



CHS Alumni Association, Inc.

Volume 7 Number 1

Spring 2024

CHSAA to Donate \$58,000.00 in Scholarships in 2024

The CHS Alumni Association will donate \$58,000.00 in scholarships this year bringing its total since 2011 to \$302,000.00. \$13,000.00 in scholarships will be presented on April 9th at the Coventry Teachers' Alliance Scholarship Night.* The \$13,000.00 results from a match provided by the CTA to \$6,500.00 provided by the CHSAA. Another \$45,000.00 in scholarships will be presented at Senior Awards Night on May 16th. A list of scholarships is included below:

In Honor/Memory of	Amount
Mary Ann Cantino*	\$2,000.00
Maureen Pontarelli*	\$2,000.00
David L. Parenteau*	\$2,000.00
Megan Anne Alexion Mello*	\$2,000.00
Erica Tremblay Shea*	\$1,000.00
Margaret St. Pierre*	\$2,000.00
Passarelli Family Scholarship*	\$2,000.00
Olde Theatre Diner	\$3,000.00
Chet Kuipers	\$1,000.00
John Macomber	\$2,000.00
James A. Blair	\$2,000.00
In Honor of the Members of the Class of 1968	\$3,000.00
WISE Scholarship	\$3,000.00
Accel Lifestyle, LLC Scholarship	\$2,500.00
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West Warwick Autobody	\$1,000.00
Philip V. Casacalenda, Jr.	\$1,000.00
Laura Ann Marsocci '79	\$1,000.00
Ardis Barbour Award Scholarship	\$3,000.00
Sonja M. (Murley) Jacobson Scholarship	\$1,000.00
In Honor of the Members of the Class of 1981	\$1,000.00
In Honor of the Members of the Class of 1991	\$1,000.00
Steven D. Moore Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Francis Herbert Murray Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Lawrence "Larry" Mello Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Annmarie Byrnes Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Navy JROTC Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Margaret St. Pierre Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Richard J. Ceceri, Jr. Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Suzanne E. Iannotti Scholarship	\$1,500.00

Cathy Elizabeth Bourque, BSN, MSN Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Steven W. Bestwick Endowment Scholarship	\$5,000.00
Ernest D. DiMicco Science Award Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Raymond A. Coppa Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Total	\$58,000.00

The CHSAA committee is grateful for the many donors who make these scholarships possible. Scholarships are paid out in the January after graduation. Larger scholarships are paid out over two years.

Donations can be made to CHSAA, P.O. Box 705, Coventry, RI 0186 or at our website at <https://www.oakeralumni.org>.

The Coventry High School Alumni Association Funds \$6,000.00 in Grants for 2024



The Coventry HS Alumni Association (CHSAA) has agreed to fund 9 grants totaling \$6,000.00 for 2024. The grants were written by CHS teachers for projects that were not covered by the high school budget. These grants directly benefit student learning, school climate and expand career awareness.

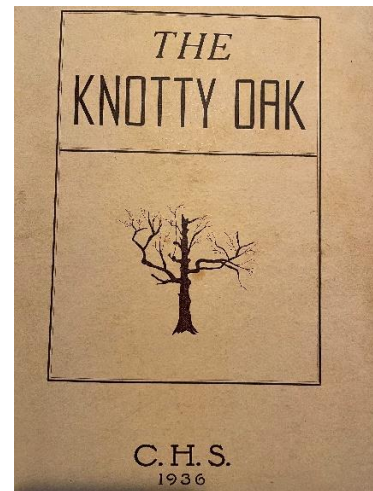
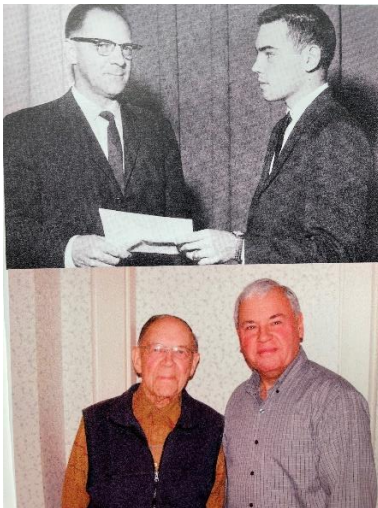
The grants include:

1. Christine Hoskins – Big/Little Oakers Program - \$500.00
Pairing of high School students with Blackrock students to improve the learning environment, reduce stress, and reduce behavior issues.
2. Julie Pankowicz – Repair and maintenance of the science department show case which displays student work and science department information \$250.00
3. Jennifer Sousa- CHS Science-Based Garden Program - \$1,000.00
A project involving many students, it is tied to the science standards and will involve science students, students in the culinary program and link up with the Coventry Community Garden.
4. Kelly Erinakes – Funds are for registration and the purchase of materials needed for competition in the state Academic Decathlon - \$1,500.00
5. Jacqueline Celeste- Student-Led Art Exhibit/RISD Field Trip - \$650.00
Student organized art exhibit including food. Good experience for the students.
6. Julie Pankowicz – Electronic balances for science instruction \$500.00
The grant will provide 6 classrooms with 3 electronic balances per class. These balances are essential for quantitative laboratory work.

7. Moira Young – White boards to replace chalkboards for health education - \$650.00
Will have a positive impact on student learning and eliminate chalk dust.
8. Melissa Spaziano Elephant’s Trunk/Oaker Closet - \$500.00 –
Provides new racks for the clothing available to low-income students who attend CHS.
9. Kelly Kramer – Funding Field Trip to URI’s National Biometric Day for Sports Medicine Students \$450.00
Important for student career awareness.

Thank you to the members of the CHS faculty who took the time to write these grants. The CHSAA has provided more than \$21,000.00 in grants over the past several years and as of 2024, it will have donated just over \$300,000.00 in scholarships since 2011. Donations can be made at www.oakeralumni.org/donate.

The CHSAA to Host 90th Anniversary Party for CHS



Ernie DiMicc/Reuel A. Sheldon 1966 and 2009; First yearbook, 1936; 1979 Varsity Revue -Al Berard, Joan Robertson, Nancy Cyr, Jim DiPrete; Cast-signed shirt of Joy Reo 1985 VR

In 2024, Coventry High School will turn 90 years old and the CHSAA is planning to hold a celebration on November 30, 2024, at Quidnessett Country Club. Tickets will be available starting in June, 2024. Reserve your tickets as there will be only 450 seats available! This is a perfect opportunity for classes who have not had reunions to get together. The event is open to current and former administrators and teachers and all members of the CHS alumni. Ticket prices and more information will follow. Plan to join us for a most memorable evening.



COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1974 50TH REUNION

WHEN: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

WHAT TIME: 5:30-10:30PM

WHERE: QUONSET O CLUB NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852

Includes a delicious buffet dinner including
Roast Prime Rib, Chicken Piccata, Baked Scrod
DJ services by Avicolti Enterprises

**To purchase tickets please mail check or money order to:
CHS Class of 1974, c/o Bev Webster Blais
40 Bank St., Coventry, RI 02816**

Attire is whatever you are comfortable in, this is not a formal affair

***Please RSVP as soon as possible to help us plan an awesome evening.
No tickets will be mailed, your cancelled check is your receipt.**

Alumni Corner



Katrina Nacci graduated from CHS in 2006. She attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute freshman year and then transferred to URI where she received dual degrees in Accounting and Applied Mathematics in 2010. After graduation, she moved to Boston to begin working for Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) in their technology audit practice and received her CPA.

In 2013, Katrina was recruited to move to Frankfurt, Germany to work for a German healthcare company leading their SEC reporting as part of their US public company obligations. She returned to PwC as a local hire in their Frankfurt, Germany office in 2014 within the capital markets and accounting advisory practice - where she specialized in helping European companies go public in the US, or with acquisition between the US and Europe and the accounting implications of these transactions.

From 2016-2018, Katrina was on secondment with PwC in their Dubai, UAE offices, continuing similar work but for companies throughout the Middle East. She has helped to take several companies public in the US and assisted on many other transactions in Germany, UAE, Oman, Egypt, UK, Austria, and South Africa, among others.

In 2019, Katrina left PwC to build a European finance function from scratch for a North American private equity firm. She hired a finance team in Luxembourg and worked on real estate acquisitions across Europe. In 2022, Katrina considered a move back stateside, but decided she wanted the flexibility to maintain residency in Germany and head back to Rhode Island to see family more easily. She decided to go into business for herself, starting up a cross-border accounting advisory practice. She helps with accounting conversions between US and European reporting standards, and helps European companies prepare & execute on US IPOs, specifically for technology, biotechnology and manufacturing companies. She has clients both in the US and Europe, anywhere from a \$50M revenue SaaS company to a Fortune 100 Austrian subsidiary.

Katrina will never call herself fluent in German, but she speaks it conversationally and professionally. She has permanent residency in Germany and is working to receive dual citizenship this year. In her free time, she enjoys traveling around Europe - especially skiing in Austria and summer trips to Italy.

About our Organization.....

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 \$302,000 in scholarships including \$58,000 for this year. Over the last five years, \$15,000 has been donated for school projects. 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 and donations may be made there via credit card or by mailing a check to: CHSAA, P.O. Box 705, Coventry, RI 02816. A number of donors have chosen to set up monthly donations of \$20.24 either by personal check, bill pay, or an ACH transfer. Some 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: Amanda Andrews '12, John Ball, Stephen Bestwick '80, Jean Boucher '68, Mary Ann Cantino, Sarah Charette '95, Karen Davie '71, Lori DiCostanzo, Ernie DiMicco '66, Kevin Dolan '80, Stacey Ferrara '83, Helen Gray '64, Kevin Harrigan '75, Andrea Hopkins '64, James Hopkins '58, Maureen Jendzejec '75, Jim Kuipers '85, Pat Johnson '81, Kathy Lavallee '83, Kate McCarthy-Barnett '85, Jo-Ann Passarelli '80, Susan Rainville '75, Mary Vandervelde '76, Diane and Robert Tremblay.