



# LCHS ALUM NEWS



January 2010

## Warren White Retires as Classical Principal

Warren White, Classical's first alumni principal retired on August 30, 2009. On June 16, 2009, Warren was the center of a good-bye pep-like rally assembly given by his staff and Classical students. The goodbye festivities included speeches, songs and break dancing. It was also the day that Warren was recognized as the Massachusetts' 2009 Principal of the Year by the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association. Warren expressed his feelings about his time spent at Classical as he said, "It has been a great honor to be part of Lynn Classical High School".

Warren began his successful educational journey in September 1972 teaching Family Living at Cobbet Jr. High School. The following fifteen years Warren served the students of Lynn as a Physical Ed. teacher at both the elementary and secondary levels. Warren also taught social studies in the Alternative School program and served as a Guidance Councilor at Classical High School. Warren began his administrative career in the Lynn School System in 1987 when he was appointed Assistant Principal at Classical. In 1993, Warren was selected to be the Principal of Breed Middle School. This was followed by his appointment as Principal of Classical High in 2004.

Two major challenges confronted Mr. White as he became principal of Classical: the reconstruction of the school and the continuing implementation of recommendations so Classical could maintain its accreditation. It was through Mr. White's supervision along with the work and energy of his staff that both challenges were met and overcome.

Today, Classical is up and running as a viable educational institution and has been recognized a number of times in the last five years as one of the nation's best urban high schools. Mr. White goes into retirement knowing that he played a significant part in bringing Classical High School into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as a continuing strong educational force serving the citizens of Lynn. Have a happy retirement, Warren!

## Classical Has a New Principal

Gene Constantino, former Classical Vice Principal, was chosen by Superintendent Catherine Latham to be Classical's new Principal. Based on his educational experience and knowledge, Ms. Latham believes that Gene will "make a wonderful principal and we are fortunate to have him in our system."

Mr. Constantino is a 32-year veteran of the Lynn School System. For the past 27 years Gene has worked at Classical starting as a special education teacher, then as a guidance counselor, and the last three years as one of Classical's vice principals. He also had a successful 19-year career as Classical's varsity girls' basketball coach. Mr. Constantino, upon learning of his appointment said, "I am ecstatic. This position is one that has seen some strong principals. I have a lot to live up to."

### LCHS Alumni Association is pleased to announce our newest Named Scholarships

- ◇ Class of 1963 Scholarship was established by the Class of 1963 Reunion Committee.
- ◇ Dempsey Family Scholarship established by Paula (Dempsey) Tomasi, Class of '69.'
- ◇ Barbara Litch Memorial Scholarship established in memory of Barbara, Class of '50.'
- ◇ Mikedis Family Scholarship established by Peter Mikedis, Class of '83.'
- ◇ Willow Laboratories & Medical Center Scholarship established by Dr. Brian Strasnick, Class of '71.'

**Thank you all for your generosity!**

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### THROUGH THE YEARS

This past year the LCHS Alumni Association engaged in a search to find the oldest living LCHS graduate. The results of the search are as follows: The most mature graduate located is **Elynore Thayer, Class of '30'**, who is a young 95. Coming in with a very close second is **Helen (Prendiville) Nelson, Class of '32.'** **The Class of '35'** had a very strong showing of five. They are **Sophie Kline, Marjorie Murphy, Elma Savoy, Anne (Skolnick) Stein, and Jane Stadolnik.** The field is rounded out by **Vincent Gunning, Class of '36', Dorothy Haydock, and Kary Yanakakis Class of '37', and Jenny (Maselbas) Bartnicki, Class of '38.'**

**Best wishes and good health to all!**

### THE LYNN CLASSICAL ALL CLASS GATHERING

On May 16, 2009 the Alumni & Friends of LCHS sponsored the "LCHS All Class Gathering" in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Classical as an independent high school in Lynn. The anniversary party was held at St. Michaels Hall from 7:00 to 11:00 P.M. Nearly 300 Classical alumni and friends came out to relive past glories, renew old friendships, reminisce about the good times of their Classical High School years and celebrate Classical's 100 years. Alumni from the decades of the 40's to the present came out to party. There was an especially very strong showing from various classes of the '80's. Disc Jockey Michael Smith, former director of music at Classical, kept the party rocking with music selections from the 40's to the present day. Sidekim Foods, owned and operated by Classical alumnus **Peter Mikedis, Class of '83'** served a buffet meal that was praised by all who went through the line.

The Lynn State House delegation made up of Rep. Steven Walsh assisted by **Emily Dulong, Class of '03,' Jeff Weeden, Class of '01,'** representing Sen. Tom McGee, and **Brendan Crighton, Class of '01,'** representing Rep. Bob Fennell, presented Classical with a Proclamation Certificate congratulating Lynn Classical on its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Lynn City Council and Mayor Edward, Chip, Clancy in a Proclamation declared Saturday, May 16, 2009 as "Lynn Classical High School 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition Day". The Proclamation cited Classical's service to the citizens of Lynn since 1909, its history of providing a strong educational foundation to generations of Lynners, and its national recognition as an outstanding high school. This marks the first time in Lynn's history that one of its high schools has been accorded such an honor. Alumni President Paul Stafford looked at the successful history of Classical as an outstanding high school through the efforts and accomplishments of its principals Fred Mitchell (1919-1943), Frederick Buckley (1943-1971), Al Conlon (1971-1980), Charles Connolly (1980-1986), Peter Arslanian (1986-1993), Nick Kostan (1993-1999), Bill Frost (1999-2004), and Warren White (2004-2009). It was good to see the four living past principals of Classical together, undoubtedly sharing remembrances of their tenures as Principal.

The most senior alumni in attendance were **Eileen (Galvin) McTague, Class of '44'** and **Marilyn (Hunt) Stackhouse, Class of '44'**. Both of these young ladies were best high school friends and remain so today. Alumni who traveled long distance to attend the "Gathering" were: **Ted Canto, Class of '88'**, all the way from Mesa, AZ, **Kevin Britton Class of '88'** who dropped in from Ithaca, NY, and **Sue (Leblanc) Barnwell "85" from North Carolina.**

Also attending was newly commissioned **Marine Lt. Alex Mora, Class of '99'**. Alex said, "I wanted to come back home and see past friends before I ship out to Japan and then on to Iraq and Afghanistan. This was a great way to do this". God Bless and Protect you, Alex. A special thanks to Tom Dill of the Lazy Dog Sports Bar, Lynn, Sports Bar and Grill, Doug Kennison of Newhall's Package Store Lynn, and Angelia Meimeteas of Touch of Color Beauty Salon Lynn, for donating gift certificates that were drawn as door prizes. As the party goes left at the end of the night, many described the night as "awesome," "great," "out of this world" and asked, "When.... will there be another one?" Who knows, maybe next year.

### THE ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF LCHS ANNUAL RECOGNITION AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

On Thursday, June 11, 2009, the Alumni & Friends of LCHS held its annual Recognition and Scholarship Awards Banquet at St. Michael's Hall. The night started with a buffet catered by Sidekim Foods owned by **Peter Mikedis '83'**. The evening's program was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem by **Rachel Dunnigan '09'**. President Stafford next presented three Alumni

Association Certificates of Appreciation to retiring Classical Principal **Warren White '66'**, Alumni Trustee **Ron Benevento '60'**, and Classical alumnus **Edward Stafford '88'**. Warren White was recognized for his years of service to the students of West Lynn as a teacher, guidance counselor, vice principal, and principal. Pres. Stafford summed up Mr. White's career when he said, "Mr. White as a school-based educator has done it all." Ron Benevento and Edward Stafford were recognized for their unselfish support

on behalf of the students of LCHS and the Alumni Assoc. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of scholarships totaling \$52,950.00 to 57 deserving Classical seniors through the Alumni Scholarship program. President Stafford complimented the scholarship recipients, their parents, and their teachers, on their successful achievements. He complimented the parents on raising fine young men and women who value education. He praised the recipients' teachers for

a strong educational foundation. He acknowledged The Named Scholarship sponsors as the "backbone" of the very successful Alumni Scholarship Program. Alumni Treasurer Geraldine Stafford and Classical Principal Warren White assisted President Stafford. Mr. White closed the night's program by asking the graduates to "remember this night and be willing to give back to a future Classical graduate as Classical alumni are giving back to you tonight".

**LYNN CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 344**

Friday, June 12, 2009 new LCHS alumni were added to the alumni roll as 344 Classical seniors crossed the stage and received their diplomas. Principal Warren White, assisted by school committee members Patricia Capano, Maria Carrasco, Donna Cappola, John Ford Jr., Jeffery Newhall, and Vincent Spirito, presented diplomas. This year marked the last time Mr. White would present diplomas since he would be retiring in August.

Senior Class President Christopher Lewis welcomed family members and friends of the graduates. Kevin Mazige, Salutatorian, and Basant Badr, Valedictorian, shared their thoughts and memories of their four years at Classical and the important role Classical played in preparing them for the future. Mayor Edward Clancy, Superintendent of Schools, Catherine Latham, State Senator Thomas McGee, and State Representatives Robert Fennell and Steven Walsh congratulated and extended their best wishes to the graduates.

**Emerson Foster, Class of '85,** was this year's commencement speaker. Emerson graduated in 1996 from the University of Rhode Island with a BA in Consumer Affairs. Emerson worked for Stop and Shop at the administrative level, specializing in human services, community relations, and diversity

recruiting. Currently Emerson is the co-founder of Foster & Francisco, an executive search and retention firm specializing in finding and retaining executives of color for Fortune 500 companies. Emerson also works extensively within the non-profit community, notably with the organizations Bottom Line and Men and Women of Action. Both these programs are student-mentoring programs.

In his address, Emerson implored the graduates to "live your life with integrity" and presented them with a ten-point strategy for success:

1. Never lose hope in what you are doing.
2. Understand that at times people will disappoint you but be willing to forgive.
3. Don't be afraid to fail.
4. Have a back up plan ready.
5. Be true to yourself and do what you know to be right
6. Be willing to lead.
7. Don't be afraid to ask for help.
8. Give back to others and your community.
9. Understand that you can impact the future.
10. Know that family is everything.

Emerson closed his remarks by defining success as "that point where opportunity and hard work meet."

**4TH ANNUAL BOWL-A-THON**

For the 4<sup>th</sup> year the Lucky Strike Bowling Lanes was the site of the annual Alumni & Friends - sponsored Bowl-a-thon. On Sunday, March 15, 2009 members of the Classical Mary Bemis Chapter of the Nation Honor Society along with members of the Alumni Assoc. displayed their bowling skills to benefit the Alumni & Friends Scholarship Fund. The student bowlers were also competing for prizes based on their bowling scores.

Winners of this year's individual prizes were: Rachel Dunnigan and Cesar Castro (\$20.00 Best Buy Gift Cert.), Athina Sutson and Sean Winchell ( \$15.00 Barnes and Noble Gift Cert.), Sochitta Men and Daveth Cheth (Lucky Strike Gift Cert.), Alba Ortega and Nathan Neff ( McDonalds Gift Cert.) For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Amber Sutson won a \$100 Mall certificate for bringing in the highest sponsor pledge amount. Thank you to all whose support made the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Bowl-a-thon a success. A special thanks to Donna Deegan, the new advisor to the Classical Honor Society. Sincere thanks to Lucky Strike owner James Barber, **Class of '62'**, for his continued support of the Alumni's Bowl-a-thon.

**RED SOX RAFFLE**

This year's annual Red Sox Ticket Raffle was a smashing hit. \$2,400.00 was raised by this event to benefit the Alumni Scholarship Program. On Sept 9, 2009 the winner for the Red Sox vs. LA Angels game tickets was drawn by Lynn Classical new principal, Gene Constantino. Ms Linda Carpenter of Peabody was the lucky winner of the Red Sox tickets. She took her 12 -yr old daughter, who has never been to a live Sox game. Thank you very much to Alumni Board member Susan (Stafford) Hogan for providing the two Red. Sox tickets. This is the third year Susan has been so generous. Finally, we want to thank everyone who took part in this fundraiser for their generous contributions.

**ALUMNI CORNER**

**Tom Gandolfo '67** has opened the "Over Easy" breakfast and lunch restaurant at 55 Boston St. Lynn, Hours are: 6a.m. - 2p.m.Mon.—Fri.: 7 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sat.: and 7 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sun. Tom's restaurant offers a full breakfast menu & soup, salad and sandwiches for lunch. Good Luck, Tom, and bon appetit. Congratulations to **Judy Flanagan Kennedy '80,** who was elected Mayor of Lynn this past November. She is the second Classical grad to be elected Mayor. **Noreen (Quinn) Fisher '72** is the current Mayor of the Village of Scarsdale, NY. Congratulations to **Brendon Crighton, '01,** who was also elected this past November to serve as Lynn's Ward 5 Councilor. This is living proof that Classical High continues its tradition of producing high caliber community leaders.

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#### DONATE WITH PAYPAL

Now make your donations and contributions to Alumni & Friends of Lynn Classical High School on-line with PAYPAL. We have set up a nonprofit PAYPAL account to receive donations for our General Scholarship Fund and provide an easy and convenient way for you to support our fundraising activities. For more info about how you can use PAYPAL to support our programs, visit our Donations Page at <http://lynnclassicalalumni.org/donations>.

#### ALUMNI & FRIENDS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Thank you to all who made last years contributing membership drive a great success. Your membership contributions have played an important part in the Association's ability to carry out its activities and programs to help Classical students realize their dream of a better life through education.

**Alumni Corner** -This section is dedicated to milestones, important events and/or accomplishments of LCHS Alum. If you have any info you would like included contact the Alumni Association from the above information.

- ◇ Classical has three new alumni Varsity coaches. **Ryan Hathaway "Class of '00"**, former assistant Classical football and track coach, now leads the Boys' Varsity Spring Track program. **Peter Pappagianopoulos "Class of '00"** is the new head coach of the Classical/English Varsity Lacrosse team. Peter was a 4-year Lacrosse defenseman for Salem State College. **Kathleen Miller "Class of '01"**, former Winter Track assistant coach, was selected to head the Classical Girl's Varsity Spring Track Program. Good luck to them and their teams.
- ◇ **Alex Mora "Class of '99"** upon graduation enlisted in the Marine Corps. He is now a Marine Combat Engineer Officer with the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. In June of '09, Alex was assigned to Japan for a three-year deployment. His deployment will include rotations to both Iraq and Afghanistan. His wife Adela and their daughter Adela Aleska, age 5, are with him. If you would like to contact Alex, his email is <[amora1981@gmail.com](mailto:amora1981@gmail.com)>. Thanks for your service, Alex.
- ◇ **Linda (Wessell) Amirault "Class of '74"** is now pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Linda is taking courses at North Shore Community College and plans to transfer to Salem State in January 2010 to complete her studies. Linda is currently a Registered Nurse. Linda and her husband James have three grown children, James age 31, and identical twin daughters Amanda and Amy, age 30. Good luck in your studies, Linda."
- ◇ **Stacy (Grugnale) Malkan, Class of '86'** is a media strategist. She works freelance for environmental groups in Washington D.C. Stacy graduated from UNH in 1990 with a BA in English. She has been a newspaper reporter, a magazine editor, and a newspaper publisher (The Summit Free Press in Colorado). Stacy served as Ralph Nader's assistant press secretary in his 2000 presidential campaign. In 2007 she became a published author with the release of her book "Not Just a Pretty Face: The Ugly Side of the Beauty Industry". Her web site is [www. NotJustaPrettyFace.org](http://www.NotJustaPrettyFace.org).
- ◇ **Sheila (Rivera) Ortiz, Class of '93'** is currently living in Suffield, CT with her husband and 4-year-old son. Upon graduation from Classical, Sheila attended Marian Court College and CTI. She is now a Medical Cost Analyst for Aetna Insurance.
- ◇ **Jason Canney, Class of '91'** is now living in Colorado with his wife Lisa and their two children, Michael age, 7 and Laura, age 6. He is working for cable giant Comcast as a supervisor of an engineering team.
- ◇ **Adela Del Rossi, Class of '50'** was recognized this year by Salem Hospital for her twenty years of dedicated service to the hospital and its patients as a medical technologist. She continues to work at Salem Hospital. Adela says, "I received my inspiration to help people from Lynn Classical High School".
- ◇ This year **Michael Phelps, Class of '76'** was recognized for his dedication to the Knights of Columbus and for his unselfish community service. This includes his past and present support of the Alumni & Friends of LCHS. Thank you, Mike
- ◇ **Nicole Bluefort, Class of '98'** has been appointed to a highly sought after clerkship by Judge Frederick L. Brown of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. Michelle is a recent graduate of Northeastern Law School. Her legal background includes two law internships, one in the US. Attorney's Office and the other for Judge Joyce Alexander of the US District Court.
- ◇ **Kimberley Belmonte (Poole), Class of '84'** is a Medical Oncology Staff Assistant in the Breast Cancer Group of the Duke University Medical Center. Kim's duties include working with the Center's oncologist and nurse practitioners. Kim also takes part in the editing of manuscripts for publication in oncology journals. Kim and her husband Joe live near Raleigh, NC. with their son Cameron, age 12 and their daughter Caitlyn, age 8.
- ◇ Army Sgt. **Nicole Meagher (Duyon) Class of '04'** is serving the United States in Iraq. Nicole shipped out for a 14-month deployment with the 167<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Sustainment Battalion. Nicole joined the Army just before her graduation in 2004. Nicole and her husband Sean were married on July 9, 2008. Nicole will keep her maiden name while she serves in Iraq in honor of her grandfather, Joseph Duyon. God speed and protection, Nicole .
- ◇ Two outstanding Classical female athletes from the **Class of '04'** are still making their marks on the playing fields. **Monique Lee**, a Quinnipiac College basket standout, is now a graduate assistant coach in the Quinnipiac women's basketball program. **Paula McGinn**, a two-sport standout in soccer and softball at Endicott College, is an assistant soccer coach at Bishop Fenwick High School.
- ◇ Scott Goodwin, son of Maxine (**Bona Goodwin Class of '54'**), was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General USAF on June 19, 2009. General Goodwin is assigned to the National Military Command Center, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington D.C. as Deputy Director of Operations. General Goodwin is also the nephew of **Geraldine (Bona) Stafford Class of '62.'** His accomplishments make us proud. Thank you for your service, Scott.