



# HIGHLANDER HIGHWAY

The official newsletter of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation Volume IX, Issue II  
June 2016

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 Fellow Highlanders,

It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to address the Oak Hills community as a board member of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation. This is my second year of board membership, and I am both proud and humbled to be associated with a group of people who have such a history of dedication and service.

In May I attended the 18th Annual Foundation Recognition Dinner and was amazed at how the evening unfolded. The group of 118 attendees was treated to a bagpipe dinner call by students Abby Coogan and Michael Buchert, followed by entertainment from the Oak Hills High School UnCommon Time singers. Local 12 personality Bob Herzog, OHHS Class of 1992, did his usual fine job as the master of ceremonies, mixing warmth and humor to a group that is special to him.

The Distinguished Alumni, Staff and Hall of Honor awards were presented to the deserving recipients after videos were shown with colleague testimony on their behalf, and acceptance by the awardee.

During dinner, I had the opportunity to speak with a group of faculty and staff from John Foster Dulles Elementary School. One of the teachers present received a grant from the Foundation during the school year and was very enthusiastic in explaining how it fulfilled the needs of her students, and its outcome. I have attended board meetings when we approved financial commitments for teacher grants, but that was the first time that I was able to appreciate what that approval meant. It was a touching moment!

The close of the evening was a paddle call to raise funds for the lone Holt Auditorium Renovation Committee (IHARC). The group is committed to raise a \$300,000 portion of the necessary funds for the \$2.6 million renovation of the auditorium at Oak Hills High School, in support of the Oak Hills Band Association. Participants had the opportunity to bid at several different levels, and the dedication and commitment of those present resulted in a pledge of more than \$10,000 toward the project, a truly amazing figure! The new auditorium will include many improvements, as well as a separate set-building facility to make the construction and movement of scenery easier and keep the sawdust out of the auditorium! I have fond memories of Mrs. Holt and the talent and energy that she had in bringing a wide variety of productions to the Oak Hills stage. This new facility will add to her legacy. You can help to build the new auditorium by donating at [www.oakhillsauditorium.com](http://www.oakhillsauditorium.com)

As a "senior" alumnus, I would like to share with you some of the feelings that I have from the perspective of being a part of the Oak Hills family almost since the beginning. Upon graduation from high school, one's life is occupied for many years in continuing and completing one's education, pursuing one's career goals, and, perhaps, raising a family. I discovered that later in life you begin to reflect on those earlier years and the things that occurred to make them important to you, and you find yourself wanting to re-connect to that time in some way.

I have fond memories of our class selling doughnuts and light bulbs during freshman and sophomore years, so that we could raise money to fund the 1964 senior prom. The event was held in the old gymnasium (yup, that's what I said), which was decorated with fountains, a dark tent ceiling, chandeliers and chiffon draping the walls (fireproof, of course). There was no facility that we could have rented that would have surpassed our OHHS "nightclub".

I was also fortunate to be a member of the 1963 Highlander undefeated championship football team. In 2013, we had a 50th reunion, including 24 team members, four coaches and four cheerleaders. Most of us had not seen one another for almost 50 years, but it was amazing how everything seemed like yesterday and how quickly we renewed our friendships.

It would be wonderful if we could hold a mega-event at a huge stadium and invite every living OHHS graduate, with a guarantee that they would all be present. Unfortunately, that is not going to happen. Instead, I am happy to find that graduates from several classes are finding many ways to re-connect. There are individual class websites on social media, there are luncheon groups that meet periodically, and there are book clubs, sewing groups and sports-related groups, all comprised of alumni re-connecting. Given the 57-year history of our district, we are a diverse group of different ages and social influences, living throughout the country and the world...Highlander Strong! Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Sincerely,

Jim Schubert

Trustee, Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation





## 18th annual recognition dinner

The board members of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation would like to thank all who attended our 18th annual Foundation recognition dinner on April 20. It was a wonderful evening celebrating our distinguished alumni and staff winners and hall of honor recipients. And, thanks to IHARC chairman Mary Stone '92 and our emcee Bob Herzog '92 we raised \$10,000 for the auditorium renovations at Oak Hills High School!



The evening honored distinguished alumni Chuck Eckert '75, distinguished staff members Dawn Johnston '85 and Alison Cucchetti and hall of honor winners Mindy Murphy '89 and Bob Sehlhorst. You can view the nomination and acceptance videos on our vimeo channel <https://vimeo.com/ohalumniedfoundation>.



The OHHS brass quintet under the direction of new band director, Kevin Sweatman, provided music during the cocktail hour. The OHHS UnCommon Time singers provided program entertainment. It was a special evening honoring all of our winners.



### Sponsor a seat

Don't let a bad seat ruin a great show, help Oak Hills to renovate the auditorium! With the dinner paddle call, momentum is building and several alumni and reunion classes have already purchased seats in the new auditorium. Will you be next?



We were lucky to have several previous winners in attendance too!



Every donation makes a difference and pushes us closer to crossing the fundraising finish line. From a new HVAC system to better lighting and sound technology, the entire auditorium is getting a much needed rehab. You can help by sponsoring a seat! Can we count on you? Checks can be made payable to IHARC-OHAB and mailed to Oak Hills High School, 3200 Ebenezer Road, Cincinnati, OH 45248 attention IHARC, or you can make your gift online today at [www.oakhillsauditorium.com](http://www.oakhillsauditorium.com).

Gifts at any level are appreciated. Add your name to a plaque on our donor wall in the lobby, name the scene shop, the tech booth and more. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you!



## Green Township Scottie Yard mural is complete!



We are thrilled to announce that our donor mural has been installed for the Green Township Scottie Yard Playground at Oakdale Elementary. Huge thanks to OHHS art teacher Jamie Schorsch for designing and painting the mural with help from her OHHS Art Honor Society students. We are proud to honor our donors and hope you'll visit the playground this summer to see your name and enjoy our new inclusive and accessible play space for all children to use!



Lead student artist: Alyssa Weber  
National Art Honor Society students: Alyssa McCarthy, Sydney Montgomery, Betsy Vanderbilt, Abbey Hauck, Samantha Anderson, Julia Gomien and Louisa Anderson.  
Student support from the Painting and Mixed Media classes with project prep work.

## Congratulations Taylor Helms, first recipient of the Mick Telkamp Scholarship



We lost one of our Highlanders this year, Mick Telkamp '87. His friends got together and started a scholarship in his memory. This year, senior art student Taylor Helms received the \$1,500 scholarship! Congratulations, Taylor!

Thanks to the generosity of family and friends we will offer this

scholarship to another deserving Highlander pursuing an arts career next year. If you want to contribute to the fund visit our website at [www.oakhillssalumniassociation.com](http://www.oakhillssalumniassociation.com).

Pictured here are Taylor Helms and OHHS art teacher and friend of Mick, Steve Groh '88.

## 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 more reunion information. Your event will be added to the alumni 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 the alumni office updated on your reunion plans and details.

Below are the listings of upcoming reunions. Additional details can be found on our website, [www.oakhillssalumniassociation.com](http://www.oakhillssalumniassociation.com).

### 2016

**Class of 1964:** July 9, 2016 at 12 p.m., Bonnie (Breehne) Morrison's home. Contact [merrydill@yahoo.com](mailto:merrydill@yahoo.com) to RSVP.

**Class of 1966:** September 3, 2016 at The Farm. Please contact Jean (Megerle) Hartmann at [Meanjeanh@hotmail.com](mailto:Meanjeanh@hotmail.com) with questions.

**Class of 1971:** August 6, 2016 at the Lawrenceburg Event Center, from 6-10 p.m. For more information contact [oakhillsreunion1971@gmail.com](mailto:oakhillsreunion1971@gmail.com). Be sure to join the Facebook group Oak Hills Class 1971 for more updates.

**Class of 1981:** November 19, 7-11 p.m. at the Miami Township Community Center. Find updates on [www.facebook.com/groups/ohhs81reunion/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ohhs81reunion/). Contact Lynn Parian Broderick at [Lbroderick@cinci.rr.com](mailto:Lbroderick@cinci.rr.com) for more information.

**Class of 1986:** September 24, 7 p.m. at Hillside Gastropub. \$25/person includes two drink tickets and heavy appetizers. Entertainment from Chuck Brisban and the Tuna Project. Contact Dean Etter if you'd like to help with the planning at [deanetter@yahoo.com](mailto:deanetter@yahoo.com) or [513-628-3610](tel:513-628-3610).

**Class of 1991:** November 12, 7-11 p.m. at Nathanael Greene Lodge. Find more information on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Oak-Hills-High-School-Class-of-1991-Reunion-131917020205708/](http://www.facebook.com/Oak-Hills-High-School-Class-of-1991-Reunion-131917020205708/)

**Class of 1996:** November 26, 6-11 p.m. at the Sanctuary. Contact Jill Heltman at [jillh@villagepantrycatering.com](mailto:jillh@villagepantrycatering.com) if you'd like to help with the planning.

**Class of 2006:** Save the date, November 26, 2016, location TBD. Contact Kelley Ujvary Jacob at [kelley.ujvary@gmail.com](mailto:kelley.ujvary@gmail.com) if you'd like to help with the planning.

### Looking ahead....

#### 2018

**Class of 1978:** September 2, 2018 (Sunday of Labor Day weekend ~ fireworks!) at Paul Brown Stadium in the Club East Lounge. Please visit the class website <http://www.oakhills78.com/> and be sure to update your contact information to stay informed.



## Join us for golf on July 15 at Aston Oaks!

Registration is open! The cost is just \$100/player and includes 18 holes with cart in scramble format, light lunch, drinks on the course, dinner and more drinks. Reserve your foursome today on our website at [www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com](http://www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com) or by sending a check payable to OHAEF to 6325 Rapid Run Road, Cincinnati, OH 45233.



Teams must have a minimum of three players to be eligible for the outing. Shot gun start begins at 1:30 p.m.

Get in on the contests for longest drive,

straightest drive and closest to the pin to win great prizes! The afternoon is full of fun and excitement, while raising money for the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation, celebrating 20 years this September!

Thank you to our major sponsor, Kelsey Chevrolet, for providing \$10,000 off the purchase or lease of a 2016 Chevy Malibu for our



hole-in-one winner!

Every golfer will receive a sleeve of golf balls thanks to Energy Optimizers, USA, our golf ball sponsor!

We'd also like to thank our major

event sponsor Promark.



Don't miss out on this great event, exciting raffles and amazing prizes. Spots are filling fast so register your team today. If you have questions or need more information, call 513-598-2682.



## Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction presented to Oak Hills Local School District



The Auditor of State Office presented the Oak Hills Local School District the Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction at the District's May Board meeting. "Based upon your recently completed financial audit, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Oak Hills Local School District has received the Auditor of State Award with Distinction," Dave Yost, Auditor of State, commented. "Clean and accurate record-keeping are the foundation for good government and the taxpayers can take pride in the District's commitment to accountability."

Approximately nine of 10 school districts in Hamilton County assess a higher tax rate than Oak Hills Local School District.

Pictured here are Rian Beckham from the Auditor of State's Office and Steve Bain, Oak Hills Treasurer.

## Homecoming dinner and football game

Mark your calendar now for homecoming on September 30 at OHHS. All graduates, family, friends, students and community members are invited to dinner prior to the football game. The cost for dinner is just \$5/family and the fun begins at 5:30 p.m. in the commons at Oak Hills High School. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages to make your reservation.

Be sure to hop in our photobooth to capture your homecoming memories and take home a souvenir from the evening. Members of student council will lead tours through the building so you can see all that's changed (and hasn't changed) since you last walked the halls of Oak Hills. Stay for the game if you like! Tickets will be on sale in the athletic office the week prior.





## Welcome new board members!



**Ann Schweitzer Popp '93** is the new Foundation treasurer! "As an Oak Hills graduate and a past PTA President it is important to me that my children and every child in our community have the same experiences and opportunities that I had growing up. As a member of the Board of Trustees I am excited to be able to help ensure that every child is given the opportunity to learn and grow in ways that aren't normally available in the classroom. With the Foundation's support our teachers

are able to create new adventures and experiences that our children will remember for a lifetime."

Ann has two children in Oak Hills schools. She is a past PTA President of Springmyer Elementary and is currently serving as the 2nd VP in charge of fundraising and the Oak Hills After Prom chair. She also serves on the Bridgetown Middle School PTA and the Oak Hills PTA Advisory Council. She has been involved with both Boy and Girl Scouting for six years as a leader and Pack Commissioner. Ann works for Leverone & Associates, Inc., a CPA firm with strong ties to the west side. "I am very passionate about the future of our Highlanders and look forward to lending my time and talents to the Foundation."

Welcome board member, **Kim Miller Sims '81**. She has been a part of the Oak Hills School District for 45 years. She attended Oakdale and J. F. Dulles Elementary Schools going on to Bridgetown Junior High and then graduating from the high school in 1981. She then coached the Bridgettes, Bridgetown's drill team, while attending U.C.



After graduating, she was hired to teach sixth grade at C.O. Harrison Elementary and then moved to Oakdale Elementary. She spent four years teaching seventh and eighth grade math at Bridgetown and then returned to Oakdale teaching third and fifth grade. She has served on a variety of committees throughout her career, but her passion has been, and continues to be, leading children to be lifelong lovers of reading.

Kim has two daughters who have also spent their school careers in the Oak Hills School District, Lauren and Carlie. After 30 years of teaching, Kim retired and we are thrilled to have her join our Foundation board and continue impacting Oak Hills students.

## Happy retirement!



Pictured: Ruth Schoenhoef, Joyce Hughes, Judy Besse, Terry Hoepfer, Bev Weller, Bonnie Hausfeld

This year's retirees were honored at reception at district office on May 18. Thank you for your service!

Mary Parker, J.F. Dulles, 12 years of service  
Judy Besse, J.F. Dulles, 17 years of service  
Bev Weller, J.F. Dulles, 17 years of service  
Terry Hoepfer, RRMS, 20 years of service  
Bonnie Hausfeld, C.O. Harrison, 25 years of service  
Joyce Hughes, Springmyer, 30 years of service  
Ruth Schoenhoef, C.O. Harrison, 53 years of service  
Jan Colini, C.O. Harrison, 18 years of service  
Elki Gies, C.O. Harrison, 26 years of service  
Stephen Gray, Delhi Middle School, 15 years of service  
Connie Kolish, C.O. Harrison, 30 years of service  
Susan Lahni, Transportation, 17 years of service

## Congratulations, class of 2016!



On Sunday, May 23, the 56th class of Highlanders graduated from Oak Hills High School at the Cintas Center. Best of luck to the 600+ students as they enter work, school and the military. This impressive bunch earned over \$18.5 million in scholarships!

Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation chairman, Cheryl Sieve and our 2016 distinguished alumni, Chuck Eckert are pictured here with class president Jenna Duebber.





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## Calendar of events and activities

- 7/15: 1:30 p.m., Annual alumni golf outing, Aston Oaks
- 8/15: First day of class for Oak Hills students
- 9/30: 5:30 p.m., Homecoming dinner and game, OHHS
- 12/2: 6:30 p.m., Alumni night

for wrestlers and  
 Matscots, OHHS. RSVP  
 to head wrestling  
 coach Joe Campolongo  
[campolongo\\_j@ohlsd.org](mailto:campolongo_j@ohlsd.org)



It's that time again! Every year you must renew your Kroger Plus card to benefit the Foundation. Visit the Kroger website to connect your Cincinnati Kroger Plus card to the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation today! We are #29526. Shop as you normally do with your Kroger card and the Alumni Foundation benefits. Thank you for shopping at Kroger and putting money back into our schools!



## Connect with us!



### "Find us" on the web

<http://oakhillsalumniassociation.com/>

Please visit us to find class reunion dates, golf outing details and homecoming information.



### Please update your contact information

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/OHalumniupdate> to update your contact information so that we may stay in better contact with you.



### "Watch" us on vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/ohalumniupdate>

See this year's award winner videos and speeches.



### "Follow" us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/OHAlumniAssoc>

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



### "Like" us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/OHHSAlumni>

Thank you for "liking" us and spreading the word. Share your news 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.