



OUTSTANDING ALUMNI—OUTSTANDING FACULTY

This spring the Harding High School family lost three of its best. Ed Rotzinger, Marjorie Miller and Jerry Potter died between May 5 and June 19th. As these three were certainly among the most outstanding faculty at Harding, we dedicate this issue to them and include some of their many accomplishments below:

Edmond Rotzinger



Ed Rotzinger was born on July 30, 1924 and passed away on May 5, 2015 just shy of his 91st birthday. He was born and raised in Columbia, PA and was raised, along with his sister, by his maternal grandmother after his mother passed away when Ed was 2 years old. From the very beginning Ed excelled at sports, especially football. After high school, he attended Lebanon Valley College where he had a football scholarship. With the entry of the US into World War II, Ed joined the Navy. During his military service he continued to play football and it was his military coach who picked him to help found an OCU football squad after the war. It was at OCU where Ed met his wife of 65 years, Wadad “Poochie” Hassen. His family grew to one daughter, three granddaughters and three great grand-children. While family was certainly the most important thing in Ed’s life, coaching came in a close second. His career of almost 30 years was spend at Harding High School and later at John Marshall where he coached football and track. Ed was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame and the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame (Susquehanna Chapter). His family remember his impact on those in the community by the fact that they could never go out in public without being stopped by a former student who always wanted to reminisce with “Coach”. Ed Rotzinger never met a stranger, a man of humility, kindness and pure happiness. He retained his ability to laugh even as Alzheimer’s disease overtook him during the last few years of life. Harding Alumni will always remember Ed Rotzinger fondly and those whom he coached will cherish the impact he had on their lives.

Marjorie Miller



Miss Marjorie Milled passed away on May 31, 2015 at the age of 102. Marjorie was born in Noble, OK but the family moved to Oklahoma City soon thereafter. They lived just west of Pennsylvania Ave near NW 36th street. Marjorie would continue to live in the same house for over 90 years. Marjorie graduated from Classen High School at the age of 16. She was a Phi Beta Kappa student at the University of Oklahoma where she obtained a bachelor’s and master’s degree by the age of 21. Marjorie started her teaching career in Hartshorne but returned to Oklahoma City after one year to teach at Foster High School. She taught at Taft Junior High from just after WWII until 1956, spent one year at NW Classen and move to Harding High the next year where she remained until the school was closed in 1968. She taught at Northeast High School the next 10 years until her retirement. While Harding

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Class of '66—50th Reunion

May 21—May 22, 2016

Join Your Class Website At **Harding66.com** and fill out your personal page—whether you plan to attend or not it is a great way to keep connected and get the latest updates regarding the reunion plans or class news.

If you have problems with the website or need other information, contact Bill Roark for help (Bill@RoarkApraisal.com, 405-728-3412)

students know Miss Miller as an accomplished English, Spanish and Latin teacher, she also had a wide variety of interests outside the classroom. Many may know that after retirement Marjorie Miller became well known in the region as a Master Gardener. She taught classes on the subject and spent countless hours as a volunteer at the Oklahoma Horticultural Center. She belonged to numerous horticultural and flower groups and traveled throughout the world to view gardens. She received the OKC Beautiful Lifetime Achievement Award and the Oklahoma Icon of Gardening Award. Many may not know that Marjorie had a great interest in music. As a girl she studied violin and was rated as a concert level violinist by the age of 16. She was most fond of classical music and opera. She had several friends who shared her interest in opera and they all attended the opera in Oklahoma City, Dallas and Tulsa on a regular basis. Other trips included enjoying the opera in San Francisco, New York City, and London. Marjorie was a sponsor of the opera program on KCSC radio in Oklahoma City and was a founding member of the Civic Music Association of Oklahoma City. Due to her civic and teaching accomplishments she was honored as one of the Outstanding Women of the Twentieth Century by the YWCA.

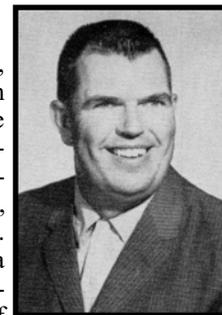
A “Celebration of Life” for Marjorie was held at Harding this summer. Former students and many friends Marjorie made during her life were in attendance. Students who spoke at the service commented on her high expectations and how she taught them to study and take notes, skills that prepared them for college. **Tim Mauldin ’65** said that Miss Miller was “always your friend and your educator through life”. Many other students felt the same way as they continued to visit her and send cards, even after she lived in assisted living during the last few years. Her students always called her Miss Miller. Miss Miller was delighted that the Harding Alumni Association established a scholarship fund in her name a few years ago. Miss Miller’s good friends, who always called her Marjorie, talked of her kindness to others; sharing cuttings and flowers from her garden with anyone who wanted them and especially flowers with children so they could take a bouquet to their mother; opening her home on holidays to friends and neighbors who did not have family; paying the friend that mowed her lawn to mow the lawn of an elderly neighbor who could not afford lawn care. It is not surprising that on her 95th birthday, over 200 people were in attendance.

Lyle Henry and his wife were long-time friends of Marjorie Miller and provided caregiving to her during the last years of her life. Lyle made a video tape of Marjorie that he shared with the audience. In the video Marjorie talked about teaching. She believed that she had the most brilliant minds in the nation and prayed that she would be able to do the best job of teaching them. Her main goal was to inspire her students. When asked “what is the purpose of the long and happy life” Miss Miller replied “to have a purpose”. Near the end of the service **Curt Harris ’63** commented “as a former student I knew Miss Miller. Today I learned about Marjorie”. We can truly say that Marjorie Miller did have purpose in her life and she fulfilled that purpose and then some.

(If you would like to honor Miss Miller in some way, please consider a contribution to the HHSAA Marjorie Miller Scholarship Fund. It is in need of an infusion of dollars so we can keep it viable in future years.)

Jerry Potter

Jerald Allen Potter was born on July 25th, 1925 in Edmond, OK. He grew up in Lindsay and Maysville, OK before moving to Oklahoma City where he attended Harding Junior High School and Classen High School. Jerry left Classen as a Junior to join the Marine Corps during World War II. During that time he was a gunner on TBF Avenger and survived the bloodiest battle in Marine Corps history, the Battle of Peleliu. After the war Jerry returned to Classen and completed his degree. He played college football at Cameron University and Oklahoma City University. Coach Potter began his coaching career in Verden, OK, where he coached basketball and baseball. His basketball team went to the finals of the regional tournament. He was assistant coach of basketball and football in Chickasha and at Central High School in Oklahoma City. When Harding became a Jr-Sr High School Jerry became the head football coach. He took two Harding teams to the state finals. In 1965 Jerry move to Putnam City as Head Coach. During the 1970s three of his teams won the state football championship. He was named Oklahoma City “Coach of the Year” in 1977 and District Five “Coach of the Year”. Coach Potter was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame and the National High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame. His career culminated with a record of 177-67-8.



Coach Potter’s impact was so great on Oklahoma sports that a full page article was devoted to his career at the time of his passing. Former students and coaching colleagues commented on his impact on their lives. Primarily as a great role model and a coach who had a knack for knowing which position was best for each player. He is credited with moving Pro Football Hall of Fame player Steve Largent from back to running back when he was in high school, a move that lead Largent to hold every major NFL career receiving record. According to Largent “that move altered the landscape of my life”. For Largent Potter was not only a coach but a father to a young man who grew up without one.

Jerry retired as Athletic Director at Putnum City to begin a second career in home building. He enjoyed his retirement including golf at Oak Tree and having lunch with his buddies. He leaves behind his wife, Ezell, two sons, three grandsons and three great-grand daughters.

Fallen Eagles

Frank Archiniaco '60, 1/25/15, Oklahoma City, OK.

Mary Pat McGinnis Burrell '59, 3/3/2015, Oklahoma City, OK.

Jody Carmichel '62, 3/12/2015, Oklahoma City, OK.

Marvin Cartmill '65, 4/11/15, Harrah, OK.

Susan DeWeese '66, 4/7/15, Oklahoma City, OK.

Bill Fugitt '64, 3/15/15, New Braunfels, TX.

Martha Jo Henley Gragg '64, 7/22/15, Oklahoma City, OK.

Raymond Harris '64, 4/1/15, Oklahoma City, OK.

Bauda Schmidt Herter '63, 4/24/15, Seelbach, Ger.

Otis "Butch" Higginbotham '69, 4/2/2015, Oklahoma City, OK.

Guy Jones '60, 4/15/15, Salisaw, OK.

Henrietta Kamp '60, 5/17/15, Perry, OK.

Gair Lowrey '58, 2/9/15, San Antonio, TX.

Marjorie Miller, Teacher, 5/31/15, Oklahoma City, OK.

Jerry Potter, Coach, 6/19/15, Oklahoma City, OK.

Ed Rotzinger, Coach, 5/5/15, Oklahoma City, OK.

Judy Rudolph Seekar '62, 5/11/15, Panorama City, CA.

Greg Thorsen '68, 9/15/15, Oklahoma City, OK.

Jerry Worrell '61, 4/20/15, Santa Fe, NM.

Report Recent Deaths to
www.harding alumni.org

Congratulations go to 5 HFAA students who received an Awards for Arts from the State Superintendent for Education: **Caroline Preskitt** (Dance), **Veronica Bryant** (Drama/Theatre), **Taylor Fitzsimmons** (Drama/Theatre), **Jasmine Johnson** (Art) and **Keegan Kinniburgh** (Art).

At Harding Charter Prep, three students, (**James Williams, Cade Bross and Garrett Ekers**) received notification this spring that they are National Merit Scholarship Finalists! Great Job!

Both Harding Charter Prep and Harding Fine Arts made the Newsweek list of Schools that are beating the odds due to the percentage of their students who live at or below the poverty level. HFAA ranked as the 112th best in the nation and HCP was ranked at 124th. HCP made the list published by the Washington Post as the 125th best school in the nation and #1 in the state of Oklahoma.

Class of 1965—50 Years Later

The "Best Reunion Committee Ever" started working on the 50th Class Reunion in July 19-21 of 2014. And, believe it or not, it took a year to contact and locate classmates and plan the events. Our Class has 39 Fallen Eagles (to the best of our knowledge) and 31 Classmates we could not locate. Taking into account the Fallen Eagles only, we had 43% attendance from the Class, which made us all happy!

Friday activities included a Golf Outing at Lincoln Park East, a tour of the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum and a casual dinner (catered by **Janie Morgan**) at our Classmate **Dave Morgan's** house (with special thanks to Dave's wife Ellen) with a beautiful backyard setting on OKC Golf & Country Club.

Saturday was a very full day of activities: Tours of grade schools that fed into Harding: Edgemere, Horace Mann, Putnam Heights and Nichols Hills. (Zachary Taylor no longer stands) – Tour of Harding with **Greg Robertson** (Class of 1964), President of the Harding Alumni Board, giving history of the school and a tour along with Principal Mylo Miller from Harding Charter Prep – 2 tours of Devon Energy building – and of course, lunch at Johnnie's! Later in the day, there was a celebration of Marjorie Miller's life in the Harding Auditorium (Miss Miller had just passed away on May 31, 2015, at the age of 102). Our 1965 Harding *Aquila* was dedicated to Miss Miller, thanks to the thoughtfulness of **Lisa Erdberg**, Class of 1965).

Saturday evening was the "Big Ex-

travaganza" held at Will Rogers Event Center (the old Will Rogers Theatre) featuring a buffet dinner, drinks and the wonderful 60's band Mike Black and the Stingrays. Our Class still knows how to dance and have a great time! We took our Class picture this evening.

Sunday morning was our final event, with Bellini's providing us a wonderful Sunday brunch.

The Class of 1965's 50th Class Reunion once again proved the following:

**We're the best there is alive
-- We're the Class of '65!**



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

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Please Consider a Scholarship Donation this Year!

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 _____

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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 scholarship or gift fund 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).

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