

RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER , 2012

CASSITY, DEHOFF AND SENNETT NAMED

2012 OUTSTANDING SENIORS

Continuing the tradition of recognizing the most outstanding graduating seniors, the Alumni Association sponsored the awards presented at graduation to Gabrielle Cassity, Ashley Sennett, and Logan DeHoff. Gabrielle Cassity, daughter of Phillip Cassity (Class of '92) and Dr. Abbie Cassity, exemplifies the true student-athlete. Exceptional in golf and basketball, her competitive spirit, poise, and skill make her special. The Co-Outstanding Female Graduate is Ashley Sennett, daughter of Scott and Patty Sennett. She is defined by her personality and character and is well-liked by peers and faculty. With a showcase of talent, dependability, and a contagious smile, there is little doubt she will dance her way to success. The Outstanding Male Graduate is Logan DeHoff, son of Troy and Michelle DeHoff. Often described as quiet and unassuming, Logan speaks volumes when he steps into the classroom or into the athletic arena. Known for being a wonderful leader and teammate, Logan has certainly left his mark on RHS and a few opponents as well. Congratulations to these outstanding graduates.

REEF ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

The Russell Educational Endowment Foundation has begun the school year with fundraising efforts that will provide teacher grants that directly benefit Russell students. They hosted a "Movie Night" on August 17 to kick off the school year. The annual giving campaign will begin soon. For those who receive letters seeking donations, please respond generously as this is one of the best ways to benefit the students of Russell schools and continue the tradition of excellence that has been ours for generations. More information about the Foundation is available through the school website and on Facebook.

RENOVATIONS COMPLETE

The multimillion renovations of Russell Middle School and Field House are finally complete and ready for the beginning of the school year and seasons. Special ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held to celebrate. The Middle School opened in 1969 and this is the first major makeover with new front, administrative offices, widows, HVAC, roof and many other amenities. The change is very impressive. Likewise for the Field House which provides updated modern facilities for more RHS athletes and visitors to the complex.



DR. COMPTON TO RETIRE

Russell Superintendent Dr. Susan Compton has announced her retirement, effective at the end of the school year. She has served the school system since 2005, and the School Board will begin the search for a replacement

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUES' TRIVIA

1. How many boys' basketball wins did Coach Marv Meredith have? 677
2. Who has the next highest number of RHS boys' basketball wins? *Lloyd Patterson , 131 (1935-42)*
3. What RHS grads are members of their respective college's Hall of Fame? *Teresa Hensley, Julie Ditty, Frances Miller, Sandra Helton (if there are others, please let us know)*

TRIVIA

1. When was the Field House built?
2. How many RMS principals and counselors have there been?
3. When RHS opened in 62-63, where was the track?

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MILESTONES

Deaths

Gloria McGlone 4/21/12
 Ron Irwin 3/14/12
 Jason Pennington ('94) 3/25/12
 Vivian Russell 3/27/12
 Vera Virgin 3/27/12
 Richard Chapman 4/3/12
 Dana Johnson ('41) 4/9/12
 Robert Andre ('80) 4/22/12
 John Millis, Jr ('52) 4/27/12
 Terri Inskeep Sammons ('80) 4/28/12
 Glenda Stevens Atkins ('50) 4/30/12
 David Heavner ('77) 5/24/12
 Ernest Goble ('95) 5/24/12
 Rhonda Miller Helms 5/30/12

Mark Williams 6/2/12
 Dennis Payne 6/6/12
 Harold "Bebob" Ratliff 6/25/12
 Brandon Bailey ('02) 7/9/12
 Frances Carol Haney Gilliam ('59) 8/3/12

Weddings

Shawn Burgbacher ('00)/Carla Blanchard 10/14/12
 Nick Edwards ('04)/Kristina Kuhl 5/18/12
 Julie Bennett /Chris Gullett 6/16/12
 Seth Thompson ('95)/Bess Re-neau 7/28/12
 Nicki Galloway /Justin Beek 7/26/12
 Mike Kazee ('95)/Nikki Fulks 8/9/12

Retirements

Brenda Fields
 Linda Booth
 Belinda Mantle
 Rose Hensley
 Jean Kersey

Anniversaries

60th-Bob and Barbara Stephens Caniff 5/14/12
 50th-Mike and Bonnie Stickler Estep 5/26/12

Other

Class of '52 made a donation to the Alumni Association in memory of classmate John Millis

**At Russell High
 School, Tradition
 Never Graduates**

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

David Ridenour ('86) has his CD "Crackpot Therapy" available for purchase at cdbaby.com

Dr. Nicole Jones Pennington ('91) was named Outstanding Professor in Regional Higher Education for 2011-2012 and earned a Doctor of Nursing degree from Chatham University

Jon VanHoose ('08) was selected to participate in NABC Division II All Star Game on 3/28. He finished the season 3rd in the nation in 3pt FG/Gm. The senior led NKU in minutes played and averaged 12.2 points and 2.4 rebounds per game

Kelsey Simpson ('09) averaged 4.3 points and 2.7 rebounds per game for a 21-7 NKU team.

Brandon Boyd ('11) pitched in 12 games for Shawnee State and had a record of 2-1 and an ERA of 3.46.

Mandi Hayes Spencer ('98) has her book Growing Up and Other Disasters available for pre-order from Amazon

Dr. James Rice ('98), orthopedic and spine surgeon, is now at Kings Daughters Medical Center

Eric ('98) and Amy Coleman ('02) Robinette have opened a new establishment Yoasis that specializes in frozen yogurt

Julie Ditty ('97) will be inducted into the KHSAA Hall of Fame on April 13, 2013 at the Lexington Civic Center

Three were accepted into the U of L School of Medicine for the coming year and all three are RHS graduates: **Katie Ferry, Daniel Fioret, and Ryan Thompson**

John Potter ('96) was co-chair of the Cincinnati Bar Association's Mock Trial Committee this spring.

DEVIL ACCOLADES

Dance Devils are the national champions again! Following a regional championship at Westerville, Ohio, the Dance Team dominated the national competition at Fort Worth, Texas by winning 13 titles. Shelby Edge will continue her dance team talents with the University of South Florida next year on the varsity squad that performs at football and men's basketball games as well as competes nationally. Leslie Fannin made the UK White Dance squad and will perform at home football and women's basketball games.

The boys tennis team had an outstanding season and repeated as

regional champions. They advanced to the Final Four in Lexington. Miles Mussetter was awarded the National Guard Best and Brightest Award at the state tournament and Taylor Nguyen was named to the All-State team.

The baseball team was district runner-up and semi-finalist in the region. The softball team won the district but lost in the first round of the region.

Both Girls and Boys Track teams finished fifth in the regional tournament against tough competition.

AWESOME ACADEMIC TEAMS

The mental mighties of Devil Nation once again continued the winning tradition. Russell Middle School used a 2nd place in Quick Recall to finish 3rd at the state Governors Cup Competition. The team from RHS finished 5th in the tough competition. Both teams dominated the district and regional tournaments. The Science Olympiad teams continue to amaze. Both teams won the state competition at WKU and qualified for the national tournament at University of Central Florida. RMS finished 30th out of 60 teams and RHS was 42 out of 60.

IN THEIR FOOTPRINTS.....

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRES MARY ROBINSON
 V-P HARRIET JONES
 SEC BILL VALLANCE
 TREAS BETTY VALLANCE
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
 NINETTE AMIS, LIZ CREMEANS, CAROLYN FANNIN, ROCKY LANE, PHYLLIS MCCOY, ANNA CHAFFIN, JACK FANNIN
 NON-ALUMNI REP JOHN JONES

The renovations of Russell Middle School bring memories of the school's first principal, **Fred Billups**. Mr. Billups was talented in many areas as he worked at NASA and other places before entering the education field and administration in the Russell schools. He and his sister-in-law, Eliza McKnight, had a major leadership impact during Russell school's greatest growth period. The first "Upper Elementary" yearbook in 1970 saluted

him and simply stated: "His interest in school activities both scholastic and extra-curricular goes beyond his obligation as an administrator." He started the new school with a sense of family, pride, innovation, and a spirit that has continued to this day,



SENIOR DISCOUNT

Anyone age 65 or older can enjoy a lifetime membership in the alumni association for only \$25

This feature highlights Russell teachers and staff that have special places in our memories. Short written essays can be submitted by mail or e-mail for this feature. Please consider remembering those special educators from our past.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT—WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Dr. Britt Christmas was an easy prediction for success when he was elected president of the 1992 class at RHS. His leadership and academic skills have continued on through college (University of Virginia) and medical school (University of Louisville) as he received many accolades and awards on that journey. He currently is Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Assistant Professor of Surgery at Carolina Medical Center. To date he has authored or co-

authored 6 book chapters, 30 peer-reviewed journal publications, 89 presented abstracts, and 6 video presentations. His goal is to become not only a local, but also a national leader in the field of trauma and acute care surgery and an advocate for the betterment of patient care. Britt's class held their 20th reunion August 31-Sept. 1.



HOME COMING 2012. The game against West Carter will be Sept. 21, with Hall of Fame inductions at halftime. The Parade and Bonfire will be Thursday, Sept. 20, beginning at 6pm at Pennington's FoodFair parking lot and ending at RHS. Look for the Alumni float. Come join the fun!

RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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ONCE A DEVIL, ALWAYS A DEVIL

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of '77 met Friday, Aug 24 from 6-9pm at RHS. Contact is Jane Moore at 923.6173

Class of '92 met on Aug. 31 5:30-7:30pm followed by the Russell/Ironton football game. Contact Erin Slone Pope at 606.834.1337 or 836.4605

Class of '52 will have 60th reunion Sept 7th and 8th

Class of '02 tailgating at the football game on Sept. 14. Contact is Sarah Stone at 513.253.9839.

Class of '67 tailgating at 6:30 at game Oct 5 with activities on Sat., Oct 6. Contact Nancy Jackson or Carrie Vallance

Class of '88 will meet June 21, 2013 in RHS student union 6-9pm. Contact is Sherry Blevins at 606.922.2333

RIS 2012-13 IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 3	Labor Day
Oct 5-8	Fall Break
Oct 17	Early Release
Nov 5	PD Day
Nov 6	Election Day
Nov 8	RHS Veteran's Day Program
Nov 21-23	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 5	Early Release Day
Dec 21-Jan 1	Christmas Break
Jan 21	MLK Jr Day
Mar 20	Early Release Day
Apr 1-5	Spring Break
May 3	Early Release Day
	RHS Prom 8pm