



The Marionette

HCP Celebrates 10 Years and Blue Ribbon School Honor

On February 18, 2014 HCP founders, past and present faculty, governance board members, past and present students and HHSAA members celebrated a decade of excellence and the 2013 honor that named the school a “National Blue Ribbon School”.

Talks by those involved in starting the school were presented as several people “Shared the Journey” of the beginning from starting a school, where students had to be recruited for the first year, to today when slots must be filled by a lottery.

Dr. Janet Barresi (HCP founder) talked about the beginning with a simple idea that came to her from then teacher at PC North, Carole Kelly. Mrs. Kelly believed that a rigorous college preparatory curriculum composed of AP courses could be completed by any child that had the ambition to attend college, not just those who scored high on national tests as was the practice in most schools. Soon Mr. Richard Caram shared the vision and agreed to become the first principal of the school. Their charter was approved in May of 2003 and the first freshman class was to begin by mid-August of that same year. Not much time to get out the word, fill student slots, and find a location. After they became aware of the availability of the Harding building, they made a visit. What they found was a complete

disaster. There was no air conditioning, a marginal heating system, a huge hole in the ceiling of the auditorium, stored furniture from other sites, the need for paint everywhere, leaks in windows and roof. The list goes on and on.

In spite of the problems, there were teachers in the vicinity that also shared the educational vision and were willing to take a “leap of faith” and a huge professional risk to sign on.

That summer those dedicated educators and sometimes their families cleaned, moved furniture and supplies, painted and somehow got the facility to a condition, while not ideal, was at least capable of holding classes.

School opened for the fall semester with 72 freshman students. There was no science lab, no computers and many other things that most schools have. However, the students did learn. As Mr. Caram pointed out, “Harding is about relationships and how to unlock what the students would become and accomplish”.

During the first year, a number of Harding High School alumni visited the building and it was then that the Mr. Caram and Dr. Barresi began to understand that the school that they envisioned actually did exist in that building in years past. They credit part of the success of the school to the generosity of Har-

ding alumni for providing services such as electrical, auditorium sound, scholarships and other teaching equipment needs. Major renovations to the physical facility by a grant from the US government and generous grants from community sources have all come together to improve the building substantially over the past few years.

Outstanding teachers, engaged parents and motivated students all resulted in a transformation of education in Oklahoma City. This transformation was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in 2013 when HCP was named a National Blue Ribbon School. HCP is one of only two schools among the Blue Ribbon recipient schools with 40 percent or more of their students classified as disadvantaged.

HCP graduate, Peter Wright, explained his high school experience by saying, “if you work hard, and seize opportunities, you can succeed”. Mr. Wright is now a college graduate and works in communications at the Oklahoma State Board of Education.

Former HCP teacher, now a professor at OCU, Mr. Stephen Prilliman, summed up the success of the school to the students themselves when he said “it was their success that made our success”.

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HHSAA MEMBERSHIP!

Saturday, July 12th, 2014
Johnnie’s Charcoal Broiler
2652 W. Britton Road
12:00 p.m.

Purchase your lunch and join Harding alumni in the private room at the southwest side of the building

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Outstanding Alum—Dr. Rebecca Blackstock '61

After graduation from Harding in 1961, Becky Blackstock attended college at Oklahoma State University where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi. She graduated in 1965 as a Phi Kappa Phi honor student with a degree in Microbiology. Becky attended graduate school at the OU Health Sciences Center and obtained M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. While a graduate student, she was supported by an OMRF Colin McLeod Fellowship. A post-doctoral fellowship followed at the University of Florida College of Medicine. While there she was one of the first young U.S. scientists to be granted an individual National Research Service Award awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Her post-doctoral work focused on the study of tumor biology and immunology.

Becky returned to Oklahoma in 1976 to join the Hematology/Oncology unit as an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics with an adjunct appointment in Microbiology and Immunology. She developed and directed the only clinical lab in Oklahoma with the ability to evaluate the function of the human immune system. This lab provided physicians with the needed information for diagnosis of immune deficiency and autoimmune disorders. Her research lab focused on study of immune responses induced by a

fungal organism (*Cryptococcus neoformans*) that causes chronic meningitis. Specifically, the work defined host responses to a polysaccharide component of the yeast cell that inhibit protective immunity. She received national and international recognition for her work which was funded by the NIH. She was invited to present her work at scientific meetings in the U.S. and abroad. Her work resulted in contribution of over 50 publications to the scientific literature. In 1990 she was a visiting scientist at the Clinical Research Centre, Harrow, U.K. where she did collaborative research with scientists from Britton and Poland. At the OUHSC, she was awarded the Provost's Research Award for Senior Faculty.

In 1996 Dr. Blackstock became a full-time member of the Department of Microbiology at the OUSHC where she continued her research efforts and focused more attention to teaching. She was the director of the medical student and dental student Microbiology and Immunology teaching programs and director of the Graduate Student Program of the department. She achieved the final rank of Full Professor and was twice named among the top three outstanding professors by second year medical students.

Her service to the University included

membership and chairmanships on numerous college and university committees. At the national level she was an associate editor of the Journal of Immunology and reviewed papers for many other scientific journals.

She served the NIH as a reviewer of grants and contracts and was a member of the Council of the American Society for Microbiology. She was elected to Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology and served on several committees of the organization.

Before and after retirement in 2008, Becky served the HHSAA as founding member, Vice-President, Marionette Editor and Treasurer at different times. She is dedicated to providing quality education in the Oklahoma public school system and is a sponsor of the Maurine Sayre Scholarship. Becky enjoys working out at the gym 5 days a week, biking, playing Mah Jongg with friends, travel and reading.



Rebecca Blackstock, Ph.D.

Harding Fine Arts Receives Technology Grant

Harding Fine Arts Academy started the new school year with a major improvement to technology resources at the school. A federal E-rate grant was awarded in the amount of \$40,000 for the purpose of purchasing of new computers and iPads and providing the faculty a professional development program which will allow them to integrate technology into their curriculum. The grant was used to purchase 24

computers, 30 iPads, document cameras and a digital microscope. The HFAA board committed another \$24,000 to provide major improvements to infrastructure of the school. Overall the access to technology was increased twenty fold.

As the school year began faculty were busy learning and planning the new educational opportunities that these new resources make possible.

If You Shop at Amazon Consider Supporting HCP

The Amazon Associates Program can be used to support Harding Charter Prep every time you shop. Just bookmark the following link:

<http://www.amazon.com/?tag=wwwwharcin-gcha-20&camp=&creative=4365&linkCode=url&ref=ref-fURL=http%3A%2Fwww.hardingcharterprep.org%%Facademics%2Flibrary%2F>

Amazon sends the school a monthly gift card based on sales that originate from the link. The funds are used to purchase books for the library. The link is also found at:

www.hardingcharterprep.org/academics/library/

Ken Bergman '63, 10/6/2013, Blanchard, OK.
Sonny Boyles '58, 1/18/2014, Oklahoma City, OK.
Joe Paul Chapman '64, 2/28/2014, Oklahoma City, OK.
T. Wayne Francis, Teacher, 1/15/2014, Piedmont, OK.
William Horton '65, 2012.
Julie Dean Robertson Leverett '67, 1/9/2014, New Bronfils, TX.
Mary Carel Nave '61, 11/23/2013, McKinney, TX.
Marilyn Magers Poe '63, 11/17/2013, Yukon, OK.
Debra Connally Mullen, '66, 2013.
Dan Stuart '62, 12/31/2013, Oklahoma City, OK.
Hal Sullivan '68, 12/14/2013, Rockwall, TX.
Nick VanMatre '58, 2/20/2014, San Diego, CA.
Valarie Jean Vernon '65, 12/23/2013, Carlesbad, CA.

Please Report Recent Deaths at
www.hardingalumni.org

Class of '64 Reunion Update

The class of 1964 50th reunion will be June 27th, 28th and 29th. Those in the class who have not emailed or snail mailed your bio and pictures for the Yearbook need to do so asap. If you misplaced your bio form, contact Susan Sisk-Bond at nrm-rsbond@sbcglobal.net or 405-942-5772. You have probably already received information on the activities being planned. Friday night will be casual at Johnny McCharen's home, with Saturday morning at Harding followed by lunch at Johnnie's on Britton Road. There will be a Saturday pre-party at Cock-O-The Walk hosted by Danny Murdock followed by dinner, drinks and dialogue at the Oklahoma Sports Association Jim Thorp building on Lincoln Blvd. Franci King-Hart and Dee Ingram-Harris are in charge of the Saturday night event and are sure to have some fun activities in store for all. Your reunion committee has even scheduled a Sunday brunch at Bellini's to round off the weekend.

Platinum Eagle Donors

Rebecca Blackstock '61
 Linda Harris Evans '66
 Charles Givens '68
 Dennis Kaufman '59
 Judy Johnson Ruby-Brown '60
 Jim Walker '67

Golden Eagle Donors

Mary Susan Sisk Bond '64
 Joe Briley '63
 Roger Edwards '63
 Bill and Kris Reeves Frankfurt '59
 Jeff Glasgow '64
 Barbara Kimmell Miller '59
 James Thompson '61
 Cindy Anderson Cochran '60

Silver Eagle Donors

Nancy Wilson Ellis '59
 Stephen Leopold '62
 Weston Solomon '69
 David Wilson '62
 Anne Branan Ward '64

Bronze Eagle Donors

Paul Alexander '64
 Austin and Marilyn Wheeler Anderson '64
 Joe Baker '64
 Steve Craven '60
 Michael T. Evans '63
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 Susan Moorman '63
 Peter Pierce '67
 Eileen Goodart Shane '63
 Carolyn Spurlock Sims '67
 Libby Freede Stevens '69
 Phil Truss '60

Donna Smith Watson '61

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 Donna Murdock Kaiser '68
 Susan Ketch '66
 Bob Looney '63
 Troye Ann Maggard '66
 Michael Markman '64
 Stephen Miller '58
 Brian Mitchell '68
 Colin Odom '66
 Janet Kamber Price '61
 Ruth Smith '67
 Toni Adams Sonnenfeld '66
 John Stallings '58
 Sarilee Janger Steiner '62
 Rosilyn Johnson Warren '64
 Terry Wyatt '60
 Guy Zahn '65

Fallen Eagles Honored

Dan Bolen '62
 Class of 1964
 Dianne Cottrell '60
 Robert Durden, Teacher
 Mike Grammar '60
 Mary Jane Rapp-Griggs Close '67
 Nancy Sanger Smart '58
 Steve Solomon '66

*Donations from 3/16/13—3/15/14



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

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Box 290
Oklahoma City, OK 73162-1800

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IT IS TIME TO PAY ANNUAL DUES OR BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER

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) _____.

Paranthesis 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