



Chatterbox

Alumni Edition | Walnut Hills High School | Cincinnati Ohio | Fall 2016

WHAT'S TRENDING?

VR dome

#trending... August in Cincinnati is hot, but the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's fourth and final production, #Lumenocity Re-Imagine, gave new meaning to the term hot! As we say in the Alumni Foundation, everywhere you go, there they are! It is not surprising the WHHS alumni and community were proudly represented throughout the impressive list of sponsors and artist. Case in point, the much hyped VR Dome was presented by the **Jennie Rosenthal Berliant '81** and Allan Berliant Family Fund. However, a lesser known fact is this 40'x40' virtual reality dome is the creation of **Matt Muller '10** and **Levi Bedall '10**. Founders of Pneuhaus, <http://pneu.haus/projects>, self-described as a design collective working within the fields of spatial design, temporary structures, and contemporary art to create large-scale immersive environments that relate to human scale. We can't be sure but perhaps it was the 6 years spent "Under the Dome" that provided the inspiration for this design!



One-of-a-kind fashion

#trending... Philippe Haas '04: Following his graduation from WHHS and The Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, Philippe hoped that his strength in math would lead to work in the financial world. But, he found that this particular path was not one that inspired him or gave him the creative outlook he was hoping to find. A call from an uncle in Berlin, Germany, led to a change of direction and a learning curve in both German and men's fashion. For the next five years, Philippe learned the ins-and-outs of men's retail, from buying merchandise and sales tactics, to budgeting, forecasting and designing both shops and new collections. "One of my favorite things to do was go to the fashion showrooms where we picked out future season fabrics and designed new collections."



photo from www.PhilippeHaas.com

When the call came from his brother in November, 2015, with an invitation to join the celebration of his marriage, Philippe realized it was time to return to Cincinnati and set up his own clothing company. "I took my financial business background and what I call my real world master's degree in European fashion to write a business plan.... I quit my job working in Berlin and took the time to focus on my business contacts that I made in Europe, specifically Italy, Portugal and China. I took trips to all three places, strengthening my relations, leaned more about production and the capabilities of custom clothing shipped to the United States....I also created relationships with European fabric companies, sourced directly from their European mills, to be delivered to my factories."

Philippe Haas Bespoke Tailoring (www.PhilippeHaas.com) was launched in December, 2015 in downtown Cincinnati. His vision "is to make custom clothing for men and women who want a one-of-a-kind, European influenced, luxury product for an affordable price."

What is the Impact?

As you consider your Annual Fund gift to the Foundation, take a few minutes to read about how your donations impact the entire WHHS experience from incoming 7th graders to graduating seniors. Every gift is critical to the success of our programs.

1. ENGINEERING

As the number of students in the engineering program has grown, so has the interest in the student teams that compete on the local, regional, and national levels. Our Robotics teams and the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) have raised the bar on competition. They have become consistent players on the national level. The Alumni Foundation assists the teams in offsetting travel expenses and equipment purchases. In addition, the Foundation has launched our Engineering Initiative with companies which represent a wide range of engineering careers. Members of the Foundation Board of Trustees help set up student visits to local engineering businesses so that students can see firsthand all the different aspects of engineering in the work place.

"I wanted to thank you again for continuing to support the JETS team, and the engineering program at Walnut in general...I am proud of the team for their hard work preparing for competition and their admirable behavior and performance while we were there..."

Laurie Cotton, '97, Engineering Faculty co-ordinator

Pilot Engineering Initiative Launched

Spearheaded by Board member **Dick Paulsen '77** last year, we began our first collaboration between WHHS Engineering students and engineers employed by WHHS alumni companies. We spent our first year identifying potential alumni companies, met with interested parties, and developed a blueprint for visits. The first visit took place this spring at Shepherd Chemical, led by **Tom Shepherd (son of John '53)**. Students were given a tour of the plant, met with a host of engineers and learned about the different facets of Shepherd. Our students were thrilled to be in an industrial setting and see their textbook knowledge translated to actual careers.

Our goal this year is to expand the number of companies involved. Already on board are ROTEX and Michelman, Inc. For additional information, please contact Debbie Heldman at debbieheldman@gmail.com or call 513.363.8496.

2. PHYSICAL HEALTH

Fitness Center

As part of the Foundation's Capital Campaign, the WHHS Fitness Center was opened during the last phase of our campus renovation. The impact of the Fitness Center continues to expand as it provides students the opportunity for strengthening and conditioning and forming lifelong fitness habits. The Center is used by both physical education students and student athletes

"The Fitness Center is the core of our P.E. Curriculum here at Walnut Hills High School...which is deeply rooted within The Fitness Gram Program. We are able to teach and practice all aspects of Fitness. With regard to Strength Training, the students are exposed to the top of the line Nautilus and Free Standing weights. Every muscle group is trained and discussed regarding location, movement, and execution of said muscle group. Having the upright Bikes, we are able to teach and practice Exercise Heart Rate Zones as well as basic practical use to increase Cardiovascular Fitness...the feedback from our students has been tremendously positive."

George Kontsis
Health and Physical Education Department Chair



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3. SUMMER PROGRAMS

During the summer months, most high schools are quiet, with the exception of a sprinkling of athletic teams practicing or maintenance work being completed. This is not the case at Walnut Hills High School! Over the years, the WHHS Alumni Foundation has designed, implemented and staffed a series of classes for both incoming seventh graders and students in the upper grades. The selections have expanded over the last few years to include enrichment classes offered by faculty members and classes for credit in Economics, Health and Government.

450 Students took advantage of summer enrichment and tutorial programs

This past year over 160 incoming seventh graders took advantage of our Ready, Set, Go! program which introduces incoming students to English, Latin, and Math. They spend 1 hour of instructional time in each subject, meet other new students, and familiarize themselves with the campus. With sessions offered both in the morning and evening, over the course of a week the new students become acclimated to the regime of Walnut Hills.

In addition, review sessions for both Latin and Math attracted 90 students who take advantage of opportunities to start the new academic year off with refreshed memories. Art, college essays, college application boot camps and classes in Economics, Government and Health fill the hallways with students over the course of the summer.

“This summer, I helped 160 incoming 7th graders navigate the world of 7AA English at the Ready, Set, Go! program. These nervous and eager 11- and 12-year-olds learned strategies for analyzing poetry, understanding short fiction, and organizing ideas for analytical and argumentative writing. A few students even took up my challenge to memorize Robert Frost’s famous poem, “The Road Not Taken.” By the end of the week, students had filled their English “toolbox” with catchy ways to begin engaging with all sorts of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Most importantly, the students met a ton of new friends during our turn-and-talk discussions.”

Jake Riordan, English teacher



4. STUDENT TRAVEL

The impact of providing students the opportunity to become immersed in the global community has expanded horizons, created awareness and opened doors on numerous continents. Many students upon their return use this experience as a springboard to become involved in global initiatives at home. Some of our students have even started clubs such as STAR (Students Together Assisting Refugees) (see related article on page 5), United for Uganda, and the Modern Abolitionists.

Ben Aufermann '17, shares his experiences from his first trip outside the United States:

“This was my first time flying in an airplane ..(and) despite how terrify it was for me, a guy with a huge fear of heights,... the trip was entirely worth it. The sights I got to see while experiencing Inti Raymi, exploring Cusco and visiting historic sites were truly breathtaking. The time I spent doing all that, while also getting to know fellow classmates better, and while enhancing my current Spanish skill is something I will not forget. ...None of that would have been possible if the Alumni Foundation did not help my family out with the funding. Thus, on behalf of my family, and all the other families that you helped and will help in the future; THANK YOU.”



The impact of student travel changed the projectory of Savannah Tate Cuff’s journey...

Savannah Tate Cuff '11, travelled the summer of her junior year to an art camp in France, with the assistance of the WHHS Alumni Foundation’s Lagnappe Scholarship. That summer abroad transformed her and she has gone on to pursue a career in Fine Arts.

“From a mom’s perspective, and I know that Savannah feels this way too — we are forever grateful for the summer scholarship the Alumni Foundation gave to Savannah to attend that 3 week art camp in France. It added to her fire to pursue art.... I know its corny but the sentiment is genuine.”

Mary Tate, Savannah’s mom

Savannah was trained as a classical realist at the Angel Academy in Florence, Italy. She is now based in New York City and is hosting workshops at Manifest while creating wonderful works of art.

Recently Savannah participated in the Figure Drawing Competition offered by Grand Central Atelier (GCA), with the first prize of \$10,000. Eleven artists spent 40 hours over 5 days drawing the same model in the same studio. As a second year student going into her third year, Savannah received the top prize!

To see more of Savannah’s art, please visit the following website: <https://www.instagram.com/art.savannahcuff/>



58 Alumni funded scholarships were awarded in 2015

5. SCHOLARSHIPS

The impact of alumni college scholarships will continue to grow as students realize their potential in the next chapter of their education and go on to become productive members of society.

“I am a sophomore at Vanderbilt University double majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Economics. I have been active on campus in a variety of ways including becoming a tour guide, having a job, and joining Greek life as a member of Sigma Nu fraternity. Going to college, especially a private, out-of-state school, is a huge financial commitment by both the student and their family and every scholarship dollar is cherished. For this reason, I am extremely appreciative to the Alumni Foundation for their investment in my education. But beyond just the financial implications, the Alumni Foundation Scholarship I received was validation for all the hard work and late nights I put in throughout my six years at Walnut. No diploma from Walnut comes easy, but receiving such a scholarship is an endorsement that the school and its many alumni appreciate the students who really do rise to the highest in their academics and go above and beyond. In



addition to just the Alumni Foundation Scholarship, I am enormously grateful to Walnut in general for preparing me inside and outside of the classroom to succeed at one of the top universities in the country. Thanks to the college curriculum and AP courses offered at Walnut I will be able to graduate with a double major in four years while still being able to participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities. I take great pride in being a Walnut alum and even after meeting friends from all over the country and some of the most prestigious high schools in the country I wouldn’t trade my Walnut Hills experience for anything.

Robby Perry '15

6. CURRICULUUM ENHANCEMENTS

The Cincinnati Public School budget limits the resources available for faculty to augment available curriculum materials. The impact of having various sources of information deepens and broadens the students’ knowledge. Here is one example:

Mrs. Heldman,

As a new Walnut Hills employee and new to the Ethnic Studies class in which I’m teaching, my goal is to offer broad cultural perspectives for my students. I am emailing to thank you for the books purchased by the Alumni Foundation in that endeavor. We’ve just completed *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. The book, written by a Spokane Indian, allowed my students insight into life on a Native American reservation in a way I could not. Use of the text fueled high-level discussion in my classes about the future of Native American land and current debates over the Dakota Pipeline.

My classes are now beginning our Asian-American unit and I will be using the second book purchased by the Foundation, *American Born Chinese*, to highlight the Chinese-American viewpoint.

I appreciate the support of the Walnut Hills High School Alumni Foundation in making my Ethnic Studies course interesting, relevant, and challenging for my students.

Sincerely,
Pamela Owens
Ethnic Studies, Walnut Hills High School

3,500 Students visited The Martha Surnbrock Christopher '44 Writing Center in 2015-16

ALUMNI FOUNDATION NEWS

Eagle Artists

The first annual Walnut Hills Alumni Fine Arts Show and Sale was held on Sunday, May 22nd. Neil Bortz '50 offered up Cincinnati's iconic and newly renovated Mt. Adams Monastery as a stunning and fitting backdrop for this exciting afternoon. The call to artists generated replies from a wide variety of gifted alumni, coast to coast! We crafted an eclectic line-up of 22 artists for the first exhibition. True to their expression of a classical WHHS education... some artists are making their living as professional artists and others create their masterpieces as a hobby. These talented Eagle artist (see list below) are proficient in painting, photography, mosaic and sculpture media. The Foundation provided lite-bites and entertainment by John Fox '70 and Suzanne Arnold as several hundred fellow Eagles viewed and purchased the offerings. A portion of the proceeds went to benefit the WHHS Alumni Foundation.



Participating artists included:

- Erika Arett '67, www.erikaarett.com
- Trine Bumiller '77 Facebook Page is: <https://www.facebook.com/trinebumiller.artist/>
- Ellen Cohen Scott '80
- Savannah Tate Cuff '11
- Jeni Engel-Conley '66
- John Fischer '61
- Grant Hesser '65
- James Hesser '96, www.Jimhesserart.com
- Susan Hines Siemer '65
- Carol Jentelson Goodell '59 Artist/Philanthropist at PIXEL ART Originals
- Kenneth L. Johnson '64
- Robbie Kemper '75, robbiekemper.com
- Marie Kennedy-Burbridge '67
- Mary (Elise) Lambert Evans '65
- John Leon '74, www.johnleon.com
- Debi Maltz Varland '84
- Taylor Roberts '05, www.facebook.com/NoellRobertsArt/?fref=ts&ref=br_tf
- Zack Sawan '04
- Doug Siegel '94, www.dougsiegelphotography.carbonmade.com
- Nate Waspe '91
- Anita Winfrey '70
- J Miles Wolf '75, www.jmileswolf.com

Dean Giacometti's Big Day

On Dean Giacometti's 95th birthday, he wished for a party every year! So, our now annual celebration of Dean's birthday was held January 27, 2016 at the club house at Indian Creek Apartments. As usual, loyal alumni and friends turned out to honor this treasured teacher, mentor and friend. Storytelling is a constant theme throughout these birthday events. As a special tribute to Dean, *Enquirer* contributor John Faherty was on hand to cover the birthday merriment. John moved through the crowd recording remembrances of what made this man special. Each tale slightly varied but the sentiment the same, Students remember the quiet words of encouragement and support when they needed to hear them. And now this diverse group of devotees is returning the favor! **Nancy Strikman Seltz '58**, knew Giacometti both as a student and later as a Latin teacher at Walnut. "What distinguishes him is his heart and his compassion," she said. "Kids can always tell who is genuine. Good teachers are born to do it. Dean was." **Gary Wachs '54** comments "as the years roll by I realize he is teaching us how to grow old gracefully: How to stay active, how to be a good citizen and a good husband. That is a teacher." Save the Date, Friday, January 27th as we celebrate Dean's 97th birthday.



End of Year Faculty Sendoff and Faculty Awards

On May 9th we recognized two faculty members, **Bill Gordon** (Math) and **Susan Donnett** (Latin) for their outstanding contributions to student life in and outside the classroom. This award was created by the Class of 1946 and is given out yearly in conjunction with the Golden Apple Award sponsored by the Parent Association. We celebrated the end of the school year with an ice cream social for our entire faculty.



Bill Gordon



Susan Donnett

The WHHS Alumni Foundation hosts the Cappies

A national non-profit organization, The Cappie Awards is focused on building a strong student theatrical community that encourages training of student writers, performers, and technicians. Cincinnati's Cappies program is one of the nation's largest, with 131 Cappies critics and 22 local schools participating. This year, on April 16th, 78 Cappies critics arrived on campus to see the theatrical production of *The Cherry Orchard* and enjoyed a lunch provided by the WHHS Alumni Foundation.

In true Oscar style, after viewing all of the area's productions, the Cappies critics vote for their favorite in a range of categories including best lighting, make-up, orchestra, performances, and productions! All the votes were cast and tabulated on April 29th, 2016. The WHHS Theatre's production of *The Cherry Orchard* received an impressive 22 AWARD NOMINATIONS! On May 27th, thousands of students, parents, educators and enthusiasts turned out at the Aronoff Center for the Arts to hear the infamous line... "And the winner is..."

WHHS Theatre Department Presents:

- Julius Caesar — October 27-29, 7:00PM
 - Holiday Schmoliday — December 1 & 2, 7PM and December 3, 2PM
 - Ragtime — February 23-25 at 7PM
 - And Then There were None — April 20 & 21, 7 PM and April 22, 2PM
 - The Wizard of Oz, Young Performers Edition — May 11-13, 7PM
- Hope to see you there!



And what an honor!! Eight Cappies awarded in the following categories:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Sound | 5. Lead Actress in a Play |
| 2. Featured Actor in a Play | 6. Lead Actor In a Play |
| 3. Supporting Actress in a Play | 7. Best Critique |
| 4. Supporting Actor in a Play | 8. Best Play of 2015-2016 |

Congratulations to all our theatre students who continue to "rise to the highest".

As a point of reference, last year's Sweeney Todd received 20 nominations and won 4 Cappie Awards.

The WHHS Alumni Foundation sponsors the Annual Chalk Drawing Contest.....

Even as the rain came down, first as sprinkles and then as a downpour, students braved the elements to create works of art. The winner is shown above under a tarp but near completion. There was enough time for our judges, recruited through the Alumni Foundation, to register their vote before the rains washed the sidewalks of the student's efforts. We wanted to extend a "Thank you!" to all of the alum who came out to participate in our annual event as judges.



CAMPUS UPDATE

The Dedication of the Natatorium

A gathering of friends and family on a Thursday afternoon (August 25th, 2016) celebrated the dedication of the Abrahamson Natatorium. The Abrahamson family was represented by **Ira Abrahamson, '42**, **Jean Abrahamson '40**, Ira's sons Tom and Rick, Rick's wife Mandy, Ira's daughter Susan and her husband, Jeff Routh, as well as Ira's grandchildren. The dedication was held in the Natatorium and a reception in the Schott Recital Hall followed.



Alumni, parents, the WHHS swim teams, coaches and staff gathered in the viewing stands and listened to Rick speak of his father, the legacy of swimming and Ira's successful career in the field of ophthalmology. It was through the competitiveness in the pool that he was inspired to achieve many of his lifelong goals. While at Walnut Hills, his team placed 2nd in the city, won the Southern Ohio District Championship and placed 4th in the Columbus State meet in 1942. After leaving Walnut Hills on a scholarship in swimming to the University of North Carolina, Ira added the butterfly to his repertoire and helped to lead UNC to a Southern Conference Championship in both 1943 and 1944. This was followed in 1947 by becoming a charter member of the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Medical School followed and a stint in the army, where Dr. Ira performed surgeries on both adults and children to correct misaligned eyes, which left untreated after age 7 eventually causes blindness. This life-changing surgery impacted him so much that Dr. Ira developed a Vision Screening Program for children in order to detect and correct defects before they caused irreversible damage to a child's vision. The program went international through the Rotary Club, with the intent to wipe out preventable blindness in children throughout the world.

For over 30 years, Dr. Ira spent a month every year doing free eye surgery in Mexico as a way to share his skills with patients with little access to medical care.

In 1995, Dr. Ira founded the Abrahamson Pediatric Eye Institute at Cincinnati's Children Hospital, one of the leading centers serving medical and surgical Children's eye care in the country. Recently Dr. Ira established the Abrahamson Endowed Chair of Pediatric Ophthalmology linking Children's Hospital with Cincinnati's College of Medicine.

As Rick finished his talk, he said, "It is fitting, then, that my dad is back here today at his alma mater, Walnut Hills High School, where his life was set into motion....The Abrahamson Family Natatorium thus honors a family of graduates from this outstanding school, and it is a phenomenal facility that is sure to benefit many students athletes for years to come."

A plaque, which lists the generous gifts made by **Ira '42**, **Linda Aloe '56**, **Margaret Abrahamson Halle '39**, and **Jean '40**, has been installed outside the door leading to the Natatorium.

Dedication of the Tony Trabert '48 Tennis Complex

On a cloudless, hot Sunday afternoon (September 25th, 2016), a crowd came to the Tony Trabert '48 Tennis Complex to celebrate both the honoree and the return of tennis to the campus of Walnut Hills High School. Linked by phone, those present were able to hear Tony express in his clear, humble voice, his pride in his alma mater and the pleasure of seeing this dream become a reality - the six tennis courts completed and in use by both the students and the community.



Speakers included Mary Ronan, Superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools, discussing the successful partnership between CPS and WHHS Alumni Foundation; Dick Weiland '47, who shared his memories of playing with Tony; Tom Donnelly, WHHS Athletic Director, discussing the current tennis teams' ability to use the courts so close to campus; and Brian Leshner '70, representing Activities Beyond the Classroom, whose community programs are using the courts for tennis lessons.

The ribbon cutting was followed by the Alumni Tennis Challenge where alumni play the current WHHS Varsity team. A cookout, with chefs from Dads Gone Nuts, and food provided by the WHHS Alumni Foundation, culminated the event.

A plaque, with Tony's picture and a description of his tennis career, has been installed and placed outside the courts. Next time you are on campus, take a few minutes to stop by and read the extraordinary accomplishments of this talented athlete who chose tennis over basketball and gave the world a standard of excellence in both playing a demanding sport and how he chose to live his life in the public eye.

Congratulations, Tony, from us all!

ALUMNI NEWS

William Kern, '54

Bill Kern, class of 1954, and graduate of Miami University, passed away unexpectedly May 10th, 2016, while undergoing bypass surgery in Cincinnati. Retired from a career in marketing, sales, and strategic planning from Marion Merrell Dow, Bill, at the request of the LSDMC in the late 90's, used his talents and experience to



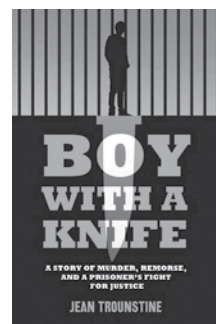
create the Long Range Plan for the school. He went on to serve in the accreditation process, ultimately chairing the AdvancEd Team here on campus this last February. Joining the WHHS Alumni Foundation Board of Trustees in 2004, his smile and his enthusiasm for all things Walnut was a wonderful example of the unflinching and exuberant energy that defined his life. "When Bill Kern came knocking, everyone knew that they were going to hear about the accomplishments of Walnut Hills High School at some point in the conversation. He was a very, very dear man and the most devoted friend that our school could ever have", expressed **Jeff Brokamp '78**, Principal, in emails to the staff following news of Bill's death.

The dual relationship Bill had with Walnut Hills and Miami University led to the forming of a collaboration of liberal arts colleges and high schools like us throughout the nation. An annual conference was established where ideas, challenges and options were forged.

Bill was also responsible for organizing our very successful Junior Achievement program, recruiting alums to return to the classroom, this time as mentors, for the 7th and 8th grade program which now impacts every social studies classroom in both grades. He loved the Fine Arts and frequently would be seen with his wife, Pat, at theatre and music performances throughout the year. Bill and Pat sponsored performances from The Cincinnati Shakespeare Company at Walnut Hills for several seasons. He was also very active in the Boy Scouts, devoting 42 years to the organization, along with other civic groups in the Cincinnati area.

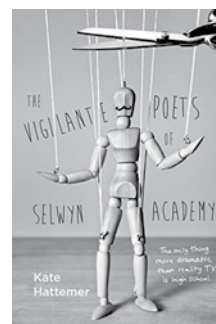
He leaves a legacy of generosity and service to the school, a rather large set of footprints for others to follow.

Authors, Authors....



Jean Trounstone, '65, was in town this summer at The Mercantile Library to discuss the juvenile justice system in the United States in addition to signing her new book, *Boy with a Knife, Remorse, and a Prisoner's Fight for Justice*, a nonfiction portrayal of America's juvenile criminal justice policies. The story revolves around a Massachusetts boy who, at the age 16, murdered another high school student and was sentenced to life in an adult prison. Trounstone explores all the facets of the case, including his personal history and the socio-economic culture in which he was raised, all of which were factors in his behavior.

Jean is an activist, author and professor emerita at Middlesex Community College in Lowell, Massachusetts. Her books can be found on Amazon.



Kate Hattemer, '05, has released *The Vigilante Poets of Selwyn Academy*, has been named to the list of Best Fiction for Young Adults by the American Library Association, a Junior Library Guild selection, Amazon Best of the Month selection and a starred review from Kirkus and Booklist. It is a hilarious, subversive debut about a cadre of friends from an arts high school, about how people can fall short (and come through) and how art can make a difference.

The ISBN number is just an example of the workings of a WHHS Alum: "The number is 978-0-385-753-784. 978 starts all books, and the 0-385 means Random House. But, THEN, we have 753 (B.C.: year in which Rome was founded) and THEN we have 784, which is a perfect square. Now it is easy for you to memorize this ISBN. You're welcome"

Kate has also released *The Land of 10,000 Madonnas*, which follows the question: which would you choose: A long, quiet life or a short, heroic one? In turns hilarious and heartbreaking, the new novel chronicles an unforgettable journey of lost and found, laughter and tears, and a myriad of Madonnas.

Kate is living in Virginia and teaching high school Latin. Her books can be found on Amazon.



Judy Kuhn, retired English teacher at WHHS for 27 years and advisor to *The Gleam* and *The Chatterbox*, has released a new book, *Other UC and Me: Editing the Sixties*, about her experiences as editor-in-chief of the University of Cincinnati's News Record during the Vietnam Era.

This particular book is in electronic form and can be found on Amazon for download. Judy lives in Indiana

Seen on Campus

Dr. Thomas Gold '66, was in town for his reunion. He initially decided to stay an extra few days after the reunion, to spend the day talking with students about China. He visited two history classes (one AP and one seventh grade) and a level 3 Chinese class. While he was in town, he also agreed to co-host a webinar with Dr. Henry Kissinger at Xavier University on China's role in the world. As a visiting professor of sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, we were so appreciative of him helping to expand our students' understanding of the complicated history of this world power.

Dr. Irwin Weil '46, came down from Chicago to spend the day with AP History and Russian Language students. As a professor emeritus at Northwestern University in Chicago, it is always a pleasure to have him here. Having just returned from Russia, he was able to share his recent experiences through stories and songs.

Rusty Allen '56, also in town for his reunion, stayed an extra day and met with students in the music department (AP Music Theory and Vocal Ensemble) to discuss and demonstrate harmonic overtones. Students and staff were amazed by the range of sound his voice was able to generate.



Dion's former drama teacher **Marlene Foreman Shmalo '67**, **Dion Graham '79**, **Julie Lewis Whitney '78**

Two alums, his classmate, Julie, and his former drama teacher, Marlene, are pictured with him. The photo was taken after one of his performances at the Playhouse.

Among the troupe of actors who came to campus for a performance of August Wilson's *Jitney* to the student body was none other than **Dion Graham '79**, in the role of Turnbo. Dion has returned to Cincinnati to work on the stage at Playhouse in the Park's production of the play, which ends the 12th of November.

Dion Graham has worked in films, on and off Broadway, and several hit television series (*The Wire*, as State Attorney Rupert Bond, *Madam Secretary*, *NYPD Blue*, to name just a few). He is also a renowned audiobook reader, with over 130 titles to his credit.

Dedication of the newest Eagle!



Class of 2015 comes back to campus to dedicate the newest eagle, located on the Plaza overlooking the Marx Stadium football field. Three members of the class of 2015 are with sculptor, **John Leon, '74**.

Aim High

As we remember Veteran's Day, and those who have served our country in many different capacities, here is a profile of one of our young alumni who is currently commissioned in the United States Air Force:

Katherine Shaw Jones '09, attended the United States Air Force Academy with a full scholarship. She graduated in 2013 with a degree in Systems Management Engineering and received the top honor award in her class. Katherine is currently stationed at Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey, serving as a Second Lieutenant. Prior to being sent overseas, she was stationed at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi and Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

In her spare time, she is participating in Half Ironman and full Ironman Triathlon events in the United States. Last year she qualified for the Half Ironman World Championship in Austria and then went on to win the full Ironman Triathlon in her age group in Florida (2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike, and 26.2 mile marathon). This secured her a spot for the World Championship Ironman Event in Kona, Hawaii in October of this year. She finished the race! Next year she will be participating in the Boston Marathon in April.

Katherine married this year to Jake Jones, also a graduate of the Air Force Academy, and currently stationed in Germany.

Note: If you are currently serving in the military, or are a veteran, would you please let us know? We are trying to create an accurate list. Let us know your branch of service, length of time, rank, etc. Many thanks!



STUDENT NEWS

Lights, Camera, Action!

With 10 major motion pictures wrapping and literally thousands of commercials, music videos, industrials, and documentaries, 2016 is on target to rank as Cincinnati's film industry's most productive. Under the direction of **Kristen Erwin Schlotman '92**, the Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky Film Commission has been diligent in promoting all Cincinnati has to offer. Insiders sight our vibrant communities' emphasis on growing local talent. Lighting, electrical, hair and makeup, camera rental and operation, regional theater and casting, you are covered. Enter the spotlight *Stages For Youth!* A natural extension on this success is providing the educational foundation for our area's youth. *Stages For Youth* is a film and digital media program open to youth in Junior High and High School. Founded by **Frank O'Farrell, (parent of Ryan '10)** SFY is under the umbrella of Activities Beyond The Classroom (**Brian Leshner '71**). *Stages For Youth* offers free summer camps to help students find their voice and express their individuality through digital and performance arts. 2016 was a blowout success as TWO Official Selections to The White House Student Film Fest during *South By South Lawn: A White House Festival of Ideas, Art and Action*, ONE official selection to the Calgary International Film Festival, ONE Official Selection to The All American High School Film Festival and SEVEN kids on their way to the White House to celebrate their achievements! Congratulations WHHS student filmmakers: **Leah Young, Xander Wynn, Jeremiah Bolden!** Go to Facebook, Stages For Youth for more information and to watch the films!



WHHS STARS

On October 18 at 7:30 Walnut Hills High School's STAR (Students Together Assisting Refugees) Club presented a benefit chamber concert featuring Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Timothy Lees and other Principal musicians; CSO Concertmaster Timothy Lees, CSO Acting Associate Concertmaster Kathryn Woolley, CSO Principal Viola Christian Colberg, CSO Principal Cello Ilya Finkelshteyn, and CSO Principal Flute Randolph Bowman. The special guest, German Consul General

Herbert Quelle of Chicago was in attendance.

STAR is a WH club, started in 2015 by **Adam Sella**. Adam was passionately affected by what he encountered



on a summer NSLI-Y scholar program in Rabat, Morocco. Here he learned of the refugees' plight and met likeminded students interested in finding avenues of help. Upon his return to Cincinnati, Adam organized the club and started the outreach to spread awareness and provide aid.

To that end, Adam tapped into his CSO connections (his mother is Dr. Gillian Benet Sella, CSO principal harpist) to present this exceptional event. We are pleased to report, one hundred patrons from the WH community attended and donated to the cause of raising funds for the STAR Cincinnati Public School Refugee Student Scholarship. Go to www.starrefugees.org to learn more!

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.

Last week, Dr. Seuss came to campus! The English Department introduced their students to political cartoons created during World War Two by Theodor Seuss Geisel, who was known to the post-war generations as Dr. Seuss. This original exhibit highlighted the remarkable and insightful cartoons he created to confront common issues in America during the war, as well as the horrors of the Holocaust.

The exhibit was on loan from The Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education, who have several original traveling exhibits that can be borrowed by families, schools, community centers, libraries and other public places. The exhibits are portable and affordable. They encourage multidisciplinary approaches to Holocaust education.



REUNIONS

Class of 1956 – 60th Reunion

It was a 4th Street block party this October reunion weekend. Friday and Saturday evenings, classmates gathered at Skyline Chili and University Club venues. As reunion chair, Myron Koenig, wrote in his follow-up letter to the class; “What a wonderful time was had at the 60th reunion weekend!! There were so many smiles, hugs, laughs and fond remembrances shared. It was a real pleasure for everyone who attended. From the “feedback” received from just about everyone, there is a warm pleasant glow that, hopefully, will last for a long time.”

The reunion and WHHS campus tour experiences were an impactful. JFK famously expressed, “For of those to whom much is given, much is required.” Walnut Hills High School has given us a superb education and lifelong friendships. On the occasion of the noteworthy reunion, the class has elected to give back as a permanent record of our appreciation. To that end, the committee selected the Class of 1956 Art Plaza as their class gift.



Located adjacent and accessible to art classrooms, this is a natural extension for creating larger artworks outside, adding a sculpture garden, and hosting art shows and events. An “Artist in Residence” will work with students to design and implement the creation of sculpture for the garden. This permanent space is a wonderful way to recognize the Class of 1956’s appreciation of their Alma Mater.

Sursum ad Summum!

Class of 1959 – 75th Birthday Celebration

Happy Birthday to US! October was the time to bust out the streamers and party hats for a weekend celebration dedicated to friendships that have endured the test of time. The reunion got underway Friday night at the Edgely’s Maxwelton party house. Saturday classmates recalled the past with a tour of WHHS, learned the present campus is stunning and heard the future of WHHS is bright! ADC Art Gallery provided the picture perfect backdrop for the 75th birthday bash. A photo montage, dancing and photo booth fun was the icing on the cake. ‘59 - 75 looks good on you!

Class of 1961 – 55th Reunion

Some might ask, why mess with perfection? When it comes to the Class of 1961 reunion, they do have it down pat. The weather was perfection for the Friday Welcome Back Party at Montgomery Boat House. Bright and early Saturday classmates were back on campus for a school tour, lunch and signature Talk Around. As always, the presentation was punctuated by a panel discussion featuring students, faculty and administrators. Then off on a student lead tour ending with an awe inspiring WHHS orchestra concert. Kenwood Country Club hosted the evening gala. A Sunday brunch in the Westin’s Fountain Room was available for any classmate still in town.

Class of 1966 – 50th Reunion

The Class of 1966 reunion planning committee was tuned in to every detail, making this *Summer In The City* reunion a true celebration of 50 years of fabulous! It was *The Name Game* Friday night as classmates gathered



for a *Fun Fun Fun* casual Party at Park Place at Lytle. *This Magic Moment* was heightened by Stu Levy’s wonderful photo montage tribute to *Yesterday*. It’s clear, *The Times They Are A-Changin’* but 66ers were here to celebrate. There were *Good Vibrations* as the class returned to 3250 Victory Parkway. Classmates cheered *This Magic Moment* as **Principal Jeff Brokamp ’78** introduced their **Assistant Principal Ray Brokamp**. After hearing the *Shapes of Things* at WHHS the direction was *Walk Don’t Run* the halls of the magnificent new campus. The party lasted *All Day and All of the Night* Saturday as the class reconvened *Downtown*. The Taft Museum of Art was the *Land of 1000 Dances* under the tent. Because many classmates view WHHS as their *Soul and Inspiration*, the class identified funding the Innovation Lab as their class gift. This new innovative is a cross discipline program. Students will use engineering, design and media skills coupled with independent research to develop products such as robots or machines and learn the commercial aspects of innovation and approach their projects from an entrepreneurial angle. Class Gift donations are *Coming On Strong* and overall the reunion weekend filled the class with *Satisfaction!*

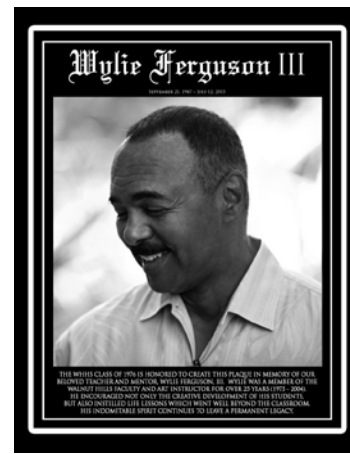
Class of 1971 – 45th Reunion

On Saturday, September 24 over 80 classmates gathered for an intimate reunion weekend. The casual weekend allowed for a Friday night visit to the WHHS Homecoming game, Saturday morning tour, then it was off to assemble at Terwilliger Lodge. Classmates enjoyed seeing the smiling faces of cherished friends, and reminiscing pleasant memories. What a wonderful time with classmates! The planning committee says... Stay tuned for the 50th in 2021!



Class of 1976 – 40th Reunion

The graduation announcement read, “200 years of American history is behind us. America’s future is in our hands, we are ready for the challenge”. On July 2- 4, 2016, it was time for the bi-centennial class to catch up and see how they met the challenge! The first stop is the homes of dynamic duo **Scott Wolf** and **Terrance Poole**, who traditionally host a “Taste of Cincinnati” party. Highlights include a great turnout of ‘76 classmates, Skyline Chili, Graeter’s ice cream and WHHS ice sculpture! The party was barely over when it was time to head back to school.



Appropriately, the Alumni Arts and Science Center provided the backdrop as the class fondly remembered their beloved art teacher, **Wylie Ferguson**, who passed away this past year. The Wylie Ferguson Art Plaque featured photo was taken

by Wylie’s nephew **Lowell Hiles ’98**. The plaque design is a collaborative effort between Lowell and classmates **Philip Bogdan** and **Susan Forman**. Additional monies raised went to the Wylie Ferguson Scholarship Fund. The main event cookout at Sharon Woods Stonewood Lodge allowed cherished friends to commemorate 40 years of independence from high school!

Class of 1981 – 35th Reunion

There was no way the Class of ‘81 was waiting 10 years to party! **Albert Wang** and **Jackie Taggart Boyd** co-planned the 35th reunion celebration. On June 1st, classmates first priority was visiting the WHHS campus. For many, it was hard to imagine the campus transformation even in just five years! That evening, the Westin’s Taft Ballroom overlooking Fountain Square provided the spectacular backdrop. **Paul Nienaber ’82** provided the entertainment and Jackie provided the FB live stream. **Annette Asbury** commented “it was pretty entertaining to see our generation dancing to songs of this generation using moves from our generation.” The last one out the door, Albert was overheard saying “It’s never too early to start planning so while we’re still aglow from the current reunion, let’s start the discussion for the 40th Reunion!”

Class of 1986 – #86XXX

’86 families flocked to campus this September for the #86XXX Reunion and Homecoming festivities. Just like back in the day, there was something for everyone... parades, football and the good natured competition was fierce during the potato sack and three legged races. Culinary favorites LaRosas, Skyline and Grippo’s were served up on the Plaza as WHHS was bested by Turpin. The Saturday morning presentation and tour gave families an eagle’s eye view of the campus transformation. Then leave the kids at home, it’s time for dinner and dancing at the Celestial Steakhouse. ‘86 had it all. Live streamed on Facebook for the world to see...

Well I’ve arrived home back safe and sound after the most epic weekend in a long time. I now get why other folks don’t go to their class reunions, they don’t have **Barry Bates, Gregory Dicks, Jay Buchheim, Marie Larkins, Connie Rankin Ross and Lashaun Kelly** to plan a fabulously fun yet fiscally responsible weekend! Getting through the week should be a breeze because I’m going to have **XXX** on my mind.

– Robin Brown



CLASS OF



CLASS OF 1981

Class of 1991 – 25th Reunion Reunited And It Feels So Good “In Their Own Words” #WHHS91ALUMNI

“Walnut Hills: a place where I spent 6 years of my adolescence. Yes, we learned Latin. Yes, we learned algebra, physics, and literature. More importantly, it is where we learned about diversity. We learned that no matter your race, religion, or economic situation, when given an opportunity to succeed, and a supportive environment in which to do so, everyone who works hard will be successful. We were all different, but all the same. We need more of THIS in the world! And finally....We are still a good lookin’ bunch of crazy people! –Tina Head Dick

“This weekend, was a fantastic time... The tailgate, the game, the after party at Brew House on Friday...The tour of the school, the banquet and the after party on Saturday, and all the moments in between... Thank you to all who gave of their time, energy and talents to organize and volunteer to make this weekend such an amazing experience... Thank you to all who were able to come and share the weekend together, as without you, it would not have been the same... For those who

weren’t able to be there, know that we missed you, and hope that you will be able to join us the next time we get back together... –Christopher Stothfang

“I can’t believe it’s been 25 years! I swear I just turned 29 on my last birthday! I’m so glad we were able to reconnect and it always feels like we pick up right where we left off! I’m absolutely, positively exhausted and that’s a good thing!” –Erica Ward



Class of 1996 – 20th Reunion

September 2 & 3, 2016

Over one hundred '96 Classmates spent their Labor Day weekend celebrating 20 years of Greatness! A Party on the Plaza and watching WHHS football victorious over Ross was a super fun way to kick off the reunion weekend. There was a new twist as '96 returned for the Saturday campus tour and scavenger hunt. This time they brought their kids! Oakley's Bar Louie was #trending as the #hotspot for the Saturday night party... and we have the photo booth photos to prove it! Eagles fam flocked together to celebrate success, friendship, life, and happiness and #20YearsBeyondTheDome.

#96BeyondTheDomeRemix- Saturday, November 26! Join us at classmate Rob Bernstein's Howl at the Moon – Splitsville on the Banks... and have no FOMO!



Class of 2005 – 10 Year Reunion

September, 2105 marked Ten Years Out for the Class of 2005 and they hit Cincinnati's live spots! The Turn Up on Friday at the Phoenix Hotel featured an unlimited photo-booth, choice music provided by DJ Magnificent (WHHS c/o 2007 **Kris Moore**) on the 1s and 2s. Saturday morning classmates were lit after touring the WHHS campus transformation... after all it's only been 10 years! Then off to Oktoberfest Zinzinnati to chillax among German-style beats, bites and beer with 500,000 of their squad. The Who Dey Sunday Tailgate offered watching our Bengals take care of business against the San Diego Chargers. Only the Best of Cincinnati for this class!

Class of 2006 – 10th Reunion

Reunion superlative — #whhs2006 — 10 years looks good on you! Homecoming weekend, September 23-25, about a hundred classmates were out and about making news in the 'Nati. The weekend kicked-off with their first Tailgate-Party on the Plaza. A WH football loss could not dampen the post-game meet up at Tina's Bar. Saturday on Campus 2.0 combined a school tour and a special Blue and Gold Charity Kickball Game in the Marx Stadium. Classmates **Mila Jay** and **Ray Ball** pulled together WLW-TV coverage as '06 raised \$1,000 for Walnut and, most importantly, honored the memory of classmates **Christine Hessel** and **Michael Segers**. Everyone looked amazing and brought great energy to the Saturday night Igby's celebration. **Preston Partt** gets '06's respect for his GREAT speech and kudos to **Preston Tartt**, **Torren Grace**, **Jason Stuckey**, **Ray Ball** on their reunion planning skills. High on Mt. Adams Hill, Sunday's Brunch & Bengals at the Pavilion brought this September reunion to a wrap. **QUICK UPDATE:** There is an '06 committee planning the First Annual Club 6 Holiday Party. Connect on FB and take the survey!!



Love from Yokohama, Japan. Maybe....a big maybe....one day I will come back and “reunionize”... all depends on November.... bahahahahaha. I am glad everyone had a good time.
— Katherine Moser Kelly

Thank you from the bottom of my heart Walnut Hills High School class of 1986! For the greatest people you could ever want to spend your formative years with and then celebrate Life with for ever after. Such variety of paths we've all taken, and we each support the other, and the world sure could learn some lessons from what this school is all about. I'm proud of us.
— Natalie Kidd Mclver

Great to get to see everyone and have a little piece of XXX. Wish I could have been there...but...living in Seoul makes it a bit difficult to attend.
— Cherie Crivelli



1986

Address service requested.



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Alumni Foundation
Board of Trustees 2015-2016**

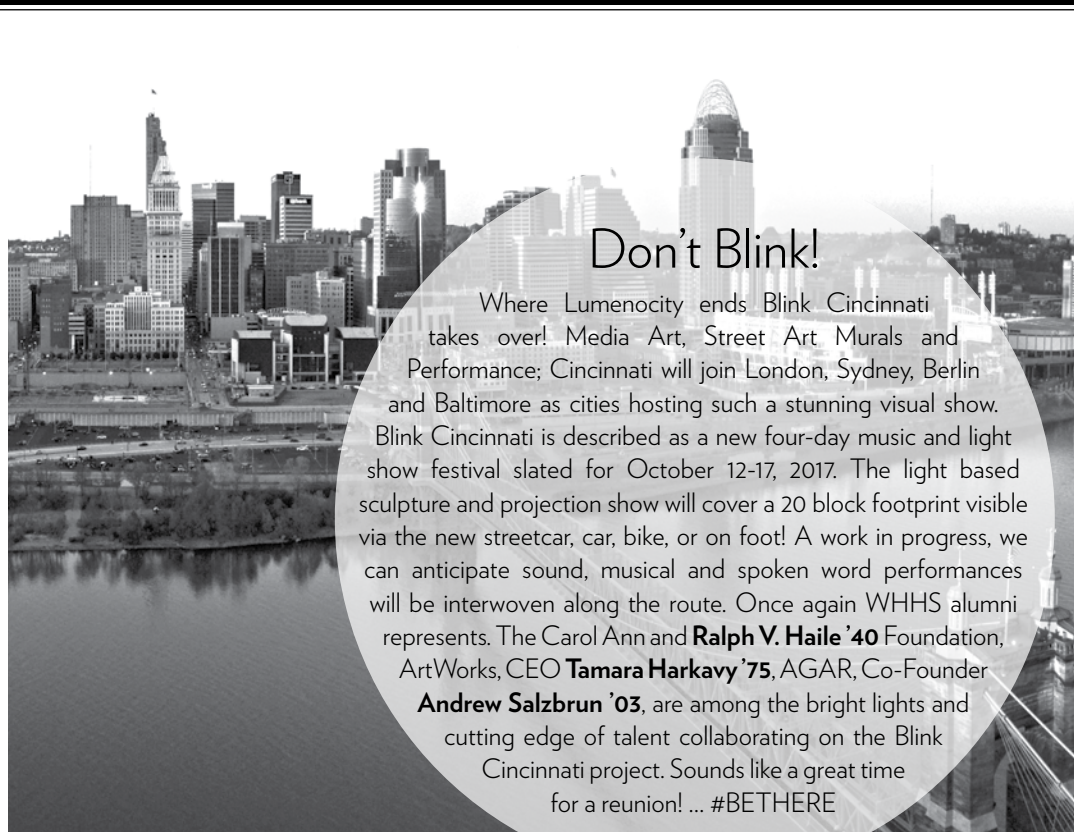
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Don't Blink!

Where Lumenocity ends Blink Cincinnati takes over! Media Art, Street Art Murals and Performance; Cincinnati will join London, Sydney, Berlin and Baltimore as cities hosting such a stunning visual show. Blink Cincinnati is described as a new four-day music and light show festival slated for October 12-17, 2017. The light based sculpture and projection show will cover a 20 block footprint visible via the new streetcar, car, bike, or on foot! A work in progress, we can anticipate sound, musical and spoken word performances will be interwoven along the route. Once again WHHS alumni represents. The Carol Ann and **Ralph V. Haile '40** Foundation, ArtWorks, CEO **Tamara Harkavy '75**, AGAR, Co-Founder **Andrew Salzbun '03**, are among the bright lights and cutting edge of talent collaborating on the Blink Cincinnati project. Sounds like a great time for a reunion! ... #BETHERE

Attention Collectors

Our Meteorology teacher is seeking two back issues of **National Geographic** magazine:

1. March 2011 (with a fox on the cover)
2. November 2013 (with a tornado on the front cover)

She is trying to build a classroom set. If you happen to have one of the above, and would like to share it with your alma mater, to assist current students, please let us know!

You can send it to WHHS Alumni Foundation, Walnut Hills High School, 3250 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45207

Many thanks for your help!

A Debt of Gratitude

This past year (2015), Walnut Hills High School has lost four members of its long list of retired faculty:



Gisela Herdler

Samuel Jenike

Wylie Ferguson

Joseph Knab

If you have some special memories of these influential individuals, would you like to share them with us? We would like to include some of the stories in future editions of the Alumni Chatterbox. Thank you.

UP AND COMING... ALUMNI REUNIONS AND EVENTS

Please visit the WHHS Alumni Foundation webpage at www.walnuthillseagles.com for the latest details.

1947 – 2007 Reunion planning committees are meeting now.

Please contact the Alumni Foundation to get involved in the reunion planning

Class of 1947 is considering June 2017

Class of 1967 – Save the Dates September 15-17, 2017

Gabriel C.E Robinson '99 Memorial Scholarship Fund Annual Silent Auction

**November 21, 2016
6:00 – 10:00pm**

Live entertainment, food, and drinks! Please come prepared to have a good time while



supporting a great cause! Register or make a donate at www.walnuthillseagles.com. Then join us on Facebook! Donations will continue to be accepted after the event!

Dean Giacometti Birthday Celebration

Friday, January 27, 2017

Our annual event to celebrate Dean Giacometti's birthday is January 27th at the club house at Indian Creek Apartments. Please join alumni and friends as we honor our treasured teacher, mentor and friend.