

Chatterbox

Alumni Edition | Walnut Hills High School | Cincinnati Ohio | Fall 2019

WHAT’S TRENDING?



Think Uber for Tractors

Leverage Technology to improve livelihood and lives

Lavandez (Van) Jones '03 was recently awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business for his launching of **Hello Tractor** with partner Jehile Oliver.

Hello Tractor is an agritech startup that uses smart technologies to connect farmer to productivity-enhancing technologies across the emerging and frontier markets. This concept is revolutionizing farming in sub-Saharan Africa. *“New solutions and new models have to be put in place to ensure that the smallholder farmers that dominate the landscape get access to the farm machinery that’s going to improve their lives,”* Jones said.

SURSUM AD SUMMUM. THOSE WORDS MEAN EVERYTHING TO ME...

Van launched the concept in Nigeria in the summer of 2014—focusing on building connections among the agribusiness community in smallholder dominant markets. Poverty, low crop yields and the scarcity of tractors, much less the cost added to the challenge of small farmers. Hello Tractor addresses these hurdles by providing tractor application services and retrofitting existing tractors or new tractors entering the market with GPS antennae that are designed to work in areas with little or no internet penetration.

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Walnut by the Numbers: 2018-19 School Year

Dear Alumni,

As we begin the new school year in a few weeks (can’t believe where the summer has gone), we take a breath to look back over our 2018-2019 school year and share some of the highlights. Initially I began writing in depth articles about some of these highlights but as I was putting this together decided there is just too much good news to share and would present it in a fun and different way. **Walnut Hills by the Numbers** gives you a quick glance to come away with the essence that Sursum Ad Summum is not just the school motto but something we encourage our students to do every day. While there are many more stories and accolades that I could share with our alumni, you should come away with a sense of pride that while we have a strong foundation of excellence, it is not stagnant and we continue to prepare our students to succeed and give them opportunities to flourish. Your commitment to this institution and your generosity of time, talent and resources have, and will continue to, make a difference in this endeavor and I thank you.

Delush Hedman

#1 public high school in the State of Ohio <small>based on the Ohio Graduation Test</small>	17 perfect ACT Scores <small>23 additional seniors scored 35—missing the perfect score of 36 by 1! Approximately one-tenth of one percent of students who take the exam nationwide earn a 36</small>	\$42 million dollars in scholarships <small>awarded to the Senior Class of 447 students</small>	22 National Merit finalists <small>24 semi-finalists and 19 commended students recognized</small>
35 AP courses offered <small>New this year—AP Chinese</small>	102 Cum Laude initiates	Administered 2895 AP tests to 1122 students	Mock trial team won 3 of 4 trials at the state competition <small>3 best witness awards and 2 best attorney awards</small>
Model UN team wins “Best Delegate” awards <small>read more on page 7</small>	15 students won State Team Championship at the Ohio Science Fair <small>read more on page 7</small>	134,000+ library visits & 164,000 books circulated <small>in the 2018-2019 school year</small>	Martha Christopher Writing Center celebrates 12 years
80 awards, 22 Gold Keys, 1 Gold Portfolio <small>at the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards</small>	13 awards in the Governor’s Youth Art Awards 10 awards in the City Art Show	20 students will enter college this fall as music majors	160 students in The Marching Blue & Gold <small>membership has doubled over a span of four years</small>
19 student athletics earned college/university scholarships	3 state championships for the Girls Club Rugby Program <small>read more on page 7</small>	Girls varsity basketball team ranked 5th in the state	28 Cappie Award nominations for <i>Into the Woods</i> <small>read more on page 8</small>



MEET THE NEW WHHS ALUMNI BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS...

Two new members join our WHHS Alumni Foundation Board of Trustees. We welcome Jim Ellis '76 and Dylan Mosby '91.

JIM ELLIS '76

Jim is a retired private wealth manager, enjoying his retirement with his family and his labradoodle Willie. His volunteer experience has included work for Cedar Village Retirement Community, ArtsWave, Music Resource Center, Most Valuable Kids of Cincinnati, United Way of Cincinnati, The Children’s Theatre of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

DYLAN MOSBY '91

Dylan is a fifth generation Walnut alum and is currently responsible for large market retirement plans with Fidelity Investments. He enjoys spending time with his family, listening to live music and mentoring young adults.

ALUMNI FOUNDATION NEWS

Alumni Foundation Scholarships Awarded

Seniors and parents gathered in the auditorium on May 21st for the annual Senior Night Awards. **Principal, John Chambers** officially presented our Valedictorians (3) and Salutatorian their medals and all disciples were on hand to recognize outstanding students for their accomplishments throughout their high school career.

The WHHS Alumni Foundation awarded 120 scholarships totally approximately a quarter of a million dollars to the class. Students must apply for the scholarships and a committee of Senior High Counselors, representatives from the College Information Center and the Alumni Director spend numerous hours reading essays and matching donors wishes with individual scholarships. The committee also confers with the Principal and teachers should they need assistance in the selection.

This year’s class of 443 students received scholarship offers totaling over 42 million dollars. Students are attending colleges from border to border and coast to coast in the continental United States and a few are even studying abroad!

In their letters to our donors students expressed their thanks to the generosity of donors, as well their thanks for the many opportunities Walnut has afforded them and their hope to give back when they have the opportunity.



Bengy Mitchell photographed for the student Chatterbox by Allyson Garth

From **Bengy Mitchell** who received **The Ted Hattemer Scholarship** *“As a student at Walnut Hills, I have had the opportunity to engage with a number of activities both inside and outside the classroom which have enriched my high school experience. Bengy reflects “it is an honor to receive financial assistance toward a higher education, ...but also a great honor to represent the spirit and optimism Ted Hattemer embodied. I hope I am able to live out and practice his legacy of*

positivity, optimism and strength in working with others in my everyday endeavors in college. I will certainly keep in touch with the Alumni Foundation and I am excited to give back in ways others, such as yourselves, have given to me.” Bengy will be attending the University of Southern California as a USC Trustee Scholar and studying business.

Holly Bates, who was awarded **The Judith McCarty Kuhn and Beverly McCarty Waitz '55 Scholarship** and will attending Miami University in Oxford studying Music Education, reflects *“I was absolutely elated to learn of my selection for this honor and I am profoundly appreciate of your support. During my time at Walnut I served as President of Tri-M Music Honor Society, swam for two years, played volleyball for six years, played with the Advanced Steel Drum Band, and participated in every orchestra Walnut has to offer. I have played violin with the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Concert Orchestra and Nouveau Chamber Players. I truly believe the music program at Walnut helped grow me into the musician I am today. Someday I would love to teach at Walnut and eventually end up at the collegiate level. This scholarship has made college possible for me...and I pray one day I will be able to help others just as you have helped me.”*

New Scholarship Honors a Remarkable Woman

The Marcia Gessiness Scacchetti '77 Memorial Scholarship was set up by Marica’s two daughters, **Gabriella '07, Olivia '09**, Marica’s sister, **Paula Gessiness'75** and friends to honor her memory.

Marcia believed that the tradition of Sursum Ad Summum extends beyond the walls of Walnut Hills, and in order to make your place in the world, you must also strive to make the world a better place. Marcia lived by her own words and impacted the lives of all who were privileged to know her. The recipient of the scholarship, **Christabel Hammond**, exemplifies this belief and has worked hard to better the lives of others both inside and outside of the classroom. Christabel will be attending Vanderbilt University beginning her studies in pre-med. She excels in all things science and is interested in helping undeveloped countries seek their potential.

Marcia’s daughter, Gabby, was on hand to award the scholarship to Chistabel and offered some insights to the graduating seniors, *“So what I want to leave you with as you go out into the world, is to always remember Walnut Hills will be here for you to help and guide you in any way possible through a network of alumni that span the globe yet share a common bond with you that lasts a lifetime. By the same token, be one of those alumni who are willing to give back to your alma mater, not necessarily monetarily because you are not yet in a position to do so, but through deeds and actions that will shape the world you are about to enter. You are the best and the brightest. You are our hope for the future. You now have the opportunity to go and make your place in this world and at the same time make the world a better place. I know you will not let us down but continue to inspire us as the shining stars that you are.”*



Gabriella Scacchetti (left) and Christabel Hammond

The WHHS Alumni Foundation sponsors the Annual Chalk Drawing Contest

Tape measures, rough draft drawings, boxes of chalk, and teams of enthusiastic students took over the sidewalk around the Blair circle to render temporary creations. A deadline was looming: the judges arrived at noon so the ten foot by ten foot pictures needed to be completed by then. And so they were—beautiful drawings colored the sidewalks.



Works in progress!

A Campus Visit from Mike Gales

Mike Gales '98 reached out to the call—“ If you are going to be town for a visit we would love for you to share your journey with our students.” Several of Mike’s classmates did just that when the Class of 1998 was in town for their reunion last year. Mike couldn’t make it but stepped forward when he knew he was going to be in town visiting family this spring. Mike met with music, engineering and computer science students but any students would have benefited from hearing how he arrived at his current position.

Mike is the Senior Software Engineer for Sirius Satellite Radio and shared his journey from Walnut Hills to today. As a student here, Mike was heavily involved in all aspects of music from playing the clarinet in the Wind Ensemble and Marching Band, composing and taking AP Music Theory and technical theater. He also participated in FIRST Robotics and a summer engineering program. Mike feels strongly that Walnut gave him a foundation and gave him the opportunity to explore his curiosities. He commented that his AP classes enabled him to complete his degree in 3.5 years, classes like AP Art History taught him how to compare and contrast anything and make and support arguments. While at Walnut, Mike learned how to do research and write about almost anything.

He went on to attend NYU and received a Bachelor in Music Technology. While at NYU he spent his summers working at Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan on the sound and recording crews and providing live sound equipment for touring arts. In his senior year one of his professors was looking for broadcast engineers to help a startup company called Sirius Satellite Radio.

The rest is history, Mike “seized the day,” and worked on everything from operations, to service issues and eventually progressed to software development to monitor and control various pieces of broadcast equipment, eventually being offered a job in the automation group. Needless to say, he has absorbed rapid fire changes in technology, mergers and various moves around the country.

His title today has nothing to do with his degree or formal training but is a testament to feeding his curiosities and learning new things; not being afraid of hard work and or exploring new avenues. He has combined his passion for music with something not even on the horizon when he attended Walnut.

The students were in awe and had lots of questions for Mike who promised to let us know when he is coming to town again. If you would like to share your journey, we would love to have you spend time with our students. Just call Debbie Heldman and we can make the arrangements.

Golden Apples Awarded

The Alumni Foundation and the Parent Association annually join forces to recognize and honor two outstanding faculty members. The monetary portion of this award is made possible through



Top: Sandee Coates-Hann
Bottom: Samantha Grewe-Perkins

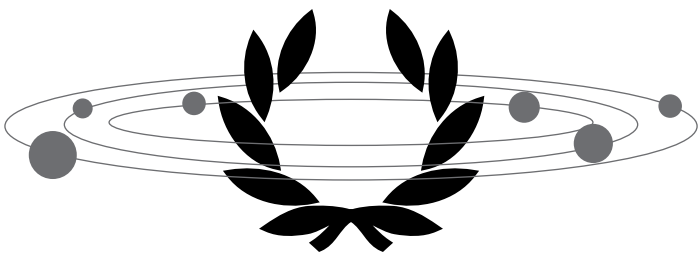
the generosity of the Class of 1946 by their establishment of the Faculty Enrichment Fund in honor of their 50th Class Reunion. The Parent Association enhances the award with crystal engraved “Golden Apples”, serving as permanent reminders of the winners’ achievements.

Nominations are received from students, faculty, administrators and parents. On May 20th, during the last faculty meeting of the year, this year’s distinguished winners were announced: Science teacher **Sandee Coates-Hann** and English teacher **Samantha Grewe-Perkins**.

Several students who nominated Sandee reflected that while Physics is one of the most difficult subjects, she takes each component apart with a step by step approach involving different teaching methods to ensure the concept is understood by all. They clearly understand this requires great patience, lots of planning and understanding that not all students learn the same way. You might find this teacher in the hall, on the playing fields or even at the bowling alley creating interactive and hands on activities to demonstrate a specific concept. One of our alumni currently in college recounted that every concept was linked to a real life situation and they were still reminded of it every day. They commented that *“this teacher sparked a wonder of the universe and has inspired them to learn more.”* One of our faculty members wrote that they would like to take this teacher’s class! They have watched as the number of students taking the class has grown and they understand why. The students are challenged academically by also know they are loved and supported for all their endeavors. Sandee shows up at concerts, plays, games and is even a partner in our community reading event. She also serves as the Advisor for our Science Olympiad teams which have grown very competitive under her leadership.

Similarly, Samantha received numerous thoughtful reviews from her students. They reflect that while she wears several hats, as a teacher of AP English Literature and Advisor to the *Chatterbox* and *Rem*, she completes it all seemingly in an effortless way while maintaining calm control over all she does. A number of students share that she inspires and motives them to dedicate themselves to doing their best work by demonstrating the important of the written word, but still making it enjoyable. *“Firm but fun,”* was a common comment among the students.

Her availability to students stood out, before school and after school always offering words of encouragement and even providing snacks and rides home! Under her leadership the *Chatterbox* and *Rem* have won numerous awards for journalism. The quality and frequency of the *Chatterbox* publication has continued to rise, with current events and sensitive timely topics brought to the forefront for student discussion and thoughtful debate.



Sursum Ad Summitum

July 20th marked the 50th anniversary of the landing of Apollo 11 and that first famous step on the moon. Some of us remember being glued to the TV watching and listening to the historic event as it unfolded. Today, Neil Armstrong’s iconic message “That’s one small step for man and one giant step for mankind” is a symbol for Americans, reminding us that accomplishments begin with a dream and mankind is just a speck of dust in our universe.

While the faces of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins are well recognized, we all know there were countless individuals who worked on the mission to make it a success. No surprise, we have our own “hidden figures” that were, and still are, involved in the space program

DESIGNING GUIDANCE

George Sherard ’35



George’s father was a minister and moved around the Midwest from parish to parish when George was young and eventually settled in Cincinnati where George entered Walnut Hills in eighth grade and his older sister, Frances in 10th grade. As a student George loved to read having been drawn into the world of Grimm’s Fairy Tales at an early age, and was drawn to the world of English Literature at Walnut. That said, it was an algebra teacher that noticed George was an exceptional student in math and encourage him to pursue higher math, chemistry and physics.

George went on to attend the University of Cincinnati where he obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Physics. He was studying for his doctorate at UC when the war broke out and was encouraged to complete his master’s degree instead. His thesis was on measuring the velocity of sound in solids. After graduation, he worked for the Signal Corps Laboratories as an acoustician. He taught a short while at Clark University but while visiting his mentor, Herman Branson at Howard University, was quickly recruited to join their faculty where he remained for three years. While he enjoyed teaching, his passion was aviation. He had been inspired by Charles Lindbergh’s solo flight of the Spirit of St Louis as a child. He began work on his doctorate in nuclear physics at the University of Pennsylvania, becoming an Atomic Energy Commission Fellow in Physics but shortly after beginning, put his education on hold to care for his ill Mother. Later he worked at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, a think tank working on non-conventional communication systems, which led to computers and computer programming.

In the early 60’s George began his career at North American Aviation, bought later by Rockwell International, which won the Apollo race contract and his real work began. He worked on the guidance system for the “Hound Dog,” which was the first US cruise missile that could carry an atomic weapon. He designed computer programs to train astronauts in the guidance of the command modules to the moon. George’s team worked on resolving problems with errors and failures of subsystems and simulations to prepare astronauts. He worked on all the Apollo missions, including work to develop a bomber aircraft that could survive a nuclear explosion.

The last major project George worked on before retirement was the stealth bomber, developing real time simulation support of avionics and weapon delivery capability.

TURBINES AND POWER

Warner Stewart ’45



Warner started building model airplanes at age 5 and aspired to have a career in aeronautics. He graduated from Walnut a year ahead of time, and immediately enrolled in the Engineering Department of the University of Cincinnati. While there, he co-oped at what was then the NACA Engine Laboratory in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from UC in 1949 with a BS in Aeronautical Engineering and started his professional career at the same lab, which is now called the NASA Glenn Research Center. In 1951 he received his Masters in Aeronautical Engineering from Case Institute of Technology.

Before he was promoted to management, Warner made major technical contributions in the fields of turbines for propulsion and power generation systems and became an international authority in these areas, authoring over 50 technical publications. He became the Chief of VSTOL and Noise Division and later the Director of Aeronautics, responsible for all aeronautical work at the Center, assuming the challenge of producing jet engines that could be quieter, cleaner and more fuel efficient. Warner assumed other management positions at the Center, including Director of Technical Services. He retired in 1996 after 48 years of service, receiving the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

Photo: Warner Stewart (left) discusses Allison T-63 exhaust stack with colleagues in the SPL (1978).

ADAPTING TO GRAVITY

Dr. Harold Sandler ’47



Post WHHS, Harold Sandler obtained undergraduate and Internal Medicine degrees from the University of Cincinnati. Drafted into the Navy, he embarked on a career of aerospace medical research. Following his tour of duty, he accepted a position at Moffett Field’s Ames Research Center as a research scientist. Sandler worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and participated in important studies pertaining to weightlessness and its effects during space flight, working jointly with international partners, including the United Soviet Socialist Republic. His work on the Biocosmos or COSMOS flights 1514 and 1667 are most notable. Dr. Harold Sandler rose to the position of Chief Biomedical Research Division NASA Ames Research Center where he concentrated on the study of physiological adaptation to varying gravity environments, with development of exercise training and countermeasures for astronauts. In addition, Dr. Sandler was an active participant in International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.

Photo: Dr. Harold Sandler (photo from the Bainbridge Island Review)

continued next page

Sursum Ad Summum continued from page 3

REDUCING TRASH CREATED IN SPACE

Emily Forrester '10



Emily Forrester is a Safety and Mission Assurance (SMA) aerospace engineer in Institutional Quality Assurance at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. She is a Society of Women Engineers member.

"I can with certainty say that Walnut Hills helped prepare me for NASA. Walnut was actually one of the first stepping stones to getting me to where I am. Senior year, on a whim, I decided to take an introduction to engineering class with Mrs. Cotton. With only a vague idea about what engineering was (math & design) I figured it would be a somewhat interesting class to fill an hour of my school day with. I was very wrong about that impression. That intro to engineering class was one of the few classes at Walnut that I ended up looking forward to going to each day, and one that I actually enjoyed doing the homework for. It made me realize that engineering wasn't really just about math and equations, but using math to solve real-life, practical problems. Because of that class, I decided to go into college as undecided engineering at Ohio University.

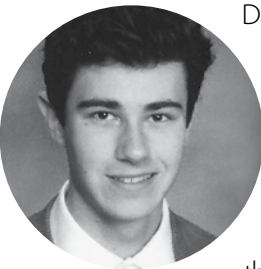
After a year of classes, I finally settled on Mechanical Engineering, or the jack of all trades of engineering. From there I continued on through college, completed an internship at Whirlpool, and started looking around for another internship. I had no expectation of ever getting to work for NASA but I figured if I didn't at least try I wouldn't know. So I applied for the Pathways program and was completely blow away when I was hired in as a quality intern at Kennedy Space Center(KSC). I completed two semesters of internship before being hired into the Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate (S&MA). I started in the Institutional Quality group, a group that focuses on handling infrastructure on KSC. I helped in developing quality clauses for NASA contracts to ensure the appropriate requirements and standards are met for each contract. I worked in that group for two years, before moving over to the Commercial Crew Program(CCP) group for S&MA.

In CCP I assist in insight and oversight activities with SpaceX. Our job is to monitor the commercial contracts with SpaceX and Boeing and ensure that the build of both the vehicles and crew capsules are proceeding smoothly. It is incredible getting to watch as NASA has slowly begun to ramp up activities again! I have always loved the amazing wonder of space exploration and being able to work for an organization such as NASA and contribute to bringing crewed launches back to the US is a dream come true for me.

I also have gotten the opportunity to work on an early career initiative project, funded through an initiative to get fresh ideas from younger employees. The team I am on is called OSCAR (Orbital Syngas/Commodity Augmentation Reactor). Our goal is to reduce the trash created on the ISS (and on future long-duration missions to the moon and Mars) and to try and create usable fuel from the trash. The team has designed a prototype reactor that uses steam reforming to break down a trash stimulant in micro-gravity. To date we have done laboratory testing, 2 second and 5 second drop tower testing (which give brief micro-gravity data during free-fall) and will later this year have a 3 minute test on a suborbital flight."

IN THE PIPELINE

Daniel Beitzinger '19



Daniel is attending the University of Cincinnati and pursuing electrical engineering.

When he was young, there was *Star Wars* which led to dreams of space. Field trips to the Observatory, museum exhibits, staring at the stars. Halloween in elementary school led to 3 years as an astronaut if only living his dream for just one night. At Walnut, he knew that working with NASA would require an advanced level of knowledge and pursued math and science with passion. Along the way, helping his Dad with the family cars he became interested in the mechanics and design and how things worked. He read about aerospace engineering, in the magazine *Control Engineering*. The thought that engineers got to design and make planes and even space shuttles matched his expectations of a perfect career in the making. This became the background for Daniel taking as many math and science classes that were available from AP calculus BC, multivariable calculus, AP Physics C as well as AP Computer Science. Daniel, we know you are prepared to soar and will be watching for the next chapter as you prepare to launch.

ALUMNI NEWS

Neither rain, sleet or snow...could keep us from this celebration!

After three winter weather related cancellations, the gang finally got together on February 27th to celebrate



Dean Giacometti's 99th birthday! Plans are well under way to celebrate his historic 100th. Save the date for October 29th. If you want to make sure your name is on the invitation list, please contact Jenny French in the Alumni Office, 513-363-8501 or jennyfrenchwhhs@gmail.com.



Save the date for October 29 to celebrate Dean's 100th birthday!

BAN Draws Alumni From Near and Far

The WHHS Black Alumni Network (BAN) Reunion, held October 5-7, 2018, included attendees from as far away as Mississippi & California and from a range of graduating classes (1972-2010). Alumni had the opportunity to meet **Principal John Chambers** during the football game and many continued reminiscing at Mardi Gras on Madison afterwards.

On Saturday, WHHS BAN honored **Brad Berry** (2018 EJH Alumni Award Recipient), **Kenneth Williams** (WHHS BAN Outstanding Faculty Member Award Recipient) and **Darrell L. Kelly** (2018 WHHS BAN Soaring Eagle Award Recipient)! The Erica J Holloman Foundation, Inc. was on hand to raise awareness about Triple Negative Breast Cancer. Sole Bros Inc, started in 2015 by a group of 8th grade boys, shared their story and collected sneaker donations for less fortunate young people. Alumni were also treated to a great performance by the WHHS Black Culture Club Step Team performed.

The weekend wrapped up on Sunday at the Schoolhouse Lofts. The WHHS Black Alumni Network was the first group to tour the original schoolhouse. So much history combined with the beauty of the apartments/lofts was simply an extraordinary experience and the perfect way to end the festivities.

SPACE TOUCHES DOWN IN THE ARTS

RIVER OF STARS

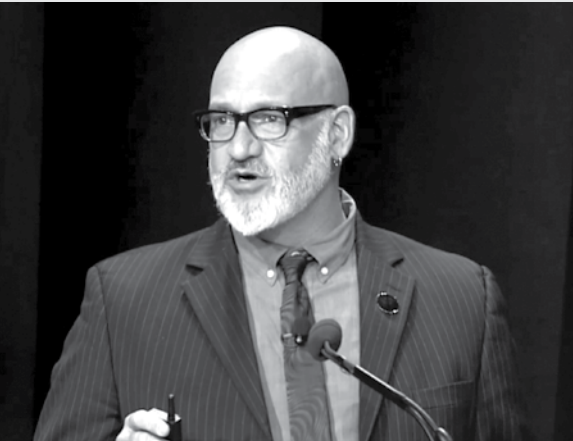
Trine Bumiller '77 completed her *River of Stars*, mural for the University of Colorado's new Aerospace Engineering Building. This is one of the premier aerospace programs in the country. Twenty astronauts have attended the school, and two currently teach there.



photo: @ellie.marcotte

GRAMMY WINNER

David Pescovitz '88 received a 2018 Grammy for producing a special limited edition for *The Voyager Golden Record: 40th Anniversary Edition*, the elaborate project commemorating the legendary golden disc that went up on the Voyager space probe in 1977.



David Pescovitz giving his talk "Science, art, and magic" at the 2016 AIGA Design Conference

As I was working one [astronaut] stopped by and said "you know, I've been in space, and while it doesn't exactly look like that, it really FEELS like that" Touched my artist heart, this is what we live for. — Trine Bumiller

REUNIONS APLENTY!

A central focus of the WHHS Alumni Foundation is facilitating connections. We call it “connecting the dots”. The core of our mission can only be accomplished thru these associations. A fundamental means of empowering alumni connections starts with alumni attending reunions and/or events. Each year hundreds of alumni engage with the WHHS community through a plethora of avenues. Alumni step-up to provide opportunities and step-in to fill a need. This is the magic, the ripple effect of reunions...

The Alumni Foundation works with, on average, 15 planning committees annually to create a memorable reunion weekend. A celebration of friendships and acknowledging the institution which together help shape the core of our being. Committees come in all sizes, but they have common threads; to embark on a journey to thoughtfully design a gathering representative of their graduating class’ rich diverse student population, find lost classmates to ensure the greatest number of contemporaries have the occasion to re-engage, and pay tribute to deceased classmates. We wish to recognize and thank the devoted individuals who step-up to fill this vital role.

2020 reunion planning is underway.

Join the planning committee. Stay in the loop by updating your contact information and plan to attend! We want to encourage you to make the connection!

Class of 1948—70th Reunion

The invitation proclaimed “This is it, We’ve got everything figured out!” and after 70 years and a plethora of reunion planning, it certainly is true. **Dutro Blocksom, Peninah Schulzinger Frankel** and **Alice Weihl Perlman** once again planned a magical fall 70th reunion. The weekend of October 19 & 20, 2018, an impressive turnout of 30 classmates gathered at The Regency Hermitage Room. Regardless if classmates attended in person or here in spirit, the Class of 1948 was resolute on a celebration of life and long friendships. A new twist this year, Saturday’s reunion dinner was held at Walnut Hills High School! Starting in the conference room, peers enjoyed edibles and a program which included a video of the totally renovated WHHS campus. The dinner, catered by Jeff Kreines’ A La Carte Dessert & Catering, was served in



the new teacher’s dining room. This bright new space is steeped with historic elements classmates’ recognized, like the original WHHS library tables and Rookwood pottery architectural details.

Did we say a reunion with a twist? Those ’48 classmates in attendance were greeted by **Ira Glodberg ’66** and **Wendy LaTour Morone ’66** in the iconic library just minutes before their wedding ceremony was to take place! That’s correct, the halls of WHHS were bustling this fall day with a reunion and a wedding! Such a testament to the powerful connection alumni have with this institution.

Walnut Hills High School continues to provide classmates wonderfully unique and unexpected experiences across the decades.

Class of 1953—65th Reunion

Early during the reunion planning for the class of 1953, it was exclaimed, “for us, every day is the weekend!” So with no need to be bound by convention, their 65th reunion broke with current tradition and planned reunion activities for Thursday, June 6th and Friday, June 7th, 2018. Reminiscent of a week in June, 65 years ago, Walnut Hills classmates gathered midweek to celebrate their graduation milestone. Now looking through the lens of time, classmates agree, it is still a poignant achievement worth celebrating. Like back in the day, downtown is bustling with a streetcar and 4th street was the place to be. Thursday night classmates made the scene at Skyline on 4th where tight friends enjoyed a casual get together. Saturday morning the class was on the stick and ready to cast an eyeball on the totally renovated Walnut Hills campus. Saturday evening, the Queen City Club was fat city. An elegant dinner with cherished friends to commemorate the 65 year reunion was dubbed a kick. It was clear, after this precious time spent with friends, classmates were on cloud 9.

Class of 1958—60th Reunion

It is true, for the Class of 1958 Walnut Hills High School holds such a special place in their collective hearts. This fact was the inspiration for the reunion planning committee. October 12 and 13, 2018, was a weekend tailored to creating memories with cherished friends and a celebration of where the Class of 1958 began. Friday night was a wonderful casual evening dedicated to remembrances and catching up with classmates at a Cincinnati favorite, Skyline. Of course, a reunion visit would not be complete without retracing our steps through the halls of WHHS. It’s the perfect opportunity to confirm our memories and be amazed at what is new. What fun to sit in the same auditorium where, during Walnuts of ’58, the Percision Chorus kicked to the tune of “My One And Only Highland Fling.” Classmates chatter could be heard... Wasn’t this where Mr Mechem made the morning announcements? This science lab looks nothing like Mr. Skilken’s chemistry lab. Wow, the new natatorium is an astonishing improvement! By the tour’s end, alumni were content in the knowledge that Walnut Hills High School is still an institution of excellence, and were off to celebrate. Saturday evening, the world renowned Contemporary Arts Center was the splendid stage to host an elegant dinner dedicated to long lasting friendships. It was noted, while there is much new to see and do in Cincinnati, it is each classmate’s attendance that made the WHHS Class of 1958 60th reunion a momentous occasion!

Class of 1963—55th Reunion

The word went out to the class, “It is our hope all classmates can attend the reunion weekend, September 21 & 22, 2018. To that end, the 55th reunion is being sponsored anonymously, as a gift to the class and to Walnut Hills.”

It all started in 2017 with a phone call from **Jim Rosenfield** to **Dan Berger**. Jim had been talking with fellow Walnut Hills grads in the New York City area and enthusiasm was growing for a 55th reunion. Jim asked Dan, “Since you live in the Cincinnati area, would you be willing to head up the planning?” “Sure,” said Dan, “on one condition: no committee.” You see, Dan ran a catering business for 18 years, event planning was right up his alley. The ingredients were simple: venues with good ambiance, plenty of first-class, healthy food, and plenty of attendees. But Jim and Dan had one more idea. To encourage attendance, they asked a handful of fellow alums who enthusiastically and graciously donated funds to cover the cost of the reunion, so classmates could show up and join the fun without charge.

Fast forward to September 20, 2018, when 80 members of the class of 1963, spouses and significant others gathered at Parker’s Blue Ash Grille for a sumptuous spread and plenty of libations. Old friendships were renewed, but even better, classmates found new commonalities they never would have imagined. Great camaraderie, great food and no pretenses.

The next day, some class members enjoyed a school tour, and were amazed at the changes inside and out - some even since the 50th reunion.

Our alma mater is a community treasure, and with alumni support continues to be a nationally recognized pre-eminent college preparatory school. Following a welcoming presentation by Deb Heldman, a catered lunch was served in the lunchroom, and it was reported that no forks were found in the ceiling after lunch concluded.

On the evening of September 21, the class gathered at Losantiville Country Club, courtesy of **Rick Abraham**, where the staff did a superior job in serving an incredible array of appetizers, an amazing buffet, and anyone’s beverage of choice. There were no programs, no presentations, no speeches - just great conversations and laughs. With one exception, when **Cheryl Dunn** delighted the class with her clever, nostalgic rap about our days at Walnut Hills.

We all had a great time, missed those who didn’t attend, and vowed to stay in touch with our longtime and new friends. The afterglow continued with months of emails, texts and Facebook posts sharing photos and memories. Sursum ad Summum!!!

Reflections from Dan Berger (edited for space)

Class of 1968—50th Reunion

Classmates of 1968 came of age during a historically significant period. Arguably, six of the most influential years of a lifetime were punctuated by a nation’s conflict, the civil rights movement, the war in Vietnam, and the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. Most of us say the years at Walnut Hills made us better. Navigating troubling times in the WHHS microcosm of diversity and intellect encouraged in us a developing social justice conscience and tolerance. Life skills equally relevant today. On many fronts, the Class of 1968 50th reunion is a milestone worthy of celebrating! On October 5th , 2018 135 friends and classmates gathered at Skyline on 4th Street for Cincinnati favorites; chili, Greater’s and catching-up. During the Saturday morning campus tour, we saw literally and figuratively how the WHHS educational foundation remains strong and endures the test of time. Bursting with Eagle Pride, classmates reconvened at Losantiville CC to enjoy an evening devoted to renewal of enduring friendships. For those still in town, **Ellen Essig** hosted a Sunday send off potluck dinner.

On the occasion of the 50th Reunion, the reunion planning committee resolved to give back to the institution which provided our advantages. The class of 1968 raised \$30,000 to fund an electronic media display.



Class of 1978—40th Reunion

Fun & Games was the theme for the Class of '78 reunion weekend, September 21-23, 2018. And you can bet your bottom dollar a good time was had by all! Reunion shenanigans kicked off Friday at the home of classmate **John and Amy Rosenberg**. Amy created an authentic 1978 WHHS feeling. You know you're in the right place when you look up only to find forks stuck in the ceiling!! SignUpGenius was just that, a genius way to allow classmates to contribute their favorite dish, beverage or games for the night. It was a splendid evening to catch up. Being Homecoming Weekend, Saturday morning was tour central at WHHS. 1978 arrived for the mid-day tour and were impressed with the campus transformation and opportunities for students today. Eagle Pride was palpable as classmates flew the nest for a look at the revitalized O-T-R via the Cincinnati Streetcar. As evening fell, it was time to double down on fun at JACK Cincinnati Casino. Odds are everyone enjoyed the dinner, signature Eagle drinks,



conversation, party games on the terrace, and DJ Pilo's beats keeping the party rollicking into the wee hours. The class of '78 hit the jackpot this 40th reunion.

To pay forward their good fortune, 1978's Class Gift was a donation to the WHHS Student Activity Enrichment Fund, which sustains

opportunities for students to excel and enhances the overall WHHS experience. Music, art, theater, sports and extracurriculars provide a plethora of choices to engage students with many varied interests.

Class of 1988—30th Reunion

Attending the Homecoming football game is likely how classmates would have spent their September evening thirty years go. This reunion was equal parts honoring the past and celebrating the future. The #88XXX reunion weekend, September 21 – 23, 2018, kicked off Friday on the WHHS campus.

The class was enthusiastic to dedicate time sharing career insight with current students. To that end, **Debbie Heldman** coordinated with approximately eleven '88



classmates, to interact with disciplines, clubs, or organizations where career interests align. Likewise, contemporaries were captivated by the educational experience and campus enhancements evidenced by the school tour. The transformation of colleagues and campus were unmistakable. But it's a reunion celebration too, so time for the Cincinnati Scavenger Hunt and tailgate on the patio to begin. Saturday the scavenger hunt continued throughout the revitalized Queen City...and concluded when 120 classmates and guests gathered at



Switch Lighting Design Studio. While there were games, and t-shirts, and gift bags, the memories and time with cherished friends was truly the reward!

Class of 1993—25th Reunion

The class of 1993 planned their 25th reunion for July 20 & 21. The Kingsgate Marriott was the place to be, that summer weekend! Friday, classmates hit the Bearcat Club for happy hour and to reconnect, Saturday morning Eagles flocked back to campus for an inspiring tour. Saturday night, everyone was instructed to 'Bring your dancin' shoes' and the classmates responded! Reconvening in the Kingsgate Ballroom, there was singing



and dancing and live streaming for those who could not attend... It can be said, the reunion was a royal success! As **Sarah Conley** posted, "Although we may have sang End of the Road, let's hope it's not the end of the road for the connections and re-connection we have made. It was amazing to see all of you."

Class of 1998—20th Reunion

In our last Chatterbox publication we raved about the '98 Career Day! We would be remiss if we didn't also detail their fabulous 20th reunion over Labor Day Weekend, 2018. Much planned for this epic weekend! Saturday, September 1st classmates were invited to come dressed in your favorite 90's attire! The official party at the Centennial Barn launched a weekend of fun, food, laughter, a raffle, and a trip down memory lane. Day Two of the Reunion, Class of '98 Family Day will be held the High School Gym. Bounce houses, face painting, ice cream trucks, food, game, campus tours and more! The kids race even had the opportunity to meet and run with an Olympic Gold Medalist!! Thanks **Mary Danner Wineberg**. Shout out to the class, for an amazing reunion!!



Class of 2003 and 2008

Thanksgiving weekend is the perfect time to gather high on the hill with WHHS classmates... As is customary, Saturday morning the Foundation was happy to showcase all the incredible campus upgrades in place since these Eagles took flight! The reactions were amusing as they contemplate the staggering changes in a few short years. Young alum from 2003 and 2008 hit up classmates and headed to 3 Points Brewery and The Chictore Boutique, respectively. We are thankful you included WHHS in your holiday plans!

Lavandez (Van) Jones '03 continued from page 1

The first sales cycle for Nigeria was completed in 2015 with approximately \$6.5 million in the pipeline. It has now expanded into Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Senegal and has expanded beyond tractor owners delivering value to tractor dealers and manufactures as well. Through a \$2 million partnership with the US Agency for International Development, Hello Tractor has been able to build the most networked fleet of tractors across the continent and provide opportunities to hundreds of young people in rural Africa.

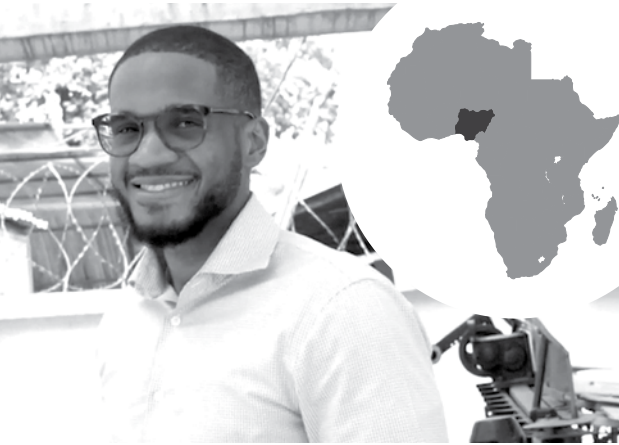
When asking Van just how the concept evolved it became a Walnut Connect the Dots story... "Entering my second year at Chicago Booth (University of Chicago School of Business), I reconnected with fellow Walnut grad **Tiffany Holloway, '01**, when she was thinking about transitioning into business school. As we talked, I told her about my fascination with the transition that industrial and agricultural companies were having as they respond to two forces—technological change and growth beyond the developed world. Turns out, her cousin, Jehiel, from Cleveland had been thinking about this as well. She connected us and I find out that he had been noodling an idea built around getting developing world farmers easier access to machines. The reality was these farmers were farming like America was in the 19th century and the system was broken.

I WAS FASCINATED BY THIS NEW WORLD CHALLENGE AND HAD AN IDEA

LAVANDEZ JONES '03

I was fascinated by this new world challenge and had an idea. He was working in DC and out of school so I told him I would take this idea see if we could build something to address the challenge. Chicago Booth had several entrepreneurship courses and one of them revolved around social entrepreneurship. The course culminated in a competition where you could win money and a package of benefits to get the company off the ground. Six months later we won and Hello Tractor was off the ground.

Sursum Ad Summum. Those words mean everything to me and as a teen, oriented me to the world in a way that I think was uniquely a byproduct of Walnut. And the linkages that Walnut produces exist years later. Had it not been for Tiffany, I would never have ended up in Africa and Go Tractor would not be a reality!"



STUDENT NEWS

Class of 2019 Accepted Near & Far

The Senior Class of 447 students garnered over **\$42,000,000** in scholarships and awards! This figure does not include WHHS Alumni Foundation scholarship awards.

- Alabama, University of

Akron, University of

American University

Arcadia University

Art Academy of Cincinnati

Art Institute of Ohio

Arizona, University of

Arizona State University

Auburn University

Baldwin-Wallace College

Ball State University

Barnard College

Bellarmino University

Beloit College

Berea College

Berkeley College

Boston College

Boston University

Bowling Green State University

Brandeis University

British Columbia, University of

Brown University

Brown Mackie College

Bryn Mawr College

Bucknell University

Butler University

California Institute of Technology

California, University of Berkeley

California Univ. of /San Francisco

California, Univ. of / Los Angeles

California, Univ. of /Santa Barbara

California School of Culinary Arts

Cambridge University (UK)

Capital University

Carnegie Mellon University

Case Western Reserve University

Cedarville University

Centre College

Chicago, University of

Cincinnati, University of

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College

Clark University

Clemson University

Cleveland Institute of Art

Cleveland State University

Colgate University

College of Charleston

College of Mt. St. Joseph

College of William & Mary

College of Wooster

Colorado State University

Colorado, University of

Columbia University

Connecticut College

Cooper Union

Cornell University

Dartmouth College

Dayton, University of

Delaware, University of

Denison University

DePaul University

DePauw University

Dickinson College

Drexel University

Duke University

Eastern Kentucky University

Eastern Michigan University

East Tennessee State

Edinburgh, University of

Elon University

Emerson College

Emory University

Evansville, University of

Evergreen State College

Fairfield University

Ferris State University

Florida A&M University

Florida State University

Fordham University

Furman University

George Washington University

Georgia Institute of Technology

Georgia State University

Georgetown University

Grinnell College

Hampshire College

Hampton University

Hanover College

Harvard University

Haverford College

Hobart & William Smith Colleges

Howard University

Iceland, University of

Illinois Institute of Technology

Illinois, University of

Indiana University

Iowa, University of

Ithaca College

James Madison University

John Carroll University

Johns Hopkins University

Johnson & Wales University

Kansas, University of

Kent State University

Kentucky, University of

Kentucky State University

Kenyon College
- Lake Erie College

Lewis & Clark College

Louisville, University of

Loyola University/ Chicago

Loyola Univ. / Marymount

Maryland, University of

Marquette University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts, University of

McGill University

Miami University / Oxford

Michigan, University of

Michigan State University

Morehead State University

Morehouse College

Morgan State University

Mount Holyoke College

Mount Union College

Muskingum College

NEUCOM

New Mexico, Univ. of

New York University

North Carolina A&T

North Carolina Central University

North Carolina, Univ. of / Asheville

North Carolina, Univ. of / Chapel Hill

North Carolina, University/ School of the Arts

North Carolina Univ. of /Wilmington

Northeastern University

Northern Kentucky University

Northwestern University

Oberlin College

Occidental College

Oglethorpe University

Ohio Northern University

Ohio State University

Ohio University

Ohio Wesleyan University

Oklahoma State University

Pennsylvania, University of

Pennsylvania State University

Philadelphia University

Pittsburgh, University of

Prairie View A&M College

Pratt Institute

Princeton University

Purdue University

Queens College

Reed College

Regency Beauty Institute

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rhode Island School of Design

Rice University

Richmond American International University

Rochester, University of

Roosevelt University

Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

Rutgers University

St. John's College

St. Joseph's University

St. Louis University

St. Xavier University / Chicago

Savannah College Art & Design

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Seton Hall University

Shawnee State University

Skidmore College

Smith College

South Carolina, University of

Southern California, Univ. of

Southern Illinois University

Southern Methodist University

Stanford University

Syracuse University

Temple University

Tennessee, University of

Tennessee State University

Texas A&M University

Texas, University of / Dallas

Tiffin University

Toledo, University of

Toronto, University of

Trinity College

Tufts University

Tulane University

Tuskegee University

United States Military Academy

United States Naval Academy

Vanderbilt University

Vassar College

Vermont, University of

Villanova University

Virginia Commonwealth Univ.

Virginia, University of

Wake Forest University

Washington University

Washington University / St. Louis

Wellesley College

Wesleyan University

West Virginia, University of

Williams College

Wisconsin, University of/Madison

Wittenberg University

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Wright State University

Xavier University / Cincinnati

Yale University

Walnut Wins Big at the State Science Fair

Walnut Hills High School science fair club won the team competition at the state science fair held in St John’s Arena in Columbus Ohio Saturday, May 11. Over 100 schools were represented (almost 900 projects). The Walnut Science Fair team won the School Award. This award is given to the school(s) that has over 80% of their projects receive a superior. Walnut’s percent was 92.



The WHHS Science Olympiad had a successful year as well. These competitions consist of hands-on events in STEM disciplines and require preparation, coaching and practice throughout the year.

JETS Among Best in Nation

In early July, our JETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society) team competed in the national tournament which was hosted in National Harbor, Maryland. The competition cycle begins at the state and regional level with over 10,000 students competing nationwide. Following Walnut’s successful regional and state competitions two teams of eight competed against top teams from around the country (and several international) winning 2nd and 5th place overall Best in the Nation. They also won 2nd and 4th place in the Digital Media category, 2nd place in Engineering Computations, and 10th place in the Design & Build category.

Model UN

During the 2018-19 school year, WHHS Model UN participated in three conferences—University of Dayton, Miami University (OH) and Harvard Model United Nations, one of the largest and most prestigious conferences. The WHHS Model UN team excelled at UD and Miami winning a number of awards, including multiple “Best Delegate” awards. At the Harvard Model UN, journalist **Abigail Jay ’21** reported in *The Chatterbox* “WHHS won a total of four awards during the four-day conference: senior **Rithu Rajagopala** won Best Delegate for her work as Croatia in the International Justice Committee, senior **Yajat Dhawan** won Best Delegate for his work as W.P.A. Soundarapandian Nadar in the committee on the Future of Dravida Nadu, **Dhruv Rungta ’20** won Outstanding Delegate for his work as Ahmed Patel in the Indian Parliament and **Gibson O’Malley Kirsch ’19** won Honorable Mention for his work as the *New York Times* in the Press Corps.”

English Department News (and Awards)

- The Walnut Hills High School student **Chatterbox** was awarded 13 Best of School News Online Awards at the fall National High School Journalism Convention and numerous individual awards for both the **Chatterbox** and **Rem** ranging from feature writing to press law & ethics to yearbook layout and graphic design.
- This year, the **Quill and Scroll International Journalism Honor Society** inducted 17 WHHS students.
- Walnut students scored top in the state and second in the nation in **Vocabulary.com**.
- **Community Read Night**
As part of our English AP Language courses, our students engage in a community read, selecting their title from 14 selections and finding a partner (adult) to read and discuss the book with along the way. The culmination is Community Read Night, where this year 325 students along with the partners broke up into 45 sessions for hearty discussions. Everyone always comes away with new perspectives on their selections and authors. If you are interested in partnering with a student next year please let us know as we always have students who are in need of a partner.

Advanced Theatre Classes Pilot New Curriculum

The Advanced Theatre classes were part of the Educational Theatre Association Model Curriculum Framework Project. This was a nation-wide project where only 12 schools from across the country were selected to participate in piloting new theatre instructional units that assess the national theatre arts standards and were created together by a classroom teacher and a professional teaching artist. The students worked with local actress, director, and physical theatre artist Erin Carr; who helped me write, develop, and teach our unit. They liked our work so much that we have been asked to write another unit this summer and pilot it in the fall. Our local PBS affiliate filmed our work for a short documentary segment which should be available later this summer.



Cincinnati’s First High School Girls Rugby Squad

Nick Geary coaches the three year old team which has won 3 State Championships in the last 5 seasons!



**Walnut Hills High School
Alumni Foundation
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Debbie Heldman

**Have an idea for a story or
need to contact the Alumni
Foundation? Here is how:**

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Carolyn Gilman, Special Projects
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Jane Stephens, Assistant to the
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INTO THE WOODS PRODUCTION BREAKS RECORD

Our production of Into the Woods received a record number of 28 Cappies nominations and won five awards: Female Critic, Costumes, Hair and Makeup, Special Effects and Technology, and Supporting Actress in a Musical. **Rick Steiner '64** would be so proud!!



Clockwise starting at left: Celebration among the cast, crew and critics who attended the Cappie nominations announcement party; theater teacher Mike Sherman '00, Ellen Kuby Steiner '67 and Corky Steiner '61 were on hand to celebrate; Jenny French, Debbie Heldman and Barbara Bates from the Alumni Foundation joined in too!

UP AND COMING Alumni Reunions

Keep up to date on reunion details, registrations links and hotel information on our webpage at www.walnuthillseagles.com. Click on the **Alumni** tab then **Reunions**.

Class of 1954 — October 18-19, 2019
Contact: Dave Freytag, dfreytag@fuse.net

Class of 1959 — October 25-26, 2019
Contact: Kit Duval, kitduval11@gmail.com, Nancy Hollingsworth, nlhollingsworth@fuse.net

Class of 1973 Mini Holiday Reunion — Date TBD
Contact: Milo Hanke, milohanke@gmail.com

Class of 1994 — October 4-5, 2019
Contact: Laura Joppru, laurajoppru@gmail.com

Class of 2009 — December 20-21, 2019
Contact: Victor Kamesar, victorkamesar@yahoo.com, kovacevicsmk@gmail.com, Callisza@gmail.com, Mike.harrington13.mh@gmail.com

Class of 1960 — August 28-30, 2020
Contact: Robert Brown, brownlawohio.com

Class of 1970 — August 28-30, 2020
Contact: Ernie McAdams efmjr@fuse.net

Class of 1980 — October 9-10, 2020
Contact: Margo Kirstein, margo.kirstein@7hills.org

Class of 1985 — October 9-11, 2020
Contact: Terez Mays-Jones, terezmay@hotmail.com

Please contact Jenny French, jennyfrenchwhhs@gmail.com or (513) 363-8501, with questions or to get the ball rolling for your next reunion.