

True



Blue

Newsletter of Columbus / Columbus North High School Alumni Association

Message From Our President

Dear Bull Dog Nation,

Greetings to the Bull Dog Nation:

Your Bull Dog Alumni Association has been busy continuing to support Columbus North alumni, students and faculty through events, student scholarships and faculty development programs that enhance the overall educational experience for our Bull Dog students.

Over the past five years, your Bull Dog Alumni Association has provided \$70,761.36 in awards and grants to CNHS students and faculty. Recently we approved a grant of \$400.00 for the Spell Bowl Team, and we are in the process of receiving and approving further grants for teachers and programs at CNHS.

Soon our annual fundraising letter will be mailed, and we hope you will have an opportunity to consider supporting the programs of the Alumni Association. Without your support, none of the activities, scholarships and faculty development programs are possible. Your contributions are really making a difference in establishing educational excellence for our students and faculty.

Another Bull Dog note, congratulations to Sue Green, Spanish teacher at North, who was awarded your Bull Dog Alumni Association's Teacher of the Year.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we wish you the best for the balance of 2019 and look forward to a great Bull Dog year in 2020.

Yours for the Bull Dog Nation,

Pete

Pete King ('72), President

Looking for Input ...

This is our last *True Blue* newsletter of 2019. We'll issue our next edition in early January to kick-off what we hope will be an awesome 2020.

We're looking for ideas from YOU ---

- Ideas for our next newsletter
- Ideas for where the Alumni Association should be headed in 2020

Please send us your suggestions at our [contact page](#) or, if you want to send an attachment with a proposed article(!), to our email:

cnhsalumni@bcsc.k12.in.us

You'll see a couple stories in this edition that were provided by alumni supporters. We'll take all those we can get --- any day and every day!

Please help us out. We look forward to your input!!



Reunion Season Wrapped Up

The reunion season for 2019 wrapped up in the last month with the completion of reunions for the classes of 1969 (50 years) and 1964 (55 years).

The 1964 reunion was a short but great one-day affair at the Moose Lodge in Columbus. From our view, a great time was had by all!



It was great to see so many “old dogs” laughing and smiling in one place!



How about a new concept in “Senior-Senior Cords!

And, the class of 1969 may have set a new standard for 50-year reunions. We say that, not just because of the energy we saw during their weekend celebration, but because of the AWESOME job they did of locating such a high percentage of their classmates.



(Class of 69 classmates at Harrison Lakes)

The quality of any reunion is directly proportional to the participation numbers --- and they outdid themselves!

In addition, they established (we think) a new record for numbers taking a school tour as part of their reunion (101 registered for tour but a few were no-shows)!! It had to be broken into two tours to handle the 1969 grads (see part of one group below) and all their guests!



2020 Reunions?

Next summer is not that far away, and it's not too early to begin planning for next year! We know 1970 class is already planning their 50th for September and the Class of '68 is planning a 70th Birthday Party.

How about your class?

Your Bull Dog Alumni Association stands ready to help in any way we can.

Check out our Reunion Resource page at:

<https://www.columbusnorthalumni.org/reunion-resource-page/>

or our Reunion Assistance page at:

<https://www.columbusnorthalumni.org/reunion-resource-page/reunion-assistance-alumni-association/>



Reunion Smiles are Good for the Heart!!

Nothing Illustrates Alumni Better than Reunions!



You can see these and HUNDREDS of other reunion photos on our Reunion Memories page at link below:

<https://www.columbusnorthalumni.org/reunion-resource-page/bull-dog-reunion-memories-albums/>

Welmer Fish Fry – 59th Annual!

The last Tuesday in September marked Bob (R.V.) Welmer's 59th Annual Fish Fry at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds.

Over 200 guests shared the evening talking sports, politics (OK, mostly sports!), and old times. R.V. has been the host with plenty of assistance from his family and friends over the decades. R.V. and all his kids are Bull Dogs to the core.

Below you see him and his kids (their CHS/CNHS classes in parentheses) --- David ('75), Susie ('69), Steve ('68), R.V. ('47), and Gary ('71).



Sports legends, coaches, and Hall of Famers from Indiana and the Midwest are always plentiful.

It was a great evening that got a little emotional at times, especially as R.V. realized that next year would complete SIX DECADES of the event. In talking to him before and during the evening, he vowed to try to make that 60-year mark next September!

How about four generations of the Welmer clan with: Steve's daughter Missy ('91) and her son Dawson (TBD) added to the mix below.



R.V. was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1982.

(image below is courtesy of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame)



Here's to you, R.V.!

Our fourth installment of Alumni Board profiles features **Paula (Watson) Lynch and Brian Russell**.

Board Profile – Paula (Watson) Lynch

A 1968 Columbus High School graduate Paula has been married to her husband, Dave, for 47 years. They have three children, Mark, Laura Swartzbaugh, and Matt, who are also Bull Dogs. They also have three grandsons who they love spending time with. Paula met her husband while working at Cummins. Shortly after being married they moved to Atlanta, Georgia, and, then, returned to Columbus. When their children were young, the family was transferred to Denver, Colorado and subsequently back to Atlanta, before returning to Columbus.

During her children's school years, Paula volunteered in their schools. She also worked at the CNHS Bookstore for several years and had a wonderful time interacting with the students and supporting CNHS. Many years ago she was a member of the Bull Dog Booster Club Board and is now enjoying being a member of the Bull Dog Alumni Association Board.



Paula was a member of Columbus Service League for ten years and Psi Iota Xi Sorority for twenty-eight years. As her children grew older, she, with a friend, started a jewelry business. They designed, manufactured, and sold specialized jewelry. She still enjoys going to jewelry markets out of state to see the newest creations.

Paula can be found helping with any Bull Dog Alumni Association event that might be on the docket!



She has been a fixture on the Class of '68 reunion committee and activities for many years!



Family and friends are seldom very far away from Paula!

And we all like it that way!



Board Profile – Brian Russell

Brian Russell, President and Founder of Russell Development Company, is a native of Columbus, Indiana and a 1989 graduate of CNHS.



He is noted for his commitment to improving the community through his professional and volunteer efforts.

After high school, Brian graduated from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and minor in Economics. He founded Russell Development Company (RDC) in 1998 to focus on commercial real estate in Central Indiana. RDC focuses specifically on office, industrial and retail development. Other offerings include brokerage, property management, acquisition and consulting services.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Brian is active in the Columbus community. He has served on the Boards of the Heritage Fund, Columbus Capital Foundation, Columbus Area Sports Advisory Council, Columbus Parks Foundation and Columbus Planning Commission, as well as the Bull Dog Alumni Association board.

Brian and his wife, Erin, are the proud parents of Sam (age 19), Will (age 15), and Maggie (age 13) and are members of St. Bartholomew Church.

We're very pleased and blessed to have Brian on the alumni board!

Thanks to

Paula & Brian

for serving and being ...

True Blue
Bull Dogs!

Bull Dog Pantry

Information from sponsor Tonya Crusier

To share the basics of the Bull Dog Pantry.

- Bull Dog Pantry, located in the CNHS cafeteria, is open to BCSC students & families.
- Pantry opens at 3:30 on scheduled Fridays to BCSC families and at 3:00 to North students.
- Students are permitted to leave class if they need to utilize the pantry.
- Website for Students can find more info at website at --- www.bulldogpantry.com
- The Pantry accepts plastic grocery bags all year to be used to bag the items. Please drop them off in room 2014, or let Tonya know to arrange getting them you.
- If you would like to help in the Pantry at any time, please let Tonya know!
- If a student would like to access the Pantry in a more private manner, please let Tonya know, or please have the student contact her directly to make necessary arrangements.
- Posters and information sheets are posted around the North facility.



There have already been six Pantry distribution days this school year. The remaining Pantry distribution dates are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| • November 15 | December 6 |
| • December 20 | January 10 |
| • January 24 | February 7 |
| • March 6 | April 3 |
| • April 17 | May 1 |
| • May 15 | |



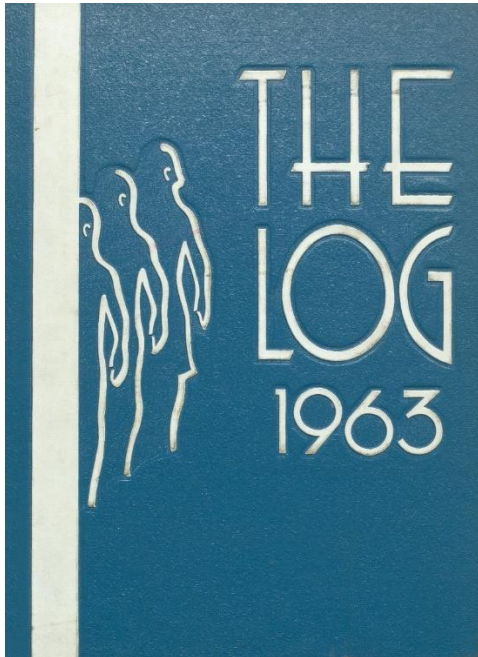
Once again, thank you all for your help in spreading the word about the Bull Dog Pantry!

Bull Dogs

Making a Difference!

Class of 1963 Mini-Reunion Group

Ten members of the class of 1963 toured CNHS on August 14 as part of their mini-reunion in Columbus. Hedy (Pottorff) George, alumni association executive director, conducted the tour.



The group included Susan (Mugridge) Gough, Sally (Harrison) Madge, Diane (Danner) Mason, Barbara Miller, Betsy (Zaharako) Panayides, Claudia Schmitt, Jackie (Jones) Schmitt, Kay (Nichols) Stepp, Susan (Hathaway) Tantillo and Susan (Coers) Zimmer.

“It was amazing to see how the high school has changed and grown,” Claudia Schmitt said. “We would have not known it was the same building.”

Most of the group had not been back to the school recently, but nearly all of them attended grade school at 25th Street School. That building ultimately became the east end of the high school when it opened in 1956.

“I was so happy to see there were parts of the ‘old’ building that were recognizable from grade school,” Madge said, citing the 25th Street School’s principal’s office. Madge even identified where her high school locker had been.

Although Jackie Schmitt didn’t graduate from CHS, moving away after her sophomore year, memories of 25th Street School remain vivid.

“I have a strong memory of my father (a pilot) building me a small wooden plane that I could take to one of the elementary classes,” she said. “I could get in it and he would demonstrate how it was able to fly.”



The tour brought back other memories for the group.

“What pleased me the most,” Panayides said, “were the personal and shared memories of my life there, both in grade school and high school. Shared experiences with my classmates and my years ‘cheering’ for the basketball and football teams are the highlights.”

Mason recalled the incredible community fundraising drive for the Memorial Gym in 1952.

“I think the biggest surprise was the gym,” she said. “It feels and looks the same, especially the walkway

leading onto the floor. And we were one of the first classes to come along with the gym. We all remember that week in December 1952, when the whole town got together and raised a million dollars in just a few days, to build that gym.”

Stepp noted another constant.

“Although the facilities were significantly expanded,” she said, “the core or heart of the school we attended was still intact and well maintained.”

Zimmer agreed.

“I was most impressed with the successful efforts to preserve the institutional memory of Columbus High School,” Zimmer said. “Even with the footprint enlarging so drastically over the years, the main part of the school was very recognizable. Due to the alumni organization, spirit and pride was evident everywhere.”

Stepp, who lives in Oregon, compared her alma mater to schools there.

“From my context of Oregon high schools,” she said, “CNHS was extremely well maintained, the programs were diverse and well-funded and there was a positive, energetic atmosphere.”

The group expressed appreciation to George for spending time with them on that special Wednesday afternoon in August.

“It was most helpful to have a knowledgeable tour guide who shared a personal attachment,” Panayides said.



The 10 at this mini-reunion are part of a slightly larger group of friends reuniting around the country about every 18 months since 2009. Missing this time were Anne (Butler) Humberger, Jan Munn, Elizabeth (Goeller) Shaw and Kate (Susan Garlock) Schellie-Stram.

Mason reflected on the tour.

“I felt, as I think we all did, a huge gratitude for where we came from and all that was given us,” she said. “Columbus is a very special town and CHS was a wonderful setting for us to learn and to grow up.”

Article by Susan (Hathaway) Tantillo

Susan taught English and journalism for 30 years at Wheeling (Illinois) High School. She also advised the student newspaper there during that time.

From 2008-2018 she was an adjunct at Kent State University teaching in the online master’s program for scholastic journalism educators. (She’s finally really retired!).

Exciting Times at the Bartholomew County Historical Society

Sharing the History and Heritage of Bartholomew County Exhibit is now open at the Bartholomew County Historical Society museum!

The Bartholomew County Historical Society has opened its new, comprehensive exhibit *Sharing the History and Heritage of Bartholomew County*. Opened this summer, the exhibit features multiple hands-on components for all visitors to enjoy.



Sharing the History and Heritage of Bartholomew County, designed by RedBox Workshop of Chicago, IL, is comprised of an electronic touchscreen map table with maps dating back to 1821, a historical county timeline that includes a collection of artifacts and photos, a Notable People component with three-sided rotating graphics, and a “Did You Know/Then and Now” tower highlighting 25 interesting county facts.



The exhibit also includes the beginning stages of an early industrialists exhibit that will be expanded on and completed in 2020.



(highlighting local industrial history)

“The objective was to tell our story and to do that with respect for all participants and parameters while engaging visitors with interactive elements” stated Diane Robbins, executive director of the Bartholomew County Historical Society. "Creating a one-of-a-kind local history experience is a goal turned reality.



Guests of all ages will have the opportunity to learn about our past through this hands-on exhibit. It is rewarding to know there is no other exhibit in the county that provides such a comprehensive experience."

The exhibit content and design committee consisted of Robbins, Adam Rediker: BCHS Education Manager, Tami Iorio: County Historian and Kathy Leitholt: BCHS volunteer.

Funding for the exhibit came from the fifth round of Indiana Historical Society's Heritage Support Grant program, made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., and the Arvin Legacy Fund.

This is the first Heritage Support Grant for the Bartholomew County Historical Society.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Bartholomew County historical Society is to discover, collect, preserve, and share the history of Bartholomew County for the enrichment of present and future generations.

Our goal is that we may know who we are today based on where we came from yesterday. To this end, the Bartholomew County Historical Society (BCHS) strives to collect and preserve Bartholomew County artifacts, photographs, and documents. Through interpretive programs and displays, BCHS teaches the heritage of this region.

COME SEE US!!

The Bartholomew County Historical Society is located at 524 Third Street and is open to the public Tuesday-Thursday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

For additional historical society information please visit www.bartholomewhistory.org.



Bull Dog Fall Athletes Find Success

Boys Tennis:

After winning Sectional, Regional, and Semi-State championships, the Bull Dogs knocked off previously undefeated Westview in the Round of 8 before losing in the Final 4 round to #1 ranked Carmel. A great season where they finished tied for 3rd in the state!



Boys & Girls Cross Country:

Both teams won sectional and regional crowns. The girls team then won the semi-state while the boys finished 2nd. Both teams competed in the state finals on Nov. 2 with both notching podium finishes --- the girls **finishing fifth** and the boys **finishing fourth**!



Girls Golf:

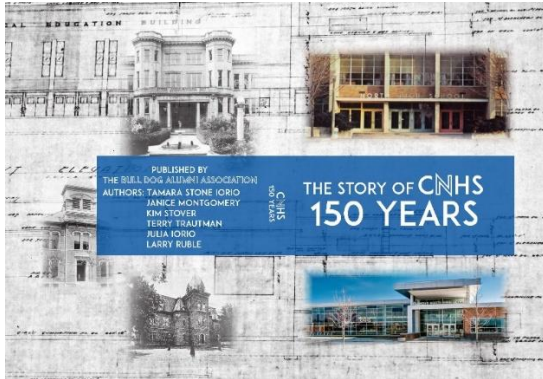
The CNHS girls golfers won sectional and regional championships along with Conference Indiana championships. Four girls played their way onto the all-conference team! They capped the season with an 8th place finish at the state finals!



At the conference meet, Junior Nathaly Munnicha fired a school record 67 at Timbergate!



The Story of CHS / CNHS: *150 Years*



If you don't already have your copy of our history book, **there are still some copies remaining.**

The multi-authored, collaborative effort by several alumni and former BCSC staff to create the first printed history book of our school was an exciting adventure. The result became the first published history of the school; and we hope to use the momentum to build on collective, documented history, as well as to inspire current and future Bull Dogs to carry on the legacy!

You can pick them up at Viewpoint Books on Washington Street or the Columbus North bookstore.

For those of you not local to the Columbus area, online purchases can be made from our website (under the **SUPPORT** tab) at:

<https://www.columbusnorthalumni.org>

Holiday gift-giving is just around the corner!!

Annual Campaign Upon Us!!

150 Years of Excellence!

Help us make future Bull Dogs just as great

We celebrated the 150th anniversary of Columbus / Columbus North High School in 2018-19. It's hard to believe we've already put year number 151 in the books and are into year number 152! Wow!!

Our nine-month celebration culminated in a gala reunion in May 2019. Over 200 proud Bull Dogs, old and new, attended. Graduating classes from 1944 to 2021 were represented. We had some outstanding entertainment, and it was a great opportunity to share stories with old and new friends.

Even though much of our energy last year was focused on our 150th anniversary celebration, your alumni association continued to pursue projects to promote excellence in future Bull Dogs. We expect to invest about \$20,000 this year in scholarships and grants that enhance the educational opportunities for current students and recent graduates.

For us to continue this important work, we need your help. Public funding continues to shrink and the needs of our students and faculty continue to grow. Please consider a tax-deductible donation today as part of our 2019 fundraising campaign.

To the hundreds of you that donate regularly: **THANK YOU!**

Our success in building better Bull Dogs is because of you.

True Blue

Bull Dog Alumni Newsletter



You can read more about support opportunities in several areas of our website:

Support screen:

<https://www.columbusnorthalumni.org/support/>

Online donation form:

<https://www.columbusnorthalumni.org/support/annual-campaign-donation-form/>

Print a form and mail a check:

Click [here](#) to download a [printable donation form](#) and mail it to:

Bull Dog Alumni Association, Inc.
1400 25th Street
Columbus, IN 47201
ATTN: Hedy George

While we have several scholarship and endowment funds that target specific areas of education and support, our general fund is a very important aspect of the Alumni Association's outreach.

As you've read earlier, as funds for certain areas of education continue to face all sorts of budget pressure, the needs and opportunities to enable quality experiences for all our students do not go away.

Many of the needs brought to us by teacher and staff are partially met though our General Fund. Unfortunately, many others often go un-met. We certainly want to encourage you to give to the fund(s) of your choice and where you have a passion. But if you're undecided, please consider supporting the General Fund (or Area of Greatest Need).

<https://www.columbusnorthalumni.org/support/scholarship-endowment-overview/>

Any organization is only as strong as the support of its members.

The Bull Dog Alumni Association is so grateful for your generous support that allows us all to touch the lives of deserving Bull Dogs in ways we cannot even imagine.

Thank you all!

Bull Dog Connections

Columbus North Athletics Page – Great page that deals with all the Bull Dog athletic teams:

<https://columbusnorthathletics.org/>

Bull Dog Alumni Association **on the web**

Website:

<http://www.columbusnorthalumni.org/>

Join us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/columbusnorthalumni>

Twitter account:

https://twitter.com/BullDog_Alumni

Email to:

<mailto:cnhsalumni@besc.k12.in.us>

Bull Dog Connections

Check out the website for the CNHS Media department & students:

<http://cnhsmedia.com/>

Check out the school newspaper (Yep, it's still called *The Triangle*, even if it might look a little different!) at:

<http://issuu.com/cnhsmedia.com>

You can see and listen to the school's videos & daily announcements given by the students at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cnhsmedia>

Twitter account for CNHS Media:

<https://twitter.com/cnhsmedia?lang=en>

Twitter Account for Bull Dog Athletics:

<https://twitter.com/cnhsbulldogs?lang=en>

Erne Auditorium Instagram Account page:

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1840985742880928/judson-erne-auditorium-at-columbus-north-high-school/>

What articles would you like to see
in our next True Blue?
Please let us know!

<http://www.columbusnorthalumni.org/contact/>

Stay
Blue!!