



The Marionette

Three HCP Seniors are National Merit Semi-finalists !

Harding Charter Preparatory seniors James Williams, Cade Bross and Garrett Ekers have been named National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists. They await announcement of those who are finalists later this spring.

James Williams says that it is "nice to be recognized for academics" in an environment that often recognizes sports and other extracurricular activities. He believes that this honor "opens up a lot of scholarship opportunities" and will "take a huge burden" from his family who currently have two other children at HCP.

James has been accepted at the University of Oklahoma and awaits decisions from 18 other colleges including University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania and Washington University. He plans to major in engineering or economics.

During high school,

James has participated in baseball, speech and debate. He is also active in his church youth group.

Cade Bross says the honor "is definitely a huge honor because there are three students at Harding and I know a lot of schools that are five times bigger with four" finalists.

During high school Bross was on the baseball team and completed all of the art classes at HCP. Outside of school he plays the guitar and works.

Cade is currently accepted by the University of Oklahoma and awaits decisions from Brown University and the University of Chicago. He is undecided regarding his major.

Garrett Ekers is not only a National Merit semi-finalists but has also been named a National Black Scholar (a program within National Merit program for excellence among black students). Of the 160,000 students that

enter the program, only 4,700 are awarded this honor.

About his selection Garrett says that "once it hit me, it was not only quite overwhelming but very overpowering. I was really surprised.....A ton of weight fell off my shoulders". The National Merit Achievement honor provides reassurance to Garrett if he does not become a National Merit Finalists.

Eakers is accepted by the University of Oklahoma and is waiting on decisions from Washington University, Missouri, Vanderbilt and Wesleyan Universities. He plans to major in microbiology.

Garrett served as secretary of the National Honor Society and participated in speech, debate, tennis and basketball at HCP.

Both Bross and Eakers cite the practice with the Harding pre-PSAT team as contributing to their success on the test.

Annual Meeting of the Membership

Saturday, July 18th

Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler

2652 W. Britton Road

12:00 p.m.

Purchase your lunch and join Harding alumni in the private room on the southwest side of the restaurant

Inside this issue:

Outstanding Alum—Dr. Nancy Virtue Lewis	2
HFAA facilities	2
Class of '65 reunion	3
Fallen Eagles	3
Donors pay it forward	3
Dues / Donations Form	4

Outstanding Alum - Dr. Nancy Virtue Lewis '68

It was with great sadness that the Harding High community learned of the death of one of our outstanding alumni, Nancy Virtue Lewis. Nancy was a leader while in high school and that attribute followed her throughout life no matter what she did.

Nancy graduated from Colorado College in 1972 with a B.S. degree in political science. She obtained her M.A. degree in teaching from OCU and started her career as a teacher of sociology and psychology at Norman High School. In addition, she was the girl's track coach. Her team took second in the state.

In 1977 Nancy returned to Colorado Springs where she taught students with mental health or behavioral issues at a hospital and youth ranch. Later she obtained her D.Ed. degree from Oklahoma State University.

During her life and in her career Nancy's passions included issues related to children, education, racial justice and persons with disabilities. She worked tirelessly for these issues beginning in high school when she presented talks promoting racial harmony during the period of racial strife of the late 1960s. As a teacher she lobbied the state legislature in support of public education and

became a full-time lobbyist for the Oklahoma Education Association. Her experience in the lobbying arena led Nancy to run for and be elected to the State House of Representatives where she served from 1982 to 1986. Her primary focus as a legislator was to work for adequate and equitable funding of Oklahoma's public schools.

Nancy choose not to run for a third term and instead became the first director of the Sooner Start Program where she played an important role in gaining legislative support and funding for the program. Her battle was to convince skeptical legislators why they should allocate scarce government resources to toddlers who may have a limited life span. She was able to convince them that, because of the importance of brain development during the first three years of life, this program would enhance achievement in these children who also deserve to live the best life that they can.

In 1990, Nancy became Executive Director of the Oklahoma County Medical Society. A move to Tulsa occurred when her husband became U.S. Attorney in Tulsa. Nancy became an administrator of the Tulsa Community College. Later President David Boren recruited her to lead the OU portion of the Univer-

sity Center at Tulsa. As the OU program in Tulsa further developed, Nancy stepped into her dream job as Vice-President at



Nancy Virtue Lewis, D. Ed OU-Tulsa. The onset of illness forced her retirement from that job in 2005.

Nancy was active in the community serving as trustee of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, the board of the Foundation for Tulsa Schools and the Community Service Council. She also served as President of the Tulsa Library Commission.

Above all of her titles and accomplishments, her greatest joy was that of "Mom" which occurred upon the birth of her son Reed in 1995.

Nancy died on September 24th, 2014. She leaves behind her husband, Steve Lewis, son Reed and two step children, Brad Lewis and Sidney Bivings. She also leaves two step grandchildren, a sister, two brothers and their families.

HFAA Works to Improve Facilities

The HFAA charter approves a total of 500 students, however space constraints currently only allow 360 per year. This situation currently necessitates a lottery system for admission. The school now has a three step plan to improve the space in which they operate. First, to convert the library into three classrooms; second, to renovate the pool area into a drama and dance studio; third, convert the current dance room into a modern library.

Principal Schmelzenbach describes this summer as their mountain to climb when teachers, students, administrators and families worked tirelessly in a build-

ing without air conditioning to clear the library and divide it into three classrooms with new paint, carpeting, intercoms and wireless access. Four of their families donated a total of 1000 hours to the project! Mr. Schmelzenbach estimates that he climbed a total of 60,961 feet in stairs during the process which is more than four times the height of Mt. Rainer.

Phase II is underway in the pool area and locker rooms which have been stripped, electrical and lighting upgraded, sub-flooring installed, wireless and intercom added and teacher's office built. Next will come electrical and HVAC

installation.

Phase III will provide the school with an updated multimedia center with computers for both students and parents to use, a conference room and counselors' offices.

By state law, charter schools do not receive money for facilities from the district and are forbidden from incurring any debt. This leaves only private fundraising and grants for obtaining the financial support for improvement of physical facilities. The school is currently pursuing these avenues to complete the project.

CLASS OF '65

Don't forget to register for
Your 50th-year reunion

June 19th - 20th, 2015

Complete Information
at

www.harding65.org

Fallen Eagles

George Adkins '68, 9/25/14, Garland, TX
John Berry '65, 9/29/14, Midwest City, OK.
Larry Bisel '59, 11/15/14, Yukon, OK.
Bill Boatman '60, 9/9/14, Stillwater, OK.
Charles Caradine '59, 4/13/13, Jacksonville, AK.
Steve Comeaux '64, 11/12/14, Stuart, FL.
J.D. Dowdell Jr. '64, 10/20/14, Oklahoma City, OK.
Robert Erwin '60, 11/7/14, Oklahoma City, OK.
Wayne Hirst '58, 2/14/15, Los Fresnos, TX.
Wm. E. Ishmael D.D.S. '60, 1/30/15, Cookson, OK.
Nancy Virtue Lewis '68, 9/24/14, Tulsa, OK.
Elizabeth Lawley Little '59, 12/17/14, Oklahoma City, OK.
Caroline Luna Adams '60, 10/14/14, Oklahoma City, OK.
Spencer Lynn II '68, 6/8/14, Walnut, CA.
Susan Hubbard Murphy '64, 7/12/14, Bratenahl, OH.
Warren Neal Jr. '64, 2/11/15, Oklahoma City, OK.
David Schulman '66, 12/29/14, Oklahoma City, OK.
Dennis Taylor '65, 3/7/14, Santa Fe, NM.

(report recent deaths to
www.hardingalumni.org)

Platinum Eagle Donors

Rebecca Blackstock Ph.D. '61
Charles Givens '68
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Dennis Kaufman '59
Barbara Kimmel Miller '59 and
Henderson Miller
Judy Johnson Ruby-Brown '60
and
David Brown

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Jeff Glasgow '64
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Sara Fugitt Reid '61
Joyce Kamensky Silver '58
Ruth Smith '67
John Stallings '58
Bob Sullivan '64

In Memory Of

Vernon Pellow '64
Dr. James Anderson '58
Walter J. Stark Sr.

Honoring

Johnny McCharen '64

*Donations 3/17/14 through 3/15/15



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

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

Non Profit Org.
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The new year starts June 1—now is the time to pay your yearly dues or opt for a lifetime membership

Yearly dues are \$25.00 (for the year beginning 6-1-15 through 5-31-16) 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/memory 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