



The Cougar's Roar

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We've Been Busy!

Among our many goals as an organization is to assist Columbia High School by fund drives, and we certainly have been very busy doing exactly that. Our \$6,000 contribution in the summer of 2004 to the CHS Beautification Project has paid for new sconce lighting, new carpeting, and new trophy display cases in the high school front lobby. Check out the website for pictures of the lobby after its completion this winter and you will see how great it all looks. First impressions are important, and this was an area needing attention.

Along with monetary support to the school, we are committed to establishing a network for communication among alumni, hence, our very active website www.columbia-alumni.org. Another way to advertise our presence plus support the school was through our \$100 donation of a tee sign with our name on it for the CHS Cougar Booster Club's annual golf outing this past April. Visit the Booster's website at www.chscougarboosters.org.

Certainly, our activities are not totally centered on gathering and dispensing funds. The Alumni Association's major preoccupation has finally coming to its goal in partnership with The Harris Publishing Company's edition of the 2005 *Columbia High School Alumni Directory*. Our certificate of incorporation states that one of our purposes is to "sponsor and support programs and activities which encourage alumni of Columbia High School to maintain a closer relationship with each other." This is a great resource for the school's history and for all of us to stay connected. If you missed out on ordering a copy, contact The Harris Publishing Company at (800) 877-6554.



Alumni Association Supports the Mayor's Ball

The mayor of a town cares about his town and its schools, but this is especially so in the town of Maplewood where the mayor is Fred Profeta. Fred is a Columbia High School Alumnus, Class of '57, and the founder and past president of the Columbia High School Alumni Association. Therefore, it was not a surprise when he came upon the idea of having a first ever annual ball this past April. Moneys raised from this affair were directed to the ongoing CHS Beautification Project, this time dealing with the gym area entrance and lobby. A number of the Association's trustees were among the 250 persons who attended the ball, and CHSAA President Alexandra Somers was recognized as having presented a check for \$2,500 from our organization. In total, the Mayor's Ball, now hopefully to become an annual affair, raised \$40,000 that night. That's certainly a lot of money for a needy cause, and we were proud to have contributed a considerable amount to the total sum.

Look for news on the upcoming 2006 Mayor's Ball this spring or contact the Mayor's office in Maplewood.

2005 Hall of Fame Inductees

Since 1985 when then student body president Andrew Shue initiated the idea, the CHS Student Council has selected outstanding alumni to be inducted into the CHS Hall of Fame. Among those honored in the past have been architect Peter Eisenman, Alfred C. Kinsey, Peter Cross (former CHS faculty member), and Federal Judge Amalya L. Kearse. This year the honorees were David Javerbaum, writer and producer, and (inducted posthumously) Robert Bianchi, Navy pilot and the *Star Ledger's* NJ High School Lacrosse Player of the Century. For full listings and further information, see the CHSAA website or check out front section of the 2005 Columbia High School Alumni Directory.



Hall of Fame Inductee and recent Emmy Award Winner **David Javerbaum** with CHSAA President **Alexandra Somers** after the ceremony

We Need to Hear From You!

Send us your news, your ideas for helping the high school, and your membership donations which will enable us to support the school along with sending out future issues of this newsletter. We would like to spotlight alumni and what they do, but first we need to know **what you're doing!**

Write the Alumni Association at:

**Columbia High School
Alumni Association
PO Box 242
Maplewood, NJ 07040**

or e-mail your stories, reunion information, and news to: **info@columbia-alumni.org**

A Huge "Thank You"

There are always many people to thank in any organization, but the most important person in the Columbia High School Alumni Association is **You!** Thank you for caring enough to send in membership

dues. It is your contribution along with that of other classmates which allows us to be supportive of Columbia High School and fulfill needs which otherwise cannot be addressed. This newsletter will give you some idea of what we have done and what we plan to do in the future. It all depends upon you, our alumni!

When you pay your annual dues of \$25 (\$10 if you graduated within the past 5 years), you can include a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive back a membership card for 2006. This card will get you in for free to football games and any CHS sporting events which charge admission. Send your dues to the address at the left using the form on the opposite page. 📧

HOW CAN YOU HELP? *We are always looking for alumni to come back and share their post-CHS experiences with current students. If you would like to get involved, just contact the president!*

Spotlight on CHSAA President Alexandra Somers



Alexandra Somers, class of 1997, has had the unique opportunity over the past year to serve not only the current alumni of Columbia High School, but also to teach and mentor future alumni in her role as a tenured faculty member of the Mathematics Department at CHS. A graduate of Wellesley College in Wellesley, MA, she earned a B.A. in Mathematics. During college she was involved in everything from student government to playing tympani in the college orchestra. She served as an officer on various organizations, a trend she has continued upon rejoining the South Orange and Maplewood communities. Since her return to South Orange and CHS, Alex has been a board member of the Cougar Boosters, the CHSAA, the New Jersey Wellesley Club, and the Two Towns in Harmony project team. At the high school, she has been a staff member of the Marching Band and served as the Assistant Director in 2004 of the same band in which she played while she was in high school. Last year, she took on the role of Senior Class Advisor to the class of 2005, the first class she has seen for all four years since her return to the scene at CHS.

Although leading, volunteering, teaching, and advising take up a great deal of time in Alex's life, she knows how to spend her vacation time wisely. Over the past few years she has maintained her true passion: travel. Copenhagen, London, and France. Most recently she visited Belgium and Finland.

Joining Alex on the Board of Trustees are Fred Profeta '57 (Vice President), Chickie Zimmerman Rosenberg '57 (Recording Secretary), Dr. Gerard Gonsalves '79 (Treasurer), Donald Welsh, '57, Deborah Cohen '68, and, Ex Officio Trustee, Gene Nelson.

Contact Alex anytime at info@columbia-alumni.org

Please 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.

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

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Tradition of Excellence Continues

In a competition with entries from over 150 high schools across the nation, CHS seniors won not one, but two, of the seven TV journalism awards offered by the Foundation of the National Academy of TV Arts and Sciences! Recipients were graduating seniors Rebecca Hilton and Allesandra Bellizia whose collaboration won the "News" item category for their program on the subject of holiday season music in the public schools and Ashley A. Good '05 for her entry in the "Public Affairs/Community Service" department with an animation entitled "Eat Your Vegetables." Frank Mullin is faculty advisor for Columbia's production program which airs on local Maplewood and South Orange cable TV channels, with a program of study initiated back in 1979 by Pat Attanasio. Some 400 students take TV production courses in a studio created by Tom Jeron a decade ago. The TV Studio/Television Arts Program was also the recipient of an \$80,100 gift from the South Orange Maplewood Education Foundation this past academic year.



**Want to know what's going on with your old teams and activities?
Visit our website for links to local organizations and teams!**