



# The Cougar's Roar

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

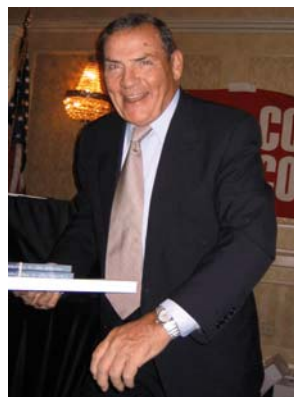
## Congratulations to the Inaugural Class of the Sports Hall of Fame!

On May 11, 2006, the first annual Sports Hall of Fame dinner and awards ceremony was held at the Maplewood Country Club. Under the direction of Roger Brauchli, Marguerite Dempsey, Harold Garwin, Roy Greenman, David Knecht, Johanna Wright, and Columbia High School Alumni trustee Harvey Weissbard, the Sports Hall of Fame committee inducted **Robert Bianchi '79, Kristin Bowsher '84, Mark Bryant '84, Joetta Clark Diggs '80, David Masur '80, Coach Gene Chyzowych, and the entire 1951 State Championship Undefeated Football Team.**

Each inductee received a commemorative plaque honoring achievements followed by acceptance speeches which, in turn, honored their experiences at CHS, former teachers and coaches who had contributed to the successes both in high school and after in the realm of sports and beyond. It was quite a wonderful evening and marked the establishment of a new and very special tradition for Columbia High School.



Joetta Clark Diggs '80



Albert Suter '53

For more information on the inductees, please visit the alumni website at <http://www.columbia-alumni.org/sports.php>.

## Happy 75<sup>th</sup> to the class of 1931!!

The year 2006 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of graduation for the class of 1931. Entering CHS in 1927, these students were the first class to have spent all four years at the Parker Avenue location of Columbia High School and were among the first group to use what we now refer to as "the A-wing."

The Columbia High School Alumni Association contacted several members of this class living locally in the area: **Eugene Bataille**, a resident of Berkeley Heights and **Dr. Barbara Noyes Doran** of Winchester

Gardens in Maplewood. Eugene has graciously shared some of his memories.

Life at CHS in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was certainly more adventurous in some respects, as Eugene Bataille recalls. Among his fondest recollections of those years is a trip with the Aviation Club. This was a group formed to promote education about the relatively new form of travel. His French teacher was a pilot, and, although she did not captain the flight herself, she had arranged for the group to leave from a local airport for a short trip around Manhattan. Eugene still remembers that they were extremely close to the Empire State Building! He also recalls that the event

CHS  
1931

caused some little bit of trouble as it was not a school sanctioned activity.

### **A Loss to the CHS Community**

We are sad to report the passing of former CHS language teacher, guidance counselor, and House director Thomas Fleming. Mr. Fleming worked at CHS from 1939 through 1976. He passed away at age 94 on April 14, 2006, in Montclair where he was a life long resident.

### **CHS Honors the 2006 Inductees to the Hall of Fame**

The CHSAA congratulates **Dr. Francis Barnes '67** and **Leigh Howard Stevens '71** on their induction into the Columbia High School Hall of Fame. In an assembly held on May 24, 2006, both men spoke about their time at CHS and how their experiences in high school were the basis for career paths which led them to the honor they were receiving.

Dr. Barnes is an educator and former Commissioner of Education for the State of Pennsylvania. He currently serves as Superintendent of the Palisades School District in Kintenersville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Attending the ceremony with him were his wife, children, and other family members. When Dr. Barnes introduced his entire family, he noted with pride that the diversity within his own family was now mirrored by the diversity he saw facing him in the school auditorium audience.

Dr. Barnes was introduced by the very person whom he credits for inspiring his career in education, Peter Cross '54. Cross, himself a member of the CHS Hall of Fame, was teacher and coach during Dr. Barnes' high school years. Thus, the induction presentation was a special moment for both of these men.

The second inductee, Leigh Howard



**L to R: Stevens, Cross, and Barnes**

Stevens, is a world renowned marimba player and innovator of the four-mallet grip which is used by many musicians today. (The marimba is similar to the xylophone, made of the

same wood but with a wider range and richer more resonant tone.)

When playing marimba, the player is often required to hold two mallets in each hand. This was traditionally done by crossing the mallets and using the index finger to change intervals. Stevens developed an entirely new grip which does not involve crossing mallets, thus allowing greater facility of movement on the instrument. This is now known as "Stevens Grip."

In each of their speeches both Dr. Barnes and Mr. Stevens encouraged current CHS students to identify and pursue their one true goal in life. Hopefully with integrity, determination, and a bit of wisdom, all can find the path to being successful and happy in their own lives.

*Thanks to Dan Halpern '96 for his contribution to this article.*

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!  
HOMECOMING IS  
OCTOBER 21, 2006!**

## Trustee Spotlight: Chickie Zimmerman Rosenberg '57

You might have read about her recently in *The New York Times* or recognized her from television (CNN, NECN-TV, featured on Today-NBC, Fuji-TV of Japan), all related to something which never existed back in her high school years: snowboarding. Initially teaching high school and college level English, she dramatically switched subject matter over 15 years ago and became Killington Resort's first woman snowboarding instructor. Chickie has written two books, *Snowboarding for Women: A Guide for the Betty Shred wannabe* and *Snowboarding for Men: a guide for guys*, and you can see her in action if you go to the website videos on [www.SnowboardingForWomen.com](http://www.SnowboardingForWomen.com). This CHS graduate states that although snowboarding works for her, really it is simply a metaphor for finding something very special in life and pursuing it. "Oh! Columbia, thou has taught us, The Path that we should tread, By thy rules of pride and honor, In our work and play we're led..." Still living locally although spending a great deal of time at their Vermont home on staff at Killington Resort, Chickie arranges her schedule to attend our CHSAA meetings and fulfill her duties as Recording Secretary.



## CHS Alumni: News & Events from Local Groups

### The CHS Alumni Association of Winchester Gardens Hosts its First Annual Dinner

Winchester Gardens is a residential retirement community located in Maplewood with its own contingent of CHS alumni living there. In March of this year, Peggy Ames Auer '42 hosted a wonderful dinner which included a talk given by CHSAA President Alexandra Somers updating residents on what life is like currently at CHS.

In attendance were **Barbara Noyes Doran '31, Roger Hinds '35, Jane Davis '39, Henry Niemitz '40, Nancy Allen Specht '40, Albert Shelby '41, Gates Helms '42, Betty Griffinger Shelby '44, Elizabeth Koausmann Sangree '45, and John Strahan '48.** Also in attendance were Winchester Gardens Trustees **Erna Schneider Hoover '43, Robert Klein '48, and Elaine Beers Becker '53. Keith Grady '80,** a manager of the retirement community, joined the group with his wife.

It was a special evening both in bringing together old friends and old memories along with updating alumni on current happenings at CHS.



The CHS Alumni of Winchester Gardens

## CHS Alum & Students in Action: Pictures from Recent Events

Members of the Class of 1957  
at the Mayor's Ball, 2006



Members of the Class of 1961 at  
Reunion, Spring 2006



Volunteers restoring the Courtyard next to the Auditorium. Organized by Christian Fuscarino '08 and possible by funding donated by Student Council and The CHS Cougar Booster Club. More donations still needed! For more pictures of the project and of the 9/11 Memorial in the Courtyard, please visit our website!



*Who's retired? What's on the calendar?  
For more pictures and stories...*

[www.columbia-alumni.org](http://www.columbia-alumni.org)

### Endnote from the President....

I must extend a very large THANK YOU to **Lisa Joseph '09** and **Justin Bellamy '08** for their help in updating the alumni database after our first newsletter. Both students of mine, Lisa and Justin volunteered their time during study hall periods to do the data entry. They are truly fantastic representatives of CHS today!

Chip Madsen has asked me to put a call out to all former **SCEEP** volunteers as he is looking to keep his database up to date. If you were ever a volunteer for this after school tutoring program, please contact Chip at [cmadsen@cacofnj.org](mailto:cmadsen@cacofnj.org).

Finally, I am putting a call out to my **classmates of 1997** who are looking forward to reunion next year. Maggie Singler and I will be organizing the reunion for our class, and we need help! Please contact us at [ColumbiaHA1997@gmail.com](mailto:ColumbiaHA1997@gmail.com).

~Alexandra Somers '97

Columbia High School Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 242  
Maplewood, NJ 07040  
www.columbia-alumni.org

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*Congratulations to our newest alumni- the class of 2006!*



This mailing is not possible without your dues! If you have not yet paid your 2006 dues, kindly fill out this form and return to:

*Columbia High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 242, Maplewood, NJ, 07040*

**Dues for the 2006 Calendar Year:**

**\$25 if you graduated in or before 1999, \$10 if you graduated in or after 2000**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_) Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dues \_\_\_\_\_ + Donation \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 = Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Looking for more ways to donate? The CHSAA is currently investigating large-scale projects with possible naming opportunities. For more information, contact us at **info@columbia-alumni.org**.

Please make checks payable to Columbia High School Alumni Association. If you would like to receive a membership card which will serve as your ticket into all sporting events, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope when you return this form.

# The CHSAA Needs Your Help!

*We of the CHS Alumni Association would like to expand involvement in alumni affairs but cannot do so without your help. Integral to making a viable association is the requirement of a strong group of leaders dedicated to serving the entire population. Unfortunately, we may have good intentions but monthly meetings and larger overall time commitments often become the barrier to getting involved. But there is a solution! You can get involved by joining any one (or more!) of the following committees which ideally will be chaired by a Trustee member. Please note that committees cannot form without enough people willing to join them.*

## Reunion Committee

This committee would need members from around the country to gather information about upcoming reunions and submit details to the Board for distribution via the website and newsletter. Members of the committee could also eventually attempt to reach out as facilitators for upcoming reunion classes and be of assistance in contacting classmates and arranging reunion logistics. Note that the committee would **not** assume the responsibility of creating reunions except in the case of early year graduating classes with few members with such cases to be determined by the committee on an annual basis.

## Newsletter Committee

Because the actual mailing goes via the Maplewood post office, the Newsletter Committee would need a core group of local members. However, as the computer has changed our methods of communication, it has enabled us to create a committee with members from not only various regions across the United States, but also beyond the boundaries of our country. Some members would assist in gathering information for stories to be published in this newsletter while others would be responsible for the writing and editing of stories. Final production could take place anywhere as long as all members have e-mail so as to be able to view the files online.

## The Board of Trustees

Currently, the Board consists of four officers and two other trustees although our by-laws allow us to have up to 15 trustees. Trustees must attend monthly meetings (about 10 a year) which are held locally in the South Orange/Maplewood area.

## Website Committee

This committee may also have members from around the country. They would be responsible for submitting information to be posted on the website, currently maintained by two persons, webmaster Jaime Ross and the CHSAA President Alexandra Somers. Information and details regarding birth, death, or wedding notices, as well as stories of interest, are posted on the site. There is also an online events calendar which will need at least monthly updating.

## Fundraising Committee

This committee, along with Fred Profeta who is both CHSAA Vice President and the Mayor of Maplewood, would lead efforts to raise money for the alumni association and CHS in general. Whereas local participation is key for meetings, having members from across the country is possible via e-mail and would be an asset in terms of extending regional input. Any experience with Capital Campaigns would be extremely helpful. ***To volunteer, please e-mail Fred directly at FRP713@aol.com.***

***To volunteer, please e-mail the CHSAA President at alexandrasomers@aol.com. Please note: Alex will be unavailable from July 9<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>.***