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# Rhodes Alumni Association Newsletter



LET US HELP CREATE YOUR LEGACY

**SPRING 2018 ISSUE**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 RHODES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**

**OUTSTANDING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP—\$2,500—(2)**

- ◆ Tasheania Lee—Otterbein University
- ◆ Luceri Sandate Lopez—Cleveland State University

**CONTRIBUTION SCHOLARSHIP—\$1,000—(1)**

- ◆ JuTayjua Hines—Kent State University

**RHODES REVIEW SCHOLARSHIP—\$500—(1)**

- ◆ Nia Dumas—Cuyahoga Community College

**OUTSTANDING EFFORT SCHOLARSHIP—\$500—(1)**

- ◆ Jaymar Meliz Pagan Vega—Cuyahoga Community College

**WRESTLING SCHOLARSHIP—\$500 (1)**

- ◆ Landon Barnhart—Big Sandy Community and Technical College

**PREPARATION SCHOLARSHIP—\$500 (3)**

- ◆ Breyana Burgos—Cuyahoga Community College
- ◆ Jariya Polk—Lincoln University
- ◆ Arianna Rodriguez—Cuyahoga Community College



## Congratulations to the Rhodes Robotics Team!!

...on to the World Championship in Kentucky!



This weekend, two of Rhodes teams competed at the Ohio VEX Robotics State Championship (Teams 1344A and 1344B). While 1344B (drivers Cameron Garrett and Yalexis Chiclana and teammate Jack Ovalles) experienced tough matches and robot mechanical and electrical issues, they finished 67th out of 74 teams with a 1-6-1 record.

The 1344A team (Driver Randy Phalgoo, Programmer Tom Vo, Coach David Leskiv, and teammates Anthony Andino, Sebastian Sorma, Hector Lopez, and Steven Loomis, Jesse Knight) went on to a 7-1 record and finished qualifications in 7th place.

They were picked up by the 2nd Seeded alliance (Brecksville, 2011F) for the Elimination matches. They won the best of three quarter-finals matches 2-1 and the semi-finals matches 2-0. In the Finals, it went to 3 matches, with Rhodes and Brecksville winning the final match 121-108 to be crowned the Ohio VEX Robotics 2018 State Champions!

This Qualifies the Rhodes robotics teams for the World Championship in Louisville, Kentucky in April. This will be Rhodes 6th time qualifying for Worlds in the last 7 years.

Thank you to all that have supported the students!

## **FINANCIAL REPORT 2017**

### **General Fund**

Balance as of December 31, 2016 **\$ 65,893.72**

#### **Receipts for 2016**

Membership	\$	1,260.00
Academics/Extra Curricular	\$	790.00
Fundraiser (golf outing)	\$	9,107.00
JFR Alumni Endowment	\$	4,778.00

Total Receipts **\$ 15,735.00**

#### **Disbursements for 2017**

Operating	\$	3,756.21
Fundraiser (golf outing)	\$	5,999.06
Scholarships	\$	8,000.00

Total Disbursements **\$ 17,755.27**

Balance as of December 31, 2017 **\$ 63,873.45**

### **James Ford Rhodes Alumni Endowment and Original Scholarship Fund**

Balance as of December 31, 2016 **\$240,645.67**

#### **Receipts for 2017**

Mike Kraynak Endowment	\$	15,000.00
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Total Income **\$ 15,000.00**

Balance as of December 31, 2017 **\$255,645.67**

## HALL OF FAME NOMINEES FOR 2018

**Jack Belcher** Class of 1951, graduated from Baldwin Wallace College for both his B.A. and B.E., then went on to study at Case Western Reserve University and Ohio State University. He was employed with the Cleveland Board of Education for 30 years as an elementary school teacher, secondary school teacher, guidance counselor, Assistant Principal, Principal at middle schools, Principal at a high school, and a supervisor in the division of personnel. He was also an adjunct professor at Ohio State, Case Western Reserve and Cleveland State University.

Jack also worked for 14 years with a division of AIG (Valic) Tax Sheltered Annuities. He was also a chairman of Palliative Music Therapy and Animal Therapy at Cleveland Clinic and helped start and fund Animals from Animal Protective League to be trained by the inmates at Mansfield Reformatory and later to other penal institutions in Ohio to make them more adoptable. He coordinated Ohio State Veterinary Medical Students to work with prisons in mentoring dogs and was the treasurer of the Buckeye Giant Schnauzer Rescue.

Jack has served as a board member on several real estate condominium associations, the James Ford Rhodes Alumni Association, the Art Advisory Board at University Hospital, the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center (he coordinates all cancer research for both the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospital through Case Western School of Medicine). He endowed the Belcher/Weir innovations Day Program and Speakers at University Hospital which provides funds to explore innovation ideas in the medical field.

**Coach Tyrone B. Owens** of Warren, Ohio, received a football scholarship at Ashland University where he was a member of the 1972 undefeated Division II football team. Tyrone majored in education going on to receive his Bachelor of Science degree in education with a comprehensive in Social Studies.

Upon graduating from college his first job was at East End Neighborhood House in Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked as a social worker. In 1978 he began working for the Cleveland Public School System at Audubon Junior High School, then Charles Mooney Junior High School while still working at East End Neighborhood House as a teacher.

In 1982 Tyrone was transferred to James Ford Rhodes High School from John Hay High School where he taught American Government and American History. In 1983 Tyrone became the head coach of the Rhodes girls track team. He promoted team and personal pride and a sense of achievement in the young women. The girls track team began to grow as Tyrone's goal of promoting academics along with excellence in athletics. His drive to make James Ford Rhodes a regional and state powerhouse in women's track was realized. Tyrone coached a total of 96 state qualifiers who put their athletic talents on display in Columbus, Ohio through the years. He led the girls track team to win two city championships, three district championships, three regional championships, two regional runner ups, and one indoor state runner up championship.

In 1996, Tyrone Owens, along with several graduates of the class of 1988, founded the James Ford Rhodes Alumni Association. Over the first few years the association organized tours of the school and a banquet to honor the 1948, 1951, and 1954 football championship teams where each player was recognized at a half time show of a football game. In 1988 a newsletter was created along with a very aggressive membership drive. In 1999, there was finally an inaugural banquet at Thistledown Race Track. To this day, Tyrone is still active with the association and has helped it grow tremendously.

**Nicole Antoinette Smith** Class of 1988, was the Senior Class President, captain of the girls basketball team, captain of the girls track team, and captain of the girls volleyball team. Nicole went on to receive a full athletic scholarship to Ohio University to play basketball. She played from 1988—1992 and graduated with dual majors in Management Information Systems and Marketing. She then went on to earn her Master of Science at Missouri State University.

## **Hall of Fame Nominees—continued**

Nicole proceeded to work at several Fortune 500 companies as a Vice President of software quality assurance, a process improvement consultant, a senior director and senior consultant. She became an adjunct professor at DeVry University in the Keller Graduate School of Management.

After all of this she then became an author, publisher and founder of the Suwanee Festival of Books, and owner of Faith Books and MORE Publishing. She has published 8 books, most notably, Box of Chocolates, which is a self-help book published in 2005 and in 2006 she published Box of Chocolates for Teens. She also wrote Building Blocks for Effective Software Testing, Getting Beyond the Day Journal, How to Market Your Book for Free, Strategic Life Planning for Single Parents, The Executive Guide to Cost Optimization and Your Guide to Surviving a Job Layoff. She is the proud single mother of Joshua, who graduated from University of Southern California, USC School of Cinematic Arts, who now lives in California where he is pursuing his film Career.

**Coach Phillip Gary** of Cleveland, Ohio, was a teacher at Rhodes High School and began coaching football in 2003 and became assistant baseball coach two years later. Coach Gary was a Special Education Math teacher starting in 2003 at Rhodes. He was always “all about the kids” being firm while still being fair. In 2009, he became head coach of the baseball team leading them to consecutive Senate Athletic League championships. The Rhodes Rams appeared in every championship game while being coached by Phillip since 2006.

Phillip received a stage 4 colon cancer diagnosis in 2012 which he overcame, returning to Rhodes to coach football full time for his 10th season. In what would be Gary’s final year, he led the Rams (6-5) to the Senate Athletic League championships in November, but fell to John Jay in overtime, 19-16.

Phillip touched the lives of many. Sadly, he passed away from cancer on December 14, 2016.



### **HALL OF FAME DINNER—Friday, October 12, 2018**

**6:00 PM—11:00 PM**

**The Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction will take place once again at St. Michael’s Event Center. It is located at 5025 East Mill Road in Broadview Heights, Ohio.**

**The music will be provided by the Highlighter Trio for your listening and dancing pleasure.**

**The cost per person will be \$45.00, this includes buffet style dinner, beer and wine.**

**We hope that you will be able to join us. If you know any of the honorees, please plan to attend and support them for their contribution to Rhodes High School**

**There will be a form to purchase your tickets included in the August newsletter!**

**Thank you for your continued support!**

# **RHODES HIGH SCHOOL 11TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**



**Friday, August 24th, 2018**

Hickory Nut Golf Course

23601 Royalton Road

Columbia Station, OH 44028



## **Schedule of Events**

Registration & Lunch	11:00 AM
Shotgun Start	12:00 PM
Refreshments & Dinner	5:00 PM
Awards & Raffle	6:00 PM

**Format—Four Person Scramble \$75.00 per golfer**

***Includes: Driving Range, Golf, Food, Refreshments, Skill Prizes, Door Prizes***

***Single Players Welcome. We will pair you up!***

**\$75.00 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL received by 8/10/18**

**AFTER 8/10/18 cost will be \$85.00**

**\$25.00 Dinner Only Guests**

**Please sponsor a hole:**

( ) Hole Sponsor—Regular Sign                      \$55.00

( ) Hole Sponsor—Premium Sign                      \$100.00

**Sponsors: Includes signage, name recognition before and after the event. Your info will be displayed on flyers posted for golfers, and on our website!**

**Please register online—pay by credit card**

**[www.EventRegisterPro.com/RhodesAlumniGolfOuting](http://www.EventRegisterPro.com/RhodesAlumniGolfOuting)**

**If not online please send a CHECK for \$75.00, postmarked by 8/10/18 payable and mail to:**

**Rhodes Alumni Association**

**P.O. Box 41463**

**Brecksville, OH 44141**

**Questions??? Contact Suzie Putich at 440/526-9200 or [apsuzie@gmail.com](mailto:apsuzie@gmail.com)**

**[Please note the new golf course location !!!](#)**

## **NATIONAL SIGNING DAY—FEBRUARY 7th**



**Six James Ford Rhodes scholars signed National Letters of Intent to play collegiate football in the fall!**

**From left to right (black and blue jerseys)**

**Cedric Taylor Jr. – Hocking College, OH  
Richard Monday - Allegheny College, PA  
James Langford – Hiram College, OH  
Darren Brown – Hocking College, OH  
Derrick Brown – Hocking College, OH  
Jayvon Benton – Monroe College, NY**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!**

### **MICHAEL KRAYNAK**



As I was finishing up this newsletter and getting ready to send it to the printer, I received a phone call that Mike Kraynak had passed away. As I'm sure most of our members know, Mike was a great friend and benefactor of Rhodes High School Alumni Association and the students attending Rhodes. He was quite a man and leaves behind a loving family consisting of his wife of almost 65 years, Pat, as well as children and grand children. Mike graduated from Yale University earning a degree in history as well as a Masters Degree in International Affairs.

Mike served in the United States Navy , where he was on active duty from 1954—1957. He joined the Naval Reserves in 1959 and served until 1987 , during which time he worked in various intelligence capacities and achieved the rank of Captain. Mike was touched by the poverty he saw while on active duty in the Navy and consequently was involved in a Haitian-based charity, Free the Kids: Project Hope.

Mike will be missed by family and friends and those of us who knew him through the Rhodes Alumni Association. Thanks to Michael Kraynak and his wife Patricia for all you have done for your Alma Mater. You will not be forgotten. **RIP**

# **Congratulations!**

## **Cheri Dzuro Athletic Director and Physical Education Teacher**

Cheri was awarded a Citation and recognition at the Northeast Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Conference.

Cheri has been teaching and coaching at Rhodes High School for the past 23 years and has been Athletic Director for the past 19 years.

We always depend upon her generosity to update us when we ask about athletic accomplishments of her students. We know how much the kids and her programs mean to her and we are very grateful and extend our fervent CONGRATULATIONS to Cheri in addition to the honor of receiving this award.

**Thanks for all you do for Rhodes and the students you mentor!**

### **WE WILL MISS YOU BILL LOEB**

It is with sadness that I report on the passing of William Loeb (Bill). He has been an integral part of the Rhodes Alumni Association as a Trustee for many years. Bill was in the class of 1948 and was born on August 4, 1930 in Cleveland, Ohio. Bill and his wife, Donna had 3 children (one son and two daughters as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Bill graduated from Kent State University after attending and graduating from Rhodes High School. He served in the U.S. Air Force and spent the majority of his working years employed by the restaurant division of the Stouffer Corporation. Bill had a special interest in baseball and was an avid Cleveland Indians fan. He also played softball in the Parma Heights Men's League for many years. Bill served as an elder at Parma-South Presbyterian Church and was a valued Trustee for the Rhodes High School Alumni Association. Anyone who knew Bill would agree that he was a kind and generous man.

