



The Marionette

HFAA Names a New Principal

With the retirement of **Sherry Rowan**, former principal of HFAA, the school was in need of a new principal. They found that person among their own. Mr. **Barry Schmelzenbach**, formerly the Assistant Principal and Director of Admissions fit the bill. Mr. Schmelzenbach's education includes a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Regis University in Denver, CO and a M.A. degree in Educational Leadership from Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, OK. Prior to joining the faculty of HFAA, his work experience was in jewelry design and management of Opals International Ltd. Bethany, OK for seven years, followed by ten years working as a marketing consultant and graphic designer. He was a freelance writer during that time producing

marketing copy and press-releases. His professional experience in the field resulted in proficiency in the Adobe software packages that are used in the graphic design field.

Mr. Schmelzenbach's professional experience made him a great fit for his teaching appointment to the HFAA faculty in 2007 where he developed the Journalism curriculum including Newspaper, Yearbook, Computer Graphic Design, and Webb Development, as well as Design classes. His program became nationally recognized and afforded students the opportunity to connect their course objectives with for-profit and non-profit clientele. Mr. Schmelzenbach secured grants to expand the programs at HFAA that provided for student training and equipment purchase. From 2010 to the



Barry Schmelzenbach

present, Mr. Schmelzenbach has been Director of Admissions and during his tenure the student body increased by 46%.

As Assistant Principal he secured a \$60K technology grant and implemented and trained faculty to integrate that technology into their curriculum. He raised awareness of HFAA in to promote the mission of partnering with surrounding schools and non-profits.

With all his accomplishments at HFAA it is no wonder that Mr. Schmelzenbach was appointed as Principal this summer where he takes on the role of "preparing students for their lives in an ever-changing world".

HFAA Makes Top School List

Each year U.S. News and World report ranks the top public high schools in the U.S. Congratulations go to Harding Fine Arts Academy for their Silver Medal ranking by

the publication. The school made it into the top 1800 nationally, the top 10 in the state of Oklahoma and 4th in the Oklahoma City School System.

Class of 1965

Your 50th Reunion is slated for:

June 19-20, 2015

Updates on plans for the reunion can be found at your class website

www.harding65.org

Be sure to register and submit a biography whether you can come to the reunion or not. This new site offers great opportunities to reconnect and interact with your classmates.

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Outstanding Alum: Dr. Daniel Smith '64

Dan Smith, a 1964 graduate of Harding High, graduated from Harvard University in 1968 followed by completion of his M.D. degree at Harvard Medical School in 1972.

Dan's post-graduate medical education included a general surgery residency at Mass General Hospital, Boston, from 1972-1975 and from 1978-1979. In between the two stints a Mass General he completed an OB-GYN residency at the University of California/LAC+USC Medical Center. He completed advanced oncology training at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Dan is the only physician in the world to be triple board certified in surgery, obstetrics & gynecology, and gynecologic oncology.

Dan and his wife Jennifer spent the remainder of their careers in a New York suburb. Dan had a successful private practice and Jennifer, who holds advanced degrees in nursing and business, ultimately became Senior Associate Dean of the School of Nursing, Columbia, University. They have two sons, one living in New York City and the second an Assistant Professor at the Technical University of Delft, Holland.

Dan and Jennifer both retired when Dan was 68. Dan thought he would kick back and just enjoy. That plan lasted about three months. He was approached by a group that purchased three failed hospitals in Hudson County, New Jersey. They asked Dan to start a robotic surgery program, a cancer

program, run the gynecologic-oncology service and start a simulation center.

Dan took on the challenge



Dan Smith, M.D.

as it provided an opportunity for him to give service to one of the poorest, most densely populated areas in the greater New York area. While he had at one time considered doing some medical missionary work as a way to pay back, this challenge fills the bill and as Dan said "I do not need a passport or visa...just a Metro card.

64 Reports on a Great 50th Reunion

Submitted by Mary Walker '64

The marathon of letting the good times roll again for the class of '64 began on a Friday evening and ran through Sunday brunch...thus proving many of us can still endure, I mean enjoy, an epic three day weekend. Did I mention this was our 50th Reunion? Fifty years, yet ageless.

"Better Homes and Gardens" missed a chance for a photo-shoot at the home of **Linda Lee Carpenter**. The beautiful yard and pool area were the perfect setting for the first gathering of Eagles. The superb BBQ dinner was provided by the OKC fave, "Bedlam BBQ". Our thanks to **Charles Gnagy Watts** for having a son who owns the establishment!! Great job by **Linda Carpenter, Linda Dunn, Donna Finley** and **Johnny McCharren**.

This was the first opportunity to see our Reunion Yearbook. Everyone was so blown away with the awesome job **Rich Bard** had done! Classmates are still sending in the kudos and notes of appreciation. Our children and grandchildren now have some historically informative and great stories of our glory

days! Special thanks to Rich aka Clyde and his on-line, long distance assistant, **Mary Susan Sisk-Bond**.

Saturday morning brought many of us together at Harding High for an Assembly featuring our own **Charles Watts**. He related stories of some of his and his friend's antics during their high school days, proving if you go to the best school and have the best teachers, anyone can succeed. Following the assembly and a walk through the familiar halls, it was lunch at Johnnie's...where else?! How fun to spend a long lunch period together without trying to rush back and beat the bell. The non-locals were scarfing up those onion rings and "Split T" sauced burgers. We could have stayed all day -- except for a scheduled Happy Hour at Cock-O-The-Walk, hosted by **Danny Murdock**. Now everyone was primed for a great Saturday night affair.

The Saturday evening venue was so very perfect!! **Dee Harris and Franci Hart** made fabulous choices for decor and food. **Danny Murdock** chose the best band that played "our" dance music. The minute we saw Mrs. Wisner dancing as fast as her

"cardboard" feet could be moved...we knew the Class of '64 was on the floor, twisting and shouting!! Who knew she was included in **Mickey Blackledge's** dance card?! Dee and Franci were assisted by **Vicki Phelps, Dahl Luttrell, Mollie Chrisman and Patsy Kuhn. Roger Hoskins** is now our official Eagle Emcee!

Sunday...another event?! Thinking I was partied out and admitting the bounce was leaving my step, I did not realize that our Sunday brunch at Bellini's would be the best way to slow down, recap and say farewell. What a superb idea! This was a relaxing way to visit and promise to stay in touch. As far as I know, several of us are still emailing and Facebooking...add phone calls and visits proves we are trying!!

The Reunion Committee worked within teams to produce this weekend of wonderful memories. We all plan to take a sip of something from our HHS Reunion cups, flip through the professional quality Yearbook, smile at all our photos and stay in touch!! One phrase sums up our weekend..."We're the Best, there are NO more...(50 years later), we're (still) the Class of '64!!

Fallen Eagles

- Dr. James Anderson '58**, 4-14-14, Pottsboro, TX.
- Paul Andres '58**, 5-4-14, Oklahoma City, OK.
- Jerry Cutter '61**, 11-17-13, Kersey, CO.
- Mary Morgan Davy '58**, 8/17/14, Oklahoma City, OK
- Fred Hahn '63**, 7-1-14, Oklahoma City, OK.
- Claude Hamon '59**, 7-27-14, Oklahoma City, OK.
- Bob Howell '65**, 6-13-14, Checotah, OK.
- John Laughlin '67**, 6-23-14. Oklahoma City, OK.
- Doug McCord '65**, 6-19-14. Oklahoma City, OK.
- Carol Hannold Morrison '60**, 3-10-14. Colorado Springs, CO.
- JoLynne Birkhead Phinizy '63**, 7-7-14, Roswell, NM.
- Margaret Morgan Zahn '63**, 2-16-14, Oklahoma City, OK.

Please report recent deaths at www.hardingalumni.org

HFAA Recipient of HHSAA Scholarship Pays it Forward

The HHSAA presented a scholarship to **HFAA graduate McKenzie Ellis** in the spring of 2013. Makenzie was a straight-A student at HFAA and received three academic scholarships. She was admitted to the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY where she plans to major in Web Coding or Interactive Media. One of her hobbies is writing and recording songs. Some of her songs are featured on several different music blogs. Makenzie recently signed a contract for one of her songs with Mercedes Benz. The company will use the song in future promotions. Makenzie decided to "pay it back" by funding a scholarship to a HFAA graduate of 2014. Makenzie writes " after being surprised with a gracious **Harding Alumni Scholarship** during graduation last year, I decided to pay it forward to a student that demonstrated both artistic and academic focus.

Without the support of Harding Fine Arts Academy and their motivation to foster creativity, I may not have chosen to attend Pratt Institute and the study of Web Design".

Steve Craven '60 Steps Down from HHSAA Board

Steve Craven '60, president of the HHSAA, stepped down from his position and the HHSAA Board this summer. During his years on the board, 6 years were devoted to service as the President. The association thanks Steve for his participation and leadership in the organization. During his tenure the HHSAA raised scholarship money that funded scholarships at HCP and HHFA totaling \$68,500. We wish Steve the best as he takes on the new challenges and opportunities of his life.

Officers were elected at the September meeting of the HHSAA board. They are:

President: Greg Robertson '64

Vice President: Johnny McCharen '64

Treasurer: Becky Blackstock '61

Secretary: Larry Lago '66

Put it on your calendar

Harding Charter Prep Silent Auction

Special honorees—Bill and Kris Frankfurt '59

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Will Rogers Theatre

4322 N. Western Avenue



Enjoying the Class of 64 reunion: Rich Bard, Mary Walker and Susan Sisk Bond.

OPPS!

We failed to list one of the scholarship donors for the 2013-2014 year in our last issue. Our thanks go to:

Bronze Eagle Donor

Marion Bulla Horning, '62



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

12101 N. MacArthur Blvd.
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Oklahoma City, OK 73162-1800

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Help Us Fulfill the Goal of \$12,000 in Scholarships for the Class of 2015 at the Harding Charter Schools!

Yearly dues are \$25.00 (for the year beginning 6-1-14 through 5-31-15) 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 HHSAA scholarship fund(s) or gift fund:

Please indicate which fund General (B) _____ ; Sayre (CP) _____ ; Miller (B) _____ ;

Promise (FA) _____ ; Campbell (CP) _____ Gifts (B) _____.

Parenthesis indicate which school is supported: Both Schools (B), Charter Prep (CP), Fine Arts (FA)

My contribution is in honor of :

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, 12101 N. MacArthur, Box 290, Oklahoma City, OK 73162-1800