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THE ECHO



Spring 2008

Berlin High School Alumni Association - "The Oldest in the State"

This may be the last Echo

Fund established to continue alumni newsletter

By Jack Butler, Class of '54

Ten years ago a sub-committee was appointed by the BHS Alumni Association board of directors. This committee was charged to do the following: "Review the activities of the Alumni Association and make recommendations for change if needed."

Many BHS alumni from recent graduates to people in their eighties have volunteered their time and skills to better this group, known as the oldest alumni association in the state of Wisconsin.

The following were recommendations received by the board of directors from the committee:

1. Keep the current annual banquet format as the Saturday banquet of Memorial Day weekend.
2. Incorporate the BHS Alumni Association as a nonprofit group.
3. Develop a computer database consisting of all living BHS graduates.
4. Establish a web site, www.bhsalumni.org.
5. Increase the scholarship endowment fund.
6. Publish a newsletter, *The Echo*.

I am pleased to report all six recommendations by the committee to the board of directors were adopted and are now fully implemented.

I would now like to limit my remaining remarks with two recommendations: Scholarship Endowment and *The Echo*.

The BHS Scholarship Endowment Fund is now at \$200,000, three times greater than it was in 1999 when the first *Echo* was published. All memorials and gifts of money from alumni are used to grow the endowment fund. Annual interest earned from the endowment investment is given to BHS qualified graduating seniors of that year. Last year seven \$1,200 scholarships were awarded.

Our goal for the endowment is set at one million dollars. When supporting your favorite causes, please remember your BHS Scholarship Endowment Fund!

The Echo was first published in 1990. Publishing and mailing costs for each newsletter run around \$2,500. The Farmers & Merchants Bank of Berlin and the First National Bank have been paying the

cost of postage, while the Berlin Journal has been doing the printing, and Badger Mining Corporation of Berlin has underwritten the cost of printing.

Because the financial commitment of these generous businesses will not go on forever, we must develop a long range plan to fund *The Echo* or end publication.

My hope is *The Echo* will continue as long as we have a BHS Alumni Association. To accomplish that, we need to develop an "Echo Endowment Fund" using only interest earned each year to pay publishing and postage costs for the newsletter. If we could develop a fund of \$50,000, the interest would meet publishing expenses today and grow the endowment's future publishing costs. Our hope is next year at this time you will again be enjoying BHS alumni news.

My wife and I will pledge \$200 to the Echo Endowment Fund as a kickoff in the name of legendary educator, Art Flanigan.

Please join us in making pledges to the Echo Endowment Fund. Thank you.

Class of '57 challenges others to donate; Awarded \$4,400 in scholarships in 2007

When members of the class of 1957 held their 50th class reunion in 2007, their choice of "pay-back" as alumni was in the form of scholarships. The generosity of these alumni provided four scholarships of \$1100 each.

Choices had to be made—which students would be selected? These are never easy choices as we wish we could help them all. Students chosen were the following: Katie Trochinski, attending UW Oshkosh in the field of business. Both her parents were BHS grads. Kimberly Schuster, attending Marian College in the field of nursing, her father also a BHS grad. Heidi Hutzler, also attending Marian College in the field of nursing.

Her mom, a BHS grad; David Demick attending Carroll College in the field of physical therapy. David's dad, a BHS faculty member, was a "Berlin" grad - but it was Berlin, New York!

As these students now join us as alumni, we hope they too will choose, in whatever manner, a way to "pay back." If *The Echo* continues to be published each year we hope it will, in turn, continue to encourage all the past and future alumni also to make choices that will benefit our great school. *The Echo* has been a wonderful touching base with all. The class of 1957 was just one of many who were generous—won't you be next?

Judy Peck Eldred, Class of '57

Berlin High School Annual Alumni Banquet

Saturday, May 24
6:00 p.m.

BHS Commons
Featuring classes
ending in "3" or "8"