



CHS Alumni Association, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 3

October 2018

CHS Alumni Association Funds Grants to Oaker Programs



Grants of \$500 were made to the Robotics Club and the WCVY by the Alumni Association.

The CHSAA Opens and Endowment Fund with Ocean State Charities Trust

In an effort to place the Alumni Association on a more secure financial footing going forward, we have opened an endowment account with an initial investment of \$15000. Interest income from this fund will be used to fund scholarships while preserving the principal. Thank you to James Hopkins '58 and Andrea Hopkins '64 for their help and advice in setting up this fund. Addition deposits will be made as funds become available. Donations can be made by contacting Ernie DiMicco at dimiccoed@gmail.com and can be in the form of a donation or a bequest.

Hall of Fame Inductees Chosen

The selection committee for the Coventry high School Alumni Hall of Fame has chosen the inductees for 2018.

They include the following extraordinary individuals:

Mr. John Macomber	Deceased	Business Teacher
Mrs. Carolyn Lukowicz Harrington		Class of 1961
Ms. Erica Thremblay Shea	Deceased	Class of 2000
Miss Kelly Nester	Deceased	Class of 2001
Chief Frank M. Brown		Class of 1978

The induction ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 1 at 6 PM at the Quiddnessett Country Club . Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by sending a check made out to CHSAA P.O. 705 Coventry, RI 0281 by October 24th or from our website at www.oakeralumni.org for \$36 by credit card Please come and help us honor these amazing inductees.



Dr. Alysha Inez Coppola
CHS Class of 2004

- 1/2016- Post-doctoral Forschungskredit scholar University of Zurich, Switzerland
Biogeochemistry and Soil Science, mentor: Michael W.I. Schmidt, Samuel Abiven
- 6 July 2015 Ph.D. University of California Irvine, Earth System Science,
Radiocarbon Studies of Black Carbon in the Marine Environment
- 9 Sept 2011 M.S.c. University of California Irvine, Earth System Science
Aged Black Carbon in Marine Sediments
- 15 May 2008 B.S. University of Arizona, Chemistry

**Department of Geography,
University of Zurich**

I am Earth system scientist at the University of Zurich with research interests in the carbon cycle, water quality, oceanography and climate change. This has led me to go on multiple research cruises crossing the South and North Atlantic Ocean, and even to the Amazon Rainforest. I've been to many interesting places that I've never thought I'd visit, such as South Africa, Paris, Hawaii, Switzerland, southern California, and Barbados through my work. I research topics that inspire my curiosity, such as the carbon cycling in rivers around the world including the Amazon River, the Greenland ice sheet and the Arctic Ocean. One of the benefits in my job is working with people who also love what they do, and ignite that passion for understanding how the world works. My current broad, overarching research vision is to improve our understanding of river-to-ocean carbon continuum as moderator of atmospheric CO₂ to include in coupled climate-carbon Earth System models. I come from a multi-disciplinary background, with a fundamental scientific understanding of the Earth as a coupled system and a focus on oceanography.

However, I never would have imagined I'd ultimately become one of the scientists featured in the Scientific American articles we used to read in Mr. DiMicco's high school Physics class. I had this idea of what a scientist seemed like and how science worked, which was mostly one dimensional involving a socially awkward, solitary life peering into beakers with colorful chemicals. But, encouraged to follow my passions by strong positive mentors, such as Mr. DiMicco and others along the way, I realized that science is alive with communication, collaboration, inspiration and creativity in understanding the world we live in and how it works.

Now more than ever, the questions that earth system scientists priorities over the upcoming decades will define our contributions to the problems we face with climate change. With a changing carbon cycle driven by increased CO₂ concentrations, one of the grand challenges of Biogeoscience is that we understand how carbon moves between land, soils, rivers and into ocean environments to constrain which biospheres can absorb or sequester those anthropogenic emissions. This requires a holistic view of the carbon cycle, often termed the boundless C cycle, not just oceanographers, soil scientists and atmospheric chemists staying in their comfort zone. Addressing the hardest problems in biogeochemistry, sustainability and climate change requires a diverse set of minds, embracing our different skill sets and perspectives. Thus, I'd encourage all those to follow their passions (regardless of pre-conceived notions of what's possible) towards what excites them, as I have been encouraged during my journey to creating a life I enjoy, contributing towards the problems we face with climate change.

Debbie Fitzpatrick, Class of 1990, CHS



After graduating from Coventry High School, I went to Colby College in Waterville, Maine and received a bachelor's degree in English and German - spending three semesters abroad in Lübeck, Germany; Cork, Ireland; and Freiburg, Germany. Upon graduation in 1994, I worked as a paralegal at a large law firm in Boston, and then I moved to Tucson, Arizona, where I was the Volunteer Coordinator for the Tucson Chrysler Classic PGA Golf Tournament. Deciding that I wanted to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) as my future goal, I attended the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California and received my master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in 1999.

After teaching ESL in Monterey, I moved overseas and continued my career in Japan teaching English at Nagoya University of Commerce and Business Administration. It was while I lived in Japan that I developed my love of traveling and scuba diving. During my time there, I was able to visit and dive in many countries in that part of the world including South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji. Returning to the United States in 2004, I accepted a job as a full-time faculty member at Showa Boston Institute for Language and Culture, which is a satellite campus for English majors from Showa Women's University in Tokyo, Japan.

Even though I don't live abroad anymore, my love for travel and adventure has still continued with yearly summer trips to new places, most recently Chile, Easter Island, Morocco, South Africa, Croatia, and Slovenia.

Beth O. (Sanson) Groleau '67



GROLEAU, Beth O. (Sanson), 68, of Teakwood Dr., passed away on Thursday, August 30, 2018 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the beloved wife of Michael K. Groleau. Besides her husband, she leaves her loving children, Jonathan PA Groleau '00 and Sarah W. Groleau '97.

Beth was a 1967 graduate of Coventry High School and was an elementary teacher in Coventry and principal at the Fogarty Elementary School in the Foster-Gloucester School System.

Michele M. (Menard) Holt, DMA,'70



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Michele M. (Menard) Holt, DMA,'70 on July 6, 2018. Michele developed a deep and lasting passion for music in all its forms at a very early age. For Michele, encouraging, nurturing, loving, and mentoring people was of the utmost importance and she accomplished that through music education. Although her accolades are numerous, it was her enthusiasm, determination and passion that made her both larger than life, and so very dear to so many.

Having recently retired, Michele was a professor and Coordinator of Music Education at her alma mater, University of Rhode Island. She was on the Graduate Choral Conducting and Music Education faculty at Gordon College and Executive Director of Massachusetts Music Educators Association. She also served as both the Eastern Division and National President for the American Choral Directors association. Michele's dedication to music, care for her students and colleagues, and her deep passion for the highest level of professional development for all music educators are hallmarks of her life.



Joseph M. Mello

MELLO, JOSEPH M. "JOE", 87, of Hill Farm Rd., Coventry, passed on Saturday, April 28, 2018. He was the husband of Pauline S. (Lecuire) Mello for 63 years. Born in West Warwick, he was a son of the late Antonio and Maria (Couto) Mello.

Joseph was the President of Ethide Laboratories in West Warwick. He previously was a laboratory manager at Davol for 40 years. Joseph graduated from URI in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He was a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army during the Korean War. Mr. Mello was a long-time support of Coventry High School having donated a great deal of equipment to the science department. In addition, he and his wife, Pauline, have been very supportive of the CHSAA, having donated continuously to our scholarship fund.



Marlene McCarthy

MCCARTHY, MARLENE, H.L.D. 74, passed away peacefully on July 17. Marlene was a fearless advocate for women with breast cancer and on all issues related to women's health. She was the co-founder of the Rhode Island Breast Cancer Coalition and served as its volunteer Executive Director for almost three decades. She served on the Board of Directors for the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC). Her knowledge, compassion and empathy created a cloud of love that surrounded her and embraced the women whose lives were touched by her. She received an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Rhode Island and the NBCC Advocate of the Year award. She was recognized as Rhode Island Woman of the Year and was honored by ABC-TV6 with the Freedom Torch Award. Marlene was the mother of Kate Barnett '85 who serves on the CHSAA Committee, and of Erin and Dominick McCarthy, all of whom are CHS Alumni.



Ronald L. Guillemette

Ronald L. Guillemette, 60, of Hope Valley, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, July 23, 2018 at Westerly Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Kerri A. (Robinson) Guillemette. Mr. Guillemette was a Career and Technical educator at the Regional Career and Technical Center in Coventry since 2011, a high school math teacher at Coventry High School since 2006, and the Director of Technology from 1998-2006.

Upcoming CHSAA Events

In an effort to raise money for scholarships, the Alumni Association has planned to hold the following events:

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

A wine-tasting event will be held on Thursday evening, October 18 at 6:30 at the Bean Barn (former Dairy Queen). Tickets for the event are \$20 and will include wine tasting and light snacks. Raffles will also be held at the event with all proceeds going to the CHSAA scholarship fund. Tickets may be purchased by sending a check to the CHSAA PO Box 705 Coventry, RI 02816 or from our website at www.oakeralumni.org for \$21 by credit card. We hope that you will attend to support our cause!

May Breakfast Fundraiser

A May breakfast will be held at Westcott House in Coventry on April 27th, 2019 from 9 to 11 AM. Tickets may be purchased for \$20 by sending a check to the CHSAA PO Box 705 Coventry, RI 02816 or from our website at www.oakeralumni.org for \$21 by credit card. We hope that you will attend this social event which was a huge success last year.