

Plattsmouth Alumni Association

Linking the Past with the Future

Published August 2012

CAROLE PFEIFER WINSCOT 2012 ALUM OF THE YEAR



Carole Pfeifer Winscot was born in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska in her maternal grandmother's home. Carole spent her childhood on a farm near Spalding, Nebraska. She attended a one-room school and then Spalding Academy. The drought of the 50's caused the family to move from the farm to Plattsmouth. Carole wasn't sure she could be happy in the big city school. She graduated from Plattsmouth High School in 1959. Upon graduation Carole entered St. Catherine's School of Nursing in Omaha and graduated in 1962 also receiving the Outstanding Leadership Award. In November of 1962 Carole and Tom Winscot^{'59} (high school sweethearts) were married. Carole's siblings were also PHS graduates: Connie Faris^{'62}, Carmen Horn^{'63}, Terri Cubrich^{'68}, the late Tim Pfeifer^{'70}, and Ginger Schmidt^{'74}.

Carole continued her education while working full time. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Omaha in 1968. In 1980 she obtained her Masters Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She continued her education with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1993 from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Carole worked at St. Catherine's as a staff charge nurse before accepting a position as Clinical Instructor at St. Catherine School of Nursing. In 1965 she began working at St. Joseph School of Nursing as an ICU Instructor, Gastrointestinal Nursing and later accepted a position of Associate Instructor at Clarkson College. One of her most rewarding roles was found in teaching Oncology Nursing and Death & Dying. She also served as Interim Dean in the College of General Education and Continuing Studies presenting numerous educational workshops for nurses. Carole fulfilled these same functions at Creighton St. Joseph Hospital in addition to serving as Adjunct faculty at Wayne State College and Creighton University. The last seven years of her career were spent at Methodist Hospital as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Oncology and Bariatric Nursing. Carole's work in Oncology and personal experiences with her father's struggles was the foundation for her doctoral thesis entitled "The Psychosocial Needs of Cancer Patients and Their Spouses". She has tried to make life a little easier for people with devastating diseases, especially cancer, trying to give them information and emotional support.

Carole developed Wellness Programs at two hospitals, which focused on Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Wellness. She completed six major research projects related to cancer and cancer nursing. Carole published numerous educational articles on topics such as Wellness, Healing Touch, Keeping Fit, Humor, and Cancer Nursing. In 1988 she was named to Who's Who in American Nursing, Society of Nursing Professionals. In 1993 Carole was inducted into the Methodist College of Nursing's Honor Society as a Community Leader. She was a member of the Creighton University Iota Tau Nursing Honor Society, serving on their Board of Directors and as Vice-President. Carole has also received the "Caring Kind" Nurse Award and the Clarkson College "Special Person" Award.

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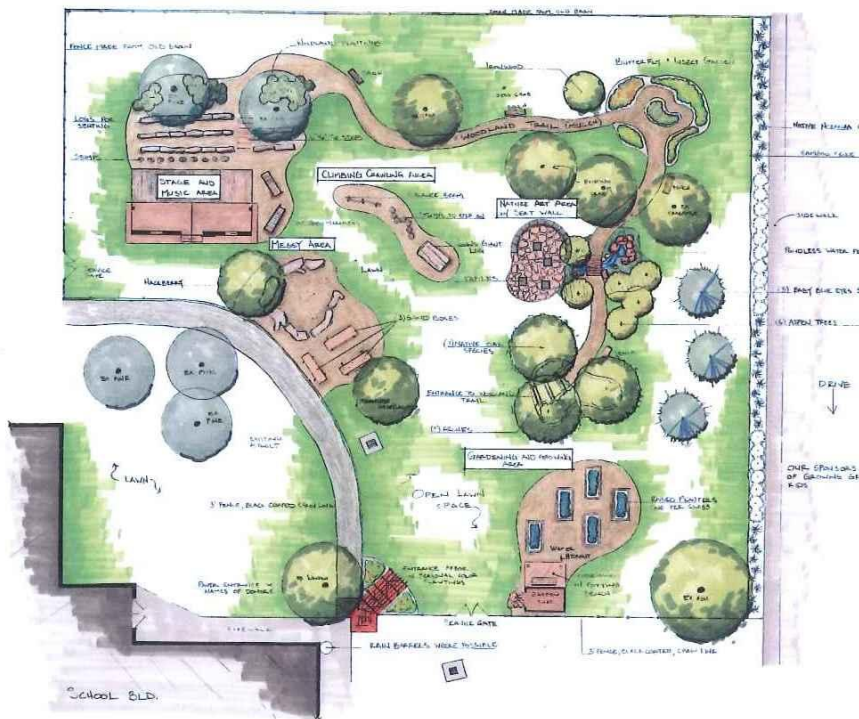
Carole has been active in the following professional organizations: the National Clinical Nurse Specialist Organization, American Nurses Association, American Association of University Women, American Holistic Nursing Association, Nebraska Nurses Association (serving as delegate to numerous state conventions), Nebraska Cancer Pain Relief Initiative Committee, American Society for Healthcare Education and Training, American Cancer Society Professional Education and Primary Care Committee, Midwest Community and Health Resource Institute of Professional Development and Research Support, UNL, serving as Chair.

Alum of the Year Continued -

Carole is an active member of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Plattsmouth. She has served on the Parish Council, is a member of the Parish Council of Catholic Women and Catholic Daughters of America, she is the Liaison to Home and School while serving on the School Board of Saint John's School for the past five years. Her years of community involvement were rewarded in 1983 with the "Volunteer of the Year" Award from the American Cancer Society, Nebraska Division for her work in developing the Cass County Unit and chairing the Relay for Life and the Golf for Cancer Tournaments for many years. She was also awarded the PJ Morgan Nebraska Volunteer of the Year Award.

Carole and Tom are proud parents of five grown children, all of whom graduated from Plattsmouth High School. Mark '82, Shelley '83, and Keeli '92, and their families all live in Plattsmouth, Chris '87 and his family live in Nebraska City, and Staci '84 and her family live in Papillion. Tom and Carole met the challenges of raising five children while both working full-time and Carole going to school part-time with love, faith, and fun. They continued the fun when Heaven came into their lives in 2001. . . new parents at the age of 59!!! Heaven took them back to sleep-overs, parent-teacher conferences, soccer, basketball, volleyball, swimming and more homework. They just passed the 5th grade for the 7th time! Carole retired from nursing education in 2007. Tom and Carole have 19 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, which blesses them with more ball games, swim meets, graduations, and weddings. Carole enjoys her flower garden, work at the gym and reading. She states, "Tom and I have faced many of life's challenges and have survived them all, mostly because of Tom's love, dedication to his family, and his patience!!! He could drive you crazy with his patience!" She says that with each challenge she thinks, "What am I supposed to learn from this? I know there is no such thing as coincidence. . .there is a great plan for everything in life." In reference to the Alum of the Year Award, she said, "It is such a surprise and an honor."

NEW EDUCATION SETTING PLANNED FOR PLATTSMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



OUTDOOR EXPLORE CLASSROOM

Plattsmouth Elementary School
1724 South 8th Street
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

The Plattsmouth Elementary School in conjunction with a committee of Elementary School Parents have developed an Outdoor Classroom concept that will be housed on the North West corner of the Elementary School. An outdoor classroom promotes enhancement of traditional learning by taking it outside of the building. Students will have an opportunity to experience the serenity of nature while engaging in mathematical, literacy, musical, artistic and physical activities. An outdoor classroom also allows students to have a hands on nature experience while learning what would traditionally be taught indoors in a general education classroom.

The Plattsmouth concept will include classroom grown flower and vegetable gardens, a stage for small performances, nature trails, marimbas, butterfly and insect garden, messy area (a place to explore), organic materials, nature art area and areas to read and write. The outdoor classroom concept has been implemented in other area schools and provides a significant enhancement to the learning that is taking place inside the traditional classrooms.

As you can see from the conceptual drawing a project like this will take significant financial resources all of which will be provided through private donations and grant funds, allowing for the construction without the use of any tax payer dollars. The committee plans to raise \$2,500 by the end of September in order to install the fencing necessary to protect the students and the classroom area.

All donations can be made to the Plattsmouth PTO, 1784 8th Avenue, Plattsmouth, NE 68048. The PTO is a 501c3 Non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. As a way to honor donors to this project, donors giving over \$100 will receive an engraved brick in the patio area of the Outdoor Classroom and donors giving \$2,500 or more will received a personalized leaf which will hang on the fence surrounding the area.

If you would like more information about the plan, please contact the Plattsmouth Elementary School or any of the following committee members, Claude Michel (Elementary Principal), Danny '92 & Kim Derby Briggs '91, Larry Briggs '93, Chad '95 & Becky Kastrick Wehrbein '93, Cory '96 & Teri (Crosby) Wehrbein '96, Jon & Niki (Glup) Campin '95, Joel & Amy (Torres) Dix '94, Allen '93 & Heather (Frazier) Weaver '01.

2012 HONOR CLASSES



Class of 1967
John Aschenbrenner
Elyn Meisinger



Class of 1962

Janice McKinney Carnes, Bonnie Way Sullivan, Linda Brittain Todd, Connie Pfeiffer Faris, Janet Petereit Toman, Karyl Davis Terryberry
Harry Roberts, Jack Fairfield, Betty Newsom Anderson, Roy Baker, Fred Groce, Rollin Terryberry

2012 HONOR CLASSES



Class of 1942

Don Martin, Lavina Troop Narvaez, Betty Hutchinson Meisinger, Mary Terryberry McFarland, Bonnie Larson Gerdes, Charles Martin
Russ Nielsen, Paul Ruffner, Jerry White, Sylvia Moore Ballinger, Cary Marshall, Billy Hobbs



Class of 1952

Joanne Cecila Glaze
Marilynn Soehr Meisinger
Ruth Warga Johnson
Jack Todd
George Born
Everett Markey

2012 HONOR CLASSES



Class of 1957

Norman Henry
Roy Smith
Sharon Range Smith
Rosemary Wolski Pariott
Mihael Lewis



Class of 1947

Thomas Beins
Janet Tiekotter Smith
Jean Lloyd Howland
Ray Tincher
Robert Tritsch
Bill Babbitt
Charles Warga
Terry Cullen

Spot Light on 1928 Alum – Ona Thimgan



Ona Thimgan is approaching her 103rd birthday. If you were at the 2008 All School Alumni Banquet you may have met Ona. She had graduated from PHS in 1928 and was celebrating her 80th class reunion. Her PHS reunion reminded her that her class had 57 members, their class colors were blue and gold, the class flower was a pink rose and the class motto was “Heights Beckon Us”. Their favorite cheer was “Blue & White, Blue & White, Plattsmouth High School, You’re Alright”. Ona’s brothers and sister were also PHS graduates: Clyde & Carl Graves both graduated in 1925, Joseph Graves in 1934, and Doris Maxine Graves Keil in 1942.

Ona Graves was born on February 25, 1910 in Murray, Nebraska to Eva Ona Burton Graves and James Howard Graves. The family moved around quite a bit between Nebraska City and Plattsmouth as her father worked on different farms. She describes scenes of her childhood as we have read in our history books and seen in movies. Carrying water from the well to heat on a stove for cooking, bathing, or laundry, keeping the fire going in the potbelly

stove with wood or coal and kerosene lamps were all a part of everyday life. Feeding the chickens, gathering eggs, the smell of the smoke house, weeding the garden and pruning the fruit trees, provided their groceries and extra income. The main source of transportation was your own feet or sometimes the horse and buggy or lumber wagon, if the horses weren’t busy in the fields. She started school at the age of five at a one-room schoolhouse called Kenosha. The kids had church/school clothes and play/work clothes that were usually homemade and laundry day took two days to complete. Homemade lye soap and washboards helped to clean the clothes while the sun and wind dried the clothes on the line. Thawing the clothes after hanging on the line in the winter was especially unpleasant, not to mention keeping the flat iron hot enough to iron “everything”! She writes that even though times were hard, she remembers fondly the school programs given for the parents, the end of the year picnic with all the wonderful food, birthday parties, family always close by, neighbors gathering to help each other with butchering and harvest.

In 1920 Ona’s father, James became qualified to deliver mail so they moved to Plattsmouth where she enrolled in the Columbian Elementary School. Reading was her favorite subject so she was also very happy to be close to the public Library. As a Junior and Senior she took “Normal Training” which prepared her for teaching after high school. Student Teaching was done during her senior year. After graduating in 1928 she took a year to study nursing and discovered that teaching was the future for her. After testing for certification, her first teaching position was in 1930 at the Zoz School. This first position paid her \$75.00 per month. Ona bought her first car in 1932, a Model T Ford. She taught at several different schools from Mynard and Rock Bluff to Elmwood.

On June 30, 1935 Ona married Lester Thimgan of Murdock. Lester was the son of Edward and Martha Kuehn Thimgan. Lester worked at the Norfolk Canning Factory making \$125.00 per month. Since she did not teach and he could walk to work, they sold his hup mobile to buy their first house on North 8th Street in Plattsmouth. They had three children, Jane, Sara, and Jerry. Besides the usual trials and joys of raising children, Ona remembers that the stroller they had was especially noisy, since it was made of wood and had wooden wheels due to the rubber shortage during the war. The family remained devout, hard working, supportive members of the Christian Church. In 1948 Ona was asked to return to teaching at the Rock Bluff School and later in the Plattsmouth school district. When she realized she had missed teaching she started attending night classes and summer sessions to receive her degree from the University of Omaha in 1957.

In 1957 Lester’s job changed and a move to West Des Moines, Iowa was necessary. Jane graduated from PHS that May of 1957. Ona took a position teaching for the West Des Moines school system. She taught in the elementary school and eventually focused her teaching on reading, still her favorite subject. Their children were off to college and becoming successful in their own right. Jane had a Business Degree, Sara a Liberal Arts Degree, and Jerry a degree in Education.

On April 30, 1975 Lester died suddenly. That same year Ona was forced to retire when she reached the age of 65. Ona’s family and friends helped her through this very difficult time.

All through the years the Thimgan family traveled well. They usually traveled by car to see relatives and all the sights along the way as family and friends were spread from Pennsylvania to California. After her retirement, Ona kept up with travel. She has experienced the wonders of Egypt, Israel, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, London, and Wales, as well as most of the United States and Eastern Canada. Ona has seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren to visit as well.

Ona Graves Thimgan has certainly lived an eventful life. She finished an autobiography of her life in 2009. The book reminds us of how her life was or how the generations before us lived. Ona lived in the same house in West Des Moines until her 101st year, when a wheel chair became a necessary part of life. Our oldest PHS alum now resides at: **Kennybrook Village #27 on 200 SW Brookside Drive in Grimes, IA 50111**. Ona is doing well and getting used to a little pampering in her new retirement village. Don’t forget, Ona turns 103 on February 25, 2013!

PHS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES 2012

Stephanie Howland Moline '78

Ms. Moline is recognized and inducted into the Plattsouth Hall of Fame for outstanding achievements in her career as well as her volunteer leadership in many service organizations.

Stephanie is the daughter of Jean Lloyd Howland '47 and the late Fred William Howland, Jr. '47.

Dorothee Walling Wiley and Robert Wiley

Dorothee and Robert Wiley are posthumously inducted into the Plattsouth Hall of Fame for the establishment of a generous foundation which has provided scholarships to hundreds of PHS graduates.

The 2012 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on August 31, 2012 at 1:00pm in the Plattsouth High School Auditorium. A reception will follow in the High School Library for friends of the new inductees. The celebration will continue at Blue Devil Football Stadium that evening with a dinner on the patio. Please contact Shaun Brothers, high school activities director, for reservations or information. (Shaun Brothers at 402-296-3322 or sbrothers@pcsd.org)



July 20, 2012, twelve members of the PHS class of 1970 met in Seattle, Washington to celebrate their collective 60th birthdays! Laurie and Rick Collins organized the gathering. A few Seattle area graduates; Charlie Henry '72, Deana Redden Veldhuis '71, Paul Veldhuis '72, and Greg McKnight '02, joined in guiding and welcoming the group to their fair city. The cooler weather and even the rain was welcomed by the out-of-town group. The "Duck Tour" (picture) was the start of the weekend festivities. Laurie and Rick Collins, hosted the group for a Friday night cook-out. Rick took Kathy, Reggie, Tom, Lucy and Red fishing on the Puget Sound early Saturday morning, with Lucy having the "catch of the day". Susie & Steve made the trip by ship to Victoria to visit the gardens. Everyone did their best to visit the many sites of Seattle: Pike Place Market, Space Needle, the Locks at Ballard, and the Chihuly Gardens & Glass Exhibit. While plenty of coffee was consumed in this famous coffee city (and some street singing done) the trip to the vineyards and breweries of Woodinville was a great way to round out the weekend. Thanks to the organization skills of Laurie and Rick Collins, the first try at leaving home to celebrate their PHS connection to each other was a huge success. The question remains, where will they go next?

IF YOUR CLASS HAS AN UNUSUAL REUNION TO SHARE, LET US KNOW!

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL OR WEB!

E-MAIL

Would you like to receive the newsletter via e-mail? The newsletter is also available on the Plattsouth Community Schools web site. We require your permission to use your e-mail address instead of just transferring your address to the new site. We have set up a new e-mail site for just this purpose. If you would like to be a part of this new adventure, please send your e-mail address to: plattsmouthalum@yahoo.com

WEBSITE

All Alumni Newsletters are posted on the Plattsouth Community Schools Website. In order to access the newsletters visit www.plattsmouthschools.org. On the main page click on "Foundation/Alumni" then click on "Alumni Newsletters", click on "Newsletters." A list of current and past Alumni Newsletters will be available for viewing.

What People are Saying about E-Newsletter!

Here are a few comments we are getting from the people who are getting their newsletter via the internet. "I love the color copy." "I can print it off if I want to or keep it on my computer where I can find it later!" "It is great to be able to enlarge the pictures so it's easier for me to see faces." "The pictures are really clear." "I feel good about conserving postage and paper by using the internet."

Seattle "Duck Tour" Class of 1970

L to R front row: Kathy Fitzpatrick '70, Rick Collins '71, Laurie Skalak Collins '70, Steve Nielsen '68, Susie Perry Nielsen '70, Janell Jacobs Welstead '70, Tom Welstead '69, Lucy Schuster Harris '70, Red Harris, Debbie White Dunham '70, Rich Dunham
L to R back row: Jim McKnight '70, Shari Grove Thompson '70, Reggie Thompson '70, Sandy Holman McKnight '70, JoAnn Jacobs Murtha '70, Lorraine Beil '70

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In addition to my annual membership, I would like to make a donation in the amount of: _____

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