



# The Marionette

## Scholarship to Honor an Outstanding Teacher—Marjorie Miller

Several Harding High School alumni have come together to sponsor a Language Arts scholarship honoring one of their favorite teachers, Marjorie Miller. Miss Miller taught English and Latin at Harding and her students remember her as one of the best teachers they ever had.

Miss Miller started her teaching career at Hartshorne in the mid-1930s. During that time she returned to her native Oklahoma City on the Rock Island Rocket each weekend. Soon she obtained a position in Oklahoma City and taught at several Oklahoma City schools including Taft and Northwest Classen. She was invited to become a faculty member at Harding in the 1950s and jumped at the opportunity.

Miss Miller is with us at

the age of 97 and living in the home where she was raised on west Eubanks street. This pioneer family has a long presence in that area as they originally moved to that location in 1910.

Since retirement Miss Miller has become well known in Oklahoma City as a master gardener. She taught courses in master gardening at OSU OKC for many years and only gave up that endeavor in the past year. She was featured in an article published in *Oklahoma Gardener* due to her gardening expertise. Although she did have to give up caring for an extensive vegetable garden, she still maintains the flower gardens around her home.

Those former students who established this fund hope fellow alumni who share their memories of Miss Marjorie Miller will join them in sup-



Marjorie Miller B.A., M.A

porting this scholarship fund.

We hope that Miss Miller will be able to attend the presentation of these scholarships at spring graduations ceremonies.

Donations can be mailed with the form on page 4 of this newsletter. If you would prefer to pay using a credit card or PayPal, go to the HHSAA webpage at [www.hardingalumni.org](http://www.hardingalumni.org).

## Thanks to Chesapeake for a Refurbished Auditorium at Harding

After seeing the state of the auditorium at Harding, Harding Fine Arts Academy parent Mark Orgren took action. He asked his company, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, if their employees could take on the project of renovating the auditorium at the Harding Charter Schools building. Chesapeake agreed resulting in 150 employees volunteering more than 1000 hours to the project over the summer.

The outcome is stunning. The ceiling and stage were repaired with the assistance of funding from several companies. The ugly green paint color is gone and all of the seats have been refurbished. At the opening dedication on August 25th, Martha Burger, senior vice president of Chesapeake human and corporate resources, announced that the floor will soon be replaced and an anonymous donor will soon

replace the worn curtains.

The project is sure to enhance the educational programs of both charter schools at Harding as they continue to add a choice for quality education in the Oklahoma City school district.

Thanks again Chesapeake! Pictures of the auditorium are available for viewing at our website: ([www.hardingalumni.org](http://www.hardingalumni.org)).

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**HCP and HFAA Graduates!**

**We need your new e-mail address.**

**Please report it at**

**[www.hardingalumni.org](http://www.hardingalumni.org)**

## Outstanding Alum—Dr. Tom Dodson '62

After graduation from Harding in 1962 Tom Dodson headed for the University of Oklahoma where he majored in Zoology. He joined Delta Tau Delta fraternity and worked part time at Harold's and the Central State Hospital. In 1965 he had the opportunity to work at the Oklahoma exhibit at the New York World's fair and this is where he met his future wife, an OSU student, Elaine Bachle. Tom married Elaine in 1967.

After graduation from OU, Tom entered the OU College of Medicine in the fall of 1966. During that time he earned extra money as a night watchman at the governor's mansion. He has great stories to share about governor's Bellman and Bartlett.

Tom began his surgical residency in 1967 at UCLA specializing in head and

neck surgery. Although the rigors of a surgical residency are tremendous, he found time to enjoy California including the beach and shooting skeet. After completion of his residency, Tom entered the U.S. Army and was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany where he worked as an ear, nose and throat surgeon. His family enjoyed their time in Europe and traveled with their kids on camping excursions.

Tom and family returned to Tulsa, OK where Tom joined in practice with Dr. John Campbell (HHS '58). He has had a successful career in head and neck surgery in Tulsa since that time.

Tom has a love of flying and has owned a variety of aircraft over the years including WWII fighters and trainers. He holds certification to fly both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. Recently

he has taken up oil painting. He and wife Elaine have two children and three grandchildren.



Tom Dodson, M.D.

## 1959 Reunion—by Joy Richardson

My Harding Class of 1959 graduate husband, **Jerry Richardson**, had been hitting the gym for months in preparation for his 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. The task of finding missing classmates and setting up a website ([harding1959.com](http://harding1959.com)) took up the other hours of the days. So it was a total mystery to me, when we walked in the door of the Friday night picnic, why his classmates had sent their PARENTS to the event!

Oh! It hit me – WE have *matured* into parent/grandparent looking people. That reality didn't stop the fun. With the backdrop of a bucolic setting, music, great food and drink, this group set about having a reunion to remember, renewing life long friendships, sharing joys, unfulfilled dreams, and blessed successes. Nobody seemed to dwell on how important anyone had become – they were there, and that is what counted. Discretely leaving **Kris and Bill Frankfurt's** lovely home at a decent hour, I tucked myself in for my eight hours sleep. Somewhere about

2:30 am my satisfied and happily reminiscing husband rolled home. How wonderful that it was that much fun – and they still had Saturday to live through.

Saturday's schedule included a morning tour of Harding and a talk by an obviously touched and dedicated Principal, **Richard Caram**. HCP's high ranking in the nation by *Newsweek* just that week was an honor richly deserved. Lunch at Bourbon Street Cafe brought recollections of school days, and that continued on to the hospitality room at the Oklahoma City Marriott. Libations were available as Reunion Treasurer **Dennis Kaufman** and Class President **Paul Fernald** had stocked the bar. But Dennis, not being a Vodka drinker, mistakenly bought a giant bottle of CHERRY vodka, and the only person he could convince to drink the stuff said, "Yeechh, there is something very wrong with the tonic in this drink!" I think that bottle of vodka is mingling with the city sewer system.

*The Class of '60 is Planning*

*Their 50th Reunion*

*June 11-12, 2010*

*Contact Linda Madison Hibbs*

*(405) 348-9736*

*OR Check The Website*

*[www.harding60.com](http://www.harding60.com)*

Dressed in their best, classmates gathered Saturday evening at the OKC Marriott for cocktails, dinner, and welcoming remarks. The surprise was entertainment by the band that reconvened from high school, and had practiced their little hearts out, though they lived across the nation from one another! Another 2:30 am bedtime for my husband! Taking a week to recover was a small price to pay for precious memories that will remain in the classmates' hearts for the rest of their lives.

## Fallen Eagles

**Charles Bassett '63**, 4-10-09, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Bill Buckley '59**, 11-13-08, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Donna Kay Thompson Cream '59**, 10-1-08, Reno, NV.

**Dorthlynn Dent Gaddis '58**, 9-12-09, Oklahoma City, OK

**Robert Goldfield '59**, 5-24-08, Prescott Valley, AZ.

**Ken Hirom '61**, 6-27-09, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Ronald Kinkead '59**, 3-4-2009, Oklahoma City, OK.

**John Looney '71**, 6-24-09, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Lowry Morgan '67**, 6-19-09. Oklahoma City, OK.

**Tom Ramsey '67**, 6-2-08, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Ashford Ravenscroft '71**, 5-31-09, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Danny Rees '65**, Splendora, TX.

**Steven Shelby '68**, 9-6-09, Oklahoma City, OK

**Joe Test '67**, 1-9-09, San Francisco, CA.

**Henry Waitman '65**, 3-26-09, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Mickey McCall White '66**, 5-19-09, Oklahoma City, OK.

Report recent deaths at  
[www.hardingalumni.org](http://www.hardingalumni.org)

## HCP Among the Top Public High Schools in the Nation

Congratulations to the faculty and students at Harding Charter Preparatory High School (HCP)! This spring HCP was included in a list published in *Newsweek* magazine that listed the top 6% (1500) of public schools in the nation. This was determined by analysis of data that includes the numbers of advanced placement (AP), International Baccalaureate or Cambridge tests taken by the seniors at the school, divided by the number of graduating seniors. Also listed in the article was the number of AP tests that are passed by the school's students. HCP was ranked 193 among the top public schools. This ranking placed HCP second in the greater metropolitan area, including Edmond and Norman, and third in the entire state. When evaluated by the number of AP tests that were passed, HCP ranked first in the Oklahoma City School System. Considering that the school has the highest percentage of students who qualify for the free lunch program among the Oklahoma schools on the list, the rank of HCP is extraordinary. These results confirm the hypothesis that if the bar is set high, students will rise to that level. Great job, HCP!

## Alumni Association Presents \$11,500 in Scholarships

The HHSAA was delighted to fund \$11,500 in scholarships to spring graduates of the Harding Charter Schools. The Promise Scholarship Fund created by **Kenyon Morgan, '64**, **Carol Meeks McPheeters, '63** and **Sally Frye Bentley, '64** awarded five \$500 scholarships to students at HFAA who excelled creatively and scholastically in the areas of visual arts, drama, music, dance and creative writing. **Quinn Whipkey**, creative writing, will attend Southwest Christian University; **Jessica Pursell**, visual arts, will attend Oklahoma City Community College. The University of Central Oklahoma was chosen by graduates **Terry Banks**, music, and **Andre Brown**, dance. Alumni Association Scholarships of \$1000 were awarded to HHFAA graduates **Mark Hamby** (attending OCCC) and class valedictorian **Candace Vloedman** (attending UCO).

Harding Charter Prep graduates were awarded a total of \$7500 of scholarships. The two \$1000 Alumni Association scholarships were awarded to **Frank Patterson** who is attending UCO and **Andrew Falsetti** who is enrolled at OSU. Andrew is majoring in marketing/public relations and Frank has not yet decided on a major. **Ben Lanier** was the recipient of a \$5000.00 Maurice Sayre Scholarship. Ben has entered the computer sciences program at Carnegie Mellon University. The Sayre scholarship was sponsored by five Harding alumni with contributions by others.

## Annual HHSAA Meeting a Great Success

Fifty eight members of the Harding Alumni Association meet on August 29th for the annual meeting of the HHSAA. This meeting was held at the Iron Star Barbecue which is located at N.W. 36th and Shartel. Most alumni will remember the location as Crown Heights Drug Store, a favorite place for lunch or that after school soda.

President **Steve Craven '60** welcomed the members assembled to the meeting and updated them on the activities of our alumni association over the past year. Most important were the scholarship awards at both Harding Charter Preparatory and the Harding

Fine Arts Academy. **Boyd Barclay '58** announced plans to place three plaques at the Harding building to honor our Viet Nam casualties. In addition, HCP will establish scholarships in the names of the three alumni. Including Dr. Norman Singer '58, Royal George Issacs '59 and Mike Grammer '60.

At the end of the meeting many alumni commented on how much they enjoyed the luncheon meeting and the opportunity to see some classmates whom they had not seen in years.

See pictures from the meeting at our webpage ([www.hardingalumni.org](http://www.hardingalumni.org)).

**To donate to the Viet Nam Scholarships send your check to:**

**Harding Charter Prep**

**3333 N. Shartel**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73118**

Make check out to HCP and indicate who the donation is to honor:

General (honors all vets)

Dr. Norman Singer '58

Royal George Issacs '59

Mike Grammer '60



**HARDING HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA CITY**

P. O. Box 54307  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154

## Pay Your Dues or Send a Contribution

**Your dues are what keep this newsletter coming**

Yearly dues are \$25.00 (for the year beginning 6-1-09 through 5-31-10) and lifetime dues are \$150.00

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name while at Harding \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

HHS class \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**I have included payment for :** Annual dues \_\_\_\_\_ ; Lifetime dues \_\_\_\_\_.

**I have included a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation for the 2009-2010 HHSAA scholarship fund(s).**

**Please indicate which scholarship fund:** General (B) \_\_\_\_\_ ; Sayre (CP) \_\_\_\_\_ ; Miller (B) \_\_\_\_\_ ; Promise (FA) \_\_\_\_\_

Paranthesis indicate where the scholarship(s) will be awarded: Both Schools (B), Charter Prep (CP), Fine Arts (FA)

**My \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution is for the general gifts/memorial fund:** \_\_\_\_\_ . if this donation is in memory of a deceased alum please indicate their name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Dues and Contributions to the HHSAA Are Tax Deductible**

**Make checks payable to the HHSAA**

Donors receive recognition as Scholarship Sponsor -Platinum Eagle Donor (\$1000+) Golden Eagle Donor,(\$500-999), Silver Eagle Donor (\$250-499), Bronze Eagle Donor (\$100-249) or Eagle Donor (\$1-99).

Mail to: HHSAA, P.O. Box 54307, Oklahoma City, OK 73154