

State College Area School District Education FOUNDATION



**THE MAROON &
GRAY SOCIETY ISSUE:**
MEET THE HONOREES & MAKE PLANS TO
ATTEND THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
THE RICHARD M.
BUNNELL '49
MEMORIAL FUND FOR
EXTRACURRICULAR
OPPORTUNITIES

**JUDY LYSAKER JOURNALISM
SUPPORT FUND**
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● FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD

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814-883-8067 | www.scasdfoundation.org

Paul Olivett: pgo11@scasd.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 2023 MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY CELEBRATION

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT STUDENT
EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES AT ALL
GRADE LEVELS THROUGH THE RICHARD M.
BUNNELL '49 MEMORIAL FUND

It's a pleasure and an honor to invite alumni, families, faculty, retired faculty, and the State College community to this year's Maroon & Gray Society Celebration. This new and inspiring tradition gives us the opportunity to recognize the exceptional individuals who have been part of the district and to gather to celebrate the strong community that surrounds our schools, educators, and students.

If you have not attended the Maroon & Gray Society Celebration in past years, I encourage you to consider attending this year with your family or a group of alumni friends. It is the perfect venue to enjoy a mini-reunion and reconnect with your Little Lion family.

In addition to celebrating our 2023 Maroon & Gray Society Class, the event serves as an important fundraiser for the foundation. In previous years the event has raised \$50,000 or more to help fund 'beyond the budget' items such as:

OUR MISSION

THE STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION IS COMMITTED TO ENHANCING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF STUDENTS WITHIN THE STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

OUR VISION

AN ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THAT CHALLENGES AND INSPIRES EVERY STUDENT TO REACH HIS OR HER FULL POTENTIAL.

The official registration and financial information of State College Area School District Education Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- New uniforms for the marching band
- Seed funding for the Mental Health Matters Fund, which continues to grow and impact students across the district with critical programs
- Grants for innovative, teacher-led initiatives and important classroom equipment and materials, available through the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunities Fund

Proceeds from this year's event will be designated to the Richard M. Bunnell '49 Memorial Fund to help fund student extracurricular opportunities across all grade levels at every school in the district.

I hope you enjoy reading the short biographies of this year's honorees. I am especially inspired by the pride each of these individuals feels in this recognition and particularly liked reading the heartfelt advice each of them offered to today's students.

I look forward to celebrating their accomplishments on May 20 and sincerely hope that you will join us there!

Mary Kay Montovino, President

P.S. If you are an annual supporter of the Education Foundation—or if you're just learning about the opportunity to be part of our mission—now is a great time to renew your support. Generous donors have made it possible for the foundation to dedicate hundreds of thousands of dollars toward grants that make a lasting impact on students and teachers district-wide. Various other funds support specific projects and programs.

You can make view our funds and make your gift online at scasdfoundation.org or by mailing a check to:

Paul Olivett, Executive Director
SCASD Education Foundation
240 Villa Crest Drive
State College, PA 16801



- **You're Invited** -

2023 Maroon & Gray Society Celebration

Saturday, May 20, 2023 | 6 p.m.

Centre Hills Country Club | State College, PA

Tickets \$80

Reserve your tickets: scasdfoundation.org

The 2023 Maroon & Gray Society Celebration format has changed based on feedback from prior years.

This year's event will feature an evening-long reception (heavy hors d'oeuvres stations, soft drinks and cash bar) with a program to highlight and induct this year's honorees.

Sponsorship information contact
Paul Olivett at (814) 883-8067

Get to know the 2023 Class of the Maroon & Gray Society

"The Three Captains"

John Schempf '58, Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

Paula (Schempf) Carroll '62, Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

Peter Schempf '66, Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

Gerard (Gerry) Mansell '72, Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army

1973 State Champion Little Lions Football Team

John Casey, Retired Principal
Mount Nittany Middle School

Marisa Vicere '01, President & Founder,
Jana Marie Foundation

Whitney Stringer '02, Principal, Whitney Stringer
PR & Events

● MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY HONOREES

2023 HONOREES

THREE SIBLINGS HAVE COMBINED 83 YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE AND EARNED THE SAME SENIOR RANK

THE THREE CAPTAINS

JOHN SCHEMPF '58

PAVING THE WAY FOR YOUNGER SIBS

“As the oldest child, I take some small credit for their successes as I was the example, good and bad, that they could observe,” John smiled.

During his school years, there was reorganization and changes throughout the district and physical school buildings. “A unique learning experience was in seventh grade when, due to crowding in the Lemont school, thirty or so of their seventh-grade students were bussed to Boalsburg where we were comingled together. After a period of time challenging each other to all sorts of playground games and sports, we melded together and became friends,” he said.

Mr. Samuel Ross, also known as Pop Sam, was his most influential teacher. In sixth grade, he instilled valuable time management skills to do assigned work in school when the opportunities arose rather than goofing off and then staying up late at night doing homework.

John said he wasn't very good, but he played football, which taught him valuable

lessons. “I learned about the comradery that develops among team sports members, and my fondest memories are of my football teammates,” he said.

“I LEARNED ABOUT THE COMRADERY THAT DEVELOPS AMONG TEAM SPORTS MEMBERS, AND MY FONDEST MEMORIES ARE OF MY FOOTBALL TEAMMATES.”



Three Captains as kids

MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY HONOREES

After graduating in 1958, John went to Dartmouth College on an NROTC scholarship. “In college, I had too much fun and not enough studying, so I lost my scholarship, dropped out, and enrolled at Penn State for my junior year. At Penn State, I made Dean’s List and was able to return to Dartmouth to finish my studies,” he shared.

John planned to go to US Navy OCS, but a visit from a US Coast Guard recruiter changed his course.

“He visited the campus just before graduation and asked if I wanted to be “a little fish in a big pond or a big fish in a little pond.” I choose the latter, and the rest is history,” he said. John was commissioned in the US Coast Guard in 1963 and retired in 1988, having served 28 years.

“Some of my most significant assignments included Group Commander, Group Sandy Hook, NJ during 1976 Operation Sail in New York Harbor; Executive Officer, USCG Training Center Yorktown, the service’s largest training command; and Group Commander, Boston (7 stations, three ships, 13 lighthouses) handling all Coast Guard missions from Cape Cod to the New Hampshire border,” he shared.

After enjoying his Coast Guard career, John now serves in local government. “I have been a City/Town Manager for seven smaller communities in four states, doing my best to assist the citizens in any way possible,” he said. “Whether it’s helping to understand their water bill, construction of a new recreational feature, or applying for grants to improve the streets. So, I continue my service to folks just as I was in the Coast Guard.”

John now finds value and joy in his family. “As I age, I have become more invested in my family. I have a son, also named John, who is also retired from the Coast Guard. He is a grandfather of five from his two sons. Of course, this makes me a very proud great-grandfather. Together we are researching our family history,” he concluded.

For current students he offered this advice— “Always stop before you fail so that you have the opportunity to regroup and give it another try!”



John Schempf '58

PAULA CARROLL '62 FROM A SMALL-TOWN FARM TO PAVING THE WAY FOR WOMEN IN THE COAST GUARD

“High school was great...new friends, lasting friendships, and a comradery that I haven’t experienced since. I just attended my 60th high school reunion, and it was almost as though time had stood still even though we’ve all faced a myriad of life changes,” Paula shared.

Mrs. Corter was Paula’s favorite teacher who influenced her life in big ways. “She gave me a strong foundation for future school years, and the relationship continued beyond my graduation,” she shared.

After graduating from high school, she attended Penn State University, majoring in zoology with a minor in entomology.

The major was an obvious choice for her.

“I chose this for my love of animals, having grown up outside State College near Linden Hall on a small farm and through many years of 4-H,” she said. “I graduated in 1966 with a BS in zoology and went to work for the Food and Drug Administration.”

She married a botanist, and together they embarked on a scientific journey of sorts.



Paula Carroll '62

“HIGH SCHOOL WAS GREAT...
NEW FRIENDS, LASTING FRIENDSHIPS,
AND A COMRADERY THAT I HAVEN'T
EXPERIENCED SINCE.”

Her greatest accomplishment was a 29-year career in the Coast Guard in the marine safety mission. This includes environmental protection through vessel safety inspections, pollution prevention, and response when things go wrong, and waterways management.

Continued on next page

PAULA CARROLL '62... continued from previous page

“I progressed from enlisted to the senior rank of Captain during this time, of which I am very proud. Along the way, I mentored young recruits and encouraged them to continue serving,” she shared. “I especially urged young women as this was a relatively new career opportunity for them and a great one. It wasn’t until 1973 that women were integrated into the active service, and currently, women make up 22% of the force, the largest percentage of any of the military services. I like to think I helped to make this happen.”

Needing critters in her life, she started a pet-sitting/dog-walking business after she retired in 2006. “It was pure joy, and I did it for 15 years. Now I’ve retired again and am enjoying the outdoor activities that Hawaii and its climate offer,” she said.

Paula offered this advice to students—“I encourage all young people to follow their dreams, and education is the cornerstone to a meaningful life.”

PETE SCHEMPF '66 SCRAPPY ROOTS LEAD TO AN ACCOMPLISHED NAVAL AVIATOR

Pete is the youngest of the three captains, graduating from high school in 1966.

He values his teacher and coach, Homer Barr. “He was a great leader who encouraged and inspired me even though I wasn’t a great wrestler. His mentoring paid dividends as I went through flight school and received my wings as a Naval Aviator,” he shared.

Pete said he was lucky to have “skimmed by” in school and credits the most influential part of his education to his peers. “I received most of my formative education from the hooligans I grew up with around Linden Hall during the 45-minute bus ride to and from school. Needless to say, having the first name Peter was like the Johnny Cash song, Boy Named Sue. That’s why I prefer to be called Pete,” he said.

Pete joined the Navy and enjoyed every minute of it. “My career in the Navy was a blast from beginning to end, including a Viet Nam deployment, commanding a helicopter squadron based in Sicily, arms control negotiations in Vienna, and as the Executive Officer of a small aircraft carrier,” he shared. “Of course, you only remember the good times, but it was all exciting and rewarding while seeing the world, as they say.”

Pete has a deep passion for his roots. “Since my retirement from the Navy, my main accomplishments include restoring the family homestead for a second time since my dad’s initial restoration in the late 40s and enrolling the entire 42 acres in an Agricultural Conservation Easement with Centre County Farmland Trust so that it can never be developed,” he said.

He is also proud to have served in numerous volunteer organizations, many as president. Including Harris Twp. Lions Club, Friends of the Pennsylvania Military Museum, Navy League of Central Pennsylvania, Centre County Farmland Trust.

Pete shared this advice for students—“Stay off social media and watch where you are going for a change. Get a real job, any job that requires you to show up on time put in an effort, and interact with people.” ●



Pete Schempf '66

2023 HONOREES

DISTINGUISHED MILITARY CAREER, SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, AND CONTINUED COMMUNITY SERVICE

GERRY MANSELL '72

Gerry enjoyed reminiscing about his time in the SCASD. He spent most of his time on and around the auditorium stage.

He was active in all technical aspects of theatre: lighting and set design and construction. He did some acting in his Sophomore and Junior years. He was the Technical Director, Set and Lighting Designer, and Stage Manager for the 1972 school musical, "Annie Get Your Gun."



Gerry Mansell '72

Mr. Glenn Shaffer had a remarkable impact on his life. He said that Mr. Shaffer treated him as an adult, respected his aspirations, and allowed and encouraged him to grow and learn both as a theater technician and as a person.

After graduation, Gerry enlisted in the US Air Force and later attended Northern Virginia Community College. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with an Associate's Degree in Business Management and was named to the 1979 "Who's Who Among American Junior College Students."

He said that even though he was not an exemplary student in high school, primarily because he did not apply himself, he graduated Suma Cum Laude with an AAS at Northern Virginia Community College and Cum Laude with a BS from Penn State.

In 1981 he enlisted in US Army and was then assigned to the 3rd US Infantry (The Old Guard). During his military career, he participated in ceremonies at the White House, and Pentagon and funerals at Arlington National Cemetery.

His time in the US Military was one of honor and high regard:

May 1982 – September 1983: Volunteered for duty as Sentinel, Tomb of the Unknowns. Assigned to 3rd Relief as Sentinel, then Assistant Relief Commander. Awarded Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge #259. One of the

least awarded decorations in the military—only about 700 have been awarded since 1959.

1983 – 1984: Transferred to 9th Infantry Regiment, Camp Greaves, Republic of Korea as an infantry team leader and assistant patrol leader and patrolled Korean Demilitarized Zone against North Korean infiltrators.

1985 - 1989: Assigned to Fort Knox, KY as a marksmanship instructor and Drill Sergeant.

1989 – 1993: Assigned to 3rd US Infantry (The Old Guard). Served as squad leader, platoon sergeant, and senior instructor for newly assigned personnel. Served as Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Security Detail for the Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney.

1993 – 1995: Assigned to 4th Infantry Regiment Hohensfel, Germany as a platoon sergeant.

2 Meritorious Service Medals – highest peacetime award for enlisted personnel

4 Army Commendation Medals

1 Joint Service Achievement Medal

Continued on next page



GERRY MANSELL '72... continued from previous page

3 Army Achievement Medals

5 Good Conduct Medals

2 National Defense Service Medals

Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge
– Badge # 259

Expert Infantry Badge

Drill Sergeant Identification Badge

After retiring from the Army in 1995, Gerry attended Penn State University and graduated Cum Laude from Smeal College of Business with a major in Finance and a minor in Economics.

“IT IS AN INCREDIBLE HONOR AND VERY HUMBLING. THIS IS A HIGH POINT IN MY LIFE BECAUSE IT ACKNOWLEDGES ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL, AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.”

Gerry retired as a Portfolio Analyst from Aris Corporation. Even in retirement, he is still serving. He volunteers as an instructor giving presentations about The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Arlington National Cemetery several times a month. He said that the audiences are various organizations, including DAR, SAR, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute chapters (OLLI). The presentations are in person, throughout PA, and nationwide for OLLI via Zoom.

In October 2019, he met the woman he had been looking for all his life, the former Julie Mamett, State High '78. They were married on May 2, 2022. Julie is also retired, and they live in Park Forest Village.

Gerry shared a full-circle memory. “Throughout the year, we had numerous “Greaser Days.” Everyone would dress in 1950s-style clothing; guys in denim jackets and greased hair, the girls in poodle skirts and saddle shoes. This inspired a group of us to create a 1950s cover band called “Little Davey and the Drylcremes.” We started small, but Drylcremes continued and performed at numerous venues in the Centre Region until we split up in January 1974,” he said. “My wife, Julie, was a bit of a Drylcreme groupie and followed the band to various performances. I was unaware of this at the time and learned about it after I met her 47 years later.”

Gerry is honored to receive this induction into the Maroon & Gray Society. “It is an incredible honor and very humbling. This is a high point in my life because it acknowledges academic, professional, and personal achievements,” he said.

His plans are simple: spend as much time as possible with his amazing wife Julie, spend time with his dear family and friends, lower his golf handicap to 15, play his guitar, and continue giving presentations about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Arlington National Cemetery.

There is so much to see and experience in life, he said. To that end, Gerry shared this advice for today’s students— “Continually seek new and unique life experiences, steadfastly make efforts to improve yourself and your situation, and zealously dismiss all of the naysayers who tell you that you cannot or should not pursue your goals or aspirations.” ●

2023 HONOREES

“EVERYONE CONTRIBUTED TO AN UNDEFEATED SEASON.”

1973 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP LITTLE LIONS FOOTBALL TEAM

The 1973 State High Football Team came together to form a cohesive squad. They were more than just guys playing football. They exemplified talent, strategy, consistency, dedication and hard work... they were a true example of what it looks like to be a team. The team finished 10-0 and were the Conference and State Champions.

“The 1973 Football team was truly a team. Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores, coaches – everyone bought in and contributed to the undefeated season,” Scott Yocum shared.

The team roster consisted of Kent Homan, Ed Boal, Paul Kanagy, Dennis DeLong, Tom Kerr, Norm Frye, Bo Ellis, Joe Rainelli, Matt Suhey, Harvey Hoffman, Ray Agostinelli, Larry Campolongo, Pat Snyder, Bruce Shaeffer, Chris Sefer, Sheldon Rider, Ned Eldrige, Mike Toretti, Allan Fulmer, Tim Gambocurta, Tom Basler, Dan Hopkins, Bill Curley, Scott Yocum, Tom Kistler, Craig Coder, John Sefer, Tom Fox, Dave Harris, Greg Smith, Gary Ellis, Clay Singletary, Chris Hoover and Paul Suhey.

“THE 1973 FOOTBALL TEAM WAS TRULY A TEAM. SENIORS, JUNIORS, AND SOPHOMORES, COACHES – EVERYONE BOUGHT IN AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE UNDEFEATED SEASON.”

Jim Williams coached State College during their undefeated season. After four years as an assistant at Bellefonte, he revitalized the Little Lion program in 1969. His eight-year record was 65-13.

“Team members are excited to get together at the Maroon and Gray Society Celebration and are honored to be inducted. It should be a great night,” Yocum said. ●



MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY HONOREES

2023 HONOREES

PASSION FOR EDUCATION LEADS TO A ROBUST CAREER

JOHN CASEY

While his career is easily considered successful, “I am most proud of my family and their successes. They have always been supportive and understanding of my evenings away to attend numerous meetings and sporting events,” John shared.



John Casey

After graduating from Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School, John graduated from Penn State University in 1967 and the University of Pittsburgh in 1971, and he obtained his Principal Certification in 1973.

John enjoyed a robust career rooted deeply in his love for education. Starting as an eighth-grade social studies teacher and later serving as the principal of Mount Nittany Middle School, he now serves as a consultant for school districts, helping them complete a portion of the Commonwealth’s Plancon process.

He and his wife Donna, whom he married in 1970, have three children and ten grandchildren.

“I appreciated all the support I received, and it was great working with excellent staff. There was always someone to help navigate the tough issues a principal encounters,” John said as he reflected on his career.

“I am also proud of my role in moving the District from a junior high to a middle school format that we felt better met the needs of our students,” he added. “We could do this because of a dedicated and hardworking staff and the support of District administrators, a supportive School Board and the community.”

It was a nice surprise to John that he was nominated and chosen for the Maroon & Gray Society. “I am extremely pleased with my selection for the Award. It is quite an honor that I did not expect,” he said.

While it may have come as a surprise to him, others touted his many accomplishments. “John was an administrator who led with compassion, humor, honor, and integrity. He was an excellent role model for all his staff and students,” the nomina-

tor shared. “He was our administrator during the September 11th World Trade Center tragedy. He came through our classrooms to see if we were okay and to see if we needed anything.”

“I AM ALSO PROUD OF MY ROLE IN MOVING THE DISTRICT FROM A JUNIOR HIGH TO A MIDDLE SCHOOL FORMAT THAT WE FELT BETTER MET THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS.”

“His clear and consistent communication, visibility, accessibility, leadership by example, and his true compassion were the foundation that created a culture of trust and caring among our staff and students. We felt valued and respected. We could laugh, cry, celebrate, and ask for help,” according to the individual who nominated John.

John looks forward to watching his grandchildren grow and become successful. He also hopes to continue consulting school districts throughout the Commonwealth.

He offered this advice for current students—“Work hard, accomplish the tasks presented to you, respect and be kind to others and be supportive of those around you. Also, spend less time on their iPhones and iPads!” ●



2023 HONOREES

TRAGEDY INSPIRES LIFE-SAVING FOUNDATION

MARISA VICERE '01

“In 2010, my older sister, Jana Vicere (State High Graduate of 1999 - GED program), died by suicide,” Marisa shared. “Eight months later, I started the Jana Marie Foundation in her memory. The organization harnesses the power of creative expression and dialogue to spark conversations, build connections and promote mental health among young people and their communities.”



Marisa Vicere '01

Marisa's time in State College schools molded her into the woman she has become. “I am so grateful for my time at State College Area School District and how it prepared me for life,” she said. “When I started the Jana Marie Foundation, I reached out to many of my past teachers for guidance and advice, and many have helped shape the Jana Marie Foundation into what it is today.”

Marisa graduated in 2001. She went on to college at Susquehanna University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Business Administration with a minor in Spanish. After graduation, she worked at Hershey Entertainment and Resorts in Promotions from 2004 - 2007 before becoming a Program Director for The Little Gym in Philadelphia from 2008 - 2014. And then, in 2015, she received her MBA

from Smeal College of Business.

Currently, she is serving as the President and Founder of the Jana Marie Foundation, and she and her husband, Jeff Byers, have a seven-year-old son, Reggie. “My plans involve continuing to grow and expand the Jana Marie Foundation to make a lasting impact in the lives of young people,” she shared. “I also look forward to spending time with my family and making new memories over the years.”

Over the last ten years, Marisa cites the Jana Marie Foundation as her greatest accomplishment. “It is forging community connections and growing awareness for mental health and suicide prevention. The nonprofit continues to grow and thrive, reaching schools and communities throughout Centre County, directly impacting over 5,000 people annually,” she said.

The community agrees that the foundation has a profound positive impact on the State College community and beyond. “The programs have reached thousands of people and continue growing. Marisa is very proactive in trying to make sure people know they are not alone and that there are always ways to help,” said the individual who nominated Marisa for this honor.

In the formation and growth of the foundation, Marisa obtained and established various certificates and events. These include:

- Certified instructor for Mental Health First Aid (adult, youth, and teen versions, with designations for Higher Education and Rural Communities).
- Certified instructor for QPR Suicide Prevention for Gatekeepers
- 200-hour Wellness, SEL, and Teacher Certification from Breathe for Change
- Established September 10th as Centre County Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day through the Centre County Commissioners in 2013, which remains an annual event today.
- She collaborated with State College Area School District to implement the Straight Talk education program in the community in 2012, which celebrated its 10th anniversary.

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MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY HONOREES

2023 HONOREES

A PUBLIC RELATIONS POWERHOUSE SHINING GOD'S LIGHT THROUGH MEANINGFUL WORK

WHITNEY STRINGER '02

Deeply rooted in her faith, Whitney Stringer said that her work is a true blessing. “My journey has been such a blessing; I get to shine the light of Jesus while also spotlighting deserving people, organizations, and causes in the work that I do,” she said.

After graduating from State High in 2002, Whitney went to Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She spent two years there before being drawn back to State College. “During high school, I was set on ‘going against the norm’ and rejected the idea of attending Penn State since that’s where most of my classmates were headed. So, I enrolled at IUP. After two years, I did end up transferring to Penn State,” she laughed.

Whitney had one of the most interesting first jobs after college... Have you heard of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile? She was selected from over 1,200 applicants and spent the year behind the wheel of the 27-foot-long hotdog in the coveted role of ‘hotdogger’ for the giant food brand. During that year, crisscrossing the country, she found a passion for public relations in what could be described as a marketing firm on wheels.



Whitney Stringer '02

and organizations dedicated to uplifting those communities. I give them a voice and a platform to be heard, and 2023 marks the firm’s 11th anniversary,” Whitney said.

Looking back on her time in the SCASD, Whitney said she had many fond memories. “Dance was a huge part of my life. I loved going to every school dance, no matter how big or small,” she remembered. “I was also part of the group that chartered the State High Dance Team. We had to rally together, and it was so cool to see fellow students from the different independent dance schools come together to form one team for State High.”

“In 2001, I was crowned Homecoming Queen, but before my name was announced, I remember hearing classmates talk about who they thought would win from the homecoming court. They didn’t even mention my name, but in the end, I won,” she said. “I think it was in that moment that I realized that even if others counted me out, I wouldn’t let anyone else’s opinion ever be the last word.”

Whitney also worked with Students Against Drunk Driving while at State High. “It was a foundation to wanting to work with socially-important causes,” she shared. “Today, I advocate for populations and matters that often don’t get

“TO BE HONORED AT HOME IS SUCH A PROUD MOMENT FOR ME. I AM JUST ELATED!”

“My fellow hotdogger helped me identify my talent for securing media attention, so I decided to pursue a career in Public Relations and landed a position with a boutique agency near Washington, DC. A few years later, my employer sold the company, and I was let go from that role,” she shared.

After months of job searching and many unsolicited requests for Whitney to lead freelance projects, Whitney Springer PR & Events was born. “I knew I was born to do this. I built a practice focused on representing brands, people, and organizations that have a social impact,” she explained.

“My primary market is underserved and under-represented populations like Black-owned and women-owned businesses

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MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY HONOREES ●

enough attention or funding. Over the last decade, I've worked with clients like the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure that undercounted populations are counted fairly. I am also proud of my work with Google, which focuses on making a real impact through community partnerships. These social issues are important to me, and I am blessed that my work includes so much purpose."

Her major accomplishments are a testament to that. In 2021 Whitney was twice recognized by Penn State University. First, she was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from the Liberal Arts School. Later that year, she was honored with the Diversity Award from the Penn State Alumni Association. She was also featured in the Penn State Magazine's 'Black Voices' issue in 2020, where she shared her experience as a Black student on the University Park campus. Whitney was also named an "Unconventional PR Powerhouse" by Northern Virginia Magazine and recognized as a social media influencer attendee by the White House from the President Obama White House administration.

Her entire journey has been an evolution of challenges and blessings, so it is no surprise that her evolution will continue.

Later this year, she plans to relaunch her wellness series, which touts curated programming promoting inclusivity in the health and wellness space. Before the pandemic, the series was launched with the belief that factors like skin color, age, income bracket, or zip code shouldn't limit someone's access to healthcare. She looks forward to furthering the series while tackling issues like mental health and Black maternal health disparities.

Whitney said she was excited to be considered for this award and is looking forward to the ceremony. "To be honored at home is such a proud moment for me," she said. "I am just elated!"

As for current students, she encouraged this: "Get as involved as possible. Tap into a wide range of opportunities. Attend a Spanish Club meeting or a Rugby match just because. You never know when an experience may spark unexpected joy, so give it a try and talk to new people along the way! Academics are important, but so is building relationships." ●

MARISA VICERE '01... *continued from page 11*

- Designed and implemented over 15 signature programs to help grow young people's confidence, foster conversations, and build community connections.
- Graduated from Leadership Centre County in 2016.

"I AM SO HONORED TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD. I VALUE STAYING CONNECTED WITH THE STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY. THE EXPERIENCES AND CONNECTIONS I MADE AT SCASD HELPED SHAPE ME INTO THE PERSON I AM TODAY."

Marisa is a four-time recipient of the PA Business Central's Top 100 Organization, three-time recipient of the PA Business Central's Top 20 Nonprofit Female Leaders, and Top Mental Health First Aid Instructor for Pennsylvania from the National Council for Mental Well-Being. This small sample of the nearly 20 awards she has received shows her commitment to making a difference and changing lives.

She is proud to be an honoree for the Maroon and Gray Society: "I am so honored to receive this award. I value staying connected with the State College Area School District community. The experiences and connections I made at SCASD helped shape me into the person I am today," she said.

She shared this beautiful advice for today's students—"Don't be afraid to be your authentic self. We are all perfectly imperfect, making this world so beautiful." ●

PROCEEDS FROM 2023 MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY CELEBRATION WILL ENHANCE STUDENT EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE RICHARD M. BUNNELL '49 MEMORIAL FUND

“Dad, during his 30+ years on the State College School Board, always worked tirelessly for the students, and the community of State College,” Tib Bunnell '79 said of his father Richard M. Bunnell '49 who passed away in May 2022.



Dick and Gwen Bunnell

Richard's family, including his wife Gwen (retired 25+ year kindergarten teacher at Corl Street Elementary), son Tib, daughter Carol (Bunnell) Grim (retired kindergarten teacher at Radio Park Elementary and Education Foundation board member), and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, decided to dedicate memorial contributions to the Education Foundation.

Proceeds from the 2023 Maroon & Gray Society Celebration will be added to the existing Richard M. Bunnell '49 Memorial Fund and designated for enhancing extracurricular opportunities.

“With my dad's never-ending support for children and seeing that all students had an equal opportunity to succeed, our family thought the best way to honor my father was through the Education Foundation's commitment to enhancing extracurricular opportunities for all students,” Carol said. “My dad devoted his entire life to family and community. As a young boy, he enjoyed scouting as well as his school and school-sponsored activities and athletics. As an adult, he was a husband, father, grandfather, a gentleman who not only participated in Rotary, Church, SCASD School Board, and more, but was a leader in all he volunteered in.”

“Dad drew us into the meaning of participating in activities we enjoyed, activities that carried us through our lives, activities which shaped us but also taught us how to share, learn and grow with others. The Foundation is the perfect place for Dad's hopes for children of all ages to have a chance to try new things, find their talents, lead them into their path

for the future, and have fun through learning! Dad was a quiet, unassuming, gentleman. While I would have loved to have had his name strewn across the sky permanently in his honor, I knew HE would want his memorial donations to go directly to children. I know the Education Foundation will help to steward these gifts so that every penny will be used to enable the fund to grow permanently, helping not just a few children but many,” Carol continued.

Carol also shared her personal experiences as an alumna, parent of alumni, and educator in the district.

“THE FRIENDSHIPS MADE, THE GUIDANCE OF MENTORS AND COACHES, AND THE EXPERIENCES OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM WERE WITHOUT A DOUBT EQUAL TO THE ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES THEY HAD.”

“I was fortunate to be a parent of FIFTH generation SCASD graduates. I had the most wonderful experience MY entire public school career with our district, but it was through my children's experiences (I was an adult then!) that I could truly appreciate all our schools, from academics to activities. Athletics, music, art, fine arts, intramural athletics, student government, volunteer opportunities, at the end of the day these shaped my children and STILL DO, to be honest,” she said.

“The friendships made, the guidance of mentors and coaches, and the experiences outside of the classroom were without a doubt equal to the academic opportunities they had. Funding for these opportunities is so important. We have a HUGE school enrollment. Not everyone is going to make the team,

Continued on next page

or the Quiz Bowl, or the elite musical group, or even want to, as they have other things to explore. ALL students deserve to have their interests acknowledged. I can't begin to count the opportunities we provide at SCASD, whether it is through an activity taking place during the school day or after. Whether on school premises or off. They all come with financial costs and it is our family's hope, the Education Foundation's hope, and SCASD's hope, that funds can be accumulated to support these incredible and life-shaping opportunities," Carol shared.

Carol said it's also a great joy to her family that through this fund, her Dad can continue to make a lasting impact.

"My dad led by wonderful example. He was a life-long supporter of his family, community, and SCASD, and a true leader. To this day people share stories of him with us. Everyone loved him. His sense of humor, kindness, loyalty, devotion through service, and generosity to so many organizations and

individuals. He always noticed someone in need and found a way to help, anonymously and quietly. His impact will be felt forever and will be passed down from generation to generation in our family," she said.

On a more personal note, Carol shared that her Mom, Gwen, was truly the apple of her Dad's eye and their strong relationship was a wonderful example for their family and friends. Calling him "the father everyone deserves." Carol said his grandchildren and great-grandchildren are especially feeling the loss of their Taid (grandfather in Welsh). In their memorial tribute, they said, "Thanks, Taid, for showing us what a life can be. You'll be with us for the rest of ours." ●

A NEW OPPORTUNITY IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR HONORARY AND DONOR RECOGNITION

After many inquiries about donor recognition opportunities, inscribed plaques can be added to existing or new benches at the high school campus. Read more about this new way for donors to be recognized or to recognize loved ones, friends, teachers, coaches, or their graduating class.

Even during its earliest stages, the Education Foundation fielded questions from supporters about name recognition opportunities, such as plaques and signage. Most of these inquiries were based on a prospective donor's desire to honor a teacher, coach, family member, class, team, club, or alumnus. Since this time, members of the Education Foundation board have worked with district administrators and district board



representatives to identify thoughtful ways to fulfill these requests.

One of the most requested recognition locations has been for benches around the State

High campus. The district and the Education Foundation have agreed that adding an inscribed plaque to existing or new benches creates a meaningful opportunity to honor donors or individuals identified by donors.

How it works:

- A \$3,000 one-time contribution is required to add a name plaque to an existing bench on campus.
- A \$5,000 one-time contribution is required to add a new bench with a name plaque.
- Inscriptions for name plaques as well as new benches and their locations must be approved by district administrators and board members.
- Contributions must be directed to:
 - The Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity & Grant Program
 - The Mental Health Matters Fund
 - The general fund for unrestricted use by the district to fulfill an area of greatest need

If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Executive Director Paul Olivett at (814) 883-8067 or at paul@scasdfoundation.org. ●

THE JUDY LYSAKER JOURNALISM SUPPORT FUND HONORS DEDICATED TEACHER

Kary (Lysaker) Magruder '89 describes her late mom, Judy Lysaker, as “a pinnacle in the State College community” who dedicated 35 years to teaching English and Journalism at State



Judy Lysaker

High. When Judy passed away in December 2022, her family knew creating a fund to support journalism students would be a powerful way to honor her memory, even though she had not lived in State College for 15 years.

Judy Lysaker and her husband Pete moved to State College in 1979—Pete was employed by Jostens and had the option to relocate from Ohio to either State College or Hershey. The couple fell in love with State College as a place to raise their three daughters, Kristin (Lysaker) Schiller '87, Kary (Lysaker) Magruder '89, and Kassie Lysaker '90.

Judy and Pete met at Moorhead State University where they both earned degrees in English. Both were teachers early in their marriage until Judy focused on raising their daughters. In State College, Judy earned her MA at Penn State University and began teaching English at State High. She was instrumental in launching State High's journalism program along with several other teachers including Chris Weakland and Carol and Steve Gentry.

“MRS. LYSAKER WAS MY NINTH-GRADE JOURNALISM TEACHER AND MY TENTH-GRADE ENGLISH TEACHER AT STATE HIGH. IF NOT FOR HER, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WOULD NOW BE DOING PROFESSIONALLY.”

In her 35 years, she impacted the lives of countless students and especially enjoyed taking students to attend the annual

Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) Spring Scholastic Convention at Columbia University in New York City. Her daughter Kary said Judy often shared many fond memories of these trips where students were able to get one-of-a-kind experiences to advance their skills and interest in journalism.

Mike Conti '99 was one of Judy's students and attended the CSPA convention. He now manages and operates a sports radio station in Atlanta and credits Judy for helping him follow his interest in broadcasting into a successful career:

“MRS. LYSAKER ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION AND HAVING ACCESS TO THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST MINDS IN SCHOLASTIC JOURNALISM, AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT STUDENTS GET TO EXPERIENCE AT CSPA.”

“Mrs. Lysaker was my ninth-grade Journalism teacher and my tenth-grade English teacher at State High. If not for her, I have no idea what I would now be doing professionally. She took a personal interest in my aspirations to be a radio broadcaster, to the point where she helped to create a student-run “radio” station (really the school's intercom system). When I told her that I wanted to hone my skills as a play-by-play broadcaster, she found the equipment and facilities for me to call State High football and basketball games. Twenty-five years later, I now manage and operate a sports radio station in Atlanta, and I've called games on radio and television in the NFL, NBA, MLS, and WNBA. If not for her taking an interest in my aspirations, I may have never ended up where I am now,” Mike said.

“The fact that Mrs. Lysaker's Journalism Fund will help to subsidize student travel to CSPA is especially appropriate. Mrs. Lysaker always recognized the importance of collaboration and having access to the best and brightest minds in scholastic journalism, and that's exactly what students get to experience at

Continued on next page

CSPA,” he continued. “We were very fortunate as high school students to be able to learn directly from professionals at broadcast outlets and newspapers from across Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Lysaker was a chaperone on each and every one of those field trips. The Judy Lysaker Journalism Fund will be an appropriate tribute to her legacy.”

During retirement, Judy spent her summers on White Earth Lake, her favorite place in the world, and her winters at Fiddlesticks Country Club in Fort Myers, Florida, where she loved playing golf, presiding over the girlfriends’ group, and knitting beautiful things for her kids and grandkids.

Kary described Judy as generous, kind, thoughtful, and

strong. “I am so proud of who she was, and teaching was such a big part of her life. I am glad there will be students, for generations to come, who will benefit from this fund, so her love of state high journalism and her legacy will endure,” Kary said.

Gifts to honor Judy’s memory can be made here or by mailing your check to the address here. Make sure to select the Judy Lysaker Journalism Support Fund from the giving menu or include it in the memo line of your check. ●

NEW SCOREBOARD AT MEMORIAL FIELD THANKS TO CLASS OF 1962’S LARRY BEANS

A \$125,000 donation from Larry Beans ’62 will help to fund a new scoreboard at Memorial Field. It will have a 7-foot by 13-foot full-color live video display and LED scoreboard with clock, scores, timeouts left, ball on, down and distance.

The school board voted unanimously on February 21 to accept a generous \$125,000 donation from 1962 graduate

Larry Beans and to approve the purchase and installation of a new scoreboard for Memorial Field. The gift was made through the SCASD Education Foundation and follows Beans’ \$875,000 donation in 2021 for the Memorial Field renovations. The new press box was named in his honor and the concession stand was named for the Class of ’62.

Beans said he has fond memories of his State

High experiences. He played football, basketball, and baseball for the Little Lions.

SCASD Finance and Operations Officer Randy Brown said, “The foundation has been pivotal and we thank Mr. Beans and the Foundation, their directors, and their executive director.” ●

- ID Panel (Non-Backlit)
2.5' high x 2.5' wide
(above video display)
- Daktronics Video Display
LVX16MT132x242
7.2' high x 13.2' wide
- Filler Panel (Non-Backlit)
7.2' high x 5.9' wide @2
(beside video display)
- Football Scoreboard
FB-2036-W-PV
4' high x 2.5' wide
- ID Panel (Non-Backlit)
2' high x 2.5' wide
(below scoreboard)

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

CHECK OUT THESE UPDATES FROM ALUMNI LIVING NEAR AND FAR AND ENJOYING CAREERS, HOBBIES, FAMILIES AND MORE.

Share your updates at scasdfoundation.org/alumni-survey.

J. David Truby '56, Indiana County, PA

My State High English courses (and any writing classes), History and my homeroom teacher (cannot recall her name, but I think IUP hired her in the 1960s) were influential. Harold Griffith was a good teacher for me as was Mr. Yerg. I was involved with Baseball, Football, Wrestling, Photography, and Stage Drama. I LOVED State College being a fun, safe and small town. I keep in touch with some friends... but not enough. For some reason, we no longer have class reunions. I used to go to them all. I served in U.S. Army, had myriad jobs in my career, earned a Ph.D. from PSU, and am now retired and heading out of my mid-80s in age. I have had a varied career... management, public relations, journalism, advertising, criminal investigation, photography, university professor, published book author, magazine editor, freelance magazine writer, etc. State High is where all these life experiences began and were encouraged.

Patty Berrena McCleskey '65, Millerstown, PA

My Biology teacher Mrs. Hart made an impact. I went on to be a teacher and loved teaching science. Cheerleader advisor Mrs. Hamill instilled in me the importance of physical fitness. I loved marching in front of the band down the ramp onto Memorial Field. I had to stand in the Iron Kettle so it wouldn't get stolen at the game! Class of '65 has a monthly brunch. I live an hour away but try to attend. It is so much fun to get together! I went to PSU and received my BS and MEd in education. I am currently retired. I walk daily, play bridge weekly and read. Love being with my grand girls who are now in college.

Randall (Randy) Bitner '69, State College, PA

I am retired from my role as Coordinator of Technology Education for SCASD. I graduated from Penn State in 1973 and taught at State High for 31 years! It was so neat to work with

my former teachers. Al Brace, Industrial Arts teacher, taught me many skills in the repair of equipment. Mr. Ohman taught the appreciation of History and Mr. Ron Strapel made me understand cars and machines! I was in Little Lion Auto Club, Basketball and Marching Band. I am one of the class contacts for the class of 1969. We have a class page on Facebook so I keep up with many friends.

Sarah Abramson '02, Brooklyn, NY

I am Clinical Director for an Eating Disorder Clinic in New York City. Being a peer listener at State High helped me to prepare for a career in social work. I have fond memories of being accepted by the seniors during my freshman year on the golf team. The bonds we created resulted in 20-year-long friendships. Some of my best friends today are people I met 20 years ago at State High!

Adam Bergeman '07, Loveland, CO

I am a Project Engineer at Coloscares Concrete. Mr. Boris and Mr. Gipe were favorite teachers. Memories include the old high school, football games, talent shows, and the bands that came out of it (Lemonsoul, North, Percival Madison, Inverted Axis etc.). I have lived in Colorado since 2013. I worked in the ski industry and then moved into the renewable energy industry, and now I work in the construction industry as a project engineer. I graduated from Lock Haven University with a Bachelor's in Recreation Management, but have been working in the construction industry for the last 7 years.

Fallecia Ehrmann '08, State College, PA

In high school, I was in cheerleading and choir and enjoyed traveling for choir competitions. Mr. Boris was always the spirit of the school! I'm a Pennsylvania Deputy Constable for my township. I am also raising an amazing daughter in my childhood home in the district.

Cassandra Keith '13, Philipsburg, PA

Mr. Boris and Mr. Furmanek were such fun teachers. My med skills and other classes helped me to get into nursing school. I currently work at Penn State and have a 6-year-old boy.

Submit your news at scasdfoundation.org/alumni-survey.

REUNION NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING REUNIONS. KEEP WITH MORE REUNION NEWS AT STATEHIGHALUMNI.COM.

1973 & 1974

News on the combined 50th Class Reunion for the SCHS Classes of 1973 & 1974: Our weekend celebration will begin Friday night, June 30, 2023, with our main event being held on Saturday, July 1 in the main ballroom at Mountain View Country Club (formerly the Elks Club). Visit the website for more information and registration details: www.statehigh50th.com.



Keep with more reunion news at statehighalumni.com.





State College Area School District
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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State College, PA 16801

www.scasdfoundation.org

894-43114



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SCASD STUDENTS

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Visit www.scasdfoundation.org and find the form on the homepage.

MAKE A GIFT IN 2023

Create new opportunities for students by making a donation to the Education Foundation online at www.scasdfoundation.org.