



# CHS Alumni Association, Inc.

Volume 4, Issue 3

October 2021

## Coventry HS Alumni Association Scholarship Recipients 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees Selected for 2021



Chief Stanley J. Mruk, Sr. '43



Carolyn H. Chirside



Ernie Nardolillo '95



Tammy Flippo '83



Dr. Mary St. Amand '75

Congratulations to the new inductees to the Coventry High School Alumni Hall of Fame. Inductees for 2021 Coventry High School Alumni Hall of Fame were selected by the Selection Committee and will be inducted on November 4th at Quidnessett CC with a reception at 6 PM and dinner at 7 PM. The inductees include: Carolyn Chirside, a former English teacher and department head at CHS; Chief Stanley J, Mruk who was the Anthony Fire Chief and Civil Defense Director for Coventry; The Olde Theatre Diner recognizing owners Ernest Nardolillo '77 and Sharon Flippo '83, for their years of community service; and Dr. Mary St. Amand who has run a success veterinary practice for many years. Tickets will be available for \$45 through our website (<https://www.oakeralumni.org>) or by check to CHSAA PO Box 705 Coventry, RI 02816. Tickets will be virtual.

**The Coventry High School Alumni Association** presented scholarships to 20 Coventry High School seniors this totaling \$34,000. This represents a 13.3% increase over last year and was made possible through the generosity of donors that include the St. Pierre Family, The Murley/Jacobson Family, The Olde Theatre Diner; the WISE Scholarship sponsored by the Sweeney Family (Michele St. Pierre Sweeney '81) and Nicole St. Jean '04; 2 scholarships sponsored by Accel Lifestyles LLC, manufacturer of anti-bacterial athletic clothing (Megan Doucette Eddings '99); the Casacalenda family and West Warwick Auto Body (Phil and Carmella (Marsocci) '78); and the Macomber Family. For a complete list, check below.

Two new scholarships were added this year, one established by the children of Sonja M. (Murley) Jacobson and the other presented to the recipient of the Ardis W. Barbour Award, which honors former principal Ardis W. Barbour and which has been presented annually since 1971. Funds are being solicited for this scholarship to make it available into the future. \$7000 have been raised to date with a goal of \$10,000 to \$11,000 by the end of 2022.

Several scholarships also include a match of \$6000 by the Coventry Teachers' Scholarship Fund headed by Suzanne Tracy. We are indebted to the administration, teachers, staff, and employees of the Coventry Public Schools for their support and generosity.

These scholarships bring our total donations since 2011 to \$164,000.

The scholarships and their recipients are list below:

Last Name	First name	In honor/memory of	Amount
Burgjohann	Alex	Chet Kuipers	\$1,000.00
Medeiros	Katherine	Mary Ann Cantino	\$2,000.00
Perry	Jackson	Maureen Pontarelli	\$2,000.00
Cafaro	Nathan	John Macomber	\$2,000.00
Fernandes	Grace	James A. Blair	\$2,000.00
Mayers	Justin	David L. Parenteau	\$2,000.00
Pelletier	Francis	Megan Anne Alexion Mello	\$2,000.00
Steinkamp	Kylie	Erica Tremblay Shea	\$1,000.00
Killea	Hannah	Margaret St. Pierre	\$2,000.00
Verrastro	Bella	Olde Theatre Diner	\$1,000.00
Henley	Avery	Martha M. Barber	\$1,000.00
Buffi	Evelyn	Class of 1968, in honor of class members	\$2,000.00
Yates	Crystal	WISE Scholarship	\$3,000.00
Turner	Will	Accel Lifestyle, LLC Scholarship	\$2,500.00
Brown	Madeline	Accel Lifestyle, LLC Scholarship	\$2,500.00
McNeil	Jenna	West Warwick Autobody	\$1,000.00
Silverman	Ethan	Philip V. Casacalenda, Jr.	\$1,500.00
Lemoi	Emma	Laura Ann Marsocci '79	\$1,500.00
Dowling	Brendan	Ardis Barbour Award Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Bailey	Allison	Sonja M. (Murley) Jacobson Scholarship	\$1,000.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,000.00</b>

\*Green represents presentation on Senior Awards Night



## CHSAA Yard Sale Committee

With much hard work and coordination, the CHSAA was able to raise \$513 at its Yard Sale held at CHS on Saturday, 9/11. Thank you to all who donated items to the sale, to those who worked during the collection days, and to those who worked so hard on 9/11 to make the event a success. The committee included Jo-Ann Passarelli, Lori Murphy, Jean Boucher, Lori DiCostanzo, Helen Gray, Maureen Jendzejec, Kathy Hebert, Kate McCarthy-Barnet, Jim Kuipers, and Kevin Dolan. Other members came out to support our efforts during the event. A special thank you to Maria Craig Shank for helping us to move leftover items to Good Will.

The CHSAA is very lucky to have such a dedicated team!

## Scholarship planned for the Ardis Barbour Award Going Forward

The Ardis Barbour Award the most important senior award at CHS other than the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Ardis was the long-time principal at Hopkins Hill and when she retired, the award was established by the faculty at Hopkins Hill to honor her. The award was first given in 1971 to Karen Davie '71. The CHSAA is looking to lineup donors to give a scholarship to the winner of the award.

A few donors have come forward and we are researching the names of the recipients over the 50 years to see if we can get them to donate to the scholarship fund. To date over \$8075 has been donated or pledged to establish this scholarship.

We are looking to put together between \$9000 and \$11000 to build a sustaining fund for the scholarship so we won't have to raise funds every year. The scholarship for 2021 was presented on Senior Awards Night to Brendan Dowling in the amount of \$1000,

You can help by making a donation or by helping us to compile the list of recipients. The incomplete list of Ardis Barbour Award winners is printed below:

2021 Brendan Dowling, 2020 Jaya Joyce, 2019 Rylee Campbell, 2018 Deanna Cerce, 2017 Jason Hoskins, 2016 Trevor Campbell, 2015 Kathleen Cronin, 2014 Andrew LeCampion, 2013 Patrick Shea 2012 Katie Auld, 2011 Allison Bousquet, 2010 Lindsey Myers, 2009 Michaela Tracy, 2008 Lindsey Paiva, 2007 Aimee Belanger, 2006 Caitlin Smith, 2005 Kaela Adams, 2004 James Daley, 2003 Zachary Clark, 2002 Christopher Schayer, 1989 Erin McCarthy, 1978 Suzanne Criscione Tracy, 1977 Marc Bourret, 1976 Steven D. Moore and Anne Robertson, 1974 John Ogradnik, 1972 Susan Dutilly Wieboldt, 1971 Karen Davie.

Please contact us at [chsaa2009@gmail.com](mailto:chsaa2009@gmail.com) if you have a name for us or you would like to donate. Donations can be made at [www.oakeralumni.org](http://www.oakeralumni.org).

# Class of 1981 40th Reunion Leads to New Scholarship



The Class of 1981 recently held a four-day, 40th high School reunion which was attended by approximately 160 people, some from other early-80's classes. The events included:

Day 1 A gathering at Coach's Pub in SMITHFIELD owned by classmate John Rossi

Day 2 A beach BBQ luncheon hosted by classmate Dave Brunswick

Day 3 Reunion @ Tavern on the Hill in West Greenwich

Day 4 Pats/Miami game at Old Theatre Diner

The donations for the scholarship fund were given on day 1 and day 4. The 50/50 raffle was held at the class reunion where the winner, Cindy Stenning, donated her winnings back to the scholarship fund. The class was able to raise an amazing \$1500 for scholarships through the CHSAA. A \$1,000 scholarship in honor of the members of the Class of 1981 will be presented for the next 2 years.

From all accounts, this class is very special and is more close-knit than any other CHS class. Congratulations to the committee, Cindy Stenning for her generosity, especially to Pat Johnson for her amazing leadership.

## ~ New Scholarship Planned ~ The Passarelli Family Scholarship

Thanks to the members of the Passarelli Family, the CHSAA will be sponsoring a new \$2000 scholarship for this year. Many thanks to Joe, Jo-Ann, Cheryl, Lori (Passarelli) Murphy, and Carol (Passarelli) Harrigan for their generous donations, some including a match from their employer. Depending on several factors, the scholarship may be presented as two \$1000 scholarships. More information is forthcoming.



## Anne Proffitt Dupre '70

Anne Proffitt Dupre graduated from Coventry High School in 1970 and then from University of Rhode Island with degrees in history and psychology in 1974. After teaching for 5 years, Anne found her passion in the law. She attended law school at the University of Georgia where she graduated first in her class in 1988 and served as editor-in-chief of the Georgia Law Review. She served as a judicial clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun following her clerkship with Judge J.L. Edmondson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. Anne then practiced law with the Washington, D.C., firm of Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge.

In 1994 she joined the faculty at the University of Georgia, School of Law where she was a teacher, mentor, and researcher until her untimely death.

Nationally recognized as an expert in education law and policy, and she published 2 books and numerous articles and book chapters. Throughout her life, Anne pursued her interests with the same passion that she pursued the law. A brilliant woman, she excelled at everything she did, seemingly without effort.

Anne received the Blue Key Young Alumnus Award presented by UGA's Blue Key chapter. Her love of teaching and dedication to students was acknowledged in many ways. She was honored by law students with the 2011 Faculty Book Award for Excellence in Teaching, which is now the C. Ronald Ellington Award for Excellence in Teaching and the John C. O'Byrne Award for Significant Contributions Furthering Faculty-Student Relations. Anne will serve as an enduring example of the world of opportunity open to student with talent and the desire to work hard to develop it.



## John Kowal '87

John Kowal grew up in Coventry, RI and graduated from Coventry High School in 1987. During his time at CHS he played on the basketball and baseball teams. He attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute and graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1991.

He started his career in engineering for KMC, Inc in West Greenwich, RI, as a test and design engineer of high-speed fluid film bearings and dampers that are used in turbomachinery for power generation, and the oil and gas industries. Soon thereafter he took on numerous sales engineering roles selling mechanical products including bearings, vibration monitoring equipment, customized mechanical seals, couplings and 5 axis machined parts.

He then shifted into the medical industry where he has spent the last 23 years. His first role was as a Southeast District Sales Manager for Radionics focusing on image guided surgery and radiation therapy to be used to treat cancer patients. He worked at CTI selling PET (Positron Emission Tomography) imaging systems and cyclotrons used to image and diagnose numerous oncology and other patient conditions.

For the last 16 years, John has worked in numerous sales, and sales management roles, and has been the President of the Americas for Varian Medical, a Siemens Healthineers company, managing a \$1.5B business and over 1000 employees throughout the US, Canada, and Latin America. Varian produces hardware and software systems to treat millions of cancer patients annually with targeted radiation therapy.

John has lived in various parts of the country over the last 20+ years including Boston, Tampa, Buffalo, Colorado and has resided in Dallas for the past 11 years. John's wife is Kim, and they have two sons, Brooks (14) and Jacoby (12).

John vividly remembers his time at CHS and the incredible teachers that shaped his passion and thirst for knowledge particularly in math and science, including Mr. DiMicco's physics class. John never could have imagined the incredible impact that this knowledge would have on him and the career opportunities it would create. He is thankful that these experiences at CHS can be utilized to work with medical physicists, physicians, and other oncology clinicians to positively impact the lives of the millions of cancer patients and their families that his company touches each year.

# Class of 1972 News - 50th Year Reunion in the Works



The members of the class of 1972 will begin our Event on Friday, May 27th, 2022 with a Cocktail party at a classmate's property. Start time to be announced. Everyone is invited from the class with their spouse or significant other. There will be some light snacks, water, beer and wine. Everyone is welcome to bring a treat of their choice to put on the table to share. The best part of this evening is we have so many wonderful musicians in our class, many have already agreed to play and entertain us. All classmates and partners are invited to join in the musical fun. If you are local and can bring your instrument, Great! If not, you are welcome to use what is available. It will be for sure a great time!

Saturday night the 28th there will be dinner and dancing at the Radisson Hotel on Post Road near the airport. We have reserved rooms that you can book if you are from out of town OR if you just don't want to drive home after the party. There will be a wonderful buffet with lots of food, coffee & tea, dessert. We have hired a duo DJ Team that will complete our night. We are hoping everyone will come - please send us your e-mail or phone number so we can reach out. We would very much like to do an e-mail blast with more information, the ticket price to reserve your two-night class celebration. 50 years only comes once!!! SEE YOU ALL THERE.

Please contact Debbie (Forrest) Guthrie (dgguthrie@gmail.com) or Andrea (Bache) Nectow (andreanectow@icloud.com) if you have questions

## Obituaries



**Stephen Medeiros '66**

Stephen Medeiros, Class of 1966, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 72. A retired Sergeant for the WWPD, Stephen was the owner of Medeiros Studios and took the senior photos of thousands of CHS seniors. Those photos appear in the yearbooks for each senior class for many years. He was also a key member of the RI Saltwater Angles Association. Our condolences go out to his family.

Raymond Coppa served as a physics and chemistry teacher at CHS from 1961 to 1996. Serving as Science Department Chairperson for 25 years, Ray was always a favorite of his students because of his warm, outgoing personality and his sense of humor. In recent years Ray was a supporter of the Alumni Association making a significant contribution to the 85th Anniversary Celebration. Ray will be missed by all who touched during his life. Our prayers are with his family at this time of loss.



**Raymond Coppa**

# 4th Annual Breakfast Fundraiser Planned moved to the January of 2022

The CHSAA is planning to hold its 4th annual Olde Theatre Diner on January 22, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM assuming Covid-19 restrictions have been removed by that time. Tickets will be \$20 with raffles will be held to raise additional funds. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to join us for this mini reunion. Have questions? Contact Ernie DiMicco at [chsaa2009@gmail.com](mailto:chsaa2009@gmail.com). Tickets will be available at the end of December, 2021 at <https://www.oakeralumni.org> or by check to CHSAA PO Box 705 Coventry, RI 02816. Tickets will be virtual.

## About Us

The Coventry High School Alumni Association (CHSAA) is a nonprofit, 501-(3)(c) tax-exempt organization founded in 2009. Our mission is to: 1) provide scholarships for CHS seniors, 2) provide funds for school educational projects, and 3) recognize successful and community-minded individuals who have attended CHS, been employed at CHS, or who have been benefactors to the CHS community.

Since 2011, the CHSAA has awarded \$130,000 in scholarships and donated \$8050 to school projects over the last three years. Our goal is to help students identify their career pathways before leaving high school to minimize the wasting of time and money by changing colleges or majors, extending the time, and increasing the cost of college.

All of the committee members are volunteers, so virtually all the money raised through fundraisers or donations goes to the students of CHS. Our website is [www.oakeralumni.org](http://www.oakeralumni.org) and donations may be made there via credit card or by mailing a check to: CHSAA P.O. Box 705 Coventry, RI 02816. Several individuals have also arranged bequests to the organization to help ensure that future CHS seniors will continue to receive support through CHSAA Endowment and other investments. Please consider helping us.

## A Debt of Gratitude...

Many thanks to the members of the CHSAA committee, the Alumni Hall of Fame Selection Committee, and all our generous donors. Members of the committee give generously of their time and personal resources to help make the scholarships and grants possible.

CHSAA Committee members: John Ball, Jim Kuipers '85, Mary Ann Cantino, Kathy Lavallee '83, Amanda Lavallee '12, Mary Vandervelde '76, Maureen Jendzejec '75, Andrea Hopkins '64, Kate McCarthy Barnett '85, Stacy Ferrara '83, Kevin Dolan '80, Pat Johnson '81, Jean Boucher '68, Ernie DiMicco '66, Jo-Ann Passarelli '80, Lori DiCostanzo, Sarah Charette '95, Helen Gray '64, and Diane and Robert Tremblay, James Hopkins '58, and Stephen Bestwick '80