

KnighTimes

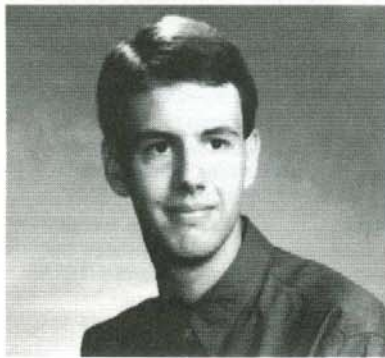
TORONTO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WINTER 1995

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Class of 1994 Scholarship Recipients



Jonathan Burns

The Toronto High School Alumni Association this year presented \$600 scholarship awards to seven outstanding members of the graduating class of 1994.

Jonathan Burns plans to seek a bachelor's degree in Pre-Law/Political Science at Capital University. While at THS, he was a four-year member of the band, the Envirothon Team, and the enrichment and Odyssey of the Mind programs. He was a two-year member of the National Honor Society and served as vice-president; was listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*; was a participant in the Close-Up program; was a member of the Ohio Lions All-State Band and the Leo Club; and is an Eagle Scout. He graduated fourth in his class, was the American Legion Americanism Test winner, and received the following awards in addition to the THSAA Scholarship: Danforth Award, Award of Distinction, the President's Academic Fitness Award for Academic Excellence, Century III Scholar, the Arion Award, and the International Foreign Language Award. He is the son of Fred and Pat Burns.

Katrina Byars, the Salutatorian of the Class of 1994, was very active at THS. She was a four-year participant in the band,

(Continued on page 2)



Cerissa Griffith



Katrina Byars



Zavada McElwain



Jennifer Fisher



Tracy Sutherin



Jason Ray

1994 Scholarship Recipients Recognized

(Continued from page 1)

serving as field commander; a four-year participant and letterman in basketball, track and cheerleading; a two-year member of the choir and National Honor Society; and was the Senior Class President. Her awards include the Bausch and Lomb Science Award, the McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow Award, the President's Academic Fitness Award for Academic Excellence, and the Kathryn Hammond Award. She was an American Legion Americanism Test Winner. Katrina plans to pursue pre-medical studies at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the daughter of James Byars and Mr. and Mrs. LaMont Sizemore.

KnighTimes

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TORONTO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jennifer Fisher is the daughter of Deborah and Charles Fisher. She plans to further her education at the Ohio Valley School of Nursing. Her activities at THS included being a four-year participant and letterman in girls' track, and a member of the Key Club, Future Homemakers of America and the DECA Club. In addition to the THSAA scholarship, Jennifer received the International Foreign Language Award and the Vocational Award of Distinction.

Cerissa Griffith, the daughter of Charles Griffith, graduated third in the Class of 1994. Her awards include the Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarship, the Board of Regents Scholarship, the President's Academic Fitness Award for Academic Excellence, being a Close-Up participant and being listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*. Her high school activities included SADD, French Club, Leo Club, Key Club, Pep Club, Envirothon, Seiko Youth Challenge and National Honor Society. Cerissa plans to study to receive a degree in veterinary medicine.

Zavada McElwain plans to attend Sawyer School to study Communication Systems Management with an accent on Computer Systems. She was a delegate to Buckeye Girls State, was an Americanism Test Winner and was listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*. She served as a library aide, was on the Mirror staff, and was a member of the Spanish Club, the Choir and SADD. Zavada is the daughter of Roberta McElwain and Arliss Freeman.

Jason Ray is the son of Marilyn and Jim Ray. While at THS, he was a delegate to Buckeye Boys State, and Assembly Leader, was a sixth grade camp counselor, and participated in Odyssey of the Mind, FHA, the class play, Spanish Club, Government Day and the Leadership Seminar. He was a member of the choir, was the percussion section leader for the band, and participated in Solo and Ensemble Contests, receiving superior ratings on vocal and instrumental solos. He was selected to be a member of the OVAC All-Star Band, the Youthfest '94 Honors Choir and the Ohio State Fair Youth Choir. His awards include the Robert Urich Communications Scholarship, the Clara Hayes Scholarship, the Lidramu Scholarship (vocal), the Activity Account Scholarship and the James D. Crawford Award. Jason plans to attend Youngstown

State University to study in the area of music education.

Tracy Sutherin graduated in the Top Ten of the Class of 1994 and was the Homecoming Queen. She is the daughter of Ruth and Bill Sutherin and plans to attend Mount Union College to study Medical Technology. Her activities at THS included being a member and president of the Student Senate; a member and secretary of the National Honor Society; a member of the band, serving as secretary and Flag Captain; a member of the State Champion and World Finalist team in Odyssey of the Mind; a letterman in basketball and track; a Close-Up participant; and a member of Key Club, Pep Club, the Jefferson County Youth Advisory Board and SADD. Her awards include the Jefferson County Youth Leadership Award, the Award of Distinction, the President's Academic Fitness Award for Academic Effort, the Boggs Faculty Scholarship and the Barbara Craven Memorial Scholarship.

Alumni Ranks Swell by 93 New Members

Ninety-three new graduates joined the ranks of the thousands of THS alumni during the 105th annual commencement ceremonies in June. The class members excelled in academics and extracurricular activities, led by the top ten graduates:

1. Jeremy Keirseay: GPA 3.983
2. Katrina Byers: GPA 3.964
3. Cerissa Griffith: GPA 3.954
4. Jonathan Burns: GPA 3.907
5. Tammy Liddick: GPA 3.856
6. Matt Bell: GPA 3.792
7. Deena Grant: GPA 3.748
8. Jamie Rinaldo: GPA 3.710
9. Jill Stovarsky: GPA 3.676
10. Tracy Sutherin: GPA 3.671

THSAA congratulates and welcomes all the new alumni.



COMING SOON...IT'S TELE-CLASSMATE II
 You'll hear from us soon!

AlumNotes

Rachael (LeBlanc) Tedder '33 wrote to express her regrets that she could not make it back for the All-School Reunion and to send best wishes to all her classmates. Tedder reports she is "well and happy" in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she has lived since 1958. She is proud of her two sons and four grandchildren.

Mary L. "Penny" (Pentland) Smith '39 was named "Volunteer of the Month" for April 1994 at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens. The longtime Toronto teacher writes that, after more than 30 years in the classroom, "sitting behind a desk" still "makes her feel young again."

Dale Holtzmann '42 retired and closed his photographic studio in Toronto after 45 years in business. Few people passed through school, got married or attended a class or family reunion in Toronto during that time without passing in front of Dale's shutter. Holtzmann told the *Herald-Star* that he wanted to quit "while he is still doing his best photography" and plans to travel throughout the midwest and east coast with his wife Mary Jane, visiting their five children.

Paul and Betty (Roth) Leasure '44/'45 wrote to let their classmates know they're "still an item." In fact, they recently celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends from throughout the country. Paul, retired from Ohio Edison since 1988, and Betty, a former real estate agent and employee of the Delaware County Fair Board, reside in Salem, Ohio.

Bill and Valerie (Bradfield) Baker '51 of Union City, Indiana wrote to update us. Bill is working for Conrail and their grandson, Kyle, of Anderson, Indiana, won the mile run in the state track meet and qualified for cross-country nationals in 1993. Kyle plans to continue running in college.

Shirley (Jeans) Riggleman '52 was honored as "Volunteer of the Year" by the Jefferson County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Riggleman began her work with the Red Cross as a community campaign worker more than seven years ago, and subsequently headed the chapter's military service efforts, the county-wide fund drive and special events including an annual

golf tournament. She is currently a member of the chapter's board of directors and chair of the blood services committee.

Susanne (Trudicks) Marlin '58 served as 1993-94 president of the Ohio State University Medical Center Service Board and organized a recent event which raised \$34,000 for the hospital. She is pictured below with OSU president Dr. E. Gordon Gee and former service board president Ruth Mount.



Bryant R. Evans '63 sent along a wonderful letter chock full of remembrances of his youth in Toronto, which we'd love to print in its entirety if only we had the space. He thinks often and fondly of his classmates and his home town. Evans lives in Redding, California and is president of the Shasta/Lassen/Tehama County Division of Fidelity National Title Insurance Company.



Diana (Meyer) Warner '69 is the new secretary at the THSAA Office. She is the third office secretary in the association's history and

notes that all three have been '69 grads—the others were **Charlene (Byers) Hawkins** and **Diana "Dani" (Rock) Swearingen**. What a class!

Teresa Shimmel '70 married James Grimm of Mingo Junction on April 16, 1994. The new Mrs. Grimm is employed by St. John Medical Center in Steubenville.

Dan Williamson '75, a petroleum engineering graduate of Marietta College, has been working for Unocal Oil since 1979. The job has taken him to some unusual locales—Louisiana, Holland, Indonesia, and most recently, Anchorage, Alaska, where he lives with his wife, Marcia, and children Katie, 12; Julie, 9; and Mark, 6.

Joe DeLuce '76 was recently recognized by a newspaper in Hallandale, Florida for his dedication and positive outlook. DeLuce, who earned a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation from Kent State and advanced degrees in recreation management from North Carolina State and the University of Georgia, began his career as director of parks and recreation for the City of Toronto from 1980-82. After spearheading the planning of Toronto's new swimming pool and volunteer recreation programs, he moved on to Hancock County, West Virginia and then Broward County, Florida, where he is now superintendent of the county parks and recreation division.

Beth Ann (Woodside) Wollam '80 and her husband Phil are the proud new parents of Blake Vincent, their second child. Beth works for Mid-Am Bank in North Baltimore, Ohio, where she resides with Phil, Blake and five-year old Brittany Nicole.

Cary Nemitt '85 and John Krol, formerly of Ambridge, Pennsylvania, are residing in Wexford, Pennsylvania after being married April 25, 1994 in the Virgin Islands. Cary is director of child care at the North Hills Community Care Center.

Margaret Ann Suffoletta '85 married Gale S. Marsh, formerly of Piqua, on August 28, 1993. The new Mrs. Marsh is an area supervisor for the Eddie Bauer Distribution Center in Columbus, where the couple is residing.

Cathleen Clarke '91 appears headed into the family business. The daughter of **Donald W. Clarke '60** is a candidate for graduation from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in June 1995. After completing her education and serving at least a year of apprenticeship in a large funeral home, she hopes to return to Toronto as the third generation of the Clarks to associate with the family's 50-year old business.

Marlene Shuma '91 married Peter J. Lamantia of Steubenville on September 17, 1994. She works for the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center in Wheeling. The couple resides in Steubenville.

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE...

Send your news and notes to share with fellow alumni. The address is THSAA, P.O. Box 273, Toronto, Ohio 43964.

In Memoriam...

The late **Gary Wilson '54** was honored by students and staff at S.C. Dennis School in March with the designation of the frog as the school's official mascot. Wilson, the school's former principal who died in December 1993, was an avid collector of frog memorabilia, according to school secretary Mary Jean Daniels, who spearheaded the effort to name the frog as the school mascot. The school colors were changed to green and gold in keeping with the new mascot. A bench was also placed on the school grounds and a new award established in the Toronto Schools Spelling Bee in Wilson's memory.

• • •

Lucille Bell Campbell, longtime home economics teacher at Toronto High School, died September 9, 1994 in Columbus after a lengthy illness. Mrs. Campbell donated a scholarship to a THS graduate for many years after her retirement from the school.

• • •

Thomas Arnold '58, a retired Army sergeant major, died February 8, 1994 at his home in Level Plains, Alabama. He is survived by a wife and son, a sister (**Patty [Arnold] Boscarello '63**, who informed the THSAA office) and a brother (**Jack Arnold '55**). He was preceded in death by his mother, **Minnie (Hescht) Arnold '33**.

• • •

Ernest Troski '34 died March 11, 1994. The owner of a jewelry store for 47 years, he was active in numerous community activities, including the Knights of Columbus, Toronto Recreation Board, Toronto School Board, United Way, Dapper Dan, Chamber of Commerce, American Legion and Kiwanis Club. For 45 years, he donated a diamond ring to the THS Homecoming Queen.

• • •

Mary Catherine (Lucas) Hackett '33 died November 27, 1994. A member of THSAA, she was a former school crossing guard, motor vehicle registrar and a bookkeeper for Haskins Floors in Steubenville.



Among the many informal class reunions and mixers held during the Reunion Weekend was this outdoor gathering of the Class of '79 at the home of Lori (Mushrush) Maple '79.

Central Ohio Alums Met in Lancaster

The Central Ohio Chapter of the Toronto High School Alumni Association had lunch at Shaw's Inn in Lancaster on June 11, 1994. Members present were: **David Shiltz '52, Nels Theller '55, Ray Mulrooney '57, Janice Peckins '57, Tom Theller '58 and Jack Kirkpatrick '59.**

For information on the 1995 luncheon contact Mulrooney at 315 Lakeview Drive NE, Lancaster, Ohio 43130.

Alumni Contribute to Local Economy

THS grads are playing a key role in the economic revitalization of their home community. **David Kireta '67** and **Helen (Cronin) Kireta '72**, owners of the River Mist Marina in Toronto's north end, recently opened an indoor/outdoor family restaurant at their facility. **Susette (Shevelow) Tice '73** operates another new store, Bearly Worn, at 214 North Fourth Street. The store specializes in used children's clothing. **Mike Swaykus '68** recently expanded his family's market at Fourth and Volmer Streets by adding a drive-through building, bakery and deli.

Card of Thanks

We would like to thank all of you for your prayers and concerns, which have played a major part in Dave's progress during his battle with cancer. So far the score is "Dave 50, Cancer 0" and the playoffs have just begun, and we need you in our cheering section.

Bless you all,
Joan (Ferguson) Hindman '50

*The golden chain of friendship
is a strong and blessed tie,
Binding kindred hearts together
as the years go passing by*

• **Helen Steiner Rice**

Class of 1930 Held Reunion

The Class of 1930 held its reunion at the Williams Country Club in Weirton on August 6, 1994. **Estel Hawkins '30** acted as host. Eleven class members attended, with spouses and friends bringing the total attendance to 40. Class members from as far away as Pittsburgh, Erie and even Florida took part. Each member received a floral basket.

Submitted by **Mary (Miller) Fahey '30**

RE-U-KNIGHT '94 REVIEW

The second All-School Reunion, held in July, was a smashing success, drawing more than 1,600 alumni from throughout the United States back home for a weekend of activities and remembrance.

From the VIP reception (pictured at right) through the golf scramble, walkathon, parade of classes, stadium program, dinner, street dance, fireworks, alumni tea and community concert, the events ran smoothly, even though rain dampened the stadium program. As it turns out, most of us involved in the production of *KnighTimes* were so busy taking part in the activities that there were few pictures to print, which is just as well since space is short, even in this expanded 12-page issue. The space shortage also means that we can't print all of the many thoughtful letters and notes of thanks received, though we thank all who took the time to write. Following is a sampling of the comments.

...

What a wonderful job you and your committee did in organizing and overseeing the Re-U-Knight II reunion! It was a wonderful weekend thanks to all of you! My husband and I were amazed at how well every activity ran...I didn't attend the first but you can be sure number III will find us there. Everyone we met said the same thing. Thanks again for making "coming home" such a wonderful event.

Margie (Milligan) Neff '54

P.S. My sisters Wanda '51 and Rebecca '65 and I extended the THS reunion to a family reunion! Fun!

...

For me, the Reunion was a total success even with the rain near the end of the Saturday afternoon program. Along with other members of the Class of 1944, I remained glued to my seat, rain or not... How are you ever going to top it in 1999? I surely hope to be there to see it. Obviously such a succession of remarkable events speaks volumes for those who planned, organized and executed the total reunion effort. Those of us from out of town who merely came and enjoyed owe a debt of gratitude to the "Home folks" who greeted us with such an array of good times.

O.E. Ernie Boston '44—Pasco, Washington

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Greetings from Robert Urich '64

(The following letter was sent via fax to Jim Ray and was read as part of the ceremonies at the All-School Reunion. **Robert Urich '64** continues to serve as honorary chairman of the "Re-U-Knight" activities and encourages all Red Knights to become members of THSAA and to support the Alumni Scholarship Program.)

Dear Jim,

It's hard to believe that it's been four years since we all last met in Toronto High Stadium. There is no denying that something special happened in our old hometown that weekend—and it is an event I still think about today...how people from all over this country came "home." For me, it was an experience that finally put into focus what it meant to grow up in a community of people that cared so much for each other. During that weekend, names and faces jogged memories of a life in a town that continues to mean home to me.

I've traveled all over the world now with National Geographic, and when people ask me where I'm from, I don't say Los Angeles or Utah or Boston, but from a small town along the banks of the Ohio River. Just like Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," if I asked each of you here today to close your eyes and say three times, "There's no place like home; there's no place like home; there's no place like home," where do you think of? For me, it will always be Toronto, Ohio. So that is why it is so difficult for me not to be with you all as Red Knights from all over the United States Re-U-Knight again.

I'm here in another Toronto—Toronto, Canada—shooting a "Spenser: For Hire" movie. As much as I wanted to be there today in person, Hawk and Spenser just couldn't let the bad guys get away—but please know that I am with you in spirit.

Thank you all for being so kind to my mother, Cecelia, who must take the majority of the credit for all the good things that have come my way. Her unconditional love has been the guiding light all along the way...

To all the parents and teachers of our community, I say thank you. Your involvement, care and concern have made a difference in the life of this community, not just for our children, but for all of us.

Jim, do me a favor by leading the crowd in the TORONTO cheer for me—then you'll know how much I care about all of you. I hope to see you all the next time around!

Warmest regards,
Robert Urich

1994 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

THSAA inducted its second class of Distinguished Alumni honorees during the 1994 All-School Reunion in July.

The first group, honored in 1990, consisted of **Edna (Tarr) Beck '25**, **Donald L. Humphrey '47**, **Joseph T. Karaffa '42**, **Dr. Frances Jane Shaffer '37**, **Robert D. Wise '32** and **Robert Urich '64**.

This year's class included:

Andrew J. Blaner

'39: Blaner retired as Supervisor of Safety, Security and Compensation from Titanium Metals Corporation's Toronto plant in 1986 after 25 years of service to the firm, having also served at TIMET's plant in Henderson, Nevada. During his tenure, the Toronto plant recorded a world record of more than 5,709,153 hours without a lost time accident. Blaner served on several industrial safety committees and won local and statewide recognition for his work.



Blaner also served as a Toronto City Councilman from 1959-1963 and as Mayor from 1963-1971 and 1979-1984. Under his leadership, the city saw many improvements to streets, water and sewer facilities, recreational and safety facilities. The Walton Acres and TIMET areas were annexed into the city and new State Route 7 was completed during Blaner's terms.

James T. Coffey

'54: Coffey completed his term as President of the world's largest voluntary service organization, Lions Clubs International, in 1994. A member of the Toronto Lions Club since 1959, Coffey served in numerous leadership positions on the club and district levels before being elected to the International Board of Directors in 1980. During his year in the group's highest office, he visited a record total of 62 countries, while also seeing to his duties with Quaker State Oil in Congo, West Virginia and with the family real estate trust, which developed the Wallace Heights housing area. Coffey remains active both in his home Lions Club and in international Lionism, serving as chairman of the Lions Clubs International Foundation, which raises and distributes millions of dollars in disaster relief and development funding.



Clarke Hinkle '27:

After a stellar football career with the Red Knights, Hinkle went on to Bucknell University and then to the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League. In those early days of pro football, Hinkle was one of the true iron men, playing both offense, defense and kicking. Named the Packers' "Mr. Fullback" of the 1930s, he became known for his hard-hitting skirmishes with the legendary Bronko Nagurski before retiring at the age of 32 to enter the Coast Guard at the outbreak of World War II. In 1964 he was one of the second class to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, and is also enshrined in numerous other halls of fame. Hinkle died in 1988 at the age of 79, but his memory lives on in a scholarship award presented annually by the Fort Steuben Mall and in the THS stadium, which was rededicated in his name in 1985.



Dr. D. Verne

McConnell '50: Dr. McConnell spent more than 10 years as one of the pre-eminent plastic surgeons in Los Angeles before moving to Wheeling, West Virginia in 1973 and founding the area's first plastic surgery practice. A professor of plastic surgery at West Virginia University, he has also been a member of the Interplast Surgery Team which operates in Third World countries, traveling to Ecuador on two occasions. He has also donated his services to the Indian Reservation Public Health Service in New Mexico.



Jane Walker

McConnell '54 is the founding president of the Toronto High School Alumni Association. Her varied background includes work for a newspaper syndicate in New York City, service as a department secretary at UCLA, Columbia and Vanderbilt Universities, a school teacher in Baltimore, secretary/treasurer of her husband's plastic surgery practice and proprietor of Cosmesis, Inc. in Wheeling. She is listed in *Who's Who of American Women*.



Donald Metzger

'51: A graduate of Ohio State University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Metzger worked for IBM from 1959 to 1976, where his accomplishments included the development of computer technology for the Saturn Space Rocket and management of groundbreaking research in semiconductor computer memory. He later served as Vice President of Engineering for Timex Corporation and held several senior management positions with Digital Equipment Corporation prior to his retirement in 1992. Metzger is the son of former Toronto school district superintendent D.B. Metzger.



Don Sutherin '54:

A four-sport athlete at THS, receiving 12 letters, Sutherin played football at Ohio State, becoming best known for kicking the winning field goal for the Buckeyes in the 1958 Rose Bowl. A second-round draft pick for the New York Giants, he played three seasons in the NFL before moving to Canada. He spent 11 years as an All-Star player for the CFL Hamilton and Ottawa teams, retiring with 18 league records. He returned to Ohio in 1970, teaching school for five years and coaching high school football in Canton, before heading back north as a CFL coach, now with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. His teams have been involved in 14 Grey Cup games (the Canadian equivalent of the Super Bowl), winning seven, and he is a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.



Gladys Waggoner

'27 was a teacher and principal in Toronto Schools for 42 years, retiring as principal of Roosevelt School in 1971. She is fondly remembered by generations of students, and in turn looks back with pride with her many students who went on to positions of local, state, national and international leadership. A seasoned traveler, she has visited some 24 foreign countries and much of the United States, finding travel an excellent means of education.



Reunion Review

(Continued from page 5)

Many thanks for the gracious hospitality extended to me from the members of the Toronto Alumni Association during the various activities of the '94 Reunion. I feel highly honored by the recognition you extended to me and was very pleased to meet so many former students of Roosevelt and Franklin Schools...I commend your group for the excellent organization of all the events especially when so many people in activities in many different locations had enjoyable visits with former classmates and friends. Our community is to be commended for having such a fine organization interested in support of our schools and concerned for the future of our students.

Gladys Waggoner '27

• • •

Thank you so much for the invitation to sing the National Anthem at this year's Re-U-Knight '94! It was so thrilling for me to look out and see so many excited faces and so much red and white! I missed the first all-school reunion, but I don't plan on missing any more. Thank you all, for all the work you put into this weekend. I will remember this always.

Joanna Mihalik '76

• • •

I would like to thank you and your committee for the lovely tea you had, honoring the older alumni. Many of them were unable to attend the other festivities but were able to attend the tea. I heard many of them say how glad they were to be there and how nice it was. It really was appreciated.

Erla Allison '32

• • •

The addition of the all-class parade made the weekend even more special. The committee's hard work and diligence has paid off again. Seeing old friends we haven't seen in thirty years was particularly satisfying and special. Please keep up the hard work, because it is truly appreciated. Thank you again, and we'll see you in five years. GO TORONTO!!!

Jim and Carol Lowery '64

(Continued on page 8)



As I write this, it's New Year's Eve. First off, I want to apologize here to all readers for the length of time between issues. While we're scheduled for three issues a year, the timing of publication is of necessity variable, affected as it is by the pressures of career demands, family needs and other outside activities. Therein lies a good deal of the point of this piece.

On December 31, before we rush off to party, we often take time to reflect on what we have accomplished. As far as THSAA is concerned, there is much we can look back on with pride, not only in the past year but in the approximately five years of our existence as an organization.

For a second time, we have sponsored and organized an All-School Reunion, bringing thousands of alumni back home to catch up with old friends, recapture memories, and see how the old hometown has (and in some ways hasn't) changed over the years. We have enhanced communication among alumni between reunions through this newsletter and through the computerized alumni lists and assistance provided by our office. In the years since we lost our hometown newspaper, we offer a vital link to home for our far-flung alumni. Most importantly, we have provided scholarship assistance to some 30 students in the past five graduating classes and built a foundation scholarship fund of about \$100,000 to support continued scholarships.

The impact of THSAA on our community has been recognized by many, most recently the Toronto Chamber of Commerce, which honored THSAA as "Organization of the Year."

We can be justifiably proud of all of this; yet we must also recognize that we are coming to a critical juncture in our maturation as an organization. Will we be content to do what we do as well as we now do it, or will we determine that we must think bigger and strive higher to meet the needs of the future? If we decide that further growth is needed, who will provide the leadership and laborers to make it happen?

We have been fortunate to have competent and stable officers and dependable workers over the past five years, but like everyone else, they can get tired or "burned out." Their personal situations may change or other responsibilities increase. Or, perhaps, they're just ready to move on to something else.

Some of our officers, for example, have expressed a desire to try adding an institutional development approach to our fundraising, developing long-range plans and soliciting foundations, corporations and large individual donors. Vital and successful as our current fundraising efforts are, this new direction is going to be necessary if our assistance to students is to increase and remain meaningful in an era of rising college costs. Such an approach could also allow us to provide additional services and equipment our school district will need to meet the financial and technological challenges ahead.

Others have suggested that THSAA could develop a comprehensive program of career counseling and mentoring to help students map career plans and ensure that their academic paths will get them where they want to go in life.

These and many other dreams have been discussed among our officers, but the only way they can ever become reality is with an infusion of new leaders and workers willing to pick up the baton which has been carried so well over the past five years. It is time for us to take the next step, to seek out a new direction in service to our alma mater and to our hometown. There will be those that say it can't be done, but then, there were those five years ago who were skeptical that we could reach the modest level of success we have. It can be done, but it will require new leadership and a broader base of supportive workers.

A Nominating Committee consisting of Joseph Karalfa, Jane McConnell, Carolyn Walker, Bob Wilson and Anna Lee Wirth has been established, with hopes of putting forth a slate of new leaders early in the new year. If you are sincerely interested in holding any of the executive positions, please contact a member of the committee immediately. If you aren't ready to take an officer's seat, but would be willing to coordinate or work on a new project, please contact any member of the board. Whatever skills or talents you have developed through your professional or educational endeavors, you can easily put them to work for THSAA. The more of us who work together, the more we will be able to expand our service into areas previously unimagined. May the past five years prove to be just a hint of the progress yet to come!