

Circleville High School Alumni Association

~~~Achievement Hall of Fame Ceremony

5:45 Social

6:30 Dinner

Welcome, Invocation

Historical Highlights & Events

Scholarship Presentation

Presentation of Inductees

Singing of the Alma Mater

"The Red and Black"

~~~2024 Honorees~~~

Robert H Huffer ESQ. '48

Asa J. Elsea '59

Jay Sharrett '84

Dr. Cynthia Russell Gerhardt '87

Aaron Turner-Phiifer'05

Honored Scholarship Recipients

Alyssa Hatfield will attend Harding University in Arkansas and study communication sciences and disorders. Alyssa is the daughter of Kyle and Emily Hatfield. Kyle is a 1994 graduate of CHS.

Mallory Holcomb will attend Otterbein University and will study integrated social studies. Mallory is the daughter of Ryan Holcomb and Kelly (Morris) Chapman. Ryan and Kelly are both 1993 graduates of CHS.

Grant Pinkerton will attend The Ohio State University and will study data analytics. Grant is the son of J.D. and Joanna (Mullins) Pinkerton. Joanna is a 1994 graduate of CHS.

The Circleville Alumni Association is dedicated to supporting the academic, athletic, arts and social service activities of students attending Circleville City Schools. It has been awarding scholarships since 2006. Recipients excel in academics and community service. Criteria includes a parent, grandparent or guardian who is a CHS graduate.

All scholarship recipients are invited to this annual awards banquet to recognize their achievements as they continue with their chosen studies and careers.

Scholarship Committee

Tom Strawser

Rick Bumgarner

Danielle Mogan Stultz

Circleville High School Alumni Association

2023-2024 Board

President Andi Porter Humphries '72

Treasurer Jeff Harr '72

Secretary Danielle Mogan Stultz '04

Board of Directors

Nancy Ankrom Dye '56

Jenny Scherer Griffin '06

Carol Ann Johnson Bowling '57

Kara Valentine Davis '07

Patty Ankrom Truex '73

Casey Lockard '11

Rick Bumgarner '74

Maria Richards Roberts '10

Tom Strawser '76

Katie Love VanDette '04

Julie Kazmierczak Scherer '78

Ty Ankrom '70

Circleville High School Alumni Association
380 Clark Drive Circleville, Ohio 43113

www.CirclevilleAlumni.org

Facebook: Circleville Alumni Association

Twitter: @CvilleAlumni

Email CirclevilleAlumni@gmail.com

Visit www.RoundtownClassic.com for information on alumni's annual fundraiser, the 5 K, 5 Mile Roundtown Classic Run/Walk.

Always set for the third Saturday of July

Special thanks and appreciation to the

Circleville City School Board of Education and Administration for allowing us to use the high school for this celebration.

Dr. Kimberly Halley Superintendent Greg Lahr, High School Principal

~Board of Education~

Tony Reeser, Jeff Burrow,

Terry Leasure, Patty Ankrom Truex, Kara Valentine Davis

2005 and moving forward celebrating Alumni Presidents!

Warren Gentzel '58, founding president. His "Hey Gang" emails kept us informed on those beginning days. He established the Bylaws, Non Profit Status and the order of business.

Terry Frazier '71 took charge of building another display case for the Athletic Hall of Fame during his reign.

Bob Johnson '48 brought new energy, board members and clarity to future goals.

Tom Scherer '77 initiated committees and established the Achievement Hall of Fame.

Tom Strawser '76 established the Scholarship procedure and still chairs it today.

Rick Bumgarner '74 continues to serve on the board after his presidency term.

Don Bradley '94 pushed for a clear budget process.

Kellie Willis Schwalbach '09, brought the board into the 21st century with viable Facebook page.

Casey Lockard '11 became president in 2019 He worked diligently to update our bylaws. As past president, he is the 13th board member.

Andi Porter Humphries '72 is currently the president

Alumni Scholarships started in 2006

JENNY SCHERER GRIFFIN '06

BEN WINNER '06

JUSTIN STYERS '07

KARA VALENTINE DAVIS '07

KORY HARTINGER '08

ELIZABETH SCUDDER RAYMOND '08

RACHAEL SPANGLER YODER '08

JILL TRUEX LIST '08

BEN ANKROM '09

ALEX GREENLEE '09

JENNIFER KELLER HEDGES '09

LYNSEY YOUNG '09

ASHLEY BIVENS COX '10

KASSANDRA COOPER HOLBROOK '10

LEAH HIVELY HOOKS '10

ZACHARY LANMAN '10

EDWARD STRAWSER '10

MICHAEL THEIS '10

NICHOLAS FOSTER '11

JENNA GRUNDEN COBB '11

REILY KISER '11

CASEY LOCKARD '11

EMILY MARCUM DOUGHTY '11

KAYLA THEIS THOMASETTI '11

JOSEPH HUGUS '12

SARAH KELLER SOWERS '12

JULIE RICHARDS '12

DENISE CLINE '13

ANDREW CRIST '13

TORY LANMAN LINDBERG '13

Behind the scenes:

Biography information was gathered from the original nominees, the inductees, and local writers David Crawford '76 and Andi Humphries, '72.

Circleville students, including National Honor Society members, helped transform the cafeteria into this banquet hall. Ms. Devin Sims' class assembled the program.

Debbie Melvin Cook '73 and the Elegant Eats staff provides our dinner.

Jerry Isaac '78 has engraved all the plaques until his retirement this year. He helped with the original design and the unique wall materials which will continue to be featured on the permanent display at the high school. Amy Waites Isaac '82 has been his invaluable assistant. This year JT Brewer prepared the granite for the wall plaques.

...Scholarships awarded yearly since 2006

ASPEN DOWDEN '14

SARAH RUFF '14

ETHAN WARNER '14

DARBI BREWER '15

HANNAH JOHNSON '15

ALYSON LEIB '15

TANNER BIGAM '16

ANYA BINGMAN '16

JARRED UTT '16

MORGAN BIRCHER '17

ASHLEY SARK '17

GREG BREWER '17

EMILY DENGLER '18

OLIVIA FAUSNAUGH '18

JACOB RHYMER '18

GARROTT KENNEDY '19

LAUREN CRABTREE '19

MADELYN CLARK '19

VICTORIA BIRCHER '20

WHITLEY CALDER '20

PEYTON PERINI '20

JACOB BELL '21

KENZIE McCONNELL '21

AUTUMN DEROSSETTE '21

ALAINA FRANCIS '22

JACK HOLCOMB '22

JORDAN RHYMER '22

CLAIRE BARTHELMAS '23

ERIKA KLUCZYNSKI '23

BROOKLYN LIST '23

RYAN ROY '23

Achievement Hall of Fame Committee

Chair, Julie Kazmierczak Scherer '78 Rick Bumgarner '74

Amy Kazmierczak Rhymer '89 Tom Strawser '76

Nancy Ankrom Dye '56 Danielle Mogan Stultz '04

Andi Porter Humphries '72 Jenny Scherer Griffin '06

Carol Ann Johnson Bowling '57 Patty Ankrom Truex '73

ACHIEVEMENT HONOREES...

2020 Hall of Fame Recipients Honored

In 2022 due to COVID Pandemic

**ELIZABETH CATHARINE
"LILLIE" DARST 1865**

DR. EMILY LUTZ '46

DAVID HUTZELMAN '58

LINDA BOWERS GORTON '66

SUSAN CRITES PRICE '68

ROBERT HIVELY '76

**RICHARD SNOUFFER Coach,
Administrator 1958-66**

In Memoriam...

As some of Circleville's finest were deceased at time of their induction, others passed after the celebration.

Ralph Starkey was alive at the time he was chosen for the award, however passed before he was notified of the honor.

Rex Haecker was aware of the award, but couldn't come over from Pickaway Manor to receive it in 2010. He passed in 2011.

Clifford Kerns was honored in 2011 and both he and his wife passed in 2014.

Joseph Leahy was recognized in 2016 and passed in 2017.

In 2020, Coach Boyd passed after recognizing his predecessor Coach Snouffer as a new nominee.

Both Dwight Radcliff and Barry Adams passed in 2020.

In 2022, Calvin Ellis and George Kerr passed.

ACHIEVEMENT HONOREES...

2015

CALVIN L. ELLIS '59
LARRY SCHIEBER '76

BRAD FOX '81

2016

JOHN T. DAVIS PhD '60
JOSEPH G. LEAHY PhD '78
ROBERT I. ELSEA '48

W. DOUGLAS McCOARD '59
E.J. WUNSCH '89

2017

JOHN STEVENSON '51
RONALD BENNINGTON '54
TRACEY BECK SIEMS '84

MATTHEW CURTIS ' 93
DR. SAMANTHA JAGLOWSKI ' 98

2018

JOSEPH W. ADKINS ESQ 27
HON WILLIAM AMMER '37
RICHARD L. GERHARDT, ESQ '59

KARA GERHARDT ROSS '88
JEFFREY A. DEAN MD '89

2019

ADDISON E. DEWEY ESQ '39
DAN MUSSER '50
W. BARRY ADAMS '66

KATHY ULAND KELLEY '74
RICHARD L. GERHARDT II '89



Robert H. Huffer '48

“Measured in inches he’s not very tall, but in friendship he comes up to them all.”

This astute quote accompanies Bob Huffer’s 1948 yearbook photo and captures the essence of one of the school’s most affable students who used his career in law and politics to give a voice to those at risk for being ignored.

Gifted with self-confidence, a free-wheeling persona and an easy smile that buffered moments of unapologetic candor, Bob had his own brand, one successful in amassing friends, winning elections and influencing juries.

Raised in a family of seven siblings where the main income was their father’s work as a roofer and tradesman, funding college was destined to be a challenge, maybe an impossibility. Creation of the GI Bill to boost the postwar economy came along just in time for the Huffer family.

He received a law degree at Ohio State University’s winter commencement in 1954.

Orders to report Jan. 3 for Army basic training were not going to deter Bob from his love affair with Ohio State football. He was in Pasadena Jan. 1 for the 1955 Rose Bowl, having driven cross country to get there.

With no time to spare or celebrate his top-ranked alma mater’s win. Bob was on the road again for the 800-mile trip to Fort Bliss, making it on time, but later telling a son the car never ran again.

Discharged in 1957 with the rank of first lieutenant, he returned to Circleville and with younger brother Roy, opened Huffer and Huffer law firm, serving clients for more than 60 years. In addition to private law practice, Bob served as law director for Circleville, Pickaway County prosecuting attorney and two, four-year terms as a county commissioner. He was active on several local boards and was one of the longest serving members of the Berger Hospital Board.

Prior to Bob’s death in 2022, he was honored by the Ohio State Bar Association as one of the longest practicing attorneys in the state. Bob and his wife, Carol Barnes Huffer, have two sons, Robert T. Huffer and Thomas J. Huffer.

The Rose Bowl was not Bob’s last Ohio State game. He attended hundreds more and his support of Ohio State, Circleville High School and other educational initiatives spanned his lifetime.



Asa James Elsea '59

As an Alumni Board Member in 2008, Ace Elsea suggested a fund-raising event for the association. Based on his marathon runnings at that time, he volunteered to run laps on the track during a football game for donation pledges. Instead, he established The Roundtown Classic Race raising over \$100,000 during his ten years at the helm.

While chairing the Roundtown Classic, "Race Ace" instigated several improvements to the Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Park. The Information Station was added. He installed a drainage pipe for

safety and annually cleared out the paths through the woods.

Volunteerism and athleticism have run together for the 1959 three-sport graduate of CHS who continued playing football at Bowling Green State University. After graduating in education in 1963, he taught while coaching the first football team at Westfall. In 1965 he joined the family business, Elsea Inc. He became President, C.E.O. and is presently chairman of the company board.

Ace has served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees, Shrine Club, Ohio Manufactured Home Association and Commander of the Scioto Commandry #35.

Ace started flying lessons with his dad at the age of 14. He soloed at 16 and accumulated over 4,000 hours of flight time over the years. This hobby led to serving on the Pickaway County Airport Authority Board and Chair of the Ohio Jaycees Airpark.

His physical fitness hobby has garnered 108 half marathons and four full marathons. At 81, he participated in the Arnold 5K Pump and Run for the 20th year and was featured on NBC 4 Columbus news.

Ace credits Doyt Perry head football coach at Bowling Green for influencing him in life. While playing football at BG, "he was the biggest inspiration to my career. He taught us not only how to live, but to live with discipline," Ace said.

Ace and Mary are the parents of A. Jay Elsea and Christine Hemming. He has four grandchildren.

HALL OF FAME HONOREES

2010 Inaugural honorees

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| REX HAECKER '30 | DWIGHT RADCLIFF '50 |
| TED LEWIS '05-'07 | W. W. HIGGINS, Inst. |
| RICHARD BOYD, Inst. Coach | GEORGE KERR '56 |
| WILLIAM "BILL" RICHARDS '49 | JOHN MAXWELL '65 |
| RALPH STARKEY '49 | WARREN SNEED '91 |

2011

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| JAMES G. DUNTON '17 | ANNE ADKINS WEISSENBORN '57 |
| CLIFFORD KERNS '42 | RICHARD A. BANKS '57 |
| WILLIAM J. BARTHELMAS '54 | |

2012

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| DR. HARRY D. JACKSON '01 | THE REV. GEORGE FRY '54 |
| ANNETTE GROCE WILL Inst | ROBERT D. SHADLEY '60 |
| M.E. JACK SENSENBRENNER '19 | |

2013

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| DR. ERNEST WALKER IRVING 1889 | JO A. MYERS THOMPSON '74 |
| DANIEL M. DICK '66 | SCOTT E. WUNSCH PhD '88 |
| MARY ANNE YATES '67 | |

2014

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CLARENCE A. REID '13 | NED BARTHELMAS '45 |
| CHARLES L. JACKSON '35 | CHARLES L. ZAENGLEIN Inst |

2023 Hall of Fame Recipients

JOHN FOSTER BALES II

CHS Class of 1928
Collegiate Athlete
Outdoorsman
Business Leader

STEVEN R. ISAAC

CHS Class of 1969
Founder of Tech
Companies
Re-engineered Data
Firms
Hobbies include
Car Collecting

ELIZABETH SPIRES

CHS Class of 1970
Acclaimed author
of poetry and
children's books

DAVID SHANK

CHS Class of 1973
Engineer,
Called to Leave the
Water Environment
Cleaner
Father Husband
Chaplain Scouter

ELIZABETH SHOLLENBERGER, ESQ.

CHS Class of 1974
Political Leader
Lawyer and Judge
Cat Lover

Jay Sharrett '84



Before he became a master of motivating athletes, Jay Sharrett, class of '84 needed a little himself. He worked at the family restaurant Pickaway Arms, somedays waking at 4 a.m. to make French toast for an early breakfast rush and then hustling down the alley to beat the tardy bell at Circleville Junior High. "Each of us had a role and mine was mostly working breakfast," said Jay, the youngest of seven children who worked in the business.

At home, the outdoors beckoned. The family's back door opened into Ted Lewis Park and Jay's friends gathered there for pick-up games and to play organized sports. He still brags that he grew up with town's biggest backyard.

Active in football, basketball and baseball, Jay was fortunate to play under CHS coaches with names such as Cook, Hamman and Truex, but he had special admiration for his Spanish teacher, Carol Mader.

"She grabbed me by the back of the neck when I needed it, but she was quick with positive comments when I needed those too," Jay recalled.

Upon enrollment at Capital University, Jay learned his proficiency in Spanish was high enough that the university waived its requirement for him to take additional foreign language classes. "That was a happy day," Jay said.

After playing football for Capital and graduating with a degree in education, Jay dedicated 35 years to teaching, all but two years with Pickerington Local Schools. At retirement in 2023, he led the social studies department.

To the school's athletic fanbase, he is heralded as the school's winningest football coach with a career record of 211-42, 17 conference titles, eight regional championships and two state playoff crowns. More than 220 of his players played on the college stage, seven in the NFL.

The recipient of numerous coaching honors and elite awards on district and state levels, Jay established a bond of loyalty between coaches, players and parents. "Each year we wanted to provide a winning experience, especially for our seniors, and everyone in the program knew this goal," Jay said. "Loyalty was key," he said reflecting on his strategy.

Jay and his wife, Lynda, have two daughters, Dr. Megan Steinkerchner and Dr. Emily Piersma.



Cynthia Russell Gerhardt '87

Cynthia Russell Gerhardt was the only one in her family to attend college, graduating from the Ohio State University in 1991.

She obtained her PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Vermont in 1997, then completed an internship and fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

As a pediatric psychologist, she joined Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) in 2003, conducting research and clinical care in pediatric

oncology.

Receiving over \$55 million in research funding, Dr. Gerhardt has focused on improving outcomes for children affected by cancer. She has gained international recognition and multiple awards for her research, teaching, and service. Cindy also actively partners with non-profits, such as Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, A Kid Again, and Momcology.

Dr. Gerhardt is currently a Professor of Pediatrics and Psychology at OSU and the Morrow Endowed Chair in Pediatric Behavioral Health. In 2023, she was named Chief Clinical Research Officer at NCH and Pediatric Director of the OSU Center for Clinical and Translational Science, to accelerate scientific discovery across the two institutions.

Many caring individuals in Circleville influenced Dr. Gerhardt. Ula Jean Metzler shared the joy of learning as her fifth-grade teacher and creator of the gifted program. Tom Harker taught her the rules of writing, which she still relies on today. Virginia Adkins was a social worker and kind mentor, who saw a young girl with potential. Cindy is eternally grateful to Dick Fisher and Doris Gillespie, who quietly nominated her for a scholarship and supported her dream of going to college.

Dr. Gerhardt lives with her husband Matt, also from the class of '87 and their son Lukas in Upper Arlington. In 2005, her family initiated the Gerhardt Family Scholarship and have since supported over 30 college bound CHS graduates. She was nomi-



Aaron Turner-Phifer '05

With a wide range of interests at CHS graduation time, Aaron Turner-Phifer began his career in government policy while receiving his bachelor's degree in 2009 at Miami University. While at Miami, he was the founder of Students for Barack Obama, President of the College Democrats and served as an intern for Governor Tim Kaine's Virginia Liaison Office. He also helped found a government relations network for undergraduates at Miami.

His career then took him to Washington DC as a political appointee for Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine serving as an analyst in the Virginia

Liaison Office. He earned his Master of Health Administration from George Washington University. Shifting back to Ohio, Aaron was a fellow in the Ohio Legislative Service Commission and a Legislative Aide for Rep. Michael Stinziano in the Ohio House of Representatives.

After his time working in government, he followed his healthcare policy passion to the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC). Beginning in 2012 as a government affairs representative, moving to director then vice president of government relations, Aaron's time at URAC was largely focused on improving quality and access to prescription drugs and specialty pharmacies.

Since 2020, Aaron has served as director of health policy at JDRF, International previously known as Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. JDRF is the leading global nonprofit, focused on finding a cure for type 1 diabetes and improving the lives of those currently living with the disease.

"There are three people who after almost two decades I often think about fondly," Aaron recalls. "Coach Dick Walters who always offered positive and continual encouragement to be better. Coach Tom Strawser who was always full of positive energy. I appreciated it at the time, but now better understand how rare this is as an attribute in a person. As for Mrs. Carolyn Thomas, I enjoyed her and biology so much I almost talked myself into trying to go to med school. She was very smart with more patience than one should have had for me."

Aaron currently lives in the Washington DC area with his wife, Laura and three daughters. His brother Adam and his family reside in the Columbus area. Aaron's parents, Gary and Glenda Phifer and several extended family members live in Circleville including Brandy Phifer, Aaron's now favorite cousin who nominated him for this recognition.