possibly save a life. The details on how you can help can be found on our website at [www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/donate/special-projects-4/](http://www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/donate/special-projects-4/).

Recently I learned a new acronym: SROI (Social Return On Investment.) SROI pertains directly to what giving to the Foundation promotes. We have learned about ROI in school and in business but SROI? This is the cost of a project or a program if your support did not exist? This is about resources saved because you gave. This is all about the benefits gained because of YOU. Let giving speak to your heart and your mind. Your SROI is a guaranteed investment. Will you be a part of keeping HIGHLANDERS STRONG?

All of us with the Foundation wish you a fun, safe summer because we are all just "plaid crazy!"

Yours in red and black,

Cheryl Sieve '67  
Chairman, Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation

## In this issue:

- \* meet newest board members
- \* recognition dinner wrap-up
- \* stop-the-bleed campaign
- \* reunion line-up

## John Maher donates to Oak Hills athletics



We are overwhelmed by the generosity of John Maher '72 and John Maher Builders. On Saturday, April 21, 2018, a group of former wrestlers and coaches gathered at Oak Hills High School and surprised Coach Frank Shaut. A \$100,000 gift was made to honor Coach Shaut and benefit Oak Hills athletics and the Highlander wrestling program. It was so great to have so many Oak Hills grads back in Highlander country. We are so thankful for this wonderful gift and the chance to share in the magical moment Mr. Maher created for his teammates, brothers and coaches. Just look at all of those smiles. You could feel the love and appreciation in the room. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

## Your donation dollars at work!

Wow! Thanks to your generosity we are able to support 33 education grants for teachers in the Oak Hills Local School District during this 2017-18 school year.

On Friday, February 9, the Crystal Clear Science Inc. Festival came to Springmyer Elementary School! Students in all grades had the chance to participate in several hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) learning activities. The Dragons rotated to different stations in the gym to better understand energy, density, viscosity, matter, friction, gravity, chemistry and more! Huge thanks to the OHHS National Honor Society members for volunteering to help the younger Highlanders with the activities. We love funding wonderful programs like this. Want to learn more about the programs we fund? Visit the Tartan Talk section of our website at [www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/tartan-talk/](http://www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/tartan-talk/).

To help make programs like this possible for future students, please consider a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation. Details can be found on the Donate page of our website. Thank you!



## 2018 OHLSD retirees

Congratulations to the following OHLSD staff members who retired from the district this year:

Carol Purnhagen - Health Room Aide - J.F. Dulles Elementary  
M. Beth Vogt - Instructional Assistant - J.F. Dulles Elementary  
Ruth Wallbrech - Instructional Assistant - J.F. Dulles Elementary  
Donna Weller - Food Service - Oak Hills High School

## Legacy mural at OHHS

Ms. Kopf's and Ms. Schorsch's painting and mixed media students at Oak Hills High School were busy creating murals as a culminating collaborative project before graduation. Each class designed and created one mural panel that communicated some of the key events that have taken place on both a local and global level over the course of the 2017-18 school year.



The Art and Design Department intends for this to become an annual legacy project for students in the painting and mixed media course. Each year, the panels will be installed in the "Mile-Long" hallway at the high school and will communicate a visual timeline of events throughout the students' time as Highlanders.

The seniors kicked off the inaugural legacy project this year with the design of a mural that communicated the essence of their experience over their past four years. Ms. Schorsch's class created a mural design focusing on the Fiona (the baby hippo) craze in Cincinnati, celebrating the removal of manatees from the endangered species list, as well as the solar eclipse and Space-X launch this year.

Ms. Kopf's class designed a mural focused on the BLINK event in Cincinnati and celebrating unity and diversity in communities. If you're in the neighborhood, stop by to check them out. You will be impressed!

## OHHS spring athletic signing



Student-athletes signed letters of intent on April 11: Elijah Harris (football) Jackson Jalovec (soccer), Chase Haehnle (wrestling), Lauren Rippey (golf), Max Scherra (lacrosse), Nick Deifel (basketball), Sydni Haney (softball), Leah Falco (swimming)



## Welcome new board members

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our board of directors. Lisa Nienaber serves as our treasurer and Katie Stautberg as a trustee.



### Lisa Nienaber

"My interest in the Foundation lies in helping current students engage in and enjoy the academic successes my three children did when they were at Oak Hills. To afford all the students in the district chances of enhanced learning takes more than just school support, it requires outside funding and additional support. Community involvement goes a long way in the betterment of our schools."

While Lisa isn't an Oak Hills graduate, she did attend Springmyer Elementary and Bridgetown Jr. High. She has a BS from the University of Cincinnati in accounting and finance and an MBA from Xavier University. She currently serves as the Accounting Director of a small educational non-profit in downtown Cincinnati, KnowledgeWorks Foundation. "We believe in the responsibility for every student to thrive in college, career and civic life."

### Katie Stautberg

"The best thing about the Foundation is how much impact it has on the Oak Hills Community. Being a part of the Foundation is a way for me to give back to the community that has given me and my family so much. The education I received from the Oak Hills School District has directly contributed to my success. Years after graduation, I realized the magnitude of the impact my Oak Hills experiences have had on my life. The education has been fundamental, but so have the lifelong friendships I made."



Katie has been in insurance for 15 years and working at Great American Insurance for the past 11 years. She is currently a Divisional Assistant Vice President in an underwriting unit.

"My time at Great American has shaped me professionally and personally. I've had the opportunity to do so many wonderful things by being able to advance within an organization that encourages growth."

Katie and her husband Eric have been married for seven years. In their free time, they like to travel and spend time with family.

## PTA Educators of the Year!



Sara Pollitt (Ohio PTA), Kristen Listerman (OHHS & district), Joe Toney (BMS), Maggie Kays & Tessa Keyes (DMS), Marie Argo (RRMS), Rita Brown (COH), Cara Cahill (DEL), Susan Sroczynski (JFD), Kenzie Andrews (OAK), Janette Wuestefeld (SPG)

## 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@ohlsd.org](mailto:buckley_e@ohlsd.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).

### 2018

**Class of 1968:** September 22, 6 - 10 p.m., Embassy Suites Blue Ash. A meet and greet social is set for Friday evening, September 21. Join the Facebook group for more information at [www.facebook.com/groups/684255358325298/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/684255358325298/) Call Jan Bischof Knosp to RSVP or with questions at [513-324-2652](tel:513-324-2652).

**Class of 1973:** October 6, 7 p.m., Hillside Gastropub. RSVP including names of those attending to Pat Young Dittoe at [oyikes55@gmail.com](mailto:oyikes55@gmail.com).

**Class of 1978:** September 2, (Sunday of Labor Day weekend ~ fireworks!), 6 - 11 p.m., Paul Brown Stadium in the Club East Lounge. \$78 per ticket. Visit [www.oakhills78.com/](http://www.oakhills78.com/) to reserve yours today.

**Class of 1983:** September 29, 7 - 11 p.m., Nathanael Greene Lodge. Join the class Facebook event [www.facebook.com/events/491034211231835/](https://www.facebook.com/events/491034211231835/).

**Class of 1988:** July 13, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., The Drinkery in OTR. \$25 per ticket. Visit [www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/events/reunions-2/](http://www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/events/reunions-2/) for more details.

**Class of 1993:** August 3, 6 - 9 p.m., Braxton Brewing Company in Covington. No presale tickets or reservations, just come as you are and join the fun and conversation with classmates.

**Class of 1998:** June 16, 7 - 11 p.m., Urban Artifact in Northside. \$25 per ticket: [www.eventbrite.com/e/98-is-great-oak-hills-high-school-class-of-1998-20th-reunion-tickets-45185451903](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/98-is-great-oak-hills-high-school-class-of-1998-20th-reunion-tickets-45185451903).

**Class of 2008:** July 7, 7 - 11 p.m., MadTree Brewing Company. \$40 per ticket [www.eventbrite.com/e/ohhs-class-of-2008-10-year-reunion-tickets-45916853545](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ohhs-class-of-2008-10-year-reunion-tickets-45916853545).

**Oakettes 60-year anniversary celebration:** November 24, 6 - 10 p.m., Hyatt Regency downtown Cincinnati. \$60 per ticket [www.eventbrite.com/e/oakettes-60th-anniversary-tickets-44958301490](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oakettes-60th-anniversary-tickets-44958301490). Join the Facebook group for more details and information at [www.facebook.com/groups/195754361208578/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/195754361208578/).

### 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).



## 20th Annual Recognition Dinner

On May 2, we hosted our 20th annual Foundation dinner where we honored two distinguished alumni, one distinguished staff member and the district's Hall of Honor winner:

John Maher '72, Pete Scalia '91 and John Beckemeyer '93 as well as Garry "Spud" Hornsby. It was a wonderful night celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates and staff. We featured student entertainment from senior bagpiper Michael Buchert, 5th grade singers from Oakdale's Ovation Choir and Oak Hills High School students in the chamber orchestra.

To read the full biographies of our winners, visit our website, [www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/distinguished-highlanders/](http://www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/distinguished-highlanders/)

### Stop-the-Bleed

We also made a special ask of our dinner attendees to support student safety initiatives in the district by donating to allow us to purchase supplies to equip all 500 district classrooms with stop-the-bleed kits. We are so thankful for all who raised their paddles to answer our call and pledge \$10,000 to help save lives!



Want to learn more and contribute to the project? Visit our website to make your tax deductible gift today at [www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/donate/special-projects-4/](http://www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/donate/special-projects-4/).



John Maher and family



Pete Scalia and family



John Beckemeyer and family



Garry "Spud" Hornsby and family

**Congratulations to these 2018 Oak Hills High School highest honors graduates! #highlanderstrong**





## Congratulations Grace Wagner, Mick Telkamp scholarship recipient



*In November of 2015, I lost one of my best friends. His name was Michael Patrick Telkamp but all of his friends knew him as Mick. He was a year ahead of me at Oak Hills (a member of the class of '87) and we were friends for almost 30 years. When he was a high school student, Mick was very involved in drama and the choir and remained a lover of all the arts throughout his life.*

*In fact, in the late 1990s, he and his brother Jamie were the owners and operators of "The Movies Repertory Theater" on Race Street, Cincinnati's last downtown commercial movie theater. He later would go on to work for HGTV...exploring the culinary arts and numerous other creative pursuits.*

*After his untimely passing, his friends and family got together and worked to raise money in the hopes of putting together a \$1,500 scholarship for a student interested in pursuing an arts-related career. For the past two years the scholarship has gone to students pursuing the visual arts, this year was the first year it was awarded to someone pursuing musical theater.*

*We always have many impressive and worthy candidates to select from and I am sure Mick would be thrilled to know that part of his legacy has been helping some of these hard-working creative students achieve their dreams. This year's recipient is an AP scholar graduating with highest honors, she was an active member of Drama Club throughout her four years here and was actively involved in all of the plays and performances...singing, acting, costuming, dancing, directing...you name it. Ladies and gentlemen, (drum roll) .... I present future Ball State student and future theatre director... Grace Wagner. Congratulations!*

~ Steve Groh '88, OHHS teacher

If you'd like to contribute to the scholarship fund with a tax-deductible gift, please visit our website:

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

## Intern spotlight

### Alex Eby '16

Please welcome our newest communications and development intern, Alex Eby, a 2016 Oak Hills High School graduate. Alex is now a junior at Northern Kentucky University and set to graduate in December of 2019 with her B.A. in public relations, a minor in communication studies and a focus in organizational leadership.



Alex enjoys being creative in her free time through graphic design and mosaic work, both skills she first learned in an OHHS classroom. Growing up, Alex wanted to be a teacher but later decided to put her communication skills to work somewhere else. Meet Alex at our June golf outing!

## Highlanders teaching Highlanders

On May 21, members of the Oak Hills High School social studies department participated in a professional learning experience led by Northern Kentucky University faculty members, Dr. William Landon and Dr. Sharyn Jones, as well as NKU student and Oak Hills graduate, Chelsea Hauser '15.

The staff visited the excavation site of Parker Academy (located in New Richmond), one of America's first co-education, racially integrated schools, founded in 1839. The teachers learned about the excavation and archeological process, the cataloging of artifacts and discussed Parker Academy's connection with the Underground Railroad and other significant, historical milestones.



## OHLSd on the August ballot

On Monday, May 7, 2018, the Oak Hills School Board passed a resolution to place a 4.9 mill operating levy on the August 7 ballot.

In the wake of recent school safety tragedies, district and building leadership teams have collaborated with local law enforcement agencies and security professionals to assist in identifying increased safety measures to ensure a safe and secure environment for all students and staff. In addition, Mr. Bart West, retired Green Township Police Chief, worked across the district to provide a full safety audit of all district facilities. Through engagement and assistance from local law enforcement, administrators, staff and student groups, the district completed the audit and presented recommendations to the Oak Hills School Board during their development meeting on May 21.

In anticipation of taking immediate action to address high priority and pressing security issues, based on recent community survey feedback and recommendations from Mr. West, the district finds it necessary to go to the voters this August to meet prioritized needs. In addition to safety and security measures, the district is also committed to assisting students with psychological and mental health needs.

The 4.9 mill levy will preserve the financial stability of the district and allow the district to implement important safety and security building enhancements as well as mental health interventions.

For more information about the levy and answers to frequently asked questions, visit the district's website: [www.ohlsd.us/departments/treasurer---finance-13/august-2018-levy-91/](http://www.ohlsd.us/departments/treasurer---finance-13/august-2018-levy-91/)

You can also review the district's five-year-forecast on the treasurer's page: [www.ohlsd.us/departments/treasurer---finance-13/](http://www.ohlsd.us/departments/treasurer---finance-13/)



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## Calendar of events and activities

6/22/18: 1:30 p.m., Aston Oaks, alumni & community golf outing  
 9/28/18: 7 p.m., Homecoming football game vs. Lakota East  
 11/24/18: 6 p.m., Oakette 60-year anniversary celebration.  
 Tickets are on sale now. Visit website for details.



## 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 #29526.



## Connect with us!



### "Find us" on the web

<http://oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/>

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



### Please update your contact information

Visit <http://www.oakhillsalumnifoundation.org/contact/> to update your contact information so that we may stay in better contact with you.



### "Watch" us on vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/ohalumniedfoundation>

Tune in to see our impact on local Highlanders!



### "Follow" us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/OHALumniAssoc>

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



### "Like" us on Facebook

<https://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.