



# HIGHLANDER HIGHWAY

The official newsletter of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation

Volume X, Issue II  
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The Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation will enhance the achievement, heritage and educational opportunities for Oak Hills students and staff by providing alumni and community resources to promote unity and pride, and build a legacy for a stronger community.



Dear Highlanders,

We are ending yet another successful school year for Oak Hills students! It is very satisfying, as well as rewarding, to see our Foundation continue to enhance the education of hundreds of students, creating superior learning experiences. Our donors and alumni have answered our call to action with your generous support. We are so proud of our Oak Hills students who are learning to be better citizens, building better communities and giving back more than we give.

The annual recognition dinner this year honored graduates Dr. Mary Arnold Long '77 and Dr. Jon Weller '96 as distinguished alumni. They both do us proud as Highlanders! The class of 1980 has reason for "double" pride as both distinguished staff honorees graduated from their class, Tracy Combs (Delshire Elementary) and Lynne Seaburn (Oakdale Elementary). Congratulations to all of our honorees!

The Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation board continues to grow and expand our reach to both alumni and our community. Our board introduces two new members this year, Dr. Joni Vest '81 and Mr. Larry Welsh. We look forward to having these two talented people work with us.

The Foundation continues our mission to invest in our teachers who inspire our students. This year our educational grants went to support literacy programs, art, music and civic awareness. There is an emphasis in education for learning and encouraging careers in "STEM." This acronym stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. And we, the Foundation are all about this! We provided the financial assistance to send our engineering robotics team (yes, a team not played on a field!) to a regional competition. This team then advanced to the world competition! The Foundation can continue to support these programs with your participation. If you have a particular area of interest you would like to support we can help you with that!

There will continue to be "sweet music to our ears" coming from the Oak Hills elementary schools! The 2017 paddle call at our annual recognition dinner is being used to purchase greatly needed new musical instruments for our young musicians. Other projects rewarded by this annual paddle call at the recognition dinner have been Oakdale's Green Township Scottie Yard Playground and the renovation efforts of the OHHS auditorium. The funds raised by the genius of Bob Herzog '92 totaled nearly \$10,000 this year. Thanks all who answered our call.

We are continuing to improve our networking skills to the over 30,000 graduates. We need your help to stay connected. This Highlander Highway continues to post reunion news. Are you planning your class event, we can help! Our board member Jim Schubert '65 is available to offer advice and assistance with planning a reunion. We love to share news and updates about our graduates. What have you been up to since high school?

Next week we will welcome over 600 seniors to our Highlander alumni family. Congratulations Class of 2017!

On June 23 the SOLD OUT alumni golf outing will take place! Thanks for your support and have fun! In the meantime have a great summer.

Yours in red and black,

Cheryl Ann Sieve '67,  
Chairman, Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation

## In this issue:

- \* meet our new board members
- \* class reunion listing
- \* grant spotlight
- \* the perfect graduation gift
- \* recognition dinner review

## Welcome new Foundation board members!

The Foundation is excited to add two dedicated members of the Oak Hills community to our board.



### Joni Vest '81

Vest graduated from Oak Hills in 1981. She went on to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Northern Kentucky University and then later earned her medical degree from Wright State University. Initially Vest worked in an emergency department in Cedar Rapids Iowa for two years, and then returned home and worked for 15 years with a group of physicians that staffed the emergency departments of what is now St. Elizabeth Ft. Thomas and Florence. Vest retired in 2014.



### Larry Welsh

Welsh graduated from Taylor High School in 1970. He first attended the University of Cincinnati in Chemical and Nuclear Engineering. Music was an equal passion with science, causing him to rethink career goals, ultimately choosing Music Education and attending Miami University to receive a Bachelor of Music Degree.

Welsh served 35 years at Oak Hills Local Schools, as Director of Bands at OHHS. He retired from Oak Hills in 2015.

## 2017 Oak Hills PTA Educators of the Year

Congratulations to this year's PTA educators of the year. Winners were recognized at the Oak Hills School Board meeting on May 1.



### *Pictured:*

Will Beinkemper, Rapid Run Middle School  
Janell Roeper & Alan Greeb, C.O. Harrison Elementary School  
Teri Egbers, Bridgetown Middle School  
Sara Pollitt, Oakdale Elementary School  
Megan Knotts, Springmyer Elementary School  
Nicole Heims, Delshire Elementary School  
Dennis Martin, Oak Hills High School  
Jessie Burlew, J.F. Dulles Elementary School

### *Not pictured:*

Emily Futscher, Delhi Middle School

## Golf outing ~ SOLD OUT!

Due to an overwhelming response, the 2017 golf outing is officially SOLD OUT! If you'd like to have your name added to a waiting list should any team drop out, please email Emily at [buckley\\_e@ohhsd.org](mailto:buckley_e@ohhsd.org). We are still looking for sponsors and prize donations for our raffle baskets. If you have something to contribute, please contact Emily. We are so grateful for this year's major sponsors who will make this one of our best outings yet!



## Your donation dollars at work!



The end of the school year is finally here, and the Foundation's grant projects are still going strong. The fifth grade Dragons recently participated in a wearable art project! Each student designed their own tie-dyed t-shirt for field day. Not only will the students be able to express their individuality, they will also be easier to see for the parent volunteers. Projects and programs like this inspire creativity for our young students. To help make activities like this possible, please consider a gift to the Foundation. To learn more or to donate visit our website [oakhillsalumniassociation.com](http://oakhillsalumniassociation.com). Thank you!

## We saved you a seat!

The Highlander class of 2017 graduated on May 21. Will you consider a gift that will last a lifetime for your graduate? By purchasing an auditorium seat, you're sure to give a gift that will stand out!

To purchase a seat, or to learn about the six-month payment plan, visit [www.oakhillsauditorium.com](http://www.oakhillsauditorium.com).

We hope you'll make your tax-deductible gift today and leave your legacy, or that of your graduate, at the high school. Thanks!



## Issue 11 passed ~ thank you!

"On behalf of the Oak Hills Board of Education, staff and students, we are extremely thankful to our community for their continued support," superintendent Jeff Brandt said. "This outcome would not have been possible without the strong commitment of our community."



"We are thankful that the community places such value in the benefits of a healthy Oak Hills School District," school board president Scott Bischoff commented. "We also understand the expectation of continued good stewardship and the delivery of high quality education that comes with passage of the levy."

"We appreciate the efforts of our levy committee and countless internal and external volunteers who assisted in the campaign," Brandt added. "As a result, we will continue to provide opportunities and experiences for all students and maintain our rich tradition of Excellence. We appreciate our community's trust as stewards of taxpayer dollars and we are excited about the future of the Oak Hills School District."

"We are extremely grateful to our levy committee and volunteers," Carly Horine, Citizen's Committee for Oak Hills Schools, shared. "They spent countless hours writing postcards to their neighbors, working polls on election day and updating our community on social media – and in every manner possible – about the importance of this levy."

## Auditor of State Award

We are pleased to share that, the Auditor of State Office presented our District the Auditor of State Award with Distinction. "Based upon your recently completed financial audit, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Oak Hills Local School District has received the Auditor of State Award with Distinction," Dave Yost, Auditor of State, commented. "Clean and accurate record-keeping are the foundation for good government and the taxpayers can take pride in the District's commitment to accountability."



## Class Reunion Review

Is your class hosting a class reunion? Do you need guidance to organize and plan your event? Contact Emily C. Buckley in the Oak Hills Alumni Office at [513-598-2682](tel:513-598-2682) or [buckley\\_e@ohlsd.org](mailto:buckley_e@ohlsd.org) for a reunion planning checklist, or find it on our website. Your event will be added to the alumni website as well as the official Alumni Foundation Facebook page and we'll tweet about it! Reunion information will also be included in future issues of the *Highlander Highway* and the electronic newsletter, *The Tartan Times*, so be sure to keep the alumni office updated on your reunion plans and details.

Below are the listings of upcoming reunions. Additional details can be found on our website, [www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com](http://www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com).

### 2017

**Class of 1967:** September 16, 5 p.m., Carnegie Hall in Newport, KY. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OakHillsClassof1967/>

**Class of 1972:** August 19, 4 p.m., Fernbank Lodge in Sayler Park. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/526120247570117/> or contact Cindy South at [south@fuse.net](mailto:south@fuse.net).

**Class of 1977:** June 24, 3 p.m., Holy Grail at the Banks. For more information, contact Barb Sample at [sample@fuse.net](mailto:sample@fuse.net).

**Class of 1979:** July 8, 12 p.m., Veterans Park. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/100343096726062/>.

**Class of 1992:** July 29, 7 p.m., Queen City Radio in OTR. For more information contact [OHHSclassof92@gmail.com](mailto:OHHSclassof92@gmail.com).

**Class of 1997:** August 5, 7 p.m.-12 a.m., Leapin Lizard Lounge in Covington. For more information contact April Woods Smith at [adsmith0709@yahoo.com](mailto:adsmith0709@yahoo.com).

**Class of 2012:** June 10, 8 - 11 p.m. at The Chapter in Mt. Adams. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at [ohhs2012reunion.myevent.com](http://ohhs2012reunion.myevent.com) by May 10, 2017. Email questions to [ohhs2012reunion@gmail.com](mailto:ohhs2012reunion@gmail.com).

### 2018

**Class of 1978:** September 2, 2018 (Sunday of Labor Day weekend ~ fireworks!) at Paul Brown Stadium in the Club East Lounge. Please visit the class website <http://www.oakhills78.com/> and be sure to update your contact information to stay informed.

## Looking for class representatives

We are looking for class representatives to act as an extension of our alumni office. Help us share information with your class by publishing updates to Facebook and Twitter and emailing or calling your classmates. We'll send you alumni news and ask you to help spread the word! Help us keep our database current by updating your classmates' snail mail and email addresses. Encourage your classmates to attend our functions and keep them informed! If you're interested contact Emily at [buckley\\_e@ohlsd.org](mailto:buckley_e@ohlsd.org) or call 513-598-2682.

## Annual recognition dinner ~ music to our ears!



At the 19th annual recognition dinner we honored our distinguished staff, alumni and Hall of Honor winners. Entertainment was provided by the OHHS chamber strings students, UnCommon Time singers and Abby Coogan and Michael Buchert on the bagpipes. We also made a special ask of our dinner attendees to support music education in all five of our district elementary schools. We are so thankful for all who raised their paddles to answer our call and pledge nearly \$10,000! What an amazing evening.



## 2017 Distinguished Alumni winners

### Dr. Mary Arnold Long '77

While at Oak Hills High School, Mary participated in concert choir, track, "It's Academic," "The Best of Oak Hills" and was a statistician for the varsity baseball team. She was a member of the Bridgetown Church of Christ. The youth minister's son, David, was born with hydrocephalous and baby-sitting for him helped Mary decide to enter nursing...and Bob Brockhoff's admonition to "enter a career where you can help people."

Mary attended Milligan College in Tennessee for three semesters, then completed her BSN at the College of Mt. St. Joseph in Cincinnati in 1981. She worked 14 years for the Franciscan Health System, completing her MSN at the University of Cincinnati in 1993. Mary relocated to Indiana in 1995, working as the first Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) for Hancock Memorial Hospital for two years, then as a CNS for Community Hospitals.

In 2000, Mary returned to Cincinnati. For 10 years, she was the Wound Care CNS at Drake Center, where she assisted in developing a nationally recognized wound team. She had a one-year hiatus working at Clinton Memorial Hospital as Wound, Ostomy and Continence CNS.

In 2011, Mary and her husband, Richard Long, relocated to Charleston, SC. She is now the Wound, Ostomy and Continence CNS at Roper Hospital and also owns WOConsultation, LLC. In 2016, Mary received her DNP from Otterbein University.

Richard and Mary live on beautiful James Island, a barrier island adjacent to the Charleston peninsula. Carrie, Chelsea, Caitlin and five grandchildren remain in Ohio, but technology keeps them connected.



Mary is blessed to have the love and support of her husband, Richard Long; her parents, Jim and Gloria Arnold; her sister, Laura Arnold Hodge; and many friends and colleagues.

### Jon Weller, PhD '96

Jon Weller attended Bridgetown Junior High School and graduated from Oak Hills High School in 1996. He earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Xavier University, as well as a Master's degree and PhD from the University of Cincinnati.

Jon began working in Enrollment Management at the University of Cincinnati in 2000 and has run the International Admissions Office for the past 10 years. His team's efforts have helped the University of Cincinnati become a global destination for education while increasing international undergraduate enrollment from less than 200 students to over 1,300 during this time.

Jon has helped the University of Cincinnati gain national attention for its international enrollment success and he frequently presents at national and international conferences. He plays a significant role in UC's enrollment and international strategies and serves on various committees and task forces related to domestic enrollment, international enrollment and campus internationalization. He also created and implemented the Global Opportunity Scholarship program which reinvests a portion of international student tuition revenue into a small number of scholarships for academically gifted, but extremely financially challenged, international students.

In addition to his Enrollment Management responsibilities, Jon is an adjunct instructor in the Department of Organizational Leadership. He has created, and continues to teach, popular classes, such as the "How to Change the World" course that introduces students to major social and environmental issues throughout the world - and the organizations and individuals working to address them. He also leads a study abroad program to Peru through his "Changemakers: Lessons Learned through Travel in the Developing World" course.



Jon currently resides in Green Township with his wife, Sarah. They are the proud parents of three children. Their son, Jackson, is currently a student at Rapid Run Junior High School and their daughters, Maya and Elena, attend Our Lady of Lourdes School. Jon and Sarah's children have gained an early interest in learning about different people and cultures and are looking forward to their first international journey to China, this summer.

## 2017 Distinguished Staff winners

### Tracy Combs '80

Tracy started out her years as a Highlander at C.O. Harrison Elementary, then went to Delhi Junior High and ended her journey as a 1980 graduate of Oak Hills High School. She started her career in the district in 1998 as an Instructional Assistant at Delshire Elementary in a specialized classroom. She has remained in that same classroom for her entire 19 years in the district, loving her job and the people she works with. She feels like Delshire is a special place to work.



Tracy is chairperson of the Caring and Sharing Program at Delshire and the "Souper" Bowl canned food drive, which benefits both the Anderson Ferry Food Pantry and the children of Delshire. She coordinates with outside resources such as Kroger and St. Simon's Church to gather resources for Delshire as well.

Tracy and her husband Kenny have three children, Kenny (Lauren), Megan (Justin) and Grayson (Beth), who have all graduated from Oak Hills High School. They have five granddaughters; Olivia, Emma, Penelope, Stella and Scarlett.

Tracy has enjoyed participating within the Oak Hills community as a parent, an employee, and most recently as a grandparent, attending her second Grandparent's Day at Oakdale Elementary.

### Lynne Seaburn '80

Lynne has worked for the Oak Hills district since 2001. She has devoted her life to the children of her community through her volunteer work. She's been a coach with the Delhi Athletic Association for 17+ years, serving as Dance Chairperson and Festival Booth Chairperson, Secretary and the first, and only female elected President. She volunteered at C.O. Harrison Elementary for seven years as a library helper and also served on the C.O. Harrison Elementary and Delhi Middle School PTAs. Most recently she has volunteered for the district's yearly One Hope, One Heart staff volleyball tournament, Bridgetown's Talent Town as judge and emcee, and also for the yearly Toys for Tots campaign in Delhi.

Three times she's been chosen to receive the PTA "Friends of Children" award, once through Delhi Middle School for her efforts to spearhead the "Kelli Ridenour/Anna DeStefano



Memorial Scholarship fund" that raised \$40,000 to benefit college scholarships for classmates of Anna and Kelli. She was chosen for the award again at Oakdale for dedicating herself to the students 2of the school by making the library a fun place to be, making reading fun and instituting an anti-bullying program. The Delhi Athletic Association inducted her into the "Hall of Fame" in 2005. She was also chosen by the *Delhi Press* as one of the "Ten Who Care" in her community.

Lynne is a 1980 Oak Hills graduate. She has been happily married for 31 years in May to Brad, a 1978 Oak Hills grad. She has two amazing children, Eric and Amanda, and has been blessed with an amazing daughter-in-law, Natalie, and two beautiful grandchildren Lucy and Holly.

## 2017 Hall of Honor winner



**David Upchurch**  
(posthumously)  
David graduated from Northern Kentucky University in 1975 and began his teaching career at Oak Hills High School. He went on to teach at Delhi Jr. High and earn his Master's degree in administration from

Xavier University. During his years of teaching, he also coached football and basketball.

David began his administrative role at Bridgetown Jr. High where he served as both assistant and building Principal. He was selected to become the first Principal at Rapid Run Middle School, where he retired after 30 years with Oak Hills. David went on to serve in various administrative positions with the Newport School district in Northern Kentucky until 2012.

Between 2012 and 2016 David enjoyed traveling, fishing, golfing and became actively involved in the North Bend Lodge. After becoming a Master Mason, David served the lodge and the community in a leadership role where he organized various charitable events. Even though he thoroughly enjoyed his retirement, he always had a calling to work in the field of education and came back to Oak Hills for the start of the 2016-2017 school year as Human Resources Director.

Visit [www.facebook.com/OHHSAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/OHHSAlumni) to see more event photos and videos!



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## Calendar of events and activities

- 6/23: 1:30 p.m., Aston Oaks, alumni & community golf outing
- 8/4: 8 p.m., OHHS Stadium, 2017 Highlander Marching Band Preview Show
- 8/15: first day of school for the Highlanders
- 9/29: 5:30 p.m., OHHS Commons Homecoming dinner

### Right at School Summer Camp

Have you made plans for your child this summer? Right at School summer camps is excited to have the summer camp film festival, weekly trips to the Delshire Swim Club, summer reading program, nature education program, Soccer Shots, Kona Ice, weekly Skool Aid programs, yoga, trips to General Custers Golf & Gulp, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and lots of other great activities and field trips! Sign-up today at <https://rightatschool.com/summer-camps/> or by calling 855-287-2466. There are a limited number of spaces for voucher families. If you have any questions, please email the Area Manager at [christy.walker@rightatschool.com](mailto:christy.walker@rightatschool.com)!



### Connect your Kroger Plus card to the Foundation

Visit the Kroger website to link your Cincinnati Kroger Plus card to the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation today! We are #29526. Shop as you normally do and the Foundation benefits! Thank you for shopping at Kroger and putting money back into our schools.



## Connect with us!



### "Find us" on the web

<http://oakhillsalumniassociation.com/>

Please visit us to find class reunion dates, grant project summaries and updates, and event information



### Please update your contact information

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/OHAlumniupdate> to update your contact information so that we may stay in better contact with you.



### "Watch" us on vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/ohaluniedfoundation>

Recognition dinner videos will be posted this spring!



### "Follow" us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/OHAlumniAssoc>

Follow us to receive instant updates on events, reunions and district news!



### "Like" us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/OHHSAlumni>

Thank you for "liking" us and spreading the word. Share your news so we can celebrate you!



### "Network" with us on LinkedIn

Search group: Official group of Oak Hills High School Alumni

Network with other alumni professionals to connect and share your events, job postings and more.