

The Echo

Berlin High School Alumni Association

"The Oldest in the State"

Fall 2001

Class of '51 launches scholarship plan

By Don Davies ('46)

Most Echo readers are unaware of an important happening at this year's Alumni Bonquet on May 26.

Attending the banquet and its program were members of only the five-year reunion classes—those years ending in 6 and 1—so this is to inform all of our 5-6-7-8 thousand readers.

One of those reunion classes—1951—did something that is so much in line with the reason this newsletter was created by a special committee of the Berlin High School Alumni Association two years ago. It is a fine example of the ultimate goal of the Echo.

The Class of 1951 formed a com-

mittee to plan something special for their reunion this year—a fund-raising effort to give a substantial scholarship to a Berlin High School graduate.

When the smoke cleared, class officials knew that they had means to award the largest scholarship ever presented by a Berlin High School Alumni class. On the night of the banquet, a member of this class' 50th reunion group, Gordon Kafer, of Seminole, FL., made a presentation of a \$5,000 scholarship to Alyssa Mae Thompson on behalf of his class. Miss Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Thompson, is majoring in nursing.

The class plans to present similar

scholarships every other year at banquet time, because the intent is to be a really moving force in creating an example for other classes to follow.

The way this significant scholarship goal came about and how it was achieved will be one of the features in the Echo's next edition to be published in the spring, previous to the 2002 Alumni Banquet.

Class members who participated in the fund-raising plan expressed appreciation of their Berlin High School education and said they "want to give something back." A representative will be writing of their experiences, their achievements and their hopes for future reunions by all classes.

Behm tells grads...

'The end may only be the beginning'

By Gretchen Koch ('86)

Randy Behm, Class of 1976, spoke at the BHS Alumni Banquet on May 26 held at Berlin High School.

"In my speech I wanted to express words of encouragement I had been given at BHS and demonstrate how I have referred to those words throughout my life. I especially wanted to tell the Class of 2001 to not look at graduation as an end, but rather as a beginning. A quote I like to refer to is: 'The world is round -- what seems like the end may only be the beginning,'" Behm said.

While in high school, Behm was active on three sport teams, President of B Club his senior year,



Randy Behm

sports editor of the Mascoutin, a National Honor Society member, and a Badger Boys State delegate.

"I really enjoyed my high school years and I think the new high school

looks great! It's one of the better facilities I have seen across the country. It's especially convenient to have the school located next to the athletic fields now," Behm said.

After high school Behm earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in economics and mathematics from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and a Master's Degree from the University of Michigan's Graduate School of Business.

"Academically BHS clearly helped me in my college career. I was amazed at the lack of basic study habits that many of my college classmates exhibited. These are fundamental skills that were taught at BHS yet no one recognizes them because they were just

Continued on Page 2