



CHS Alumni Association, Inc.

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December 2018

CHS Alumni Hall of Fame has Five New Members



L to R: Carolyn Lukowicz Harrington '61, Chief F. Brown '78, Erica Tremblay Shea '00, John Macomber, Business Teacher, Kelly Ann Nester '01

On November 1st, five amazing people were inducted to the CHS Alumni Hall of Fame. Over 90 people assembled to honor these individuals at Quidnessett Country Club.

After testimonials were presented in support of the honorees, the inductees or their families received 2 plaques (one for the school) and other gifts. This year was unusual because sadly 3 of the inductees, Erica Shea, John Macomber, and Kelly Ann Nester are deceased but their accomplishments are amazing and serve as an example for our current students. The evening ended with an amazing duet to "Until I See You Again" written by Erica's brother Ryan and performed by Ryan and Kelly's sister Kristen St.Sauveur. It certainly is a night to remember!

Individuals can be nominated to the Alumni Hall of Fame by going to our website www.oakeralumni.org and downloading an application. The application should be submitted with supporting documents no later than Aug. 1st, 2019. Induction is open to graduates, former teachers and employees, and supporters and benefactors.



Wine Tasting Fundraiser October 18, 2018

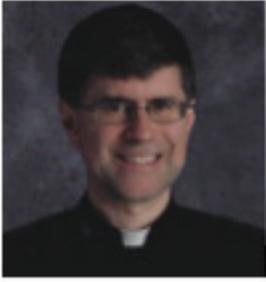
A wine tasting fundraiser was held in October at the Bean Barn on Tiogue Avenue. Many thanks to members of the committee who worked to make this event a great success including Pat Johnson, Maureen Jendzejec, Jim Kuipers, Mary Vandervelde, John Ball, and Mary Ann Cantino. Everyone had a great time and some \$1350 was raised for scholarships. Thank you to all who participated! A special thank you to Rhode Island Liquor Distributors who donated the wine for the event, to The Savory Grape for donating a wine basket for the raffle, and to Steve Lukowicz for conducting the wine tasting event and for preparing the information booklets. This was truly a group effort and with some 80 people in attendance, it was a huge success!

Thanksgiving Meals

Thanks to the generosity of Bill Finegan at Coventry Lumber, the CHSAA was able to work with Bob Robillard at the Coventry Health and Human Services and with the Rotary Club and employees of Coventry Lumber to assemble and make available food baskets and dinners to needy families in Coventry. The baskets were prepared by the Coventry Food Bank and meals were prepared by the culinary students at CHS. Members worked to hand-out baskets and to deliver meals before Thanksgiving. Thank you to Bill and Sean Finegan '09 for their generosity and hard work and to the members of the Rotary Club and CHSAA for donating their time at such a busy time of year.



Oaker Alumni Focus



Rev. Michael Woolley Class of 1985

Rev. Michael Woolley, a 1985 graduate of Coventry High School, enjoyed his time at CHS participating in the activities of a very energetic and talented class. He became an instant hit through his appearance in the Varsity Revue and boasts of his class, during his sophomore year, defeating the mighty seniors of the class of 1983 in the Spirit Week competition. He had an interest in music and was “rumored” to be involved in the infamous Rock Painting senior class prank. At least his initials were included among those who signed their work!

After graduation, Fr. Woolley moved onto CCRI where he earned an Associate’s Degree in Engineering in 1987. From there he moved onto URI where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1990.

During his time at URI he experienced a calling to become more interested in his faith, sort of a conversion. He became more serious about his studies and was interested in his moral development and in building relationship bridges in his community. His mind was consumed with a call from God. A priest friend of his suggested that he pray for guidance and he joined a group of men who were trying to understand their calling and to determine whether they wanted to take the next step toward being a priest.

After graduating in 1990, he found that jobs were scarce due to the Gulf War and the Rhode Island Banking Crisis. He decided to go to graduate school, but after one semester, he left school and decided to enter the seminary which he did on January 1, 1992. He earned a Master of Arts Degree in Theology from Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut in 1997 and a Master of Divinity Degree in Theology from Mt. St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland in 1999.

Fr. Woolley was ordained by Bishop Robert E. Mulvey in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Providence on June 26, 1999. He served as Assistant Pastor of St. Mark Church in Cranston from July 1, 1999 – June 30, 2003. On July 1, 2003 he was assigned to St. Joseph Church in Woonsocket, where he has served as Assistant Pastor from July 1, 2003—June 30, 2007 and then as Pastor from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2018. From January 1, 2013—June 30, 2017, Bishop Tobin appointed Fr. Woolley to serve as Vicar Forane (Dean) of Cumberland/Lincoln/Woonsocket Deanery III, while continuing as Pastor of St. Joseph Woonsocket. For the last 6 years, Fr. Woolley has been a formation advisor (sort of a counselor) on the staff of Our Lady of Providence Seminary, helping to prepare young men for the priesthood. Fr. Woolley has become a leader in the Diocese of Providence.

Recently, on July 1, 2018, Fr. Woolley became Pastor of Saints John and Paul Church in Coventry, the state’s largest parish and the parish he attended during his youth. In addition to ministering to the sick and working to support the sacramental life of his parishioners, Fr. Woolley’s goal is to work hard to bring about improvements and increase resources for the John V. Doyle School.

We are very fortunate to have an Oaker as pastor at SS John and Paul, the church he attended as during his youth. We welcome him home and wish him much success and happiness as he tends to his flock.



Elizabeth St. Pierre

Class of 1980

A member of the Coventry High School Class of 1980, Elizabeth St. Pierre graduated from URI with a BA in Psychology in 1985. She began career in human services working in Substance Abuse Treatment at Talbot Treatment Centers as an Activity Therapist and Intake Coordinator. As Intake Coordinator, Elizabeth did intakes for the program at hospitals, and in the prisons to help people addicted to substances access treatment options. Later, she worked for 3 years in the 2nd Congressional District Office in constituent services specializing in helping seniors, working on healthcare issues and assisting people cut through “red tape” for Rep. Claudine Schneider.

In 1990 Elizabeth became the first Program Coordinator for the “East Bay Coalition for the Homeless”, a transitional housing program for homeless families with children. During her tenure, the transitional housing program grew from providing one apartment to 12 units added two staff and a 2 year after care follow up program to provide ongoing case management and stabilization for the families. In 1992 the Program was named by RI Housing as the “Outstanding Non-Profit of the Year.” Ms. St. Pierre continued her service to helping people after moving to Massachusetts in 1994, through volunteer work in her church while raising her two children, which included teaching Sunday School, establishing a women’s group, and creating a special outreach fund to help local families facing financial and medical hardship due to having a severely disabled child.

She continued this work by partnering with the local ARC chapter for 8 years as a member of her church Outreach Committee and attended school part time to obtaining her Master’s Degree in Social Work from Simmons College in May 2001. She has worked at the VA Boston since 2001 as a Social Worker, in the transportation service to integrate patient access and retention while addressing the benefits. In 2006 she became the Transportation Service Chief for VA Boston, overseeing all medical transportation of patients. During this time, she managed a staff of 32 and \$6 million budget. During her time as chief, she was awarded numerous “Special Contribution” Awards from VA for the improved Customer Service and overall efficiency.

In 2008, Elizabeth became the Manager of the VA Boston Fisher House, a 20 suite Comfort Home for Military and Veterans families while their loved one is hospitalized. The Fisher House accommodates over 100 families a month from New England and all over the country. It is the only Fisher House in New England. As Manager, she has received special recognition for her compassionate care from both the VA as the recipient of the Director’s “Golden Heart Award”, and The VFW of Massachusetts “Appreciation Award.” She has expanded her role at VA Boston by attending the Harvard Medical School Ethics course, and serves as a member of the VA Ethics Consultation Service, assisting families and providers who request help when facing ethical questions. Ms. St. Pierre facilitates the VA Social Work Masters Trainee Program Peer Support group. She has served on National VA Fisher House Policy Committees and published articles in the National VA Social Work Magazine. This past year, she completed her “Six Sigma Green Belt Certification” through Bryant University, and is currently doing research in the areas of systems redesign for better access and delivery of care to Veterans and their families in the systems of care. She continues to support many other charities attending events, volunteering as time allows. Elizabeth is a 2015 inductee to the CHS Alumni Hall of Fame.

Careers Completed...



WARD (CARSTAIRS), JEAN L.

88, a retired secretary for the Coventry School Department, passed away Thursday, October 11, 2018 at home. She enjoyed a full life, attending daily Mass, volunteering, and spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Jean demonstrated an amazing work ethic during her time at Coventry High and did much to keep CHS running efficiently. She made a tremendous difference at our school and her contributions will not be forgotten.



BERNARD, RICHARD A.

84, passed away on October 5th. He attended Mount Saint Charles Academy and graduated from Coventry High School as a star football player. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard and was stationed as an interpreter at Ellis Island. Richard's life-long career in real estate started shortly after his return from the service, when he joined the family business, H.J. Bernard Realty of Coventry. He served as a past president of the Kent County Board of Realtors.



Steverman, Brian

71, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, September 7th. Brian worked as a chemical engineer and spent most of his career as the Director of Physical Plant for Coventry Public Schools. Brian worked hard to repair and maintain the building and grounds for all the Coventry School buildings.



Anderson (Barone), Ann Marie

Passed away Saturday, November 10, 2018 at RI Hospital in Providence.

Ann Marie. She was an elementary teacher for the Coventry Public School and finished her career as a guidance counselor at Coventry High. She was the sister of former science teacher and department head Ray Coppa.

Mark Your Calendar

On April 27th, the CHSAA will host a spring breakfast at Wescott House at 9:00 AM. Tickets will be \$20 and all proceeds will go to scholarships for CHS seniors. Tickets will be available at CHS, on our website (\$21 by credit card), or from any committee member. Please mark your calendar and come to support us as we work to increase scholarships for our seniors.

Scholarships presented on April 10th and May 17th

The CHSAA will be presenting scholarships totaling \$16000 this year bringing the total since 2011 to \$83,000! The following scholarship were awarded in 2018:

In memory or honor of:

Margaret St. Pierre	\$2,000.00	Erica Tremblay Shea	\$1,000.00
James A. Blair	\$2,000.00	Arthur D. St. Jean	\$1,000.00
David L. Parenteau	\$2,000.00	Megan Anne Alexion Mello	\$1,000.00
Mary Ann Cantino	\$2,000.00	Deceased Members of Faculty and Staff of CHS	\$1,000.00
Maureen Pontarelli	\$2,000.00	Class of 1987	\$1,000.00
Martha Barber	\$1,000.00		

*Denotes scholarships given Senior Awards Night

Total \$16,000.00

About Us

The Coventry High School Alumni Association (CHSAA) is a nonprofit, 501-(3)(c) tax-exempt organization founded in 2009. Our mission is to: 1) Provide scholarship for CHS seniors, 2) provide funds for school educational projects, and 3) to recognize successful and community-minded individuals who had attended CHS, been employed at CHS, or who have been benefactors to the CHS community.

Since 2011, the CHSAA has awarded \$83,000 in scholarships and donated \$2550 to school projects over the last two years. Our goal is to help students identify their career pathway before leaving high school to minimize the wasting of time and money by changing colleges or majors, extending the time and increasing the cost of college.

All of the committee members are volunteers so virtually all the money raised through fundraisers or donations goes to the students of CHS. Our website is www.oakeralumni.org and donations may be made there via credit card or by mailing a check to

CHSAA P.O. Box 705 Coventry, RI 02816.

A Debt of Gratitude...

Many thanks to the members of the CHSAA committee, the Alumni Hall of Fame Selection Committee, and all our generous donors. Members of the committee give generously of their time and personal resources to help make the scholarships and grants possible.

CHSAA Committee members: John Ball, Jim Kuipers '85, Mary Ann Cantino, Mary Vandervelde '76, Karen Bookbinder '75, Maureen Jendzejec '75, Andrea Hopkins '64, Kate McCarthy Barnett '85, Suzie Chorney '64, Stacy Ferrara '83, Kevin Dolan '80, Pat Johnson '81, Ernie DiMicco '66

Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Brooke Macomber, Kathy Patenaude, Robert Iannotti '81, Todd Fusco '81, Lynn Blanchette, Florence Duperry '81, Gail Groves '54

Alumni Hall of Fame

The CHS Alumni Hall of Fame currently has 34 members who have brought honor to CHS and who have contributed greatly to the wider community. Their accomplishments serve as a model for CHS students and have made a great difference to our world.

Deserving candidates may be nominated to the Alumni Hall of Fame using the form on our website (www.oakeralumni.org). It should be submitted by August 1, 2019 with supporting documentation. Selections are made by mid-September and the induction dinner will be held in November, 2019.

Grants

Once again this year the CHSAA will sponsor grants to programs in the school that further career education. Grants may be applied for at <https://dimiccoed66.wufoo.com/forms/mksmci61611jtg/> and must be submitted by January 31st. Grants will be awarded by February 15th. Grant typically range from \$200 - \$500.. This link will also be posted on the school website.