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Alumni Association Newsletter

Alumni Weekend 2000

Bud Pirone ('56)

One of the first decisions of the OHS Alumni Association was that it should work toward establishing a yearly alumni activity that would provide an opportunity for all alumni to revisit Oneonta and renew old acquaintances. Subsequent Association meetings decided on an early autumn activity in order to take advantage of the great weather in late September and early October, and to give some real meaning to the annual Homecoming Weekend held at OHS. There have always been student activities on this weekend, but no organized alumni events.

The Alumni Weekend for the year 2000 will be held in Oneonta on the weekend of Saturday, Sept. 30 and Sun., Oct. 1. It will be held in conjunction with the annual Pit Run which is held in memory of OHSan Rick Parisian. The proceeds from this event go to an OHS scholarship fund. There is a real potential for a big crowd this year, especially in light of the fact that the Classes of 1955 and 1960 are planning full-scale reunions for this weekend, and the Class of 1985 is considering an activity on Friday, Sept. 29.

Thanks to the work of OHS

Athletic Director Joe Hughes ('76), Section IV has guaranteed us a home football game every year on the weekend of the Pit Run; consequently, OHS will be the site of all of the early activities on Sat., Sept. 30. Tours of OHS will be available beginning at 10:00 a.m.. Many alumni have never seen the "new" high school (it has been serving as an outstanding facility since 1964) and even most very recent graduates have not seen the results of the renovation projects which the building has undergone in the last five years. There will be a tailgate party next to the football field from 11-12:30 for all alumni, and at 1:00 p.m. OHS will host Chenango Forks in football.

The year 2000 provides some memorable anniversaries for OHS athletics, and we plan to take notice of these at halftime by honoring three of Oneonta's finest teams. First, the unbeaten 1955 football team which was coached by Roy Kent is to be remembered on its 45th anniversary. This Iroquois League Championship team is especially remembered for a huge win in Neahwa Park over Elmira Free Academy, featuring a young Ernie Davis and ending a losing streak of over 10 years to Norwich with a 6-0 win on the season's last day. Second, the winter of 1959-60 witnessed the only unbeaten boys' basketball team in OHS history. This team, celebrating its 40th

anniversary, had a great win in the Holiday Classic over Cranford, NJ and destroyed Central Tech of Syracuse in a Section III final matching unbeaten teams. Two people connected with this team are closely associated with our Association. Bob Turrell ('60) is on our Board of Directors as is Coach Tony Drago ('39). Third, the fall of 1960 saw the only unbeaten, untied team in the long history of football at OHS. Coached by Lloyd Baker, this team finished its season 40 years ago with the worst beating of Norwich in the long history of that rivalry. We hope to see as many of the alumni of these teams as possible on Sept. 30. As a side note, it should be mentioned that Coach Baker and Coach Drago have been remembered for their contributions to the school by having the football field and the school gymnasium named for them respectively.

Following the game there will be a gathering for alumni at a site yet to be determined where refreshments and good conversation will be available in abundance. Other options include a pasta dinner at the Elks Club from 4:30-8:00 sponsored by the Lions' Club or a Family Festival on a closed Main Street in Downtown Oneonta, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.. A wide variety of activities, including a pet show, a skateboard exhibition, music, an art contest, a sidewalk chalk drawing exhibition, exotic fortune telling and plenty of other family-oriented events will be available to children of all ages.

Sun., Oct. 1 is Pit Run Day in Oneonta, and this event has become a major event in the life of the community. There is traditionally a large crowd in Neahwa Park, and it is hoped that alumni will head to the part for the festivities which begin at 11:30 with the Kids' Fun Run. The 10K run and the 2 mi. stroll begin at 1:00, and all participants are given a T-shirt upon registration. We would

love to see a large alumni turnout to support the scholarship fund. If you wish to either walk or run, you may register right up to the morning of the event.

The Association's Board of Directors believes that this weekend can evolve into a fine annual event.

OHS Alumni Association Spring Meeting

The Alumni Association plans to hold quarterly meetings, and the Spring meeting for this year was held in the OHS Large Group Instruction Room on Mon., April 3. The meeting was quite different in nature from previous ones. All of the early sessions were primarily concerned with our efforts to develop accurate mailing lists in order to build a financial and membership base for our organization. This process, although a never-ending task, has been largely concluded. Consequently, our April meeting could move on to some new issues.

The Association moved quite vigorously toward fulfilling some of the key parts of our mission statement. Article II, section B of our statement concerns the recognition of student academic excellence and achievement. The major activity of the meeting was to provide evidence of our support for this article in three ways.

First, the Association tried to help solve for OHS a problem that has existed for many years. The school's spring honorary activities for academic awards have been woefully under-funded. The level of support for these activities has traditionally come from a local grant and many pre-1960's small endowments. Thus, the school has found itself in a position to award an academic prize winner as little as \$2.50 and no more than \$10.00. In order to resolve this issue, the Alumni Association voted to provide \$1000.00 on an annual basis for the school's

program for underclass awards. These are given out annually at the OHS

Awards Assembly in early June. Second, the Association sought to make a contribution to the scholarship program for graduating seniors. The generosity of our membership allowed us to donate \$5000.00 for a scholarship fund for the Class of 2000. The decision was made to use this money for 10, one-year scholarships of \$500.00. It was suggested by Geoff Smith ('65), our Vice-President, that in the long run a scholarship endowment fund might be the best way for us to go and this idea will be pursued. The funding level for scholarships for the Class of 2001 will be established next spring and is dependent on this year's membership drive. There is a brief article on the scholarship winners in this newsletter.

Third, the Association responded to a request made by Mr. Kevin Johnson, who is the present adviser of the ECHO. Mr. Johnson requested that the Association assume the cost (\$50.00) of the annual graduation prize made to the graduating senior who has done the most for the development of the school's newspaper. At the present time, the ECHO is paying the costs of its own award. The Association supported this request in the amount of \$150.00 for annual OHS Alumni Association Publication Awards for not only the ECHO, but for the OHSan (the school's yearbook) and the Silhouette (the school's literary magazine as well.

Two members of the Association's Board of Directors – Mary Drago ('73) and Joe Hughes ('76) are serving on the committee to oversee these awards, and the committee will be chaired by Robert Miller ('85) who is teaching Math at OHS.

Two other matters were discussed at the April meeting. First, the question arose regarding an annual Alumni activity. It has been decided to have this coincide with the annual PIT run which always falls on the first Sunday in October. (See details in the article on page 1)

There will be housing difficulties on this weekend, but the opportunity to combine the two events was too good to pass up.

Jeff Gardner ('88) has agreed to chair the committee responsible for our first effort at a true Homecoming Weekend. For housing information, you might want to contact the Otsego County Tourism Office at 242 Carbon St., Oneonta (E-mail: otsegoch@wpe.com or phone: 800-843-3394) for a copy of their pamphlet on the Central Leatherstocking Region.

Brief Comments

Bud Pirone ('56)

The establishment of the Alumni Association has been, without exception, an enjoyable experience. The opportunity to reacquaint myself with friends, colleagues and students has been very rewarding.

One of the most pleasant aspects of this experience is the willingness of so many OHSans to provide assistance when needed. Our class correspondents are extremely helpful, and they provide our organization with a steady supply of address changes, alumni information

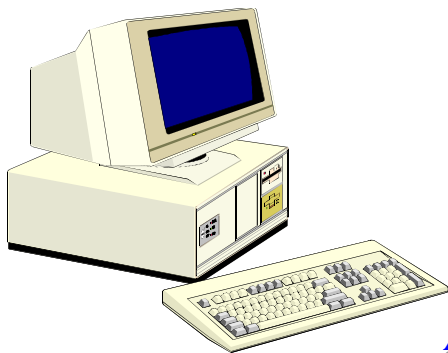
and assistance in our mailings. The willingness of Jeff Gardner ('88) to chair the committee for the fall alumni activity and Rob Miller ('85) to chair our Scholarship Committee provide examples of our support. Joe Campbell, Jr. ('75) and Norman Payne ('75) are pushing us in the direction of computerization for future mailings, and I wish to thank them for their personal and technical assistance.

The only activity where we need some immediate help is in the planning and organizing of this twice-yearly newsletter. I am too busy with various needs of this Association to continue handling the newsletter responsibilities. The responsibility involves deciding what will be included in the newsletter, forming a staff to divide up the necessary writing and getting finished articles to Linda Insetta so that she can prepare the finished newsletter for the printer. Linda has had extensive experience in layout and design, and in all honesty, does most of the difficult work. The Association is most fortunate that the Oneonta Superintendent of Schools, Jim Piscitelli, has allowed us to make use of some of Linda's time

and we thank them both for their efforts. If someone has an interest in coordinating the newsletter, please inform me immediately, and I will provide you with all of the necessary assistance in getting started on the December issue.

In regard to the newsletter, this will be the last mailing to all OHS graduates for at least the near future. The cost of the mailing is a little over \$2,000.00, and we feel that this money could be put to some better use. The next mailing will be to members only. The Board feels that our lists are now accurate enough that most people have had an opportunity to join or not join the Association and that our mailings should go to those who are truly interested in our activities. I do feel that many graduates have simply forgotten to send in their \$10.00, and I hope that this mailing will be the spark for them to do so. It is certainly acceptable to pay for more than one year, and this should be noted on your check.

I hope you all have a fine summer and that I may get to see many old friends this fall.



Alumni Association joins the Computer Age!

An OHS electronic mail list has been created in support of the OHS Alumni Association in coordination with Bud Pirone (Pres.) and Madolyn Palmer (Treas.). This mailing list provides a free and instant means for alumni who have e-mail to stay in touch and is a forum to announce events and share memories and information related to our school. It's easy to use — messages sent by subscribers to OHS@egroups.com are sent to all subscribers. Please join this free service by subscribing via the web (preferred): <http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/OHS>

Or by sending e-mail to:

OHS-subscribe@egroups.com

Please contact Joe "Bells" Campbell, Jr. ('75) at j.campbell@ieee.org with any questions you may have.

Ricky Parisian and the 7th Annual Pit Run 10K Road Race



Tim Catella '80

Oct. 1, 2000 is the date of the 7th Annual Pit Run 10K Road Race and 2 Mile Stroll. The race, which brings several hundred runners and another several hundred walkers to the streets of Oneonta, is a celebration of the life of Ricky J. "Pit" Parisian (OHS '78). All of the race proceeds benefit the Ricky J. Parisian Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Inc. which funds an annual scholarship to a graduating OHS senior who exemplifies Ricky's characteristics. The Scholarship has grown to \$2,000 per year for each winner, and the award stays with that student for as long as he or she pursues an education. The Scholarship Foundation has also made gifts to local elementary schools, the Boys' and Girls' Club, Oneonta High School and independent educational programs.

Ricky, an Oneonta native, was born in 1960 and was a popular member of the OHS Class of '78, remembered for his fun loving way and his kindness towards others. Ricky was an outstanding high school athlete, a star on both the football and baseball teams. He was honest, intelligent, caring and compassionate. Ricky joined the Oneonta Police Department in 1983 and became a New York State Trooper,

stationed in Oneonta, in 1986. In 1992 he was assigned to the Special Investigation Unit Office in White Plains, working mostly undercover in an effort to combat drug trafficking and organized crime. He maintained his home in Oneonta while commuting every week. He loved his work and believed it his duty in life to make his corner of the world a little safer.

On May 20, 1994, while shopping in a local Oneonta grocery store with his wife Deb, he attempted to stop an armed robbery in progress. After ensuring that customers and patrons were safe, he confronted the robber. A scuffle ensued, and while trying to tackle the robber, Ricky was shot in the chest. Despite the mortal wound, Ricky managed to pull off the robber's mask so that he could be identified, caught, tried and convicted. Ricky was a law enforcer to the end.

In July of 1994, a group of Ricky's family and friends, including many OHS graduates, got together to establish some type of memorial event that would celebrate his life and also fund a scholarship in his name. The group chose to coordinate a 10K road race and picked the first weekend in October to hold the event. The race has grown each year, and in 1999, the 10K had 1,000 paid participants. The day also includes a 2 mile "stroll" for those that do not run and a free Kids Fun Run. In 1999, nearly 600 people participated in the stroll and over 250 kids ran in the fun Run. Because the race is organized with a combination of dedicated local volunteers and a professional race starting and timing company, the event

has gained the reputation of being one of the best organized races in New York State. Individuals who challenge themselves once a year to complete the course, people running in family groups and some of the best professional runners in the region participate in the Pit Run,

The Scholarship is awarded each year on May 20th. The selection committee is made up of individuals working at OHS. They meet at least three times during the year to discuss students that meet the criteria set forth by the Foundation. Applications are not accepted for this Scholarship; it is strictly awarded on the basis of the student's interaction with other classmates and their community as a whole. It is not an academic award, but an award based on the person as a whole. Thus far the success of the event has allowed the Foundation to award the following scholarships to OHS graduates:

1995 – Kristin France; 1996- David Brower; 1997–James O'Donnell; 1998 – Caroline Kang; 1999-Michael Curasi; 2000-Jon Hojnacki.

Applications for our 2000 event will be distributed in June. We can be contacted at (607) 432-3986 (the Pit Run Hotline) or by visiting our web page at www.pitrun.org. We are honored to work with the City of Oneonta, the many volunteers and our sponsors to put together this annual community event. We look forward to continued growth and success, thus allowing us the opportunity to assist the youth of our community. In doing so, we will always celebrate the life and memory of one of Oneonta's finest, Ricky Parisian.

Spring Sports are Alive and Well

Fans enjoy a lovely spring afternoon at a track meet on the new OHS track.



Membership

Good news from the Membership Committee! Our total membership is now over 2,400 and rising daily! (Approximately 800 are from the last five graduating classes who receive free membership per our last Board meeting.)

There is considerable interest in changing our fiscal year from our present school-based calendar to a regular calendar year basis. In all likelihood, the Board of Directors will vote to do this; consequently, the new and renewal memberships made in July 2000 will extend for 18 months instead of the usual 12 months. We will not send out renewal notifications until December 2001.

Since this will be our last mass mailing for awhile, we are asking new members to fill out the entire membership card. Renewal members are asked simply to fill in their name and any updated information. Please return cards to: Alumni Association, 60 West End Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 ATT: Madolyn Palmer

On behalf of the Membership Committee, I would like to thank all of our alumni for their past and continuing generosity in support of our Association.

Bob Holstead ('55)

Please Join the Oneonta High School Alumni Association!

OHS Graduating Class of _____

Name (include maiden name) _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ **Work** _____

E-mail _____

Memories of the Class of 1950

Molly Swain

The thought is by no means original with this writer. We all have expressed ourselves on, probably, more than one occasion with, "Where has the time gone?!" 50 years. Yes, 50! Count them. In 1950 that seemed like an eternity.

When Bud Pirone asked me to write an article on the Class of 1950, he presented me with a bound copy of all the ECHOs for that year to help in the process. Talk about memories!

There were 116 of us in that class; 30 remained in Oneonta, 16 went to live somewhere in New York State. The rest are living all across this country. Who would have dreamed the paths our lives have taken?

To name but three: Betty Foster did not go to Pratt Institute. Nevertheless, her artistic talents have remained. One passes her house in anticipation wondering what creative ideas she has come up with to decorate the porch and lawn. Frank Gallucci spent as many hours decorating Bresee's windows as he did in school. (Or so it seemed.) His profession reversed that. He recently retired as a dedicated teacher of history at OHS. Charles Clark must have had science in his blood. Remember the Oneonta Science Congress? It was held at Hartwick College. Charlie entered every year and usually walked away with first prize. Science has been his vocation and his avocation.

Some of the "steadies" have remained that way for 50 years. Mary Lou Stevens and Stuart Keenan come to mind. Then there were the "steadies" who married others and after many years of separate lives are "steady" once again. Who were those two kissing under the mistletoe? (Tom Harrigan and Betty France for the uninitiated.)

Fifty years ago there was much excitement generated when a new record player with earphones was installed in the library. If you ever have the opportunity, check out the

technology systems in any of the city school's libraries now.

The ECHO would occasionally have a column on fashion discussing current styles and giving one tips on appropriate accessories. An ad featured 100% wool sweaters at Cumming's Ready-to-Wear store for \$3.95. Can you imagine what Mr. Belden would have done if girls had come to school in shorts or boys in "muscle shirts"?

Parents Night, at one meeting, centered around concerns with steady dating, allowances and student responsibility. That sounds downright tame. The only problems with firearms concerned safety while hunting.

Students can no longer hang out at the Karmelkorn or buy "gooie" goodies at Decker's Bakery. Even the old YMCA building where we danced almost every Saturday night is a memory. The Pep Band was "swell". They were part of the marching band that appeared that year in brand new blue and gold uniforms. There was a drum major and majorettes. When did they go out of style?

We cheered on the sports teams and nearly went crazy when Rex Rutan made the basket that gave West Winfield its first defeat of the season.

Forever, teachers have played an important role in our lives. We had many memorable ones, too many to begin to name. Going through the OHSan of 1950 was an eye-opener. Those teachers were so young!

Our years at OHS were memorable ones. We have taken from them positive and some negative experiences that influenced decisions we made which shaped the lives we have led since our graduation in 1950.



Do You Remember?

That spectacular, but fatal, fire that destroyed the D&H coal pocket on March 13, 1946? Two men died and nine were injured in the blaze that continued to burn for days.

Stewart Ice co. on Valleyview St. and their fleet of trucks from which we could snatch chips of ice on hot summer days?

Shirley Gillespie being elected president of the student council and becoming the first female to ever hold that office?

Keyes Airport on Country Club Rd. and those great airplanes that flew out of there?

Joe's Fruit Store on the corner of Main and Elm Sts. Where they sold those great pickles out of a big barrel? The store was owned by John Miller's dad.

Those great summertime dances at the tennis courts in Wilber Park?

Broad St. (it no longer exists) and its great selection of watering holes like the Royal Grill, the Silver Grill, Sam Scott's and the Klipnockie?

Those record booths at Bresee's where you could listen to all the great entertainers of the 40's and 50's?

The JC Penney Store on the corner of Ford and Main where your cash was whisked to the cashier on their unique overhead trolley system?

Thanks for this list go to Howie Clarke '52. (It is just a small sampling taken from his newsletters to 1952 classmates.) Anyone with special memories of Oneonta and OHS should feel free to send them to the Alumni Assoc. for inclusion in later newsletters.

Reunion Information, 2000

Combined Class Reunion – 1940-1950: Fri., Oct. 13-Sun., Oct. 15. Friday – Gathering at Oneonta Country Club. Saturday – 5:30 p.m. Photo Session, 7 p.m. dinner at the Holiday Inn. Sunday – 8 a.m. brunch at the Holiday Inn. Reservations are limited to 300 people - \$45 per person includes all events. Contact Joan (Asping) Decker – 607-432-2084 – for information/reservations.

Class of 1952: Third annual summer get-together July 22nd at Wilber Park. For information contact Howie Clarke at 607-724-7724 or e-mail him at howjuju@netzero.net.

Class of 1955: Fri., Sept. 29-Sun., Oct. 1. Friday – Depot 8 p.m. Saturday – 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, 9 p.m. dancing at the American Legion, 279 Chestnut St. Sunday – Alumni Tent, Neahwa Park – Pit Run. Contact Bob Holstead – 607-431-1018 or Jeanette (Scarzafava) Miller – 607-432-0021 for information/reservations.

Class of 1960: A 40th reunion is scheduled for Sept. 30, Oct. 1. Activities include: Golf, Football Game, Multi-year Reunion, tour the "New School", Pit Run. Contact Jim Konstanty – 607-432-4965 for information/reservations.

Class of 1968: Aug. 18-Aug. 20. Friday, Aug. 18 – Informal gathering at The Depot at 9 p.m. (Dutch Treat) Sat., August 19 – 50th Birthday Part at the Elks Club (casual) 6-7 p.m. (beer and wine), 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. dancin' to the DJ. \$75.00 couple, \$40.00 single. Sunday, Aug 20 – Bye Bye Brunch at the Holiday Inn - \$10.95 per person. Contact Arlene (Wislous) Turner – 607-432-0380 for information/reservations.

Class of 1975: A 25th reunion is scheduled for Aug. 4-6. Fri., Aug. 4 – 8 p.m. informal gathering at The Depot. Sat., Aug. 5 – 10 a.m. OHS tour – meeting in the parking lot at 9:50 a.m., 12noon-4 p.m. family picnic and games at Wilber Park (Bring own food and drink), 7 p.m. dinner at Elk's Club, Chestnut St. - \$35.00. Mail checks payable: OHS Class of '75, 291 Chestnut St., Box OHS, Oneonta, NY 13820 or call Caroline (Ellegate) Marks – 607-432-4435 for information/reservations.

Class of 1985: A 15th reunion is scheduled for Sept. 29-Oct. 1. Fri., Sept 29 – 7 p.m. Silver bullet, Main St., drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Sat., Sept. 30 – Tour of OHS and Homecoming game (combine events with total reunion events). Sun., Oct. 1 – Pit Run. Contact Annette Colone – 607-433-0696 for information.

The Alumni Association was able to provide \$5000.00 for this year's scholarship program. It was decided to create ten equal scholarships from this amount. The major criteria for awarding the scholarships were financial need, contributions to school life at OHS, academic promise and matriculation at an approved post-secondary school program. In the event that all criteria are equally met, special consideration will be given to graduating seniors who are children or grandchildren of an OHS alumnus.

The committee selected the following ten members of the Class of 2000 for this year's awards (6 of the 10 are children of an OHS alumnus):

Kirschelle Alston who will pursue a degree in Art Education at Munson Williams-Proctor.

Josh Bailey who will attend Hartwick College.

Emily Broe who will pursue a degree in communications at Catholic University.

Lindsay Harvey who will pursue a degree in Biology at SUNY Binghamton.

Shannon Hoffman who will pursue a degree in Biomedical Engineering at RPI.

Josh MacCreery who will attend either Siena or Hartwick College.

Anna Musser who will pursue a degree in social science at Seattle University.

Joseph Rizzo who will be attending the US Naval Academy Preparatory School.

Genevieve Sandoli who will attend Union College.

Rebecca TerBush who will pursue a degree in Physical Education and Athletic Training at SUNY Cortland.

OHS News

On Saturday, June 24, over 160 members of the Oneonta High School Class of 2000 joined us as alumni after the morning graduation ceremony. The ceremony completed the traditional round of senior activities – picnic at Gilbert Lake, trip, banquet and ball. Willa Friedman, who was mentioned in our previous newsletter, is the Valedictorian and will attend Harvard. The Salutatorian is Lindsey LaRose who will attend Wellesley and major in biomedical engineering or neuroscience. This year's commencement marks the 132nd such event in OHS history. Our School's roots go very deeply into the life of our community, and it is difficult to imagine what school life must have been like in its first year which followed the end of the American Civil War by only three years.

However, contemporary life at OHS would probably be reasonably familiar to its present alumni. The continuing round of classes and activities is still the

main feature of a bustling, active environment. It appears that the Class of 2000 has maintained the best traditions of OHS with a high level of performance since our last newsletter this March.

The spring was marked by considerable activity on the part of the performing groups at OHS. The school presented the musical, **Sugar**, and the senior class presented a performance of **Man of the House** as the senior play. The band and choir presented a pops concert and the annual spring concert. Both groups went through an adjudication process in May and performed Level 6 music. The choir received a gold and the band narrowly missed the gold and received a silver.

There were some special activities this spring. The OHS chapter of SADD held a Strides for Safety Run/Walk with proceeds going to the local Stop-DWI efforts. Three OHS foreign language teachers – Jane Adsit (French), Richard

Breuninger (German) and Rebeca Byam (Spanish) organized trips to Europe over the spring break as a means of expanding the horizons of their students. Finally Physics teacher George Weir held his annual bridge building contest in the late winter for all Physics students.

During the winter and spring seasons 7 OHS athletic teams earned New York State scholar-athlete team awards – girls' basketball, girls' bowling, boys' skiing and snowboarding, tennis, girls' track, boys' track and softball. The tennis team won the Section IV Class B championship. The girls' track team won the Susquenango League Championship as Toni McDaniels won three events and Kirchelle Alston won two. The baseball team finished 19-2. Its senior leaders – Mike Connolly, Mark Lossi, Scot Obergefell and Chris Pidgeon – are all children of an OHS alumnus.

Oneonta Alumni Association

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