A Time of Transition

Dear Central High Supporters,

Now is the time for the Central High School Foundation to continue its involvement in assessing the students and staff at Central High School. A non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation, the Central High School Foundation assists in increasing the number of opportunities, including the Central Alumni Association, Athletic Booster Club, Journalism, Students and Parents Association (SHSBA), FCC C.E.C., Band Parents and PEP, in addition to raising funds to benefit Central. The Foundation office is located in the home of Terry Price, Foundation Treasurer and Administrative Secretary.

Through Terry and several part-time Central High students, we continue to develop the alumni database and update it to include alumni, students, parents, teachers and other Central supporters. Information about all graduating students and their activities are entered into the database for future use in reunions, sports, music and club activities.

We continue to increase the Scholarship Endowment Fund, and to assist in developing named scholarships to honor friends and family members.

We assist alumni in planning class reunions.

The Foundation is here to help those who love and support Central. As the Foundation continues to increase its day-to-day services, more demands are made on fundraising to maintain the quality of its work. And we have new challenges on the horizon.

Currently, Central High School is undergoing a renovation, including air conditioning, which will greatly benefit the students and staff and open up additional clerical possibilities. With the current State economic downturn, though, it will be up to the Foundation to help raise funds to finish a number of projects that the bond fund has initiated.

The proposed project between the Omaha Public Schools, Joslyn Art Museum and Creighton University will also require assistance from Central's friends to complete.

Perhaps more than ever, your support of the Foundation is essential to maintain the tradition of excellence at Central High School.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rusty Crossman, '66
President

The Scholarship Endowment Fund with time continues to increase.

On December 8, 1980, a member of the Class of 1922 donated $2,000 to start the Central High School Scholarship Endowment Fund. The CSH administration (Principal G. G. "Doc" Miller) immediately started to solicit money from various sources in order to guarantee the perpetual growth of the fund.

In 1982, the parent group (PTA), called "P.E.P." (Parents Educators Pupils) worked with the CSH staff to conduct a spring scholarship auction and dinner from which half of the net proceeds would be added to the Scholarship Endowment Fund. In the last few years, the allocation was changed so that one-third of the funds raised at the auction is distributed into the fund. In November 1983, a member of the class of 1947 authorized his family foundation to give $5,000 to the still relatively new fund.

Since that time, other sizable and many small donations have increased the Scholarship Endowment Fund which is now valued at $310,000.

If a class or individual wants an Endowment Scholarship named after them, a donation can be given to perpetuate a Scholarship each year for eternity. Currently central has 19 named scholarships.

One of the two Paul Jepsen (29) Scholarship recipients, Timika Scott '02, poses with Dr. Rusty Crossman, '66, Central High School Foundation President, at the Senior Recognition Event. This annual event is sponsored by the Foundation.

A Time of Transition

After seven years of leading the state’s largest high school, Central Principal Gary Thompson is retiring. Dr. Thompson believes he will miss the school’s wonderful faculty and students and supportive parents and alumni.

“Those groups, along with the rich traditions and history, have made Central a very special place,” he said. “Whenever I hear stories from alumni, I am in awe of the feelings they have about this school. The feelings last a lifetime.”

Dr. Thompson lists the creation of an alumni association and a foundation for the school among his lasting accomplishments. He said that because of budget cuts and funding challenges, Central dependently needs the continued support of its alumni to remain an outstanding urban school.

“I want to thank the Central community for their support and loyalty over the years; without that, Central would not be Central,” he said.

After retirement, Dr. Thompson will stay in Omaha. He is looking forward to living life at a slower pace, and having more time to enjoy his family.

Jerry Benton and Dr. Gary Thompson are working together this summer to ensure a smooth transition for Central.

Jerry Benton, currently the principal of Lewis & Clark Jr. High School, will assume his duties as principal of Central when school begins. Benton began his career in education with the Omaha Public Schools in 1973 as a teacher at Lewis & Clark. He taught for 12 years, then became an administrator.

Benton said he likes being a principal because it is a challenging job and no two days are ever the same. He also enjoys the day-to-day contract with young people. "It keeps you young and fresh," he said. "There's something about their energy and fresh ideas and idealism that I find rejuvenating, even infectious. That's something you don't find in other professions."

Benton has followed Dr. Thompson in two prior positions, as assistant principal at South High, and as principal at Lewis & Clark, and is working closely with him this summer to learn about Central. "I know how hard-working and organized he is," said Benton. "I am very comfortable that we will have a smooth transition, and I'm truly looking forward to becoming part of Central."

OPS, Jodlyn and Creighton Work to Create "Premier Campus"

As recently announced in the Omaha World-Herald, the Omaha Public Schools, Jodlyn Art Museum and Creighton University are discussing plans to develop a "premier campus," exploring ways of sharing and utilizing the land that exists in the area.

According to Omaha businessman Mike Yanney, chairman of Jodlyn's board of governors, talks between the Omaha Public Schools, Jodlyn and Creighton have been going on for more than three years. Discussions began with mutual parking concerns and then moved into other areas.

The project, which will not be officially announced until all details are in place, appears to involve shared parking between Central and Jodlyn, construction of a new multipurpose field and stadium partly on land now owned by Creighton, and a new parking lot. Current parking areas are expected to remain, and Jodlyn could use the land for a parking or a sculpture garden. It's possible that any new parking facility would also be shared with Central, which has long needed additional parking during the day.

The new stadium and multipurpose field would be used extensively for band, flag corps and cheerleading activities, physical education and ROTC classes and track, soccer and football activities. It would allow Central to continue its bartering of excellence in sports. A multi-million dollar contribution from Susan Thompson Buffet ‘90, wife of Omaha billionaire Warren Buffett, would be given toward the stadium and Central’s part of the multi-use field.

The “premier campus” project is an exciting one, with tremendous potential for downtown Omaha and Central High. Stay tuned for more details!
Thanks to those alumni who gave their lives in World War II. The response was just wonderful," Otis' idea originated several years ago when he visited Central to see his granddaughter He hopes others will want to contribute, too. A new auditorium stage curtain is one of

Memories of his high school years include singing and dancing in the very first opera that operated with Central's current auditorium stage.

When Dr. Hirschmann learned that the curtain was worn out, he gave the $5,000 toward a new curtain. "When I learned that curtain was falling apart, I wanted to help replace it," he said. He hopes others will want to contribute, too. A new auditorium stage curtain is one of the items on this year's needs list, and will be used for the Road Show, plays, concerts, school assemblies, Hall of Fame and other recognition events, along with drums and stage crew cushions.

The Foundation's database of alumni, parents, teachers and others Central supports continues to grow.

Photos were taken of the plagues prior to the move, and Central custodian Frank Jones spent several hours removing the 79 engraved names from the plagues. Another photo was taken of the World War II Memorial and recording the names in the exact order in which they appear on the plagues. The original name of the deceased was made from typeset pages, said Otto. Melded of any kind was as sublimity during the war years.

With funding in place, the restoration process began. Otto consulted with Irene Fraser of Taylor Architects and Craig Gunther who reviewed his objectives and outlined the necessary procedures. "It was important to ensure there was no structural damage to the school and that the entrance area would remain to its original condition," said Otto.

Thanks to Rod Otis '43, Central's World War I and II Memorial Plaques have been refurbished and have a new home. In December 2001, the plaques were moved from their original site, near the east entrance, to the inside foyer of the newly restored west entrance.

Otis' idea originated several years ago when he visited Central to see his granddaughter perform in a play. He noticed the memorial plaques in proper condition inside the foyer used entrance and thought it was a shame, that something should be done. Then he recalled a mailing from Central asking alumni who they would like to assist. Otto remembered the plaques and contacted the Foundation. He was able to get names of alumni from the classes of '39 to '44 from the Foundation's database and sent out letters asking for donations to fund the restoration of those contacted, 34 percent responded. "One donor offered to foot the restoration, hoping that any excessive funding would be used to fund a scholarship in memory of those alumni who gave their lives in World War II. The response was just wonderful," said Otto.

Kudos to Outstanding Volunteers

Judy Gray Seigfried ’53 (sponsored by Judy Art Seigfried) ’53 has folded, stuffed, labeled, stamped, sealed, sorted, mailed more pieces of mail in the last 3 years than anyone else in the area and is willing to help with mailing, including pick up and delivery! Judy is also the current Treasurer of the CHS Alumni Association, and is responsible for the CHS 1953 reunion, planned for 2003.

Retired CHS teacher Carolyn Ott has also been extremely helpful to the Foundation, assisting with mailings, compiling lists and occasionally passing on information about Central's teachers. Carolyn has also been active with the Alumni Association since its beginning. The CHS Foundation can always use extra help! If you would like to volunteer for any of the following positions, please call the Foundation Treasurer and Administrative Secretary, at (402) 556-2828 or chsfoundation@cox.net.

Memorial Plaques Restored and Moved to the West Entrance

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Art

3 large storage cabinets ($500 each)
Track lighting system ($1,000)
Funding for field trips ($2,000)
DVD player ($300)
Computer software ($500)
2 paper cutters - 24 inch ($200 each)
Cordless hand vacuum ($75)

Donations - art books - portfolio cases - mosaic tiles - márble bounds - copper/brass colored wires (any size/ pieces)

Business/Marketing/Technology

Corkboard display bulletin boards ($80)
Curriculum related teaching videos

Wacom graphics tablets for computer graphics and multimedia classes ($5,000 each)

New code printer ($5,000)

Books for the guidance library in the personal/social development area

Funds for two advanced education courses to attend NAESP conference ($2,750)

Gateway laptop computer for use by counselors in the classroom and during counseling ($1,500)

International Languages

New listening lab equipment for all six international language classrooms

Current equipment dates from the 1970's. ($22,000 per classroom - $132,000 total)

Supplementary textbooks for first year that will immediately help to prepare for the advanced levels ($4,000)

Printers (for computers in teachers' offices) ($1,800)

Supplementary readers for French, German, and Spanish ($8,000)

Library

Reading room and circulation desk accessories: shelving unit - computer - mirror ($850 each)
Two steel-bered chairs - medium oak ($549 each)
Square table ($359)
Rectangular table ($575)
Medallion oak table ($1099)

Accessories: cross-armed swivel chair ($475)

Two medium oak online public access catalog stations ($535 each)
Lafayette kotmum illuminato globe ($60)

Library "baner" and hanging kit ($1,000)

Dyno decimal conversion scale (200)

Library light fixtures and frames ($225)

Posters, bookmarks, small incentive prizes

Trans Real Week and National Library Week ($280)

Maps, dictionaries, literature, and textbooks ($2,000)

Fund computer club field trips ($1,000)

Family and Consumer Sciences

25" TV/WCR with ceiling mount ($250)

Fabric and patterns ($500)
File cabinet ($12 paper trinmer ($180)
Illustration boards ($150)
Interior design books ($50)
Knots storage containers and shelf for interior design ($1,050)

Plat-Kit for interior design ($225)
Primacolored poster colors ($5,000)
Project display boards ($250)
Real Care Baby ($399)

New 8mb scanner ($4,000)

MUSIC

Instrument storage lockers ($4,000)

Drum set (5-piece)

Orchestra instruments ($2,000)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

New equipment to aerobics classroom ($2,000)

New equipment to wrestling room ($2,000)

Fund gymnasium lobby that will allow us to host home basketball games at Central ($500,000)
Buildout and walk-in closets ($300,000)

Science

Teacher reference books ($1,000)

Oxford Reference in Science biology multimedia

TV/VCR set-up for our ten science classrooms ($3,000)

Oak display cabinets to display science materials in浩axies ($50,000)

Classroom water bottles - Biology ($15,000)

Microslide sets - Biology ($1,000)

Dissection kits - high school - Biology ($2,000)

Human torso model - Biology ($200)

Human kidney model - Biology ($2,000)

Human stomach model - Biology ($1,000)

Human liver model - Biology ($200)

Human eye model - Biology ($500)

Human ear model - Biology ($500)

Spectum tubes and power source - Chemistry ($2,500)

Stand, cover, beakers, graduated cylinders, funnels, flasks - Chemistry ($300)

Chemistry instruction manual ($60)

Science kit - Chemistry ($2,500)

Physics

Projector ($1,500)

Graphing calculators - Chemistry and Physics ($1,500)

Dynamic track systems - Physics ($8,000)

Demonstration kits - Physics ($2,000)

Classroom computers - Physics ($300)

Replace laboratory equipment - Physics ($3,000)

Professional drawing tools - Workshops - Physics ($4,000)

Slotted weight sets - Physics ($1,200)

Platform scales - Physics ($1,000)

Stopwatches - Physics ($1,000)

Calorimeter - Physics ($500)

Optics - Physics ($500)

Calorimeter was - Physics ($500)

SFI

Social Studies

Nine classroom sets of Nystrom Continents and Regions Map Set ($575 each)

Books for the guidance library in the guidance area ($10,000)

SCIENCE

GENEALOGY

Sponsor Central High middle school students for the International Language fair ($4,000)

Supplementary readers for French, German, and Spanish ($1,000)

Books for the guidance library in the guidance area ($10,000)

Small token "incentive prizes" for use in the guidance area ($500)

Field trips ($2,000)

Large storage cabinets ($500 each)

Fabric and patterns ($500)

ESL dictionaries and workbooks

Call Principal Jerry Bexten at (402) 557-3310 or Terry Price with the Central High Foundation at (402) 556-2828; or you can e-mail Mr. Bexten at bextenj@ops.org or Terry Price at chfoundation@cyx.net.

DrAMA

Portable tablet cover for art classes ($80)

Replacement curtain for auditorium ($23,000)

English

Mobile computer lab for use in English classroom ($17,000)

Journalism lab photo, print, computer, and software upgrades ($5,000)

Replace creative writing classroom computers ($12,500)

Replace computers in English writing lab ($50,000)

Computer software ($500)

ESL dictionaries and workbooks ($500)

Maps, dictionaries, literature, and textbooks ($2,000)

Fund computer club field trips ($1,000)

Lanuage Arts

DONATION LIST AND DESCRIPTION

January 1, 2000 - January 30, 2002

Welcome to our web site! Visiting our web site is a great way to find ways to support CHS. You can also browse our annual report, our yearbook, our alumni directory, our faculty profiles, and other information about Central. You can also send an e-mail to Principal Jerry Bexten at bextenj@ops.org or Terry Price with the Central High Foundation at (402) 556-2828; or you can e-mail Mr. Bexten at bextenj@ops.org or Terry Price at chfoundation@cyx.net.

General Donations

Sponsor Central High School P.O. Box 31610

Omaha, NE 68113-0160

Phone: (402) 556-2284

Fax: (402) 556-1185

Email: chfoundation@cyx.net

Visit our web site to learn about giving opportunities at Central. You can also browse our annual report, our yearbook, our alumni directory, our faculty profiles, and other information about Central. You can also send an e-mail to Principal Jerry Bexten at bextenj@ops.org or Terry Price with the Central High Foundation at (402) 556-2828; or you can e-mail Mr. Bexten at bextenj@ops.org or Terry Price at chfoundation@cyx.net.

REQUIRE D DONATIONS

Three funds are established in the CHS Foundation: Central High School Foundation, Central High Foundation, and Central High School Foundation (21st Century). These funds are established in the CHS Foundation. For information about how to contribute to the CHS Foundation, visit the CHS Foundation's website at www.chfoundation.org.

Due to serious fundraising inadequacies, Central High School faces a future with limited dollars for much needed equipment. To maintain the high quality education provided by this outstanding school, funding assistance is needed. Attracting interest in specific school projects or the intellectuals in this school are invited to contribute to this school by contributing in this school. Attracting interest in specific school projects or the intellectuals in this school are invited to contribute to this school by contributing funds in this school.

Unrestricted Donations

These funds are used at the discretion of the CHS Foundation,donors, and the Central High School Foundation. Donations can include teacher grants, Foundation administrative expenses, operations, or any other purpose that the Foundation deems appropriate.

Listed below are some projects that the Central High School Foundation is supporting. Please contact the Central High School Foundation at (402) 556-2828 for a list of other projects that the Foundation is supporting.

Visit our web site to learn about giving opportunities at Central. You can also browse our annual report, our yearbook, our alumni directory, our faculty profiles, and other information about Central. You can also send an e-mail to Principal Jerry Bexten at bextenj@ops.org or Terry Price with the Central High Foundation at (402) 556-2828; or you can e-mail Mr. Bexten at bextenj@ops.org or Terry Price at chfoundation@cyx.net.
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**Under the Foundation’s Umbrella**

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The Central High School Athletic Booste
Under the Foundation’s Umbrella

The CHS Foundation’s mission is to improve the education of present and future students at Central High School. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Foundation supports Central High School in a variety of ways. Our efforts include:

- Managing the Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Maintaining and constantly updating an extensive database of alumni, parents, and friends
- Providing reunion assistance
- Developing and hosting a web site for Central organizations
- Assisting other Central organizations
- Supporting the Central Student Recognition Endowment and the Teacher of the Year and Student of the Year scholarships
- Operating the Foundation office
- Identifying needs and developing strategic projects to improve Central
- Raising funds for Central’s needs, wherever they may be

Organizations under our umbrella enjoy our nonprofit status and access to ongoing fundraising opportunities. Those organizations include:

- Central High School Band Parent Organization
- PEP (Parent Educational Organization)
- JSPA (Journalism Students & Parents Association)

Our Volunteer Organization Fundraising Committee and the Student Recognition Endowment provide financial support to Central High School athletics and those supporting Central High School athletics and students.

In “Keeping Central Central” the Alumni Association utilizes funds received from Annual Memberships to support:

- Annual Hall of Fame Dinner
- Printing & Mailin the Semester Newsletter
- Reunion Assistance
- Alumni Data Base
- Special Events
- Library Projects
- Historical Memorabilia & Storage

JSPA (Journalism Students & Parents Association), a new organization in 2002, supports the Journalism Department at CHS.

What is the CHS Foundation?

The CHS Foundation is a separate nonprofit organization established by Central High School alumni to support the school.

Who gives to the CHS Foundation?

The CHS Foundation has thousands of donors who are individuals, families, businesses, and organizations.

What does the CHS Foundation make possible?

The CHS Foundation provides funding for scholarships, endowments, and projects that benefit Central High School students, faculty, and staff.

How can I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved with the CHS Foundation. Visit our website at www.centralhighomaha.org or contact us for more information.

Foundation Financials

Income:

1. Unrestricted investment Income (CHS): $13,200
2. Permanent contributions to Scholarship Endow Fund Contributions (CHS): $13,300
3. Unrestricted contributions (CHS): $5,000
4. All other funds (CHS): $100,000

Expenses:

1. Operating costs (CHS): $100,000
2. Scholarships & grants paid from Restricted Funds (CHS): $40,000
3. Scholarships & grants paid from Unrestricted Funds (CHS): $2,700
4. All other (CHS): $100,000

Foundation Financials

Net Assets as of 6-30-02

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P.E.P. Scholarship "Unaacution" A Success

Central parents Shelley and Don Erickson were asked to chair the P.E.P. Scholarship Auction. After 10 years, the traditional silent auction and dinner event needed a change. So, they created the P.E.P. Scholarship "Unaacution," a raffle and a silent auction designed to involve more people in the fundraising process.

With more than 700 donors, the “Unaacution” reached its goal. “We had a terrific response for a first-time event,” said Shelley. “Central has such an amazing alumni and parent group that everyone was involved.”

Central alumni and brothers Alan ’82, Fred ’85 and Steve ’75 Simon donated the phones and facility for the unaacution at Omaha Steaks. More than 100 students from Central’s French, Italian and History Society and Latino Leaders made phone calls to 4,000 people during the five-night event, held March 17-21. Dozens of parents and teachers helped as well.

The raffle auction featured items such as prime parking spots at Central, landscaping services, a clock, jewelry, and an antique microscope.

Both “Unaacution” events were promoted through school newsletters and a letter mailed to the calling list. Each unaacution determined the date for the following year.

Proceeds from the “Unaacution” netted $40,000 toward scholarships for graduating seniors, teachers grants and the Foundation’s Scholarship Endowment Fund.

“Thanks to all for supporting this event,” said Shelley, “but all in all, it was a great event. P.E.P. is planning to do it again next year.”

P.E.P. Scholarship “Unaacution” chairs Shelley and Don Erickson are looking forward to where the successful phonathon was held.
OMAHA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
Needs List by Department

Due to systemic funding inadequacies, Central High School faces a future with limited dollar resources for equipment and replacement. To maintain the high quality education provided by this outstanding school, funding assistance is needed. All donations, directed in support of any specific project, are carefully matched to the needs of Central. Contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations are essential to the Independent School Community. To support Central, please contact the Central High School Foundation at (402) 351-1010 or write to the Central High School Foundation at 4525 Farnam Street.

ART
3 large storage cabinets ($500 each) 
Track lighting system ($1,000)

BRAIN AND BODY
Program for field trips ($2,000) DVD player ($300)

CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE
Computer software ($500)
2 paper cutters - 24 inch ($200 each)

CASH DONATIONS
- art books - portfolio cases - mosaic tiles - marble bound - copper/silver colored wires (any size/price)

BUSINESS/MARKETING/TECHNOLOGY
Corkboard display bulletin boards ($250)
Curriculum related teaching videos ($500)

Wacom graphics tablets for computer graphics and multimedia classes ($5,000)
New Hewlett Packard A-D Plotter for CAD lab ($750)
One hundred computers with peripherals for those labs to which teachers can take classes ($225,000)
Thirty multimedia computers for graphics and multimedia classroom ($65,000)
Sixty multimedia computers for two CAD classrooms ($10,000)
Furniture and equipment for the new computer complex (seven classrooms) to be built in old cafeterias ($150,000)

LIBRARY
Portable cover to protect office chair in auditorium ($37,000)
Replacement curtain for auditorium ($23,000)

ENGLISH
Mobile computer lab for use in English classrooms ($75,000)
Journalism lab photo, print, computer, and software upgrades ($50,000)
Replace creative writing classrooms ($50,000)
Replace computers in English lab ($350,000)

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
Computer software ($500)
ELA SITW and word dice books ($500)
Maps, dicthi, lexicon, and textbooks ($2,000)
Funding for independent club field trips ($1,000)

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
25" TV/VCR with ceiling mount ($250)
Fabric and patterns ($500)
 follicle 12" paper trimmer ($100)
Illustration boards ($180)
Interior design boards ($500)
Extra large trash storage containers and shelf for interior design ($1,000)

MATHEMATICS
Plat-Kit for interior design ($225)
Primacolored colored pencils ($500) 
Project display boards ($250)
Real Care Baby ($500)

MUSIC
New chorus room ($2,000)
New music room ($2,000)
New choral/band room ($4,000)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
New track ($4,000)

PHYSICS
Novelty tools "incentive prizes" for use throughout the year ($200)

PLANNING AID
New copy machine ($5,000)
Books for the guidance library in the personal/social domain ($5,000)
Funds for two advanced education courses to attended conference ($2,500)

PORTABLE/PIT COVERS
Gateway laptop computer for use by counselors in the classrooms and during registration ($1,500)

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES
New learning lab equipment for all six international language classrooms. Current equipment dates from the 1970's. ($22,000 per classroom - $132,000 total)

SOCIAL STUDIES
Nine classrooms of set Nystrom Continents and Regions Map Set ($575 each)

STUDENT RECOGNITION
Four student of the month branches per year ($1,500)

TECHNOLOGY
Supplementary readers for French, Spanish, and data/video projector ($5,030)

UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS
These funds are used at the discretion of the CHS Foundation Board of Directors and include teacher grants, Foundation administrative and support, maintenance of facilities, and classroom supplies.

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January 1, 2000 - January 30, 2000

1st Class Challenge (2000)

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Laurence Bexton '40 was one of those donors. She gave funds to provide Central a new math award display and a new math display for students with gifts to the Fund for the Day-to-Day operating expenses. The class that contributes the most money to the end of the year wins.

Susan Strouse Lobkis, Mike Lobkis and David Sobrisky '78 signed the letter asking their class to donate. "An anonymous donor had offered to match the gifts once they reached a certain dollar amount and I think that may have turned people to give even more," said Susan. "Many of us still feel very strongly toward the school."

Class of 1961 President Dick Zacharia made a pitch for the funding event at the reunion. "We're down classrooms sign the letter. "A great education makes people people," he stated. "It has immense value. Yet in the current environment of budget cuts and limited resources, the only way Central can continue to make today's students a great education is for friends and alumni to pitch in and help."

Laurence Bexton '40, with the display she donated funds for in honor of her father, math teacher Louis Bexton '04.

The Foundation’s database of alumni, parents, teachers and other Central supporters continues to grow.

With funding in place, the restoration process began. Ols challenged withzi Frueh of Forsthoehn Architects and Craig Coyle of the Heritage Restoration reviewed his objectives and outlined the necessary procedures. "It was important to ensure there was no structural damage to the school and that the entrance area would be restored to its original condition," said Ols.

Photos were taken of the plaques prior to the move, and Central custodian Frank Mikkens marked the locations on the wall. When the school and the entrance were restored to its 1956 condition, the plaques were moved to their original site, near the east entrance, to the side foyer of the remodeled west entrance.

The Foundation announced that it was raising $100,000 to help fund the restoration project. The campaign was designed to raise funds for the renovation of the historic building that was originally built in 1928.

Thanks to Rod Ols '43, Central's World War I and II Memorial Plaques have been thoroughly researched and have been restored to their original locations in the school. Ols has been a lifelong fan of Central and has been involved in the school's history for many years. He has been working on the restoration project for several years and has made a significant contribution.

The plaques were moved from their original location to the east entrance of the school, where they will remain for future generations to enjoy.

Worn Stage Curtain Prompts Gift

Dr. Karl Niehaus '46 who made a donation in memory of his father, a mathematician and a great father," and was an inspiration on him. Dr. Niehaus remembers helping paint scenery for the shows Central produced, and Laurene remembers the time she spent with Dr. Niehaus as a little girl.

Through Needs List Gifts

Robert Otis '43 with the restored memorial plaques in Central's west entrance.

Central Teachers Honored Through Needs List Gifts

The Foundation launched a CSH Needs List in its first annual report, and had an overwhelming response. Gifts totaling $33,496 were received from 149 donors, $21,813 of which was given toward specific items.

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Laurence Bexton '40, with the display she donated funds for in honor of her father, math teacher Louis Bexton '04.
Scholarships Established to Honor Family and Friends

Several scholarships honoring family members and friends were awarded to deserving (and grateful) seniors for the first time in 2002. The CHS Foundation assisted these donors in setting up the funds for the scholarships.

Ben Sybester ’42 donated money for a scholarship to be named after a good high school friend, James Roane Stryker ’42, who died in World War II. Ben served in the Cadet Regiment with Jim during high school, and remembers that Jim was one of the top scholars at Central. After graduation, the young men went to different colleges, Ben to Harvard and Jim to Yale. Ben recalls that Jim wrote him a letter while at school, in November 1943, saying that he felt a sense of duty and that he was going to volunteer to fight the war. Jim died in Germany on December 5, 1944, at age 20.

Jim Backer ’80 and his family organized to award a scholarship in honor of his grandfather, John Sonderfeld ’16. Jim, twin sister Annie Backer Dovlas ’90, brother Tom Backer ’83, and his parents, Fred and Maria Backer, pooled their money to offer an annual scholarship to a Central student who had achieved academic and extracurricular excellence and had other financial needs.

Jim, who currently resides in Valencia, California, has been involved in public education in a number of places. He believes Central is one of the best high schools in the country, and he is grateful for the opportunity the two greats attended school there. In high school, Jim served as an editor for the 

The Paul Jepsen (’29) Scholarship recipients, Timika Scott ’02, pose with Dr. Rusty Crossman, CHS Central High School Foundation President, at the Senior Recognition Event. This annual event is sponsored by the Foundation.

On December 8, 1980, a member of the Class of 1929 donated $2,000 to start the Central High School Scholarship Endowment Fund. The CHS administration (Principal G.E. "Doc" Miller) immediately started to solicit money from various sources in order to guarantee the perpetual growth of the fund.

In 1982, the parent group (PTA), called "P.E.P." (Parents Educators Pupils) worked with the CHS staff to conduct a spring scholarship auction and dinner from which half of the net proceeds would be added to the Scholarship Endowment Fund. (In the last few years, the allocation was changed so that now one-third of the funds raised at the auction is directed into the Fund.)

In November 1983, a member of the class of 1947 authorized his family foundation to give $5,000 to the still relatively new Fund.

Since that time, other sizable and many smaller donations have increased the Scholarship Endowment Fund which is now valued at $330,000!

If a class or individual wants an Endowment Scholarship named after them, a donation can be given to perpetuate a Scholarship each year for eternity. Central currently has 19 named scholarships a graduate may have been offered.

The Scholarship Endowment Fund has provided 279 Scholarships since the first one was awarded in 1983, currently has 19 named scholarships.

The Scholarship Endowment Fund has provided 279 Scholarships since the first one was awarded in 1983, with the total amount given $165,000.

A Time of Transition

Jerry Bexten and Dr. Gary Thompson are working together this summer to ensure a smooth transition for Central.

Jerry Bexten, currently the principal of Lewis & Clark Jr. High School, will assume his duties as principal of Central when school begins. Bexten began his career in education with the Omaha Public Schools in 1973 as a teacher at Lewis & Clark. He taught for 12 years, then became an administrator.

Bexten said he likes being a principal because it is a challenging job and no two days are ever the same. He also enjoys the day-to-day contract with young people. “It keeps you young, physically,” he said. “There’s something about their energy and fresh ideas and ambition that I find refreshing, even informative. That’s something you don’t find in other professions.”

Bexten has followed Dr. Thompson in two prior positions, as assistant principal at South High, and as principal at Lewis & Clark, and is working closely with him this summer to learn about Central. “I know how hard-working and organized he is,” said Bexten. “I am very excited that he will make the smooth transition, and I’m truly looking forward to becoming part of Central.”

OPS, Joslyn and Creighton Work to Create “Premier Campus”

As recently announced in the Omaha World-Herald, the Omaha Public Schools, Joslyn Art Museum and Creighton University are discussing plans to develop a “premier campus,” exploring ways of sharing and utilizing the land that exists in the area.

According to Omaha businessman Mike Yanney, chairmen of Joslyn’s board of governors, talks between the Omaha Public Schools, Joslyn and Creighton have been going on for more than three years. Discussions began with mutual parking concerns and then moved into other areas.

The project, which will not be officially announced until all details are in place, appears to involve shared parking between Central and Joslyn, construction of a new multipurpose field and stadium partly on land now owned by Creighton, and transfer to Joslyn of the land on which Central’s practice field currently occupies. Joslyn would use the land for parking or a sculpture garden. It’s possible that any new parking facility would also be shared with Central, which has long needed additional parking during the day.

The new stadium and multipurpose field would be used extensively for band, football, soccer and track events. With the new stadium and track, Central would have the additional space and facilities needed to maintain its competitive status.

A multi-million dollar contribution from Susan Thompson Buffett ’50, wife of Omaha billionaire Warren Buffett, would be given toward the stadium and Central’s part of the "premier campus."