

Alumni e-Newsletter

Spring 2010

Volume 1 Issue 3

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Congratulations, Class of 2010!

After a very cold and snowy winter with 25 weather-related delays, early dismissals, and closings, on June 9th, 253 seniors will become Tuscola High School alumni at last. It is an exciting time as they are making future plans and enjoying their last month together. This group will continue to represent us well. Class President **Kathryn Ray**'s photography is in New York City being judged for a national Scholastic Art & Writing Award. In recognition of this program, the Empire State Building will be lit in gold on the evening of June 9th (how fitting!). Chamber Choir member **Holly Harmon** will be performing in New York City at Carnegie Hall on June 26th as part of the American High School Honors Performance Series. Several other students have made athletic commitments (below). We are proud of you all.

Baseball

David Atwood – Greensboro College
Jack Bishop – Greensboro College
Billy Lirely – Greensboro College
Walton Shepherd – Lenoir-Rhyne University

Basketball

Katelyn Bradley – Peace College
Kirklin Kirkpatrick – Charleston Southern Univ.

Football

Josh Adams – Pikeville College
Tyler Brosius – NC State University
Austin Chambers – Western Carolina University

Football continued...

Graham Fisher – Appalachian State University
Eric Nelson – Lackawanna College

Soccer

Kenny Pratt – Young Harris College
Elizabeth Ross – Western Carolina University

Softball

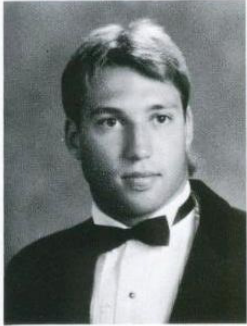
Megan Arrington – Mars Hill College
Alecia Rhinehart – Montreat College

Swimming

Nicole Day – Mars Hill College
Megan McLeod – Davidson College

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Kirk Kirkpatrick (1987), Haywood County Attorney & Commissioner and Father of a Current Senior



Kirk's thoughts for our new alumni:

As I was preparing this article, I debated explaining the obvious about how Tuscola prepared me for my adult life (the educational, social and athletic experiences that Tuscola provided me to further myself in attending college and law school, maintaining employment as an attorney, and becoming involved in my county as a County Commissioner). However, in doing so, I would be stating the obvious and not exactly offering useful information. When I was in high school, I did not heed the words of my elders, which could have helped me to avoid my mistakes by learning from theirs. As such, I thought I would go over a few principles that I learned as a reflection of my high school years and experiences, which could benefit students and other alumni.

1. Apply yourself.

Every day in high school, you are given an opportunity to learn. The problem is that most high school students, including myself, do not set out to do that. We go to class because we have to. We participate in extra-curricular activities because it's what we think we need to do. The days and hours go by, and we wish them away and wait for the next. What we don't realize is, later on in life, we regret we did not apply ourselves each day. I know, if I had applied myself in every class, I would know twice as

much as I know now and would have spent the same amount of time doing it.

2. Utilize your opportunities.

Each day, when you attend high school, you have multiple opportunities - the opportunity to learn a new theory, formula, historical perspective... It's free to you, but your parents are paying for it with county, state and federal taxes. Make the most of those opportunities. Don't let them go by because some only come around once.

3. Take advantage of resources available.

Every day, when you walk in class, there are teachers who have dedicated themselves to provide you with an education. Take advantage of that fact. The better the teacher's class does and the more successful his or her students are, the more self-worth that teacher gains. Teachers are not people to avoid; they are people to learn from. I have yet to meet any teacher at school, college, or law school who was not eager to help me learn something that I did not understand. As a student and as an adult, you should ask questions and utilize resources that you have in front of you.

4. Always do your best.

This saying is repeated all too often but is worth stating once more. Always strive to do your best in academics, athletics, career, and family. Believe me, if you do not strive to do your best, you will regret it. The thing is, it is not that much harder to strive to do your best than something less. It takes the same amount of time out of your day to do your best as it does to do less than your best.

5. There is always somebody better than you.

Even when we are doing our best and are personally successful, remember that there is someone better than you. Life is difficult, and life is a competition. No matter whether it is on the athletic field or in the classroom, you are

always competing. If someone tells you different, they are not living in reality. As you move forward in life, there will be that person who got accepted to college in “your spot”. There will be that person who made the team in front of you. There will be that person who got the job instead of you. If this does happen, make sure you applied yourself, utilized your opportunities, took advantage of resources and did the best you could, and, if in fact there is someone better than you, then so be it. Try again. Don’t let it get you down, and don’t let it come unexpected because there is someone out there better than you.

6. Treat others the way you want to be treated.

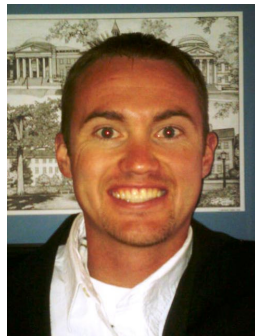
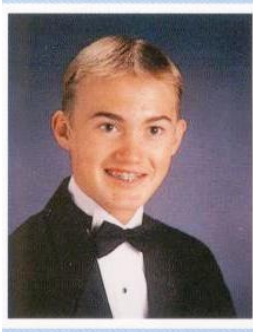
Unfortunately, when I was in high school, I can’t say I always treated others the way that I would want to be treated. I did not take time out to console others or care about them as I strive to do now. The attitude comes with the time and age of being a high school teenager, but, if there is any advice that I can give to those of you still in high school (and even those who are adults now), it would be to treat others with the same

dignity and respect that you desire to be treated. I see fellow classmates today, and, although I do not feel I treated anyone poorly, I still could have been more friendly and open to them. Keep in mind that a person who is not your friend in high school now may be your friend later. A person who is in another clique in school now may be your co-worker later. A person you look down on and make fun of now may be your boss later. You should keep these things in mind and treat others as you would want to be treated.

7. Walk a day in their shoes.

These personal principles are only written to be helpful and to express some things that I learned while in high school. It can be a great place and a great experience, but remember that it is what you make of it. If you follow these principles through high school and continue to follow them throughout life, I can promise you that you will regret little, learn a lot, and gain self-worth and self-gratitude.

Josh Ray ('97), City Manager of Aztec, New Mexico



Sitting in 3rd period AP Calculus over 13 years ago, never would I have imagined I would be preparing a \$35 million budget for a local government in the state of New Mexico. My class schedule would have led most to believe that I would be finishing up medical school by now or maybe chillin’ in a van down by the river. However, the journey from Tuscola High School to Aztec, New Mexico was not only a fun and

challenging experience, it has been an incredible time of personal growth and learning also.

All too often, we didn’t understand what we were learning when we were supposed to be learning it. A lot of times, we actually didn’t learn the things we should have learned, but we did learn from the process of learning. I can’t begin to tell you “Much Ado about Nothing”, but, at this point in my life, I wish I could. What I did learn, however, is that, although we may not understand everything that is happening around us, it is up to us to figure it all out. We, as individuals, are responsible for who we will become.

Tuscola was very important to me. It was the springboard for learning that I really needed it to be. Tuscola paved the way for me to be accepted at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and then for my Masters Degree in

Public Administration at Western Carolina University. My high school experience also helped me to step outside of my personal shell and begin to develop my character. We all learned that I didn't have any Hank Williams Jr. inside of me as I led off the Country Western show with "All My Rowdy Friends", but the point wasn't that I couldn't follow the intro, it was that my rowdy friends didn't care if I was on time or not – they were still friends (thanks Richard Messer and Andy Brown).

I have served as a city manager for the past 6+ years of my life. I began an internship with the Town of Waynesville shortly after college, and then, in 2003, I was appointed as the youngest Town Manager in the history of North Carolina by the Town of Biscoe. After four successful years with Biscoe and adding two additional municipalities to my workload, I moved to the coast of North Carolina and became the

city manager for the City of Whiteville. After a two year stint in Whiteville (and a year working to recover), I packed my bags and headed west to Aztec, New Mexico.

Until last week, I had yet to understand how the class of '97 would make its impact on the world. I knew that we had a chef, a dentist, a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher and everything else that you could imagine. But after reading Facebook and the gentle post of the intellectual Joseph Massie, I learned that we really are today's leaders. With our powers combined, we can make a change. It took more than 13 years for me to realize what we had learned together and how important our relationships would be for the years to come. If only every community (including Aztec, New Mexico) had a Franks Roman Pizza, then the world would be a better place, and decisions would be made with a full stomach.



UPCOMING

REUNIONS

**Class of 1997
October 22-23, 2010**

Friday – CE Weatherby Stadium
5:00p Tailgating; 7:30p Football Game
Saturday – Waynesville Country Club & Spa
6:00-10:00p Dinner
Cost - \$100/couple for all events and food
with \$50 deposit due May 31st
(refundable through September 15th)
Please email Rebecca Dills Ensley at
rebeccadensley@yahoo.com
for other pricing options
Make checks payable to Rebecca Ensley and
send to 110 Ferguson Road, Sylva, NC 28779
Also, join the Facebook group:
1st Official THS Class of 97 Reunion Weekend

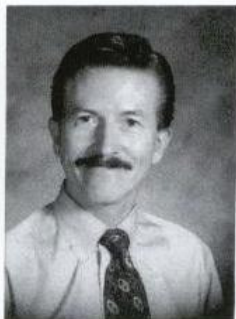
**Class of 1971
October 22, 2011**

Alumni, please contact:
Steve Brown steve@haywood.k12.nc.us,
Bill Teague billteague@bellsouth.net,
Marlene Ferguson M Ferguson@haywoodnc.net,
or
Bobbie Smith joelbsmith@bellsouth.net.

RETIREES

We want to wish the following persons much happiness as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Each of them has impacted us in ways that they will never know. Although they will be leaving “The Hill”, their legacy will forever remain. Email hallen@haywood.k12.nc.us if you have any memories or appreciative words for these folks, and I will make sure that they get them. Please include your maiden name and the year(s) that you were in his class.

Dr. Larry Fox



After 20 years with Haywood County Schools, Dr. Fox is retiring. For the first six years, he taught English, French, Spanish, and theater arts at Waynesville Junior High/Middle School. Then, in 1995, Dr. Fox joined the faculty at Tuscola High School, teaching French, German, and Spanish.

Tuscola has been a good place to work. I have had the pleasure of working with fantastic colleagues both in my department and others. I have worked also with some really great students, many of whom have gone on to be highly successful in their fields. I'm very proud of their accomplishments. I wish everyone at Tuscola much success in the future. –Dr. Fox

Jon Johnson



Mr. Johnson began his 25-year career in Haywood County at Waynesville Junior High School also but came to Tuscola when the ninth grade was moved here. He has taught typewriting, keyboarding, digital communications, business math, business law, career management, civics, physical education, and exploratory shop; coached football, softball, and wrestling; officiated softball, volleyball, and wrestling; served as a member of the Baccalaureate and Graduation Committees and School Improvement Team; and sponsored the Future Business Leaders of America, Pep Club, and Student Government Association.

Develop a 'Bobble-Head' and USE IT. Most things you don't agree with, you can't change...whether it comes from the central office, administrators, OR your spouse! If you avoid rocking the boat, you will have smooth waters to travel. –Mr. Johnson

The Tuscola Times

VOLUME 1

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1966

NUMBER 1

Library Ultra-Modern

The Tuscola Library is fast becoming readied for students and faculty to use and enjoy. According to Mrs. Mary Emma Weatherby, librarian, "There are many, many things yet to do, but we shall soon be ready to use it."

"The delay," she added, "has been caused by a failure of the company to send backs for the library book shelves."

The library, a spacious area with provincial gold walls and green and gold wall-to-wall carpet, seems to meet every desire a reader could possibly have. Walnut furniture, book cases, desks, tables, and chairs are arranged in convenient groupings throughout the building.

Four sky lights divide the library into four distinct areas for different uses. The first area is for reference. Tables and chairs are provided for 36 students; walls are lined with shelves for reference books: encyclopedias and other materials. The second area, which will also accommodate 36 students, is arranged for class groups. It contains duplicate sets of encyclopedias and is ideal for study and research or for instruction. The third area is designed for individual study as it contains study carrels. Each carrel is equipped with an electrical outlet where the student may use small tape recorders and film strip viewers, in addition to doing individual study. Ear phones will be in use with audio equipment. This area will also be known as the audio-visual area. Area four is the browsing area. Furnished with comfortable colorful green, yellow and beige chairs, settees, beige-topped square corner tables and walnut coffee tables, it is a dream which former students of Crabtree - Iron Duff, Clyde, Fines Creek, and Waynesville never dreamed anyone would be able to enjoy. "Yet," according to Mrs. Weatherby, "this corner is one in which students or faculty may come and spend an hour reading what they wish -- reading for sheer enjoyment."

In order to provide materials for pleasure reading and other reading for reports, information and any other reason, 74 periodicals are now coming to the library. There is at least one magazine that will fit everyone's needs and interests. Every subject field has its magazines.

Two daily papers, "The Asheville Citizen" and "The Charlotte Observer," will arrive daily. "The Waynesville Mountaineer" and "The Canton Enterprise" will also be on the racks, the former, three times a week; the latter, twice. The Sunday edition of "The New York Times" will be on the reading fare.

Approximately 6,000 books are now in the library waiting to be placed on shelves. "A Status Study conducted in the spring of 1966 found that the combined books for high school students in the county averaged three for each student," stated the librarian. There are enough now to allow six for each student. (Sets of encyclopedia -- no matter how many volumes -- are counted as one book). Mrs. Weatherby added, "There are enough now to meet the requirements of the State Department, but our goal is 10 books for each student -- the number recommended by the American Library Association for an accredited high school."

Not only are there to be sets of all recommended encyclopedias, but there are to be duplicate sets in various areas so that students in all sections of the library can use them at the same time. Dictionaries, atlases and magazines will also be available in several sections of the building.

There are several rooms, large and small, not visible to one entering the library. They are necessary, however, for effective use both by the library staff and the students. These facilities include one room with typewriters for students use in typing term papers or other necessary typing; two conference rooms to accommodate 12 students each for small conferences, group meetings or panel discussions; a teachers' professional reading room to be equipped with chairs and shelves. Sixteen professional magazines are now arriving. Many professional books are already here and more have been ordered for this room. There is a work room to be used for processing books at all stages, an AV room well supplied with 16 millimeter projectors, film strip projectors, tape recorders, overhead and opaque projectors. "There is enough equipment in the Audio-Visual room for every subject area to use at the same time," Mrs. Weatherby said. She added

that a handbook is being prepared for use of students and library assistants that will enable both groups to use the library and its many facilities with greater efficiency.

"We have 30 library assistants -- student assistants -- and we need a minimum of 12 more," wistfully added the librarian as her eyes swept across the large area she is tirelessly working to get ready for a student "invasion" when the announcement of its readiness is made. One-half credit is earned by student assistants.

Two teacher-aide assistants are presently working to tear down the mountain of author cards, title cards, subject cards, type new ones, retype ones with errors, place proper numbers in books, check one card against another and countless other details that only a librarian fully recognizes. Mrs. Tai Lee and Mrs. Bob Wilson are the busy aides who work long hours to help make the library ready for use.

"And this is my office," beamed Mrs. Weatherby as she pointed toward an area near the center of one wall. It is enclosed with glass walls and is adjacent to the library work room. "I hope to have Open House when everything gets into proper order. I want all interested persons to visit the library and enjoy it with us."

Seniors Order Rings

On Thursday, September 17, the seniors met in the cafeteria to discuss class rings. After many questions, they chose a golden sapphire set. On one side of the ring will be the Mountaineer and on the other, a view of the Lake with mountains in the background. The students were allowed to choose regular and miniature for girls and regular or large for boys. The stone in the rings can be either faceted or smooth.

The following Thursday, the seniors returned to the cafeteria to place their orders for rings which will arrive in December.

Student Council Election Demands Run-Off

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Media Center

By: Carla Brookshire and Beth Sanderson, Members of the THS Media Advisory Committee



Photograph courtesy of THS Publications classes

The Tuscola High School Media Center has been undergoing many exciting changes over the 2009-2010 school year. Constructed in 1966, the school library was well overdue for a makeover. Outdated and uncomfortable seating and a lack of high-interest, current reading material discouraged library use. Many students and teachers wanted their library to offer more. Tuscola's Media Advisory Committee conducted a survey in the fall that showed both students and teachers wanted the library to offer a welcoming environment where kids could check out up-to-date adolescent literature books, have a "cup of joe", and use laptops to access wi-fi. Tuscola's students and teachers were asking for a 21st century library, but with limited resources, the Media Advisory Committee wondered what could be done. Blue Ridge Osondu to the rescue! The Media Advisory Committee partnered with the local, independent bookstore to learn how to make the library more appealing and up-to-date. Not only has the bookstore offered its expertise on library displays and book selections, but they have given much, much more. Over the past two weeks, Blue Ridge Osondu has donated more than 250 hardcover books to the school media center. Blue Ridge Osondu's donation, in addition to new books donated and purchased with resources such as a SUTEP (School University Teacher Education Partnership) grant received from Western Carolina University, has provided Tuscola's library with thousands of dollars worth of new books. And the books are being noticed; student check-outs are up significantly. According to THS Junior, Christina Grasty, "I love the new library and coffee shop. It gives us a new place to hang out and read."

The revamp of the media center has been a collaborative effort. For their part, students built furniture in shop classes, created marketing plans, drafted coffee shop lay-outs, and composed beautiful art pieces. Students also are playing a vital role in the running of the library, processing new books and working the newly added, and extremely popular, Hilltop Coffee Shop. Community businesses, Western Carolina University, and community members who sponsored and contributed to the Media Center Fundraiser, which raised over \$10,000 for supplies and books, have been instrumental in bringing Tuscola's library into the 21st century. The Media Advisory Committee members would like to thank all those who have helped in the process.

Although much has been accomplished, there is still more to do, and the Media Advisory Committee will continue to rely on Blue Ridge Osondu to help us make the library dynamic and attractive to all readers. Blue Ridge Osondu has been more than willing to help; along with the donation of books for both student and teacher use, they have offered exceptional discounts for book purchases as well as their continued assistance in displays and marketing techniques that will promote reading. For those interested in helping, Blue Ridge Osondu Books will offer a discount on any book that you wish to purchase from them to be donated to the new media center. Blue Ridge Osondu has a wish list available and would be more than happy to help you choose a book that would be appropriate, as well as make sure that we receive the purchase. The Tuscola Media Center can't wait to see what the future holds, and partnerships like this, as well as continued support from the community, will make it possible!

The Path of Pride

The *Path of Pride* at C. E. Weatherby stadium is a fundraising project initiated by the Activities Booster Club. This brick walkway recognizes alumni of Waynesville Township High School and Tuscola High School. To purchase a personalized brick for \$100, visit <http://pathofpride.com>. The first completed project funded by the bricks is the 10-foot mountaineer carving located between the concession stand and home side.

Donations

You are aware, no doubt, of our nation's financial crisis and its impact on public schools. Our faith-based community coordinated a Volunteer Workday in August, and the Haywood County Schools Foundation raised \$47,000 through their Save-A-Teacher campaign. How can you help? Make a donation payable to Tuscola High School with how you want the money designated in the subject line of your check. Address the envelope to the attention of Pat Wyatt, who will send you a receipt for tax purposes. All gifts, large and small, will be appreciated.

Alumni Committee

Interest is growing among alumni to reconnect with our Tuscola roots. As this e-newsletter is the last of the school year, I can't help but think ahead to the fall. If you would like to help with the e-newsletters, planning alumni events, etc., please contact Heather Allen at the email address or phone number below.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2010

Thursday, May 20

7:00 p.m. – Chorus Concert (Auditorium)

Tuesday, May 25

7:30 p.m. – Band Concert (First United Methodist Church)

Thursday, May 27

7:30 p.m. – Band Concert (Auditorium)

June 2010

Sunday, June 6th

4:00 p.m. – Baccalaureate (Allen's Creek Baptist)

Wednesday, June 9th

7:00 p.m. – Graduation (WCU)

The Alumni e-Newsletter will be published three times each year in the fall, winter, and spring. To update your personal information, SHARE NEWS, or offer feedback, please email Heather Allen at hallen@haywood.k12.nc.us or write/call me at the address, phone, or fax number below:

Tuscola High School, 564 Tuscola School Road, Waynesville, NC 28786
(828) 456-2408 phone (828) 456-2434 fax

