



Montgomery Blair High School
Alumni Association



"Where Tradition Never Graduates"



ALUMNI NEWS

Special Edition: Blair's 80th Anniversary Weekend Review



EDITORIAL

Another Milestone

Now that the 80th Anniversary Celebration is over it's a little easier to take a breath and look back on a great weekend of activities and re-connecting. This time the weekend had little different feel to it than the 75th anniversary weekend did. This was a little more laid-back, a little more informal, and a little "younger" (all of which is good, by the way). It seemed like this time we spent as much time focusing on what Blair is now, and what the future holds, as we did on its past.

A large part of the reason we were able to connect the generations a little more fully this time was the energetic and professional leadership of Blair's Principal, **Renay Johnson**. Ever since Renay has been at Blair she has been an active supporter of using Blair's incredible record of achievements as a source of pride and motivation to its current faculty and students. She declared back in the summer that the Blair 80th Anniversary would be the school's theme for the entire year. We as Blair graduates should be thrilled to have her as our partner in preserving the school's traditions and memories.

The 80th weekend was blessed with (mostly) good weather, some great events, and a lot of help from Blair grads from the 40's though the 2000's, as well as dozens of current students and faculty members. Our Golf Outing Friday morning was again in the very capable hands of Bob Windsor ('61) and went off without a hitch in pleasant weather and with a lot of good golf.

Friday night's All-time All-star Basketball Game was a real treat for everyone and a huge success. We had Blazers from every decade filling the stands, and players from almost all of Blair's 10 state championship teams participating. At halftime the original championship trophies from each year and the players from those teams were again brought together on the court.

Saturday saw Open Houses at both the Wayne Ave. location and the school. During the Blair-Wheaton football game that followed, members and coaches from the only 10-0 Blair Football team (1964-1965) were introduced on the field and reunited for the first time in 50 years. Blair's current team then pummeled Wheaton on their way to a playoff-clinching victory.

Sunday was our induction of six wonderful Blair grads into the Alumni Association Hall of Fame. The program at the Music Center at Strathmore, which featured performances by Blair's Symphonic orchestra and the school's a Capella group, InToneNation, was a magical afternoon of nostalgia, fun, and a terrific celebration of our school, past and present.

We want to again give a special thanks to Allan Goldberg ('61) for his production of the program and the 80th Anniversary DVD, and to Judy Ellis Westbrook ('66) for her invaluable help coordinating the HOF inductee program.

We hope you enjoy the special section of this *Alumni News* that highlights this event and the entire weekend.



A Picture Perfect 80th Anniversary Weekend

Friday, October 10

The All Time All Star Basketball Game at Blair



***Cedric Boatman, Junior Fuller, Brian Magid, Tony Wilson, and Van Vaughan
1975 Maryland State Basketball Champions***



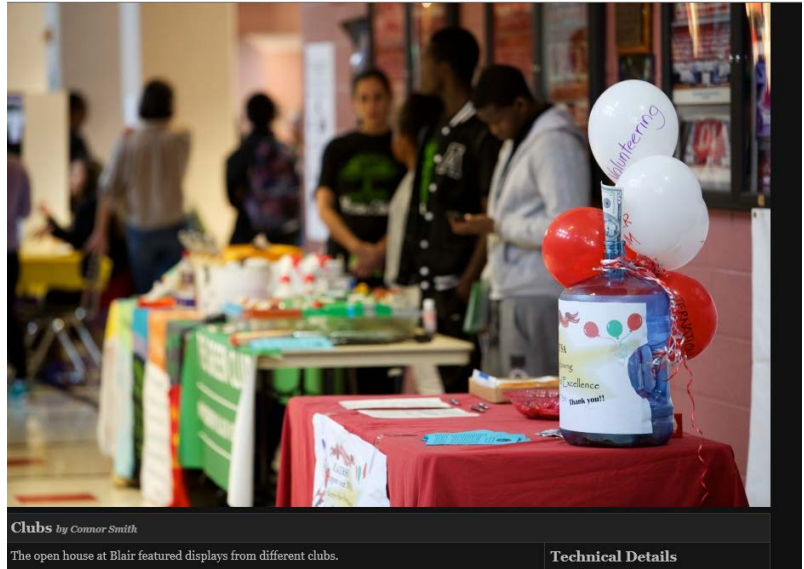
***Jack Townsend, Brian Tierney, Bob Windsor, Sonny Jackson, George Davis
1961 & 1962 Maryland State Champions***



Players from all 10 of Blair State Championship Teams

Saturday, October 11

Open Houses at the Wayne Ave. & University Blvd. Campuses



Clubs by Connor Smith

The open house at Blair featured displays from different clubs.

Technical Details



Top left: Former *Silver Chips* editor Barbara Dodd ('52) shares some of her memories with current members of the *Chips* staff.

Above: Dozens of student clubs, departments, and activities had information displays as part of the Open House at Blair

Left: The Greeting Committee at the Wayne Ave. location, including Committee Chair Victoria Crutchfield ('80), far right

The Blazers Crush Wheaton in the Football Stadium



Players and coaches from Blair's only 10-0 football team (1964-65) reunited on the field for the first time on 50 years



After receiving a rousing pre-game pep talk from Blair's former star players, the Blazers (under the leadership of Coach Fields) thumped the Knights and qualified for the football playoffs for the first time ever!

Sunday, October 12

80th Anniversary Celebration and Alumni Association Hall of Fame Induction at the Music Center at Strathmore



Hundreds of Blair grads, family members, friends, and public officials filled the Music Center at Strathmore's Lockheed Martin Lobby during the pre-program Reception

The Blair Symphonic Orchestra, directed by Michelle Roberts, performed an original composition honoring the silent movie era.



InToneNation, the school's a cappella singing group, blew away the audience with their awesome renditions of "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and "In the Still of the Night"



Blair's Principal, Renay Johnson assured attendees that Blair's traditions and its commitment to excellence are still going strong after 80 years.



2009 Hall of Fame inductee Connie Chung ('64) recounted the many contributions and accomplishments of Blazers over the years during her introduction of Margaret Moose Swallow.



2014 Inductee Margaret Moose Swallow ('71) credited her Blair experience as an important part of her decision to commit herself to bettering the world around her. One of eight Moose siblings to attend Blair, Margaret was recognized for her many years of leadership in fighting for equal opportunities for women worldwide. Her work on behalf of women in the coffee industry was the subject of a PBS documentary, and she was instrumental in starting the organization that works to assure that equality will continue.

Margaret received her Hall of Fame commemorative award from Alumni Association President Mark Levin ('66) and Connie Chung.





Dr. Alan Dodd ('47) is inducted into the Hall of Fame by 2009 Inductee Sonny Jackson ('62). Dodd was honored for his decades of innovative leadership in the Montgomery County School system, where he helped assure equal access to top level education in his role as Director of Educational Integration. Alan was inducted as part of the Blair Pioneer category.



HOF Member Tom Brown ('58) accepts the award on behalf of his brother, Dr. Richard Brown ('55, above right). Dr. Brown was a star on the football (undefeated), basketball (undefeated) and baseball teams during his senior year at Blair and went on to become a member of the Naval Academy Athletic Hall of Fame. He was also recognized for his research into innovative training techniques that have helped greatly reduce athletic injuries.



2014 Alumni Association Scholarship Recipient Alanna Natanson spoke eloquently about how Blair's history is an inspiration to today's students. During her sophomore year at Blair Alanna wrote several in-depth articles about Blair's history, including a profile of the more than 20 Blair graduates (and students) who were killed in World War II.



Donna Richardson Joyner ('80) represented the TrailBLAZERS, the Alumni Association's newest recognition group, honoring Blair students and grads who achieved noteworthy "firsts." Donna was the first person to be appointed to the President's Council on Health and Nutrition by two different Presidents.



Strathmore CEO Eliot Pfanstiehl ('68) introduced his classmate Nora Roberts. He pointed out that in addition to being one of the world's most widely-read authors, Nora (known as Elly when she attended Blair) is also recognized as one of the world's most philanthropic celebrities.



During her acceptance speech Nora paid tribute to several of her teachers at Blair for instilling in her a love of literature and writing. That carried over into her career and the establishment of her Nora Roberts Foundation to support literacy and education. She also recalled her many fond memories of Blair and noted that some of her Blair friends remain close to her today.



2014 Hall of Fame inductee Dr. Allen Chauvenet ('63) explained how communicating with his Blair classmates using sign language was better than texting because "it doesn't leave a trail." Chauvenet (seen accepting his award from 2009 Inductee David Pittle, '56) was honored for his work in the field of pediatrics and his research on Hodgkins disease in children. He thanked his Blair teachers, especially Lillian Abramson, for pushing him to excel and to appreciate the importance of academic excellence.

Montgomery County Police Chief Tom Manger ('72) spoke glowingly of how Blair students and faculty made him feel comfortable during his first year at the school. Manger was cited for his decades of service as a Police Chief in both Fairfax and Montgomery Counties.



In his introduction of Chief Manger, 2009 Hall of Fame Inductee Morgan Wootten ('50) praised his fellow Blair graduate for his commitment to the highest standards of law enforcement while protecting the more than 1 million residents of Montgomery County. During his introductory video Manger was praised by numerous public officials including State's Attorney John McCarthy and County Executive Ike Leggett.



Current and newly inducted Hall of Fame members, along with Alumni Association Scholarship Recipient Alann Natanson, lead the attendees in the Blair Alma Mater.

l-r: Allen Chauvenet; Alanna Natanson; Morgan Wootten; David Pittle; Tom Brown; Bob Windsor; Alan Dodd; Sonny Jackson; Tom Manger; Margaret Moose Swallow

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

We want to again thank our Ruby Level Participants for their extra contributions to the 80th Anniversary Weekend Activities. These Blair grads, family members, and friends helped make the weekend a success and added to our ongoing scholarship efforts.

Ruth Fitzmorris ('39)
Henry Benedict ('45)
"Popey" (Doten) Xander ('46)
Stan Curtis ('46)
Jo Foster Crichton ('46)
Betty Patschak ('46)
Alan Dodd ('47)
Jim Garrity in memory of
Lala Huebner Garrity ('51)
Howard Metcalf ('51)
Don & Helen Shanklin ('55, '56)
David Williams ('56)
Michael Pollack ('57)
Elmo Lewis ('58)
Betsy Stanley Thomas ('58)
Barbara Shoemaker ('59)
Dan Eberly ('60)
Bob Pustilnik ('60)
Catherine Berno ('62)
Dan Dickson ('62)
Dana Laake ('62)
Judy Marcaluso ('62)
Bill Mason ('62)
Emmy Lou Midgette ('62)
Steve Ness ('62)
Bob Nichols ('62)
Suzanne Paper ('62)

Robert C Prinz ('62)
Donald Robertson ('62)
Jerry & Sharon Ricucci ('62, '71)
Marilyn Ross ('62)
Lucy Yee ('62)
Barbara Cronin ('63)
Ed Kennedy ('63)
Ken Lechter ('63)
Gregory R Mullendore ('63)
Howard Grad ('64)
Mike Lanahan ('64)
Donald Lawson ('64)
Steve Meltzer ('64)
Kay Sneiderman Woodruff ('64)
Bob Troll ('64)
Charles Wendal ('64)
George Gately ('65)
Linda Hawkins ('65)
Gordon Kennedy ('65)
George Kozar ('65)
Doug Ross ('65)
Allan Schoen ('65)
Buddy Britton ('66)
Steve Fritter ('66)
Bill Gise ('66)
Steve Mudrick ('66)

Susan Birrell ('67)
Scott Kennedy ('67)
Charlie Krupsaw ('67)
Karen Relyea ('67)
David S DeJong ('68)
Victor Der ('68)
James Haddow ('68)
Joel Nathan ('68)
Judith Peres ('68)
Tomi Gaetano ('69)
Karen Garrett ('69)
Richard Hozik ('69)
Susan McQuay ('69)
John Sharman ('70)
Margaret Moose Swallow ('71)
Marguerite Wason ('71)
Tom Manger ('72)
Terri Salus ('74)
Mitchell Wolinsky ('75)
Sharon McAllister-Kunkel ('76)
Joanna Duell ('77)
Robin Roth-Ayers ('78)
Ramona Scott ('80)
Karen Davis Huggins ('80)
Karen Davenport Robertson ('80)
Sam Prasado-Rao ('83)
Sarah Manchester ('90)

We regret having omitted Jo Crichton ('46), Karen Davis Huggins ('80) and Karen Davenport Robertson ('80) off of the Ruby Contributor list in the 80th Anniversary Program.