



**THE
Alumni
CENTER**

**of Asheville City Schools
Asheville, North Carolina**

Report of Activities

**For the Period
January 1, 2010
through
June 30, 2011**

**Prepared
July 1, 2011**

www.thealumnicenter.com



Introduction

The Alumni Center of Asheville City Schools was established in 2008 “to preserve history and to honor Graduates, Educators, Administrators and Friends of the Asheville City Schools since 1887.” We are pleased to report on the activities of The Alumni Center for the period beginning January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

The last formal report was provided to the Asheville City Board of Education on January 21, 2010 covering the activities since the opening of The Alumni Center in 2008. All of the activities and accomplishments have been facilitated by our volunteers, whose generous donations of time and skills we gratefully acknowledge. For ease of review, we have organized this report in a bullet-point format by topic.

Our main focus continues to be serving the Alumni of Asheville City Schools by assisting with class reunion events, developing and organizing historical information and the display of artifacts in the museum, communication of our existence and availability to our constituent populations, and seeking funding to continue these endeavors.

Reunions and Campus Tours

Perhaps the most interesting and enjoyable service provided by the Center is the hosting of reunion classes and campus tours. We observe the excited former students from many decades and generations as they are instantly transported back to their high days. The following classes held reunions during the reporting period (Classes graduating prior to 1970 are Lee Edwards High, classes graduating 1970 and after are Asheville High – same campus, different school name):

- Class of 1960 reunion and campus tour. Received monetary donation. (June 2010)
- Class of 2000 reunion and campus tour. Received monetary donation. (June 2010)
- The Alumni Center hosted several monthly Reunion Committee meetings for the Classes of 1970-1971-1972. (August 2010 – August 2011)
- Classes of 1970-1979 reunion and campus tour. (September 2010)
- Class of 1980 reunion, picnic and tour. Received monetary donation. (September 2010)
- Class of 1990 reunion and campus tour. (September 2010)
- Class of 1995 reunion and campus tour. (October 2010)
- Class of 1943 group visited Alumni Center. (November 2010, May 2011) Volunteers were also invited to attend monthly luncheon meeting of this class.
- Class of 1944 group visited Alumni Center. Received monetary donation. (April 2011)
- Class of 1951 reunion. (May 2011)
- Class of 1961 reunion and campus tour. (June 2011)

Donation of Artifacts

The mainstay of our exhibit area continues to be the donation of interesting and valuable artifacts from alumni and friends. We would like to recognize and thank the following for their contributions during the reporting period (listed by date):

- Eckel Bradley ('43) donated football programs, clippings, etc., for Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice era (1941-42 seasons), and photo of son Chip Bradley ('65) who was Shrine Bowl and UNC football player. (January 2010)
- Joe Clark ('43 Class President) donated a huge and detailed scrapbook collection of nine albums about the Class of 1943 throughout the years. (March/April 2010)
- Sybil Jefferson ('95) donated a 1992-93 MCJROTC National Champion Drill Team Jacket and 1995 Cheerleader Sweater. (March/June 2010)
- Elizabeth Mosley Neumann ('99) donated a 1998 MAC Conference Football Champions sweatshirt. (April 2010)
- Dorothy Rapp (Counselor) donated a 1996 "Net-Day" T-shirt and letter of authentication. (April 2010)
- Visited home of author Lou Harshaw ('43) and received autographed copies of "Asheville - Mountain Majesty," "Trains, Trestles & Tunnels," and 1939-1944 yearbooks. (April 2010)
- Don and Gladys Jones donated photos, booklets, and 16mm film from Gladys' mother's class in 1930's. (May 2010)
- The Estate of Lee Hurley donated 1965-1968 yearbooks from daughter Jamie Lee Hurley. (May 2010)
- Juanita Dixon donated a wood baseball bat used in 1970. (June 2010)
- Merle Love ('60) donated photos and a large framed Class of 1960 photo from the newspaper. (June 2010)
- Beverly Walker donated a 1927 yearbook. (July 2010)
- Dot Hyatt donated 1920-1924 yearbooks and 1935-36 scrapbook. (July 2010)
- Betsy Rhodes ('69) donated a 1966 David Millard yearbook and a monetary donation. (July 2010)
- Sallie Buchanan Johnson ('80) donated booklets, programs and student handbook from 1979-80. (October 2010)
- Dee Dee Anders donated yearbooks from 1931-33. (October 2010)
- Terry Bossard ('66) donated large Cougar portraits and Spirit Badges collected by former Asheville High Principal Dr. Larry Liggett. (October 2010)
- Ralph ('43) and Vida Feemster ('43) donated 1942-43 yearbooks and a large framed 1943 class photo that appeared in the newspaper. (October 2010 and June 2011)
- Marcia Amos ('73) donated an autographed John Avery ('94) jersey from the NFL's Miami Dolphins where he was a first-round draft pick in 1998. (January 2011)
- Jim McKinney ('71) donated a 1967 David Millard Letter Sweater with football insignia. (February 2011)
- Nancy Gardner David ('47) donated a 1947 large doll dressed in a handmade cheerleader uniform of the period and also a handmade hillbilly doll. (March 2011)
- Michele Large Carson ('87) donated a 1986-87 Band Flag Captain Letter Jacket. (March 2011)

- Billie Lovelace ('44) donated a Black Sequined Majorette Uniform worn by her daughter, Betsy, in 1968-69. (April 2011)
- Rex Gasperson ('44) donated photos, clippings, and letters from the 1940's era. (May 2011)
- Mike Sams ('65) donated 1965 photos, clippings and an East-West All Star Game football jersey from 1965 and a David Millard leather football helmet from the 1940's era. (June 2011)
- Ronald Liner ('61) donated a checkerboard made from a desktop at Hall Fletcher in 1958, and an ashtray and paperweight made at Lee Edwards metal shop in 1960-61. (June 2011)

Communications

We have been working to assist interested parties and distribute information about the Center through several outlets, including the following:

- Produced a one-minute commercial about The Alumni Center for airing on Cougar Sports Network Broadcasts and on The Alumni Center Website.
- Reunion dates are continuously advertised on the AET Channel 16 Bulletin Board.
- Provided research assistance by telephone and on-site.
- Developed a partnership with Pack Memorial Library and the Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society for the sharing of research material.
- Website maintained and constantly updated by volunteer David Keyes ('73).

Fundraising

Funds are primarily provided by donations from classes conducting reunions and campus tours, and the sale of merchandise. Items such as T-shirts and sweatshirts are sold through the Gift Shop. A special school-year-end T-shirt sale was held during exam week (May 2011) for students, faculty and staff. All funds collected are deposited with the School Treasurer of Asheville High School (audited annually) and are used to purchase items such as paper, frames, office supplies and postage.

Digitizing of Yearbooks

The yearbook scanning process is up-to-date. Volunteer David Keyes ('73) scanned 116 yearbooks from 1915 to 2005, including 11,535 pages, from August 2009 through January 2011. These images were placed on The Alumni Center website for public access. The following schools were included: Asheville High/Lee Edwards, Stephens-Lee, South French Broad, David Millard, and Hall Fletcher. We do not have available all of the yearbooks from any of the schools except Asheville High/Lee Edwards.

Significant New Displays

In addition to adding donated artifacts to the museum area, we continue to update and expand our display offerings. Below are some of the new display items that have been added during the reporting period.

- Updated State Championship photos for Football 1922, Basketball 1955, Track and Field 2010 and Tennis 2010. (May 2010)
- Added several trophies and awards from the MCJROTC program. (June 2010)
- A major display honoring alumni who died in World War II was developed. (April 2011)
- Added physical display of extra copies of many yearbooks for hands-on research. (May 2011)
- Updated Athletic Record Book for research and display purposes. (June 2011)
- Added the late Robert P. Ingle ('52) to the "National Acclaim Wall of Fame." (June 2011)

Visitors and Meetings

The Alumni Center has become a popular place to visit for those interested in the history of the Asheville City Schools. Here are some of the groups we have hosted:

- The Asheville City Board of Education has visited The Alumni Center on January 21, 2010 and June 13, 2011 during their retreats which were held in The Alumni Center Conference Room.
- The Alumni Center hosted large project displays and exhibits constructed by FX freshmen (Class of 2013). (January 2010)
- The Alumni Center hosted freshman orientation visits by the Class of 2014. (August 2010)
- The Tiger Cubs Pack 26 visited the Alumni Center. (March 2010)
- The Alpha Delta Kappa educational sorority visited the Alumni Center (February 2011)
- Provided information and television interview area (WLOS TV-13) for Ken Michalove ('56) regarding death of former Asheville Mayor Dick Wood (Class of 1955) who was a high school cheerleader captain. (May 2011)

Photographs

We have included as Attachment 1 several photographs to illustrate some of the activities of The Alumni Center.

Future Reunions Scheduled

As of the date of this report, the following reunions have been scheduled:

2011

- July 22-23 – Asheville High Class of 2001 (10th)
- August 4-7 – South French Broad Class of 1966 (45th)
- August 19-20 – Asheville High Classes of 1970-1971-1972 (41st, 40th, 39th)
- September 2-4 – Asheville High Class of 1976 (35th)
- September 2-4 – Asheville High Class of 1981 (30th)
- September 3 – Asheville High Classes of 1970-1979
- September 23-25 – Asheville High Class of 1986 (25th)
- September 23-25 – Asheville High Class of 1991 (20th)
- September 24 – Lee Edwards Classes of 1965-1966 (46th, 45th)

2012

- June 23 – Lee Edwards Class of 1952 (60th)
- September 1-2 – Asheville High Class of 1992 (20th)
- November 24 – Asheville High Class of 2002 (10th)

Volunteers and Supporters

The work of the Center could not have been accomplished without the dedicated services of our volunteers and supporters. We would like to particularly acknowledge volunteers David Keyes, Tom Williams, Betsy Rhodes, Terry Bossard and Beth Robinson. Tom, Betsy, Terry and Beth are or were staff members of Asheville City Schools, and David, Betsy, Terry and Beth are also alumni.

We would also like to thank Asheville High Principal Carol Ray for her endless support, as well as the Main Office and Guidance Clerical Personnel at Asheville High School. We also appreciate the support and encouragement of our efforts by the members of the Asheville City Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia and Tim Amos

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Volunteers

July 1, 2011

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Attachment 1



School Board Retreat January 2010



Eckel Bradley('43) Contributor



Class of 1960



Class of 2000



School Board Member Hallum ('73) right, awards diploma 30+ years later



Classes of 1970-1979

Attachment 1



Class of 1944



Class of 1961



Class of 2000



Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority



World War II Display



David Millard Letter Sweater

Attachment 1



Class of 1980



Class of 1990



Class of 1995



Tiger Cubs Pack 26



Author Lou Harshaw ('43)



Class of 1943