



The ORANGE & BLUE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC. • SUMMER 2016

Columbus High Principal Selected to Speak at National Conference

Principal Marvin Crumbs speaks at Closing the Excellence Gap Summit in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Marvin Crumbs, CHS Principal

CHS principal, Dr. Marvin Crumbs, was among more than 100 principals from across the country selected to attend the Closing the Excellence Gap Summit in Washington, D.C. this February.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and the Coalition of Leaders for Advanced Student Success (CLASS), two groups dedicated to the education and empowerment of students in financial need, sponsored the summit.

In schools across the nation, educators struggle to increase graduation rates and college readiness rates among students with financial need. Columbus High emerges as a leader in this area. With nearly one-fourth of Columbus High's student population coming from families who qualify for free or

reduced-price lunch, the school sees a graduation and college readiness rate of 100 percent among these students.

This success rate set Columbus High apart and highlighted the ways in which it is ahead of the curve.

"I can honestly say everything I achieved as a principal is due to dedicated teachers, hardworking students, supportive parents and a school district that realizes every child matters," Dr. Crumbs explained.



Columbus High Alumni Organize Multi-Year Reunion and Potluck

This past February, approximately 100 alumni from all class years gathered at the Hidden Lakes Club House and spent the evening having a wonderful time reconnecting and reminiscing with old friends and enjoying a delicious potluck meal.

Class of 1956 - 60th Reunion

The class of 1956 celebrated their 60th reunion in May. On Friday, May 13, **Burton Hewitt '65** spoke at the Infantry Museum and on Saturday, May 14, **Ken Crumpler '61** mingled with the crowd who gathered at Columbus High for lunch and campus tours.



Ken Crumpler '61 and daughter, Dena, at the potluck.



L to R: Patty Taylor '65, Bill Berry '60, Sally Jo Allen '64 and Peanut Allen '60

Save the Date:

Is *your* class holding a reunion this year? Check out the list below and be sure to save the date!

Class of 1961 - 55th Reunion
October 7-8, 2016

Class of 1966 - 50th Reunion
July 29-30, 2016

Class of 1981 - 35th Reunion
July 2, 2016

Class of 1986 - 30th Reunion
June 10-11, 2016

Class of 2006 - 10th Reunion
July 30-31, 2016

Columbus High Rises in the Rankings

Columbus High did it again! CHS ranks 2nd among all high schools in Georgia, up from last year's ranking of 3rd in the state. The gold medalist school also ranks 80th in the country, moving up five slots since last year!

Congratulations to our dedicated students, faculty and staff who made this possible!

From the Desk of Our President...



**Burton Hewitt '65,
Columbus High School
Alumni Association
President**

2014-2015 was a great year for the CHS Alumni Association and me personally. We saw steady growth in our fundraising efforts thanks to the generosity of our many alumni. We also improved our alumni communication and revamped our online presence thanks to

the efforts of Tuesday Prichett, our former webmaster and Josh Orlich, our social media coordinator. In addition, we established a new email address more in line with our organization name: columbushighalumni@gmail.com. We are constantly growing and maturing as an organization.

Our Endowment Fund continues to grow and provide funds for CHS. We recently assisted 330 freshmen with funds to take the PSAT and provided computers for those students who otherwise could not afford them. We are working with Dr. Marvin Crumbs, CHS principal, on several other potential projects to provide support and assistance to

Columbus High. Your generous contributions allow us to help them continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities and continually score high in both the state and national rankings.

The Alumni Association helped coordinate alumni to assist in Senior Project judging and freshmen orientation interviews. We attended the Christmas Social and had a chance to meet some of the amazing students you enable us to support. You would be amazed at the quality of students attending Columbus High today. They are academically and socially minded young adults who will serve the Columbus community well in the years to come. Several of our alumni joked they probably could not get into CHS today, much less graduate. It is precisely because of the high standard to which our alma mater is holding its current students that we see such driven, successful individuals walking our halls today.

We have an incredible Board of Trustees who continues to commit themselves to serving CHS. As you know, we lost one of the original founding members of the Alumni Association - Morton A. Harris. We will miss his devotion to Columbus High and the association. The Endowment Fund received

over \$18,000 in donations in memory of Morton. Plans are underway to determine an appropriate recognition of his service to CHS and the Alumni Association.

I would like to thank the Class of 1964 who presented \$5,437 to the association in honor of their classmates Pat Hill Lane and Ken Thomas and to the Class of 1965 who donated over \$17,000 in scholarship funds to graduating seniors in the Class of 2015. The association was proud to assist these 50th class reunions in honoring their classes and CHS in this manner.

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as President these past two years. I thank the Board for their service and support. I thank all the alumni who were so generous in their financial support and trust you will continue to support CHS. Your combined efforts help us keep CHS as the premier educational facility we all know and love.

Burton Hewitt
President CHS Alumni Association
Class '65

Columbus High School's 2015 Annual Fund a Success!

Thanks to 158 generous alumni, the Columbus High Alumni Association raised over \$29,000 during the *2015 Annual Campaign!* Donations to the campaign assisted in funding social and field trip fees, freshman Lunch and Learn programs, standardized test fees for students who need assistance and with costs for academic competitions such as the Debate Team, Robotics Team, Math Team, Academic Decathlon and more.

We are looking forward to kicking off the *2016 Annual Campaign* this summer! To make you advanced gift, please fill out the pledge envelope included with this newsletter.

Columbus High Alumni Association by the Numbers *A Quick Glance at Our Figures*

\$566,096 (as of June 6, 2016) - Amount in the Endowment Fund

\$29,095 - Amount raised in the 2015 Annual Campaign

\$17,000+ - Amount the Class of 1965 gave for scholarships

\$2,000 - The Patty Kimbrough Taylor Leadership Award Scholarship

17,701* - The number of alumni listed in the CHS alumni database

2,119 - The number of accurate email addresses on file

2,845* - The number of accurate mailing address on file

**Columbus High Alumni Association looks forward
to the difference we can make in 2016!**

**Verify YOUR information is correct by visiting ColumbusHighAlumni.com and viewing the Alumni Search page. While there, consider reviewing other alumni information for accuracy.*

Our Mission Statement

To serve as a liaison between alumni, friends of education and Columbus High School

To promote loyalty, knowledge and support of Columbus High, its programs and its continued educational excellence

To encourage alumni association growth, camaraderie and spirit through unity of purpose

"We are, as always, Columbus High"

Morton Harris '52 Leaves Behind Legacy of Service to Columbus High

Carl Rhodes, Jr. '04 reflects on his friend and mentor, Morton Harris

Last August, Columbus High School said goodbye to one of its most tenacious and loyal supporters and alumni, **Morton Alvin Harris '52**. Mr. Harris (Morty or Mort to his friends) was a part of numerous clubs and participated in many activities while at Columbus High, including the Columbus High School track team that set state records in the 880 relay. Beyond high school, Mr. Harris attended Emory University where he graduated with the highest honors, and where he was on the varsity track team, was an officer of the interfraternity council, an officer of the Emory debate team, President of his social fraternity and editor of Emory's literary magazine, *The Phoenix*. Mr. Harris then attended Harvard Law School where he served as editor of the Harvard Yearbook.

After law school, Mr. Harris began his legal career and practiced law in Columbus for over fifty years. During his career, he was awarded and recognized for numerous accolades and spoke at many conferences, continuing legal education seminars and events across the country. Mr. Harris' awards and recognitions from his peers, clients and the leadership groups, of which he was a member, are too numerous to mention. It will suffice to say he was a busy, productive and successful legal professional and member of the community. However, Mr. Harris' best accomplishments were marrying the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Judy to whom he was married for 58 years, his four wonderful children Alvin, Wendy, Tracy and Beth, and his grandchildren.

In September 2011, I began to work for Hatcher, Stubbs, Land, Hollis & Rothschild, LLP, where it was an honor for me to work with Mr. Harris, and to learn the practice of



Morton Harris '52
Former President of the
Columbus High School Alumni Association

law from a great man and an accomplished professional. Very quickly, I understood Mr. Harris not only had a passion for his work but also for Columbus High. Many evenings at the office after we discussed various work and research projects, we talked about Columbus High School and the Alumni Association Mr. Harris and several other active alumni started. Mr. Harris encouraged me to get involved, and I later learned he encouraged everyone he was around to get involved! His generosity and willingness to donate time, resources and legal work to assist the Alumni Association matched his passion for Columbus High. I saw firsthand the hours upon hours Mr. Harris spent figuring out how to fund the Columbus High School Alumni Association's Endowment, targeting donors, and prospective members of the Alumni Association and developing projects.

Mr. Harris served as the Alumni Association's President and as its lawyer. Thanks to the tireless hours and work he put in, along with the efforts of others, Columbus High raised close to \$500,000 in a brief amount of time for the Endowment for

Excellence to benefit the students of Columbus High School. Along the way, Mr. Harris convinced me to join the Alumni Associations' Board of Directors, and I am proud to play a role in providing support to Columbus High School through the Association. However, the effort of Morton Harris is the base for the success of the Endowment for Excellence Fund. We all should feel a renewed sense of urgency and commitment to seeing his dream of reaching a \$1,000,000 Endowment come true.

Finally, on a personal note, everyone who knew Morton Harris understood he was selfless, kind, willing to listen, sincere, intentional, personal and a gentleman. If you did not have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Harris, I can illustrate these points with a quick anecdote. My wonderful wife, Samantha, baked Mr. Harris some banana bread and I delivered it to him at the office one morning where he greeted me with his usual bright smile. He immediately tried the bread and, as he was eating, he opened his desk. On the spot, he delivered a crumb-filled thank you note for my wife. Although I explained a thank you note was not necessary, in between bites of banana bread, he said, "No, no, no, *a thank you note is always necessary.*" That is something I will never forget.

Mr. Harris was my boss and mentor, but above all else, he was my friend. I will miss him dearly and think of him often. I hope those of us who knew him can be inspired to be more like him and those of you who did not know Mr. Harris will now understand a little bit of what made the man so great and a true gift to us all.

Morton A. Harris Leadership Scholarship Awarded

The first ever Morton A. Harris Leadership Scholarship was awarded on May 17 to **Caroline Kittrell '16**. Caroline stood out from other applicants with a GPA of 4.4, SAT score of over 2000 and numerous awards, honors and leadership positions in extra curricular activities. Caroline plans to attend Mercer University this fall. The \$5,000 scholarship will help Caroline as she pursues degrees in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.



Right:
Ken Crumpler '61 presents the first ever
Morton A. Harris Leadership Scholarship
to Caroline Kittrell '16.





CHS Alumni Association, Inc. (2072)
PO Box 2187
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

Help us keep our records up-to-date! Edit your profile online at ColumbusHighAlumni.com or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to: CHS Alumni Association, Inc. #2072, PO Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.

Name _____

Graduation Year _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

CHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC. LEADERSHIP

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Heidt Neal '56

Betsy Butler Ramsay '61

Otis Scarborough '63

Charles Sheffield

Richard Saunders '67

Julie Lucas Strupe '75

Renee Sturkie

Joe Taylor '52

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. '64

Elinor Brandt Winn '57

CHS CLASS

COORDINATORS

1939 - Richard Hecht

1940 - Nell Turner Spettell

1946 - Erie Sue Buck

1947 - Ruth Cliatt Gilbert

1951 - Corrine Jarrell

1952 - Cecil Calhoun

1953 - Betty B. Bush

1954 - Milton Jones

1955 - Bill Cliatt

1956 - Heidt Neil

1957 - Elinor B. Winn

1958 - Judy Boyce

1959 - Margie A. Drury

1960 - Alice Douglas

1961 - Ken Crumpler

1962 - Gloria Dodds

1964 - Pat Lane

1965 - Cathy Z. Bickerstaff/

Patty Taylor

1966 - Vickie L. Rounsaville

1967 - Lynda Brocato

1968 - Lee Pierson

1970 - Pat Batastini Jones

1971 - Perry Buck

1972 - Libby Housand

1973 - Phyllis Nix Johnson

1975 - Nancy S. Burgin

1976 - Julie Strupe

1979 - Laurie Wolfe

1980 - Mark Magoni

1982 - Teresa Pope Young

1984 - Wendy Lewis

1985 - Traci Wilson

1987 - Christy B. Jones

1992 - Beth Wilheit Carlisle

1994 - Karen McNally White

2000 - Josh Orlich

CONNECT WITH US



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Website:

ColumbusHighAlumni.com