

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1966

September 2010 NEWSLETTER

Hurry up fall! We are tired of this hot and humid Texas weather! We are ready for a break - with cool mornings and dew on the grass. Fall is close, we've started school, football is getting into full swing and all the signs are there – the major difference this September - the Rangers are winning (and, that was not in the Farmer's Almanac).

Time continues to slip by at warp speed and we are coming upon our 45th Reunion – who would have “think it”! The wheels are spinning as we start the work toward putting the reunion together and we hope to have something out before the next newsletter so everyone can make plans to attend. In the last Newsletter I asked for you to send in any suggestions regarding the reunion and once again, I will make a plea to do the same. Please send in any suggestions within the next few weeks so we can finalize the plans to give everyone plenty of notice.

I want to encourage you to consider attending the Grapevine High School Ex-Student Association Banquet that will be held on Saturday evening, October 2nd at Austin Patio Ranch. You still have time to send in your reservations and it is a great event that Russell Kidd and the Ex-Student Association Officers put together. Homecoming Parade is on Thursday evening, September 30th, and the Homecoming football game is Friday evening, October 1st. Again, I encourage you to attend all of the events you can. Cut out the form below and mail ASAP:

Ex-Students' Banquet – Saturday, Oct. 2

Austin Patio Ranch – 2009 Anderson Gibson Rd., Grapevine

5:30pm – Check-in, 6:30pm – Dinner, 8:00pm–12:00am – Dance

\$25.00 per person

Dinner seating is limited, so please register ASAP!!!!!!

Name: _____ Class: _____.

Address: _____.

Phone: _____ Email: _____.

____ People will be attending the banquet @ \$25 each

Make checks payable to: GHS Ex-Students' Association

Mail to: Sarah Sanders, 3337 Pine Tree Ct., Farmers Branch, TX 75234

These past three months did not allow us to escape times of sorrow and loss. In July, we received word that Allen Brackett (Class of '64) passed away at his home on Lake Fork. Please continue to remember his wife Barbara and Allen's family as they continue to deal with this loss.

In August, Kathy Lipscomb Pirkle (Class of 64) contacted me concerning the sudden illness of John Forshee (Class of 63), professor at San Jacinto Jr. College. John was soon diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer. It was only a short time that John lost his battle with cancer. I ask that you continue to remember John's wife Jane and the Forshee family in your prayers.

In mid-August, Gail Hutchison Reneau contacted me that our classmate Johnnie Mae Washington Braddock's father, Joe E. Marchbanks, passed away on the evening of August 9, 2010 in Cleburne, Texas. Johnnie Mae and her dad were very close and we all continue to keep Johnnie Mae and her family in our prayers.

August continued to provide sad news when I received an email from Kathy Lipscomb Pirkle and another from Anne Kennedy Janek (Class of 64), that Wendy Gail Armstrong Schneider (Class of 64) had passed away the morning of August 15, 2010 in a Waco hospital. Gail was on a trip with friends when she became ill and was taken to the Waco hospital. Anyone who attended GHS in the 60s would certainly remember Gail. She was one of a kind and was a good friend to many of our GHS classmates and friends. Please keep the Schneider family and her many close friends in your prayers as they too continue to struggle with this loss.

In mid-August, I received an email from Barbara Seals Trinkle (Class of 69) that Cindy Powell (Class of 69) lost her mother, Kay Powell on Friday, August 13th. Mrs. Powell worked with Barbara's mother at the dentist office of Dr. Wilkerson for a number of years. I know that you will also join me in continuing to pray for Cindy and the Powell family.

As you know from emails received and from this Newsletter, August 2010 was a difficult and sad month for GHS Classmates of the 60's. However, in spite of the losses and in spite of the difficulties having life-long friends from GHS does help the healing process. Knowing you have so many friends that have known us and our families for so many years provides such support that help sustain us during these tragic times. I know that you all join me in thanking God for providing us with a past that does provide such comfort and support during these times of deep sadness. As we continue to reap the benefits of growing up in Grapevine, Texas and being able to maintain such wonderful friendships over the years – what a blessing from God. I know each of you that have experienced such times have felt that comfort and recognize what a blessing it is and continues to be in our lives.

There have also been a class members who experienced difficulties and illnesses these past months, so I continue to ask that we be in prayer for one another and continue to support one another as we age and face difficult times. I also know that many have had wonderful times with grandchildren and spending time with your children as well. So, in spite of so many sad bits of news shared, there are many wonderful times we are experiencing that don't get mentioned. I know that there have been wonderful times and times of great adventure that is being shared as well and many times it includes GHS classmates as well.

So, continue to be supportive of one another, but also “LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!” whenever the opportunity is there!

At the end of September is the annual HOLTON’S DRIVE FOR SIDS, a golf tournament that has become so very successful and is in memory of David and Darlene Florence’s grandson Holton who died of SIDS. Holton’s parents Shawn and Kathy (Florence) Spradley started this effort, and it continues to grow and bring in wonderful contributions for the battle against SIDS. Our class has attempted to field a team or more of golfers each year in support of this event and this year is no different. This year, John Yancey, Joe Lipscomb, Rick Stacy and Jim Box will be representing the Class of 1966. In previous years we have had one or two teams and every year thus far we have managed to play well enough to not be in last place. However, there were a number of times we certainly were sweating it out until a team or two came in with a worse score. Please join me in wishing John, Joe, Rick and Jim a successful effort on Saturday, September 25th! I am also certain that Shawn and Kathy would love to have you donate to their cause if you’ve not already done so. Shawn, Kathy, David and Darlene and friends and family have worked hard to put this tournament and auction in place. I also know that they appreciate Rick Stacy for helping out by serving as auctioneer for their live auction immediately after the tournament.

As we entered into September, we needed to share some good news. It was not many days into the month that I received the email below from Cathy Anderson:

I wanted to let you and all the Alumni of Grapevine High School know that there has been a wedding. Woody Simmons and I were married on Sept. 2! The ceremony took place in a quaint Methodist Church in a small town in Colorado. Performing the ceremony was Pastor Mike Christian! Seriously! We are making our home in Bastrop, TX @ 126 Eight Oaks Dr. Our home phone # is: 512-985-6255. We hope our fellow graduates of GHS will give us a call or come see us anytime. We’d love to hear from you!

Woody and I are ecstatically happy to be sharing this time of our lives together. We are looking forward to the adventure. Your best wishes will be so appreciated.

Thank you, and God Bless,
Cathy

I know that after sending this note out to many of you, a great number of you have responded with congratulations to Cathy (Class of 68) and Woody (Class of 68)! If not, I recommend that you consider dropping them a note, email or phone call as they start a new chapter in their lives together. Congratulations again to Cathy and Woody!

I also want to mention Cindy Ruth Frye Barnes (Class of 68) in this Newsletter. Any time I fail to mention Cindy’s name I get ugly emails for weeks. And her husband, David Barnes (Class of 63) says life at home is made more difficult when Cindy is not mentioned – even though she wasn’t in our class. So for David, I felt compelled to mention Cindy. It is sort of like her talking (recently) about how much she loved Romper Room as a child and always thought when they looked thru that mirror on Romper Room and said “I see Cindy” that it was truly her they were seeing. She and her brother Mike (Class of 65) tell the story, but Mike’s is most likely a more accurate account. So here it is – our best attempt at “I see Cindy”!

A few weeks back, Linda and I enjoyed meeting John and Caroline Cason Wilkinson for dinner in the mid-cities and catching up with them. I know that John is so pleased to have opened an office of Wedbush Securities in Dallas and all is going well with that endeavor! This had been in the works for some time and I know John is happy this has come about! We hope to see John and Caroline joining us at any upcoming class events!

This may be a little premature since Homecoming is a few days out, but I want to thank Russell Kidd (GHS Class of 1980) for his continued work in keeping the GHS Ex-Student Association going these past years. Russell has worked so hard for more years than I want to mention (for fear it would shock him) to keep things going and growing. Russell and the officers have worked hard to grow the annual Ex-Students Homecoming Banquet – and it has certainly paid off and has become a great event over the past years. On behalf of the GHS Class of 1966, I want to thank you for all you and your officers have done. I don't want to leave out his wife Laura, because even Russell will admit she has worked as hard as anyone to keep things going so well.

I know that October is the month with the second most birthdays in our class. You can go to our class website at www.ghsclassof1966.com and on the left see and then click on class birthdays to see whose birthday is coming up – wish them a Happy Birthday. However, Darrell Faglie wanted me to let everyone know that he will forego a birthday this year and will offer to reconsider for 2011. However, I am sure the likes of Roger Hardin, Barbara Ethridge, Gary Cumbie, Joe Lipscomb, Darrell Faglie, Chris Ashton and David Florence would appreciate an expensive gift – well at least an email or card! Happy Birthday to our Classmates of October!

This Newsletter ends the first seven years of Newsletters that started in October 2003 with the introduction of our GHS Class of 1966 website! It doesn't seem possible. Over the years there have been four newsletters each year, and photos added at various times of class events over the years (there are still photos from our 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 year reunions, plus several Christmas Events and trips such as the Cruise to Alaska in 2005). There are some historical photos and photos from the Grapevine Sun, there are even some Elementary Class photos from first, second and third grade. There are the words to the Grapevine High School – School Song (all three verses, of which only one is usually used). So, when you get bored, browse back through the website and remember some of those good times.

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we are beginning to get the wheels in motion for our Class's 45th Year Reunion coming in 2011! So stay tuned for more info. We hope to have some plans established before the next newsletter to provide everyone the opportunity to make plans on attending.

I wish you all a great fall – VOTE in the November Election! And continue your support of one another and may God Bless the Grapevine High School Class of 1966!

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Oliver