



The New Shield



Northwest Classen Alumni Association Of Greater Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Inc.

PO Box 12657
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73157-2657

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Knorthwest Knights (and Daze)

By Joe Baumhaft

Now that we've all recovered from the holidays, it's time to direct our thoughts toward the bills, I mean, toward the Alumni Association.

And one project we have going now, is the updating/upgrading of the museum.

Bill Whetstone is in charge of the project, and we hope eventually to have shelves along the wall, and many other devices to expand the space available. Of course we also hope to have many additional items donated, too!

Any interested person is welcome to call Bill Whetstone at 721-4544.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hi Knights and Ladies. Well, here we go – another year, and this one will probably go as fast as the last. There is a lot of information to pass along. Some you may find irritating, but more that, hopefully, you'll find interesting and positive.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors, December 4, 2007, several decisions were made. A few of them have been mentioned in the newsletter before, and were actually ratifications of the Executive Committee's actions. MUCH discussion on all items!!

The Board voted to do the following things:

1. Donate \$500.00 to Teen empower! to help educate the students of NWC
2. Discontinue long term memberships
3. Discontinue discounted spousal memberships
4. Increase dues to \$15.00 per year, due to need of increased revenues

5. Re-sign with Harris Publishing Company, to do another all school directory
6. Ratify Ramona Ware as President
7. Re-instate Andy Seay as Treasurer
8. Ratify Lynde Nash as Recording Secretary
9. Elect Lynde Nash to position of Board Secretary
10. Make a donation of \$250 to the Jr. ROTC, to be given to an outstanding student member (see p. 9)
11. Commend the Friends of Northwest Classen on the success of their Memorial Golf Tournament

Can you believe all this was accomplished in one hour and forty-six minutes, including the presentation about Teen empower? In regard to items 2- 4, we are sorry, but those things really did need to be done. For those of you who have already paid for long term memberships, those will be honored; we just won't be accepting them in the future, effective January 1, 2008. In regard to spousal memberships, members can still join the Association for their non-grad spouses; there just won't be discounted memberships of \$5.00 anymore for anyone. All memberships will be at the full rate of \$15.00. Just as a reminder, per our by-laws, anyone who is a friend of NWC, grad or non-grad, is welcome to join us.

In regard to Board vote #1, I asked Ms. Kathy Harms for more information about Teen empower! than what had already been given, and which is printed on pages 3 and 4. I received the following explanation.

“Our silence is taking a huge toll on our youth, “she said, “and until we begin to look at sexuality education in terms of health rather than shame, guilt, and embarrassment, it's only going to get worse.

We teach our children about safety very early in most other aspects of life – driving, swimming, playing sports – but with this topic we say, “let's wait until they are old enough.” For many, that means they often don't receive information until college or

Continued on page 2

President's Note

Continued from page 1

marriage, when it is simply too late. And, unless a child becomes pregnant earlier, even then we think to ourselves "whew! We made it through", and never talk about it."

However, Kathy says "We should give parents a break. After all, they have no example to lead by." Many opponents to good sexuality education say "It should be taught at home – just because I know how to put gas in my car and check the oil, it doesn't mean I can teach my children how to install an engine."

"Certainly kids should received education at home, but they should also receive it in other areas – the community as a whole should be talking about it," she said.

"In this day when there are so many changes, it is inconceivable to believe parents can keep up with everything an adolescent should know about healthy sexuality. If you ask many adults what Chlamydia is, you'll often get a response like, "a plant?"

Teens are acquiring STIs and not getting tested or treated. Girls are becoming pregnant and having to face insurmountable odds. These are not issues confined to "bad kids". In most cases they are happening to youth who haven't been given the education they need to make healthy choices.

"These are issues we simply can no longer afford to ignore", Harms said.

I was one of those people who thought young people should get their sex education at home, because I thought, "Who in the schools will teach, and how will they teach it?" I changed my mind after listening to Kathy's presentation and hearing the frightening statistics. Please read the additional information about this on pages 3 and 4.

And for more decisions, at the first Executive Committee meeting on January 21, 2008, the Committee voted to:

1. Award four \$500.00 scholarships, in 2008, to deserving graduating seniors, either college bound, or planning to attend vo tech schools
2. Discontinue sending Membership cards

The scholarships are self-explanatory, but in regard to the membership cards, we believe that the money required to buy, and send membership cards can be better used for items needed by students. This is especially true now that postal rates are going up again.

One last subject: We old dogs are getting tired. We've been at this for a long time, and need help and new blood,

people who will be able to take over in the future, and keep the Association alive!!! We need committee chairmen, committee members, and general worker bees. Most positions require that the individuals live in the OKC metropolitan area, but we have a desperate need for someone to take over the updating of our huge alumni data base. Mike McCarty has it all set up, beautifully, but we need someone who can work in Excel and keep it updated. This person only needs to have the time, the Excel program, and e-mail access, so addresses and other changes can be forwarded. If you can fill any position, please come forward and volunteer at rware1@cox.net or 405-721-3178.

Many Heroes Needing Adoption

This information was forwarded to us by Jerry Thrower '58, with the suggestion that it might be used in the newsletter, and we heartily agree, so here it is.

We have a lot of young servicemen who are experiencing difficult times on their first deployment, and external support from us would be greatly appreciated. Many of these young people, who are putting themselves in harms way for us, are not receiving mail from home, but we can help by adopting a soldier!!! We can do this through an organization called the "Soldiers' Angels." All that is required is that you (an Angel) send one letter a week and one package a month to your adoptee. The only thing you have to do is go to Soldiersangels.org and fill out the application. Once you're approved they will send the soldiers' information and you can start out with a simple introductory letter. We hope that many of you will decide to adopt one of these fine young men and women who have chosen to volunteer their time, effort, and possibly their lives, to serve our country. Unfortunately, right now, there are more "Heroes" being submitted than there are "Angels" joining.

Most of us "oldies" remember the big red, white, and blue posters of Uncle Sam pointing straight at us, with the slogan, "UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU!" Well, now we're needed again by our young service people and it's much easier for us now, than it was back in WWII – just letters and packages. Won't you please help? Remember, www.soldiersangels.org. They need our support!!! Please contact them today.

Life-Skills Education for Students

Did you know that in 2006 there were 7,320* births to teens ages 19 and under in Oklahoma and 1,533* were in Oklahoma County alone? More than 100 of the total births were to teens 14 and younger.

Along with those staggering statistics is the fact that Oklahoma ranks high in many sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates.

What can we do? We can provide our youth with an education free from judgment, which includes HIV/STI Prevention, Abstinence and Contraceptives, as well as life-skills strategies including Healthy Relationships, Building Self-Esteem, Setting Boundaries, Delay Tactics and Refusal Skills, Effective Communication, Drug Abuse Prevention and much more.

Many youth engage in sexual activity not necessarily because they want to, but because they don't know how to get out of it, how to say no or how to avoid the stigma (they believe) that goes along with not being sexually active. The fact is, many youth perceive the numbers of their peers who are sexually active is much greater than it is.

Teen emPower! Inc. (TEI) teaches a curriculum called *The Courage to Say KNOW* which was developed at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC).

Kathy Harms, TEI Founder and Executive Director understands the critical need for this program first-hand. Harms became pregnant at 15 and gave birth to her son at 16.

"I have three children, ages 26, 19, and six. My young daughter is living the life my two older children deserved," she said. "Now that I am older and educated, I fully understand that I learned so much about life *after* I made numerous unhealthy choices for which my older children often paid the price.

"As adults, we like to say, "If I only knew then what I know now"...I now say, 'Let's teach them while they are still living *then*— especially about these issues that can have such an enormous impact on their lives and the lives of others."

More than four years ago Harms explored that same sentiment with a friend who suggested she "stop preaching to the choir" and go out and do something about it. With the help of that same friend, Harms began making presentations at various Oklahoma Schools about her life and what she

had learned. With a deep fear of public speaking, she was amazed by the response she received.

"I was scared to death," she said. "But I knew it was what I was supposed to do with my life. School staff was incredible and the kids were very thoughtful with questions.

She then began to research what education was being offered to Oklahoma's youth. She was amazed to discover in fact very little was being taught at all.

I remember attending a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition meeting for the first time," she said. "There were about 28 people there. Of those, there were two of us whose focus was prevention. All of the others were working with teens who were pregnant or already parents. While that's a wonderful thing, it's clear that we must stop so much reacting in our society and place a greater emphasis on prevention.

So Harms set out to create a program. She quit her highest paying job ever and took a Leap of Faith. She envisioned a curriculum that not only covered science-based prevention messages to reduce STI's, and discuss anatomy so that youth have an understanding of their bodies, but also life-skill strategies that would help youth navigate through the critical stages of adolescence. She knew lack of communication was a huge barrier. She understood low self-esteem was key in her own behaviors. She had experienced unhealthy and eventually healthy relationships and wanted to teach youth the difference.

While the science side of these issues is critical (HIV information, STI facts, etc.) it is equally important to discuss life strategies that help youth navigate through this critical time in their lives," Harms said. "Teaching the sciences without including lessons on life-skills is like teaching a child to sing without music."

Her determination, endless networking, and as she calls it her 'soap box speeches' to anyone who would listen paid off with a governor appointed position on the Interagency Coordinating Council for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancies and Sexually Transmitted Diseases. The Council was looking at various effective science-based curricula when Jana Knol, MEd, OUHSC, introduced the group to *The Courage to Say KNOW*.

"Even a burning bush wouldn't have been a better sign to show me I was headed in the right direction," Harms said. "That curriculum was almost to the letter what I had envisioned.

Continued on page 4

"Our organization worked out a partnership with OUHSC so that Ms. Knol trained our volunteers to teach the curriculum and she personally teaches our sections on HIV and STIs," Harms said. "She is an expert in the field and has been working in HIV prevention practically since the virus was discovered. We are extremely honored".

Since its inception, TEI has supported its own efforts through volunteer teaching and purchasing necessary supplies.

Fast forward to the present. TEI will return to NW Classen in the spring of 2008. A portion of the program was provided to freshmen students in the Life Strategies classes last spring.

"The response was incredible", Harms said. "Students were very receptive and respectful to our trainers. Many expressed their enthusiasm for the program in evaluations which are provided after each section is taught."

Interestingly, a number of students asked Harms why this curriculum hadn't been offered to them at a younger age. They told her that while it's good information they need to know, they should have heard it at least two years prior.

"One young lady told me that if I really wanted to make a difference, I should also teach this information at the middle school down the street (Taft)," Harms said. "She said she is aware of many younger students who are sexually active."

In order to get the full program to NW Classen freshmen students, financial help is needed. TEI is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, so donations are tax deductible.

We are excited about working with NW Classen students again," Harms said. "We provided a portion last spring at no cost to the school. But to have the most impact, we must have the tools and time we need to be successful. To date, our largest operating budget has yet to exceed \$9,000 for the year and has primarily been acquired through one annual fund raiser. As requests for our program increase, obviously so does our need for financial support.

Recent statistics show Oklahoma's decline in teen births in the past ten years have unfortunately taken a turn for the worse.

"The latest statistics show an increase in teen births for 2006," Harms said. "We have a lot of work to do. Each year there are approximately 500 births to teens in only five Oklahoma City area zip codes. One of those high ranking zip codes is 73107."

In addition to high national teen birth rates, the Centers for Disease Control estimates one in four** (yes, a full quarter) adolescents in the U.S. is carrying an STI. Many don't know as they display neither signs nor symptoms.

"Youth are not being tested for many reasons, but I see the primary cause is lack of education," Harms said. Unfortunately, the results of lingering infections can have long-term, detrimental effects."

"If we are to reduce the numbers of teen births and STIs in our state, we must work together to change the mindset that is so deeply imbedded in our beliefs," Harms said. "We must replace the notion that teaching about sexuality need be laden with shame, blame and guilt with an understanding that it is about health – emotional and physical. Our youth are smart and hungry for information. Knowledge is power and given the opportunity we will make a difference for Oklahoma youth."

* www.health.state.ok.us

** www.cdc.gov

Oklahoma Statistics

Despite nearly 10 years of experiencing a reduction in teen births, Oklahoma reversed course. In 2006, the state saw more than 500 additional births to teens than in the previous year. Please visit www.health.state.gov for specific details.

After holding the 8th position for many years, Oklahoma now ranks 7th highest in the nation for teen births (In Oklahoma we do not collect data on pregnancies, only births.) In 2004, Oklahoma spent \$149 million on issues related to teen childbearing. Please visit www.teenpregnancy.org for specific details.

When prevention efforts are effective in decreasing teen births, we also see a decrease in other societal issues including:

Poverty

Health Care Costs

High School Drop Out Rates

Child Abuse / Neglect

Foster Children

Domestic Violence / Abuse

Substance Abuse

Incarceration

Single-Parent Homes

And the list goes on.....

Point to ponder....The number of teen girls giving birth in Oklahoma in 2005, was *more than twice as high as the number of incoming female freshmen students entering the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University that fall semester!*

Due to USPS constraints, we are unable to give an address for people to make donations directly to Teen emPower! Inc. However, if you would like to help with this project, you may send directed donations to the NWCAA, for TEI. Your Executive Committee voted unanimously to support their endeavors, and the Board of Directors agreed, with several of them handing Kathy their personal checks, in addition to the \$500.00 that was voted to be given by the Association.

Membership Information Update

Mary L. (Putt) St. John, Membership VP,
 NWCHSAA.org
 405 354-6463, bhapnow1@cox.net

THANK YOU to those of you who have forwarded the \$15 dues renewal so promptly. We now have 348 paid members. Dues and donations are tax deductible.

WOULD YOU/COULD YOU IF YOU LIVE IN

OKC: There is one more thing you could do for the Executive Committee. If you live in the OKC area, and if you could find 2-3 spare hours a month, we would welcome new faces and ideas at our meeting. Most of us have done our fair share of service to NWCHSAA and definitely new, younger blood is needed. The meetings are short and benefit NWC; we renew acquaintances and also make new ones. Working toward the group's mission is a truly

rewarding experience. Why not consider it community service? I mention this as **not one person** has checked off a committee interest on the Member Application form in many months. No one it seems is interested.

REUNIONS: To announce a reunion for your class go to the www.NWCHSAA.org website's please "Contact Us." Some info is available for planning a reunion. The current reunions on the website are: 1958 - 50th reunion is May 2-4, 2008; 1959 - Planning for 50th; 1968 - 40th reunion is July 11-12, 2008. For more details go to the website. Info details currently in progress for 1978's - 30th reunion.

DONATIONS: The Association sends a very special thanks to the following who forwarded a donation in 2007.

Drew Ackerman
 John & Kaye Adams
 Debra Askins
 Janice Baker
 Deborah Baker
 Michael Barkett
 Cecil Barnett
 Judith Baumgarner
 Joe Baumhaft
 Gerald Bednar
 Kristin Bernardy
 Marilyn Bevan
 Sandra Birdsong
 Ken Bolt, Jr.
 Robert Bond
 B. Frances Brewer
 Tom Britton
 Rodney/Lenora Browning
 Sally Byrd
 Christine Cabell
 Therese Cabell
 Nita Cadenhead
 Karen Campbell
 Alexis Carter-Black
 Sarah Chastain
 Leo W. Chiles
 Martha Ann Clark
 Sydney & Larry
 David J. Confer
 Carol Corgan
 Byron Corwin
 Owen Cotter
 Harriet Coussons

Richard Crisler
 Elaine Dahl
 Julie Daniels
 Evelyn Davis
 Victoria Dearing
 Patty DeGroot
 Mary Denman
 Laurie Do
 Linda & Paul Duncan
 Allison & Bill Dunford
 Sandra Ellis-Troy
 Susan Fetz
 Lynn Ford
 Beverly Foster
 Lon Foster III
 Sharon & Tracy Freeny
 David Gibson
 Kelly & Beth Gilbert
 Jim Good
 Randall Gorby
 Patrick Green
 Gail Griffin
 Carolyn Grubb
 David Haggard
 Carolyn & Ron Hall
 Keith Hamilton
 John & Carolyn Hays
 John Highley
 Bill Hines
 Jeanine Hogue
 Mar Jo Hubbell
 Nancy Hudson
 Leslie & Cliff Hudson

Ronald Hudson
 Linda Hunt
 Gary Johnson
 Jacqueline Jones
 Michelle Kaminsky
 Pam Kinnan
 Wilson Knight
 Tanny Koeppel
 Paul & Diane Kramer
 Mark Landguth
 William Lee
 Judy Lightfood
 Laura T. Lighthill
 James Loftis
 Marjorie Long
 Gene Lowell
 Russell Mank
 Connie Mashburn
 Linda & Richard Mask
 William Massad
 Mike McGill
 Ann & Clark McPhail
 Sherry Meek
 Marilyn Mendenhall
 Otto Merz
 Billy Miller
 Jacki & Bill Murphy
 Sara & David Myers
 Janyce Myers
 Debbie & Danny Neitzel
 Jeannine O'Bannon
 Thomas & Wanda O'Neil
 Bill Parker

Edna Mae Paulson
 Giner Penn
 Kenneth Phelps
 Gordon Pugh
 Carolyn Rambo
 Kay Reyes
 Ada Richardson
 Ray & Jane Rininger
 Linda Roark
 Roberta Roberts
 Jim D. Robinson
 Pamela Rogers
 Judy Sanger
 Alan Sherrill
 Tracy Silvester
 Barbara S. Smith
 Martha Smith
 Mary St. John
 Bobby Staples
 Marian Stephenson
 Joe Stetheimer
 Jack Suggs
 Roland Tague
 Gloria Tate
 Jack Taylor
 Kent Tucker
 A.P. & Mary VanMeter
 Dan Vann & Marsha
 Ramona & Harold Ware
 Jeanetta & Cecil Weeks
 Bill & Judy Whetstone
 Vicki Williams

To those who have not paid their dues, this is the last newsletter you will receive. When you renew your dues, the \$15 cost per NWC graduate is an investment that helps make it possible to provide support to NWC's students and faculty for

scholarships, art supplies, music/sports competitions and ROTC, just to name a few. In case you would like to know if you have not paid your dues, here is a list of those who need to do so, along with the Renewal Membership form enclosed:

Patsy Alcorn
Diane Allen
Ginny Avants
Carole Ayers
Deborah Baker
Janice Baker
Michael Barkett
Carol Barrymore
Judith Baumgarner
Joe Baumhaft
Gerald Bednar
Kristin Bernardy
Judy Betz
Sandra Birdsong
Sarah Boldman
Alan D. Bowman
Russal Brawley
Nita Cadenhead
Karen Campbell
Alexis Carter-Black
Carroll Cato
Ann Chaney
Lucy Cheatwood
Leo Chiles
Riley Cleaver
Susan Coatney
Tammy Cole
Nancy & Les Conner, Jr.
Owen Cotter Harriet
Coussons
Richard Crisler
Terry Culwell
Elaine Dahl
Evelyn David
Patty DeGroot
Mary Denman
Frank Durkee

David Edwards
Connie Fehr
Susan Fetz
Donna Fitzgerald
Lynn Ford
Arlene Fox
Kelly & Beth Gilbert
Jim Good
Randall Gorby
Larry Govin
Dee Gower
Georgia Gross
Jan Hager
Carolyn Hall
Ronald Hall
Pam & Jay Hallman
John Hanson
Lynne Hardin
Olivia Hardin
Roger & Donna
Hardway
Gene Paul Harkey
Barbara Hensley
Bill Hines
Robert Howard
Ronald Hudson
Mary Harriet Hughes
Lindsay Hunt
Taylor Jack
Jacqueline Jones
Sharon Kelly
Richard & Louann
Kilgore
Jeannette King
Kay Kuykendall
John Lackey
Celia Lawson
Amy Lea

George & Cheryl
Lemmon
Judy Lightfoot
Marjorie Long
Dan Loving
Gene Lowell
Carolyn Manes
Connie Mashburn
Lee Mathis
Michael McCarty
Kelly McCulley
Norma & John
McKinney
Tony Medina, Jr.
Kara Lee Merrell
Otto Merz
John Miley
George Morris
Barbara Munneke
Sara Myers
Jeanine O'Bannon
Betty Ogden
Thomas O'Neill
Ginger Penn
William Perry
Dan Pogue
Jan Polk
Allen Porter
Suellen Potter
Jerilyn Priest
Ada Richardson
Jane Rinninger
Vicki & Robert Roark
Roberta Roberts
Jack R. & B.J.
Robinson
Jim Robinson
Judy Sanger

Shelley Savage
Dayna Savage
Carolle Seaton
William Seeger
Wendi Seidel
Fletcher Sharp
John Shrode
Becky & Ronald
Skaggs
S. Kay Smith
Martha Smith
Jack Snoddy
Karen Sorenson
Marian Stephenson
Anna Stewart
Kathleen Strain
Dorene Sullivan
Ann Suydam
Roland Tague
David Talbot
Jack Taylor
John Taylor
Ron Taylor
Sandy Thomas
Jeff & Lou Thomas
Phil Thompson
Richard Tucker
Dan & Marsha Vann
Nancy Vernon
Beverly Wallace
Linda Walters
Ben Warren
Susan Watson
Jeanetta Weeks
Sondra Whittle
Barbara Wyckoff
Debbie & Steve Young
Larry Young

"Attitudes are contagious ... is yours
worth catching?"

Q: Where should 60+ year olds look for fashionable glasses?

A: On their foreheads.

Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly?

A: Yes, but usually in the afternoon

MEMORIES

The following three notes came as a result of requests from editor, Joe Baumhaft.

Dear Joe,

I am most happy to respond to your request. As you already probably know, the class of '56 had been attending "Old Classen" for two years and could choose to stay there for our senior year or go to the grand new school. We were so proud of old Classen – that's why we took petitions door to door to ask that "Classen" remain in the new school's name. I can remember Mrs. Classen, coming to our school and thanking us for honoring her husband in that way! We did have a lot of fun naming all the clubs and organizations. The most fun was when we named the Cry-Slurs! Mr. Frank Vitale, our fabulous choir director, let us have our say in this matter. We thought long and hard and finally decided to be "funny" and name it for things you should not do in vocal music – cry and slur – thus, Cry-Slurs.

As for our feelings about being the class of '56 – the 50th year class reunion bug we all received says it all – -- THE FIRST KNIGHTS ARE STILL THE BEST!

Best Wishes,
Jane Boyle Douglas '56 Adair
405-715-4314
405-664-6446 – cell

Check out our web site: www.adairlakehouse.com

P.S.

Funny thing, I turned out to be a music teacher for 21 years at wonderful Heritage Hall teaching pre-school, kindergarten, and first graders! I guess Mr. Vitale was a good influence, eh?

If you fill your heart with regrets of yesterday and the worries of tomorrow, you have no today to be thankful for.

Dear Joe,

Thanks for the request and I'll do my best.

Being a cheerleader was such a passion for me and I loved every minute of practice, pep rallies and games. I never missed one until my senior year during the last month and a half of school and they kicked me off the squad. It was terrible for me.

Changing from Classen to NWC was fun and we were all excited and a little scared. The football team wanted orange and gray for colors, but most of us didn't want to get too far away from blue and gold, so we choose purple and gold. We had so much pride in our new school but it was so short lived to me, being a senior. We were looking on to college, rush and meeting the new people at college (for me, that was boys). My older brother, Allie Dale, was already at OU, so I met lots of his fraternity brothers.

I don't know just how the "Knight" symbol came about, but the thing that used to be kidded about was, Once a King, always a king, but once a knight's enough!!

I was sort of a jock and so was my whole family, so I related a lot to the guys as well as the girls. I lived 1-½ blocks from NWC, so lots of people were at my house all the time. I loved high school and wouldn't ever miss a day. It seems so different from today!

We had sock hops and slumber parties and it was all so easy and no pressure. No drugs – we did smoke occasionally, when we were cruising Main Street and thought we were so cool.

When I see the cheerleading outfits of today, I get so tickled. They are so little and show so much skin. Our skirts came past our knees and were so heavy and hot, but we still loved them and wore them with such pride.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Hope this helps,

Bobbye Kay Reynolds Ferguson

Memories continued on page 6

Dear Joe:

I am so pleased to be able to pass along any information I can remember about our graduating class. Forgive me for taking so long to respond, but we have been setting up a new business and I had to work this in during what spare time I've had.

Looking through my yearbook was very nostalgic – so many wonderful memories of that fun year, so many things that I had forgotten. I also talked with my neighbor, who was in the same graduating class and has a better long-term memory than I, and she confirmed what I remembered.

One thing that stands out in my memory was that leaving old Classen was pretty traumatic for us. We had such mixed feelings as we loved old Classen and had many fond memories from that school. The idea of a nice new modern school building and being the first graduating class from that school was appealing, but what we wanted was to move old Classen to the new school, however, we knew that was not possible as the old Classen would continue as a high school. Moving to a new school was like starting over, new name, new theme with new school colors and new names for the pep clubs and school organizations. Making that transition was difficult and I believe that is why they let us include Classen in our new school name, thus the name, Northwest Classen. Including Classen in the name somehow helped us to still feel linked to the old Classen. Reality really set in though, when the time came to choose the new theme, school colors, pep club names and names of school organizations. As I remember it, the student body voted on everything. I don't recall how the name "Knights" was chosen, but the colors of purple and gold were for royalty and we liked the colors because they were similar to the blue and gold colors of old Classen. I believe the pep club names were chosen by the members of each pep club, in keeping with the theme of the "Knights. I did notice in my yearbook that the pep club members were wearing pep club uniforms from old Classen. I suppose that was because we had all invested in these uniforms and probably were allowed to wear them through the first and second years and they were replaced as new members came in. That probably made the transition easier for us also.

I do not have any special memories of what it was like to

be a member of the first cheerleading squad for NWC except that we always had fun. I could not find a group picture of all the cheerleaders in the yearbook. I do remember that three of us were cheerleaders at old Classen during our junior year, Bobbye Kaye Reynolds, Betty Bowles and myself. We three tried out again for our senior year and were chosen along with Sherry McFall, Ann Robertson and Julia Dorr (who was a junior). It seems like there were eight cheerleaders that year, but the only other person that comes to mind is Janet Shields who was a junior also. One change I do recall was that we did not have guy cheerleaders at NWC like we did at old Classen and I cannot tell you why. Maybe someone else will know. It was difficult getting used to the name of "Knights" and fitting it into our yells.

It was a wonderful surprise and I felt so honored when I was elected as the first All Sports Queen of Northwest Classen (I still have my All Sports Queen jacket), as I was up against some pretty tough competition. However, I guess being the steady girlfriend of the Captain of the football team and President of the "O" Club gave me the edge (Dub Watson was a very persuasive fella). That was the first year for that queen title. I'm not sure who made the decision to combine all the sports into one All Sports Queen title.

One thing my old classmate neighbor remembered was a special yell by the "O" Club in our first pep assembly. The O"O Club was in trouble because of a prank one night at a teacher's house sometime before the first pep assembly. At the pep assembly, after the pep clubs had given their yells, the "O" Club stood up and gave this special yell – "Once and King, always a King, Once a Queen, always a Queen, But once and Knight is enough – which brought the house down.

I do want to say that as the year progressed we all grew to love Northwest Classen. It was like that was the only high school we'd attended and we were very proud of our school.

Hope the above will be helpful for you in doing your "History of Northwest Classen" series. Will there be copies available to purchase by the graduates? I would be interested in a copy.

Donna Saulsbury Taylor

George Canning

Reprinted from the Shield

The latest addition to the NWC family is Assistant Principal George Canning.

Mr. Canning came from Sasakwa, fifteen miles south of Wewoka. The Cannings came to Oklahoma City because of his family ties. His wife has family and friends in Edmond, and he has family in Guthrie.

"From what I've noticed the students at NWC have been outstanding. They really seem focused on having a great school," said Mr. Canning.

Mr. Canning feels that students should abide by the rules and not be tardy to classes, jobs, or other activities, and be prepared for the real world.

"Someday I'll try to be a head principal again," said Mr. Canning.

Excellent ART

By JoAnn Eddy, reprinted from the Knightly News

Portfolio Day was held January 18th, 2008, at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. Students from Ms Eddy's Honors Art class and Mr. Shurden's AP Drawing and Studio Art classes had the opportunity to share their artwork with college and university representatives from across the state.

Representatives provided feedback about the artwork in addition to enrollment and scholarship information. Students also viewed the current exhibition of Paris 1900, as well as the permanent collection of artwork, including the Chihuly glass exhibit.

Artwork from six students from Art II and III, Honors Art, and AP Drawing and Studio Art classes has been submitted for Young Talent in Oklahoma 2008. Students have the opportunity to win scholarships, tuition waivers and other awards, as part of the juried exhibition. Selected artwork will be on display at the Nigh Gallery, on the UCO campus, during March.

This year's Arts Extravaganza is planned for May 13th, at Taft Middle School. Please plan to join us in celebrating our talented elementary, middle, and high school students in the Visual and Performing Arts.

NWC JROTC AWARDS DAY

by Bill Whetstone

Robert P. Green, LTC(R) USArmy, Sr. Army Instructor has invited the attendance of the NWCAA to the Awards Assembly on Wednesday, 9 April 2008 at 1 PM in the main auditorium of NWC. Parents, family members, friends and hopefully many alumni will attend, in support of those receiving Junior ROTC military awards. Hopefully, those alumni with military backgrounds and/or careers will make a special effort to attend.

This year will be the first year the NWCAA, or any alumni association, has agreed to add additional money to the top Junior ROTC award. Col. Green, in his invitation letter has stated, "We appreciate your efforts and what you are doing to support and reinforce young people in our community and at our school."

Alumni, please put this assembly on your calendar. Thank you.

Concurrent College Courses Offered

Reprinted from the Knightly News

Northwest Classen is challenging students this year with Concurrent Enrollment classes. Upon successful completion of a concurrent class, the student will receive college credit as well as a full unit of high school credit for a one semester class. The classes that are being offered this semester are English Composition and Literature, and Introduction to Public Speaking. In order to be eligible for admission to these classes, a student must meet the following requirements:

Juniors – 21 on the ACT test or a 3.5 GPA

Seniors – 19 on the ACT test or 3.0 GPA

Graduation Class of 2008

Commencement exercises will be on Saturday, May 10, 2008, at 10:00 AM at the Cox Convention Center.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...It's about learning to dance in the rain!!



The students shown above are members of the Academic Decathlon Team, winners for the second consecutive year, in OKC High Schools. They are: Kenny Graves, Michael Garcia, Rebecca Sanders, Lynita Hensley, Marisol Fraire, Luisa Garcia, Sarah Carroll, Stephanie Nguyen, and Airiane Cairns. The team sponsor is Cynthia Haney. Rochelle Converse presented the awards.

NWC PTO WANTS YOU!

From Tee Brown

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year! I am so excited and proud to serve as the new Parent Teacher Organization president, and I am looking forward to a great year. I'm so amazed at the extraordinary parent volunteers and participation we've had signed up to be members since we had Open House last month. I believe parent participation will help make our PTO a dynamic, thriving organization. There is a lot to accomplish and do this year and we need everyone interested in NWC to help in any way you can, and this includes alumni, who are welcome to join us.

One of the main things that we discussed at a recent meeting was a Knight Auction to raise money to buy new carpet for the Library as well as other things that need to be purchased for the school. I know that we may not be able to get a lot of this done this school year but at least we can get started. So if you are interested in being on that Committee please let me know. All it takes is for all of us to work together as a team and we can get a lot accomplished. I am calling all Parents, Students, Teachers, Staff, Alumni and anyone else that is willing to make this auction a success. We have decided to call it the **Saturday Knight Live Auction**. Remember there is no "I" in Team but there is a "ME", and if you put yourself in that ME (category) you are apart of the team.

Mr. Canning, the Activity Director, has requested our assistance to help out at the concession stand for the spring events at Taft stadium. If you might be able to help with this, or anything else, please contact me at (405) 473-8788 or tee.brown@okc.gov.

It is our goal to sponsor many activities during this school year, such as: Fire Prevention Month in October, Teacher's appreciation Week, Talent Show, Movie Night, Ice Cream socials, Dances and many more fun and exciting events. I am new to the school, so a lot of these functions may not happen this year, but will in the years to come, with your help.

* Dear Alumni readers in Oklahoma City, Tee hopes you will respond. What a great name for the auction!!!

Ed.

Basketball, Fun, and Food"and they will come"!

On Tuesday evening, Feb. 5th the boys varsity team had a game scheduled with cross-town rival, Northeast. What was not widely known was that they were having a VIP room set up for all the alums that came to the game. The VIP room served small roast beef sandwiches, fresh vegetable and fruit snacks with chips and dips. Also included were, your choice of hot coffee, water or cold drinks. The food was prepared by the Home Economics classes at NWC. I was told it was the first time the students had prepared a fresh fruit plate. All of it was done in a superb manner. The food was fresh, the table was neatly set and the coffee was hot. What more would you need on a cold February night. Thanks ladies!

There were 28 signed-in alumni, going back to 1957, 1960 and on up to the 2000's. There were some grads from every decade since the school opened. They were part of a crowd that probably numbered near 200 watching NWC WIN a "run and gun" style game. If I remember right, the win was about ten points.

All in all, it was a fun evening. We need more of you alums to come out and support the team.

Q: Why should 60+ year old people use valet parking?

A: Valets don't forget where they parked your car.

NWC WRESTLING

The NWC Wrestling Team participated in the 22 - team Carl Albert Invitational January 11-12. The Knights received outstanding performances by it's 4 top wrestlers. 189 lb. sophomore **Mike Anderson** won the Tournament for his first Carl Albert title. Mike place 3rd in last years State Tournament at 215 lbs. as a freshman. Senior **Chris Cardenas** placed 3rd at 152 lbs. Cardenas lost to eventual champion **Mikey Lunsford** of Catoosa 6-4 in the semifinals. Later Cardenas dominated Chickasha's Xavier Gray 8-1 for 3rd Place. Freshman Jeremy **Anderson** (yes, Mike's brother) lost to # 1 ranked Ryan Rosales of Catoosa in the semifinals then came back to pin Chickasha's Alberto Wheeler in consolation final. Heavyweight **Keenan Walls** (Junior) pinned last years 3rd place finisher from Duncan, Gabe McGee in the Quarterfinals and lost to eventual heavyweight champ Darren Armstrong of Durant. Keenan injured his knee in his consolation semifinal victory over Kyle Farley of Chickasha. Though not serious Coach Toma elected not to wrestle Keenan in the consolation final, resulting in a 4th place finish.

As a team the Knights placed 8th overall in a field of 22. The Knights finished with 89.5 points just edging traditional wrestling power Shawnee by 1/2 point, and only 7.5 points out of 6th place just behind Carl Albert (96 points) and Noble (97 points).

2008 WRESTLING SCHEDULE

1/18	Midwest Dual Tourn.	OCU	TBA
1/24	Putnam City Dual	PC H.S.	TBA
1/29	McGuinness Dual	Mc Guinness	TBA
1/31	Guthrie	Guthrie H.S.	6:00 pm
2/1-2	Bishop Kelley Tourn.	Bishop Kelly	TBA
2/5	Edmond Mem. Dual	Northwest	12:45 pm

All Sports Day

DUAL FOLLOWED BY MILLWOOD BASKETBALL

2/9	METRO TOURN.	NORTHWEST 12:45 pm
2/8-9	Dual State	Fairgrounds TBA
2/15-16	Regionals	TBA TBA
2/22-23	State	Fairgrounds TBA

2008 SOCCER SCHEDULE

SCRIMMAGES

2/16	TBA	@ PCN	Boys
2/18	4:30	@ NWC vs. Grant	Girls
2/21	5:30	@ NWC vs. Ada	Girls
2/21	7:00	@ NWC vs. Ada	Boys
2/26	6:00	@ NWC vs. Harrah	Girls
2/26	3-10:00	@ PCO	Boys

SEASON GAMES

3/4	3:30, 5:30, 7:30	@ NWC vs. W. Heights
3/7	3:30, 5:30, 7:30	@ Altus
3/10	5:00, 7:00	@ Edmond Memorial
3/13	5:30, 7:30	@ Midwest City
3/14	3:30, 5:30, 7:30	@ NWC vs. Del City
3/25	3:30, 5:30, 7:30	@ Carl Albert
3/27	TBA	@ Capitol Hill - Tourn..
3/28	TBA	@ Capitol Hill - Tourn..
3/29	TBA	@ Capitol Hill - Tourn.
4/1	3:30, 5:30, 7:30	@ NWC vs. Guthrie
4/8	5:30, 7:30	@ NWC vs. Southeast
4/18	3:30, 5:30, 7:30	@ Duncan
4/21	3:30, 5:30, 7:30	@ Lawton Mac

2008 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

2/1	6:00, 7:30	@ NWC vs. Northeast	V/JV/B/G
2/5	6:00, 7:30	@ NWC vs. Millwood	V/JV/B/G
2/8	6:00, 7:30	@ MWC vs Centennial	V/JV/B/G
2/12	6:00, 7:30	@ Star Spencer	V/JV/B/G
2/15	6:00, 7:30	@ NWC vs Capitol Hill	V/JV/B/G
2/22-23	TBA	@ TBA-Regional Tour	Varsity/BG
2/28-29	TBA	@ TBA Area Tour	Varsity/BG
3/6-9	TBA	@ TBA-State Tour	Varsity/BG

2008 All-City Conference Tennis

3/11	Classen	4/3	US Grant
3/13	@ John Marshall	4/8	Capitol Hill
3/25	Northeast	4/10	Southeast
3/27	@ Star Spencer	4/15	Centennial
4/1	Millwood	4/17	Douglas

IN MEMORIAM

Steve G. Carson '68

April 17, 1950 – December 31, 2007

Steve was an Oklahoma City business person for many years. He was inducted into the Bowling Hall of Fame in 1984.

Linda Price Cole '66

1948 – December 20, 2007

Linda was a homemaker in the Oklahoma City area. Cause of death, complications from breast cancer.

Harvey Cramer '56

Died August 15, 2006

No other information available.

Franklin Edward 'Durkee '56

January 23, 1938 – November 28, 2007

Frank attended OU, OCU, Stanford University, and U.C. Santa Barbara. After six years in the Marines, he began a career in financial services in Dallas, then to Gulf South Mortgage in Oklahoma City, thirty plus years with Banc First of Shawnee, President of First National Bank of Sallisaw and President of Banc First in Guthrie. He also served two terms on the Oklahoma Bankers Association Board of Directors.

Richard Elliott '56

Died 3/13/07

No other information available.

Larry Garr '56

Died April 17, 2007

No other information available.

James Thomas Harkins '71

1953 – December 9, 2007

James graduated from Lyons College in Batesville, Arkansas. He lived for the past 20 years in Kannapolis, North Carolina. Jim was a dedicated member of Midway United Methodist Church where he served as lay leader and participated in many activities.

Thomas Louis Hutchinson '56

May 26, 1938 – December 25, 2007

Thomas was a graduate of Oklahoma City University where he attained a Bachelor of Music Degree. He earned a Master of Education Degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State College. He loved arranging music and

did so for a Miss America and several pageant contestants, along with a long list of other accomplishments.

Jerry Killough '56

September 3, 1938 – June 10, 2007

Jerry was a graduate of Central State University. He was retired from the US. Treasury Department where he was a Special Agent in Criminal Investigation. Jerry loved to travel with his wife, friends and grandchildren. He loved life and lived by his motto of, "Every day is a holiday and every meal is a feast."

William James Masheter, Jr. '56

August 16, 1938 – March 10, 2007

Bill was the owner of a consulting business.

Dennis Ray Patterson

November 17, 1948 – December 14, 2007

Dennis lived his entire life in Oklahoma City. He retired from the Oklahoma City Public School Supply System.

Bennett Schlinke '61

August 21, 1943 – December 29, 2007

Bennett attended Central State University and completed OCU Law School, while serving in the National Guard. He had a private practice in the Metro Oklahoma City area for many years.

Melvin Selman '56

Died September 21, 2006

No other information available.

Chris Stamos '56

Died January 17, 2007

No other information available.

Bernice Marguarite Wester

September 19, 1905 – October 14, 2007

Bernice taught for 32 years in the Oklahoma City system. Several of the boys she coached in aseball at Willard Elementary went on to play in the major leagues. She was head counselor at Northwest Classen, at the time of her retirement, in 1972. As you can see from her birth and passing dates, she lived to be 102.

Duane Weinert, teacher for many years.

Died January 26, 2008.
