
Rhodes Alumni Association

Newsletter



LET US HELP CREATE YOUR LEGACY

SPRING 2013 ISSUE

Thought You Might be Interested....

From the Freshman manual written in 1945

James Ford Rhodes High School opened on February 1, 1932, with an enrollment of 1466 pupils. The majority of them transferred from Lincoln, and some came from West Tech, West High, Brooklyn Heights, Parma, and Benjamin Franklin, William Raney Harper, and Dawning. From 1466 the enrollment gradually increased reaching a peak of 2000 in 1936. Since that time the enrollment gradually decreased, until in 1940, only 1750 pupils were enrolled.



For one year, James Ford Rhodes was a combination junior and senior high school, but in February 1933 it was changed to a four year high school.

James Ford Rhodes, for whom the school is named, was a famous historian born in Cleveland. He was equally capable in the business and literary worlds, being a junior partner in the firm of Mark Hanna as well as the author of the multi-volume "History of the United States". He numbered among his friends, John D. Rockefeller, William Howard Taft, Charles Francis Adams, Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Samuel Mather. A plaque of James Ford Rhodes setting forth his accomplishments is located in the main entrance of the school.

The Rhodes building is an excellent example of a modern adaptation of Italian architecture. From an airplane, Rhodes resembles a huge E, the long vertical line being the main hall, the west corridor containing the gym and cafeteria, the center corridor containing the shops, and the east corridor containing the auditorium.

The auditorium is a comparatively recent addition to Rhodes. It was started in the spring of 1936, by the WPA, and used first for commencement in January 1937. The auditorium will seat 1132 people and is large enough for practically all school assemblies.

The school was declared finished and ready for occupancy in 1932. Grass and trees were planted, and the outside flanks of the school were leveled, graded, graveled, and turned into a playground by 1933. The modern football and athletic field with a cinder track (note: this was the very track that Jesse Owens used for practice before the 1936 Olympics) surrounding it was dedicated in 1933, and the cement bleachers were finished in the spring of 1937. The sidewalk down the north side of Biddulph was completed and ready for use in September, 1937.

Rhodes is an excellently equipped school. The science department contained at the outset \$2800 worth of equipment, such as chemicals, test tubes, Bunson burners, biological slides, etc. This equipment has been added to from time to time, so that an inventory taken today would reveal that the contents of the chemistry, physics, and biology labs are worth much more than they were originally.

A little known feature of Rhodes is the conservatory located on the fourth floor. It was first developed by Mr. Gaiser and the biology department, but it is now being cared for by the Garden Club under the direction of Mr. Gaiser.

Although the school opened in February, the library was not opened for use until the first of April. Until the end of the third semester, the library was open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. In the beginning Miss Stebbins was the only librarian. During the past six and a half years the library has grown so much that three assistant librarians, several student assistants, and a few N.Y.A. workers are required to take charge of the work.

The dramatics room, 105, contains a small stage, illuminated by two shaded lights. The room is separated from the clothing laboratory by a soundproof partition. When the partition is closed the room will seat about eighty persons; when it is opened, 170 persons may sit in the combined rooms. This room is admirably suited for club meetings, radio broadcasting, parties, student council meetings, and one act plays.

An important feature of the Rhodes high school building is the public address system, which was installed just after the opening of the school. Although this is now a standard feature in most Cleveland high schools, Rhodes was the first senior high school to acquire this equipment. Mr. Mathews took charge of the radio announcements during the first semester. In September 1932 Mr. Hartzell was appointed to take over the task of giving announcements during homeroom period. Then a year later in 1933, Mr. Hartzell appointed student announcers who have done the larger part of the work since that time.

The guard system at Rhodes was first organized a week after school opened in 1932. Mr. Bryan and Mr. Ferguson were in charge of the guards who were on duty during the lunch periods only. Since no one had a shortened program, there was no necessity for guards the other periods. At first all students were assigned to teacher supervised study halls and those students who could secure the written permission of two teachers were allowed to go to the "honor study halls." By 1933 guards were placed at posts throughout the building in order to prevent indiscriminate promenading in the halls. Changes have been made in the system until at this time, under the supervision of Mr. Harsh, students take care of all study halls, corridors, and the cafeteria.

We hope you enjoyed this trip through time to visit Rhodes in the 1940s.

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.—Mark Twain

2012 Financial Report

General Fund

<u>Balance as of December 31, 2012</u>		\$50,109.01
Income for 2012		
Membership (234 members)	\$2,340.00	
General Donations	\$1,944.00	
HOF Dinner	\$3,060.00	
Golf Outing	\$7,549.00	
Total Income		\$14,893.00
Expenses for 2012		
Alumni Newsletter printing	\$1,410.00	
Postage	\$ 129.20	
Operating	\$ 847.51	
Fundraiser (golf outing)	\$4,894.42	
Scanner Donation	\$ 312.40	
HOF Dinner	\$3,208.38	
Total Expenses		\$10,801.91
<u>Balance as of December 31, 2012</u>		\$54,200.10

Scholarship Fund

Balance as of December 31, 2012		\$50,618.09
Income for 2012		
Interest	\$ 257.99	
Donations	\$ 7,860.00	
Total Income		\$ 8,117.99
Disbursements for 2012		
2—\$ 500.00 Scholarships	\$1,000.00	
1—\$1,000.00 John Busch scholarship	\$1,000.00	
1- \$1,000.00 Mike Kraynak scholarship	\$1,000.00	
Total Disbursements		\$ 3,000.00
<u>Balance as of December 31, 2012</u>		\$55,736.08



NOTE: CHANGES IN FINANCIAL FORMAT

Starting with next spring's newsletter the financial report will only show one fund (general fund) which will include our major activity—scholarship funds. This will allow us to operate out of one bank account and make things more simple when we invest our funds.

Financial investment vehicles today are so poor that we have to consider professional help via the Cleveland Foundation which is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the country.

In anticipation of possibly teaming up with the Cleveland Foundation to handle our investments in a Scholarship Endowment Fund our Trustees are putting additional funds from our current general fund into the scholarship fund. This will allow us to have substantial funds for investment by the Cleveland Foundation into our Endowment Fund.

Please bear with us during this transition.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

It is with extreme pleasure that I once again write an article on the generosity of Rhodes High School Alumni.

We had substantial donations this year from **Bill Loeb (class of 1948)**, **Michael Kraynak (class of 1948)**, and **Joe Rocco (class of 1949)** for our scholarship foundation. Both Bill Loeb and Michael Kraynak donated \$1,000 each.

Joe Rocco donated \$2500 for Rhodes High School Wrestling scholarship—which would be disbursed in \$500 increments to one recipient for the next five years. The recipient will be selected by the wrestling coach, James Greenwood and his assistants. Students eligible for this yearly \$500 award must be a senior on the wrestling team who excels at the sport, academics and school citizenship. The award should also be given to students in financial need. The award is to be used for educational purposes such as college tuition, books, vocational training or other educational materials.

We are so appreciative of the continued generosity of our members. It is always with enthusiasm that I write about more finances being donated to our scholarship fund.

Thanks to all who have donated and to those of you who might be considering a donation to our scholarship fund—we would love to hear from you as well.

RHODES ROBOTICS

The James F. Rhodes Robotics (Team 1344C) finished in second place, however, went on to win the Excellence Award at the Ohio Robotics Educators VEX League Challenge on February 23rd.

VEX defines this as, “the highest award presented in the VEX Robotics Competition. The recipient of this award is a team that exemplifies overall excellence in building a well-rounded VEX robotics program. This team excels in many areas and is a shining example of dedication, devotion, hard work and teamwork. As a strong contender in numerous award categories, this team deserves to be recognized for building a quality robot and a “team” committed to quality in everything they do.

In doing so, the team of Reilly Fishe, Erin Miller, and Jamison Borowski qualified for the World VEX Competition in Anaheim, California on April 18-20.

The Rhodes Robotics teams have been taking classes as part of the Youth Technology Academy at Cuyahoga Community College. During class, they have learned how to build and program VEX robots for competition. The teams placed well in their league, finishing 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 8th out of 31 teams from Cleveland. All five teams were in the elimination round, but just narrowly missed winning the title. The all female team of Courtney Mattice and Nicolette Martincic won the Judges Award for an excellent and well designed robot.

This is a worldwide competition with representatives from many countries including China. Gregory Svec is the teacher of this class and teaches engineering as well.

The trustees of your Alumni Association have seen fit to donate \$2500.00 for expenses so that this team can compete in Anaheim, California. Richard Schweikert, class of 1963, has donated \$200.00 to the science department and we added this to the Alumni funds to make this possible.

We all wish the Rhodes Robotic Team the best of luck in their competition and we will look forward to hearing all about it when you get back. Congratulations!



Honor the Past, Embrace the Present, Envision the Future.



UPCOMING GOLF OUTING

We are hoping to increase the number of golfers in the Alumni Association who wish to take advantage of golfing with friends and colleagues. As in the past it will be a four-person scramble. If you think you might be interested in attending either as part of a foursome or as a single to join another foursome we would love to have you join the fun. As in past years, I am sure a great time will be had by all the attendees. This years event will take place on Friday, August 30th at the Bob-O-Links golf course in Avon. The course is located at 4141 Center Road (Route 83) in Avon, OH 44011. Registration will begin at 11AM with a light lunch at 11:30AM and a shot gun start at 12:15. The cost will be \$63.00 per golfer and that will include golf, golf cart, lunch, snack and dinner buffet. If you are not golfing but would enjoy having dinner with the golfers—think about attending the dinner which is \$25.00 per person. Thanks for your support. Dig out your clubs and shoes and have some fun while helping the Rhodes Alumni Association. Tell a friend! Bring a friend! - Thanks, Jeff Burke!

Consider sponsoring a hole with personal or company recognition at the tee. Cost is \$55.00 with a check made out to Rhodes Alumni Association— P.O.Box 41463—Brecksville, Ohio 44141. Thank you!

call Debbie or Bill @ 440/526-8600 or Jeff Burke @ 216-780-6007

GOLF OUTING REGISTRATION FORM

Get your reservation in as soon as possible to guarantee your spot! In order to eliminate some confusion at the golf course please be an early bird by paying before 8/20, cost will be \$63.00 per golfer—after 8/2, 70.00 per person. Register EARLY!!!

Name _____

Number (Names) in your group _____

Address, City, Zip _____

Phone # & Cell # _____

Amount of check \$63 per golfer (after 8/20, \$70 per golfer) _____

Make check payable to: **Rhodes Alumni Association**
P.O. Box 41463
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Info? Questions? Call Debbie or Bill @ 440/526-8600 or Jeff Burke @ 216-780-6007



Hall of Fame to be Held in 2014

HALL OF FAME IS COMING UP...



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Just a reminder—we are planning to have a Hall of Fame nomination ceremony in 2014 but to do that we need people to send in their nominations so our committee can go through them and make the best decision. We really appreciate all of the nominations that are made on behalf of those you believe are worthy. **When making a nomination please give our committee more information than what is on the form in the newsletter.** We need their accomplishments and what sets them apart from others. All those sent in will be considered for the Rhodes Hall of Fame. We take this honor very seriously and make every effort to recognize excellence in all worthy endeavors. Thank you.

Please address the following concerns:

- Personal Development
- Community Involvement
- Vocational Achievement
- Achievement Recognition
- Social Impact

Return to:

JFRHS Alumni Association
Hall of Fame Committee
P.O.Box 41463
Brecksville, OH 44141

Nominee _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____

Faculty / Subject _____

Occupation _____

Nominated by _____

Phone # _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Please attach all pertinent information!

Rhodes Alumni Website

Margery Gerbec has been working with Rhodes students to scan into our website yearbooks to which we have access. However, we still need the following years: June 1934, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 75, 83, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 2000, 2010, 2011, 2012.



Margery has been working with volunteer students and our donated scanners to scan all of the available yearbooks to add to our website. Perhaps if you have or know someone who has access to one of the missing yearbooks—possibly they would loan it to be scanned into the website. Please call Margery Gerbec @ 216-470-1020.

Please help if you have yearbooks needed or know someone who has one of the years we are missing. Go and visit our website at www.jamesfordrhodes.org/yearbooks.htm



Many thanks to Margery and to the students at Rhodes for volunteering their time and energy to this project. We are very appreciative.

Please help us increase our membership by getting your classmates and others to join (only \$10 per year). They will receive two newsletters per year and it will help the students at our high school.

Pictured l to r: Erin, Ty'Lea, Margery, Amber, Shawn & Will

