Happy Holidays



Volume 33, Number 4

Winter 2023

From the President



Greetings to all Bellhops!

Several of us met this year at the beach in St. George Island Florida and had a wonderful time together. Grayton Beach had gotten a bit crowded, so we shifted a bit further east to have a little more elbow room. Thanks to Tex Tucker '71 and Jim Law '72 for helping us make that happen. It was a beautiful time. I hope all of you can join us there one year.

Next was CMA Day, September 29th and several old Bellhops came and spoke to the students at Columbia Academy and then watched a football game later that night. CA won of course. If you have never come back and visited for CMA Day, then I highly recommend it. Great to see the campus always and many of the students really are interested in what we did when we were students there.

Next up in another two years is our Grand Reunion. This time for years 1974/1975. At that time, I will finish my tenure with the Association as President and will be looking for a "younger" alumnus to step up and take my place. As you might know we will plan reunions thru 2029 and then play it by ear.

Would you like to see the service and sacrifice of our classes remembered by

future generations? If so, consider a donation or bequest to the CMA Legacy endowment. If you have any questions about how to give, let me know. I have included the endowment in my will and hope you might consider it as well.

Until Our Next Formation,

Tom

Tom Carr Class of 1975 CMAAA President tkcarr@bellsouth.net

CMA Day 29 September 2023

Another great CMA Day at Columbia Academy. Eight CMA Alumni were on hand to meet with students from Columbia Academy and share experiences from their time at CMA. The session started with an assembly of the student body and a showing of the CMA-100 Years of Tradition video. After that, the alumni met with a couple of 7th grade classes, as is tradition, and answered their questions about CMA and the experiences the former cadets had while at CMA. As always, it was a great experience for the students and the alumni.



This years attendees (left to right on the group picture) were Woody Pettigrew ('73), Tom Carr ('75), Jimmy Bane ('72), Curtis Hopfinger ('68), Bobby Bain ('72), Bill Wade ('68), Robin Salze ('66), and Gene Van Meter ('63).



Tom Carr, CMAAA President, talks with the Student Body, introducing the CMA-100 Years of Tradition video.



Jimmy Bane, '72, provides anecdotes to students with other alums participating in the question and answer session.

CMAAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 30 September 2023

Attendees

Tom Carr-President (75), Mike Glover-Vice President (74), Shayne Harris-Secretary (*78), Becky Moon-Treasurer (75), Gene Van Meter (63), Robin Salze (66), Howard Keltner (68), Bobby Bain (72), Jimmy Bane (72), Dudley Dolinger (73), Winston Elston (74), Marshall Briggs (75)

Meeting Minutes

The CMAAA Board Meeting was called to order at 10:00 on September 30th, 2023. The meeting began with a moment of silence in remembrance of Board members and cadets we have recently lost. Tom Carr read the list of alumni: John Halsell '53, James McEwen '65, Mark McKee '69, Lee Williams '72, Eugene Wiszowaty '76, Jimmy Rippey '79. Tom Carr gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Becky Moon gave the Treasurer's report. The balance in the checking account as of Sept. 1, 2023, is \$41,885.44. Tom asked Becky to give an overview of attendance at reunion. 104 alumni signed up for the reunion. Including spouses and significant others, 153 were entertained during the weekend. Becky reported we are in pretty good shape financially. However, expenses are at a minimum. Tom Carr gave the museum report. Cash on hand is \$18,199.00. Budget plan through 2029 \$26,099.67. The general fund owes the museum fund \$7,900. The \$26,000 includes paying rent, insurance, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Tom reminded the board that 2029 will be a big decision point for the Association. We will need to decide how we want to precede during the 2029 Reunion. If we decide that the association will dissolve after the 2029 reunion, all the funds in the general and museum funds will be combined and put in into the Legacy Endowment Fund that has been setup through Columbia Academy. The Legacy Endowment will cover scholarships to Columbia Academy graduates, upkeep towards the museum and historical buildings on campus.

Dr. Thomas gave the Columbia Academy report. Friday, September 29th was CMA Day. Dr. Thomas thought it was a great day. Students and staff watched the CMA-100 Years of Tradition video. Many students had not seen this 11-minute video on the history of CMA.

The longer 19-minute version can be found on the Columbia Academy YouTube site. Next, three classes of 7th graders heard from CMA Alumni about their days attending classes and living on campus. Dr. Thomas was pleased they really were engaged listening and asked lots of questions. Dr. Thomas believes CMA Day is beneficial in a lot of many ways. It's good for the students. Good to share the legacy and life lessons learned. Dr. Thomas also mentioned in the last month and a half shared on their Facebook page that John and Sue Bass established the Corporal David A. Bass Memorial Endowment in memory of their grandson who was a Marine killed while in Iraq. John Bass attended CMA graduating in 1953. The Bass family has donated flags for many years and their endowment will fund the flags for years to come There is a marker at the flagpole in memory of their grandson. Columbia Academy has put into place a \$10,000 minimum to start having an endowment that pays out. CMA Legacy Endowment is already over that amount. Columbia Academy had record enrollment this fall. 1,199 students. Pre-school-12th grade. This total also includes 175 students on the Spring Hill Campus. Enrollment is full in lower school. Upper school also at capacity. Could take a few more students, but don't need to and be able to keep current class size. Columbia Academy is preparing for growth. Currently 80 children are in 6th grade with 63 in current graduating class. As 6th graders come up going to need to have more space to add more space for upper school. Good retention last year. Spring Hill campus had 96% retention. Columbia Academy campus had 92%. These are really good numbers, and all is going well with great staff. Another change for the new year. Three new armed security guards have been added. One full-time in Spring Hill and 2 part time in Columbia. Continuing to improve safety by receiving money from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. This fund is intended for non-public schools including private schools. Columbia Academy's portion can be used for several different programs. Improving security is allowed and Columbia Academy will automate their gates. A new gate with a monitoring system will be installed. Anyone arriving between 9am - 2pm will need to be buzzed in with limited access. Another change is replacing the old wooden doors in Main Building with new steel doors with metal frames for better security. The track will be renovated with a new walking track that can

be used for practice. Currently there are 50 students on the track team. Looking at making it red in color to spruce up the area. The renovation should start after football season. Columbia Academy has also added two new assistant principles and was able to give the biggest pay increase ever this year. Added 11 classrooms this year at lower school and Spring Hill Campus. Raising money for pre-school building, Academy Hall, tennis courts and business office. Dr. Thomas ended by saying how blessed the school is and offered to take questions.

Winston Elston asked Dr. Thomas how are we coming along trying to figure out what to do about Frierson Hall? Dr. Thomas said, No progress. No plans to tear down, and no plans to do anything with it at this point. Currently other things are taking higher priority. Dr. Thomas added, he would love to have it restored but it will be a very expensive project. People have asked about and looked at it but no one willing to take it on as a project. Winston asked, could it have the potential to be used as classrooms. Because of the stairwell in the middle all the rooms are too small and to make it work an elevator would need to be installed to be ADA compliant and brought up to codes.

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5th Board Meeting. Second was made, and the minutes were approved.

Old Business

Tom talked about the relationship CMA has with Columbia Academy and how Columbia Academy will be our legacy because it will be here long after we are gone. He wants all CMA Alumni to consider adding the Legacy Endowment to their estate planning. Contributing to the Legacy Endowment Fund would free up Columbia Academy from being solely responsible for keeping up CMA. We should take some responsibility in keeping it up. Keeping the museum going, help with restoring Frierson Hall. A large enough endowment could make a real difference. The Legacy Endowment is a perfect way to remember our time here.

Dr. Thomas asked to add some additional thoughts. Big picture long term and goal is for the Legacy Endowment to be well funded. He wanted all of us to know that Columbia Academy is willing to walk with and partner as they always have with us on smaller projects while we get to the final goal. He went

- Continued from Page 2 -

on to mention about a challenge we could have to fund our endowment. The challenge — to think about how much each of us made our first year out of school and contribute or leave that money to the endowment. Dr. Thomas said, naming opportunities are available and there are people available for us to meet and talk with us about any part of this. Tom mentioned about the letter he and Dr. Thomas co-authored. Every grad that attended the reunion got the letter. A copy of the letter was also added to the *Bugle*.

Tom and Mike Gilchrist will be meeting with a guy to come up with a plan about getting our negatives we got from David White. The plan is to have them digitized and then have all the photos setup as a subpage off Columbia Academy's website. Becky Moon asked, is there a link on the Columbia Academy website to CMA, and does CMA have a link to Columbia Academy on their website? Everyone agreed this would be a great plan. This plan would be more secure too. David White has approached Dr. Thomas about taking on this project. Dr. Thomas indicated David White would really like to do it. He believes he has the passion, the knowledge and right equipment to do it right. After Tom and Mike meet with all parties that have an interest in this project that he reports back to us through e-mail.

Dudley Dolinger asked Tom about the pamphlets to be dropped off at the visitation center and/or Chamber of Commerce. Tom said, we have the template we just need to get them printed.

The 2023 CMA Reunion Weekend was very successful. Actual head count (153) exceeded projected head count (80). Great turn out of Alumni and spouse/significant other. Excellent turn out from the group honored. 35 from the Decade of the 50's. With this type of attendance, we will be looking at the Marriott for hosting the 2025 Reunion. The plan is to eventually have the reunion host in Columbia.

New Business

The Marriott-Cool Springs will be the host for the 2025 Reunion. For that reunion the classes of 1974 and 1975 will be celebrating their 50th Reunion. Mike Glover and Kay Wetzel will be the class representatives for the Class of 1974 and Tom Carr and Becky Moon will be the class representatives for the Class of 1975. The Reunion Honor Group will be Cadets from the Decade of the 1960s.

Make the Trip Back to the Campus...It's Worth the Effort

John Thomas Lasley, Class of 1965, recently had the opportunity to visit the Columbia Academy campus when he accompanied his daughter and grand-daughter to the school to attend his granddaughter's basketball team Jerry Ballard (former baseball coach) met them before the game to give them a tour of the campus. John told stories of the old days and told them what each building used to be.



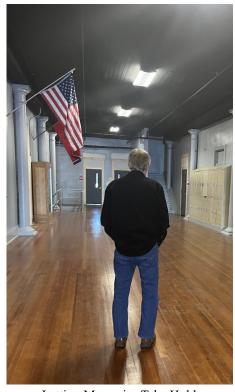
John and his daughter Jill Gregory visit the CMA Museum, formerly the Guard House.



Inside the CMA Museum, John takes in the displays and CMA History as told by the window panels. The CMA Museum opened in 2008 and has served the campus well, incorporating the cannon and caisson and old water fountain.



As Columbia Academy progressed, the old Armory was converted and is used for indoor sports practice, including batting practice. However, Columbia Academy kept the old door to the Armory, letting the CMA memory live on campus..



Letting Memories Take Hold



Another September...

Another Venture to Florida



The annual Florida invasion occurred in September this year with a good group of CMA Alumni invading Saint George Island for a week of fun in the sun. Tex Tucker ('71) and Jim Law ('72) once again organized the venture for the group, making this the first year away from Grayton Beach and enjoying Saint George Island instead. A great turnout including Tex, Jim, Bobby and Betsy Chambliss ('72), Bobby ('72) and Kathy Bain, Donna Ryland ('73), Bill Patrick ('73), Tom ('73) and Sharon Norris, Dudley ('73) and Mildred (76) Dolinger, Sharon Hartnett ('74), Laura Harpel ('75), Becky Moon ('75), Tom ('75) and Kathy Carr, and Kirk ('77) and Shayne ('78) Harris. As with all previous trips, a good time was had by all.

Support the Alumni Association and CMA Museum by Purchasing Great CMA Items

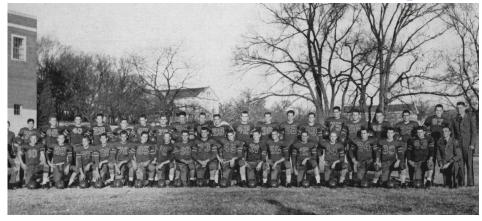
The CMA Museum is still selling Christmas Tree ornaments designed after the CMA Crest, Old Main, Academy Hall, Ragsdale Hall and the Guard House. The ornaments are \$20 each.



But wait...you can get all five for \$80. This set of ornaments will look great on your Christmas Tree while allowing you to show pride in your school for friends and family to see. To get your ornaments, please contact Woody Pettigrew at 256-653-7303 or via e-mail at

wpettigrew@knology.net.

School Year 1955-56 — Year of the Champions



Above: The 1955 CMA Football Team led by Head Coach DeWitt Lawson, Backfield Coach Bill Gunn and Line Coach Howard Hannah. The team included five players selected to the All Mid-South Team.

Below: The 1956 CMA Basketball Team led by Coach Bill Gunn. The team included one All Mid-South Team selectee and two All Tournament Team members.



The 1955 CMA football team won the Mid-South Conference Championship with a conference record of 5-1 and a 7-3 overall record. The "Big Blue" placed five players on the All Mid-South Team. John Raksnis and Tony Spudis were named captains of the All Mid-South Team. Neil Hunt, David Farmer, and Johnny Steverson were also named to the team. Joe Abercrombie made the second team and Bill Loyd, Ed France, Farrell Skillern and Warren Ball were named Honorable Mention.

John Raksnis was also chosen to be on the All American High School and Prep School team, the first CMA player ever elected All American.

The 1956 CMA basketball team won the All Mid-South Championship after posting its best regular season record in years. That record resulted in a #3 Seed in the All Mid-South Tournament with Baylor as the #1 Seed. CMA took the first game from TMI by a 62-42 margin and beat McCallie in the second game, setting up a championship game against Baylor, who had beat CMA twice in the regular season. The Bulldogs were not to be denied, beating Baylor 69-58 and winning the championship. CMA standout Lucien Royse was placed on the All Mid-South Team as well as the All Tournament Team, along with Donn Schultz.



SILVER TAPS

Kenneth G. Brown, Class of '45

Kenneth Gay Brown, age 96, of Pinehurst, NC, passed away on May 8,

2023. Kenneth was born in Gadsden, Alabama, March 21, 1927, to Alphus Jesse Brown and Margaret Elizabeth Gay. He attended CMA graduating with the Class of 1945. Ken got his pilot's license at the age 16, held instrument and commercial ratings, and



Ken Brown

owned his own aircraft most of his life. After his service in the Army, he attended at Georgia Tech University, graduating with a chemical engineering degree. After Georgia Tech he got his master's in nuclear engineering at Columbia University. He went on to work at 26 Broadway in New York City before being sent to the Far East for Standard Oil. Ken worked for Ashland Oil, Kentucky, and traveled all over the world. At one point, he was running one of the largest Greek shipping companies, managing a fleet of over 100 tankers in a workout situation for a consortium of banks. Ken worked for Cumberland Farms of Canton, MA. He became president of Newfoundland Energy that bought the Come-By-Chance (CBC) defunct oil refinery in 1984. Kenneth is survived by his wife, Virginia "Gina" Brown; son, Michael Scott (Danka) Brown; daughters, Susan Elizabeth Brown and Katherine Gay (Glen) Lawton; stepchildren, J. Henry (Deborah) vanLoon and Frederick C. vanLoon; and six grandchildren and step grandchildren. Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents; stepfather, Harry Artz; son, Stephen Lee Brown; and Suzie's long-term friend, Ralph Stewart Gallagher.

James H. Patton III, Class of '51 James Hal Patton III, 90, passed away

October 16th in Germantown, Tennessee. Jimmy was proud to be an Eagle Scout and a

CMA Graduate (Class of After CMA he 1951). received his BSE from Vanderbilt University where he was the ROTC Battalion Commander, VP of Phi Delta Theta



fraternity and a member Jimmy Patton of ODK National Leadership Fraternity.

After serving as a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army Corps of Engineers in Hanau, Germany, Jimmy returned to Memphis to begin a 40-yuear career with the family business, Nation Bedding and Furniture Industries, where he served as President and CEO. He also served as Board Chair of Serta, Inc., and President of the National Association of Bedding Manufacturers, the International Sleep Products Association, the Chickasaw Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the VU School of Engineering Alumni Association. Jimmy was predeceased by he parents, May and James Hal Patton, and his brother Charles Patton. His is survived by his sister Blythe Patton Orr (Bud); his children Hal Patton (Clare) and Avery Patton Albritton (Will); four grandchildren and six greatgrandchildren.

George Hamilton, Class of '61

George Hamilton passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 24,2023. He

was born to the late George Raymond Hamilton, Sr. and Martha Lucile Harris Hamilton on August 22, 1943, in Greenville, South Carolina and grew up in Columbia, Tennessee. He attended CMA for 5



George Hamilton

graduating years, with the Class of 1961. He then attended the University of Tennessee and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He continued his education in Memphis, where Ray graduated from University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy where he was awarded a doctorate in 1968. Ray was an avid race car driver in the Sports Car Club of America and a member of the Nissan Race Team (SCCA). He and his teammate, Tom Stephens, taught Tom Cruise to drive for the film "Days of Thunder ". He enjoyed tennis, golf, snow skiing, and shopping where he could get a good deal. He had a career in the pharmaceutical world where he was a pioneer in nuclear medicine. He is survived by his two daughters, Gay Marie Hamilton Young and Merrily Meade (Jack) Calhoun. He is also survived by sisters, Sandra (Tom) Reidy and Elenor Maxheim; four grandchildren; one niece; one nephew; two great grandchildren and two great nephews.

Dan Kinkade, Class of '70

Dan Wesley Kinkade, 71, of Nashville, Tennessee, met His Lord and Savior,

Jesus Christ, on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on September 27, 1952. Dan attended CMA for three years, graduating with the Class of 1970. He then graduated from Tennessee Technology University Dan Kinkade with a degree in Physi-



cal Education. He was married to the love of his life, Terri L. Kinkade, for 48 years. Together, they had five boys and, most recently, five grandchildren. His biggest smiles came from affectionally being called "Granddaddy," as he loved his family well. Dan loved taking his family to church and was a long-time member of Judson Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, where he served as a deacon and on several committees. He retired from UPS after careers in sales, operations, and management. He loved spending time with his family and friends, watching his beloved Vanderbilt Commodores, NASCAR races, and vacationing. He is survived by his wife, Terri; children, Jeff, Daniel (Emily), Stephen (Carrie), and Spencer (Ivy); five grandchildren; brother, Scott brother-in-law, David (Vicki); (Tammy); and sister-in-law, Lynda; and several nieces and nephews. His son, John, and his parents, James Wesley and Mary Evelyn, preceded him in death.

Lee Williams, Class of '72

Lee Clement Williams died on September 25, 2023 following a recent illness.

Lee was born in Bermuda on February 18, 1954 and was the son of the late Dr. John O. Williams, Jr. and the late Anne Kellam Nicks Williams Rochelle. attended CMA for seven years, graduating with the Class of 1972. He **Lee Williams** then attended Memphis



State University and the University of Tennessee. Lee was a child prodigy golfer and won numerous schoolboy type tournaments before leading the CMA golf team during his high school years and went to play golf at Memphis

- Continued from Page 5 -

State University. Lee started his real estate career in 1977 with C & S Builders, one of the largest homebuilders in Middle Tennessee at that time. Sales skyrocketed under the leadership of Lee and his sales team. Later, with years of construction experience behind him, Lee opened Williams and Company where he began building homes and continued to sell real estate. Lee was passionate about his work with Alcoholics Anonymous. In the late 1990's, he was a regular volunteer at Dismas House. Many have said "I'm a better person because Lee was in my life." The best times for him were the times spent with his boys watching sporting events, working in the garden, cooking meals, or watching them play sports. Lee is survived by his wife of 18 years, Pam Williams; his sons John Ireland Williams, Benjamin Fox Williams and Luke Christian Williams; his brothers, John Orlando (Kay Kay) Williams, III, David Walton (Theresa) Williams and Thomas Allyn Williams; sisters-in-law Elizabeth Davis Williams and Becky Ann Curd; brother-in-law Mark Andrew (Anita) Doss; his mother-in-law S. Juanita Doss; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, C. Nicks Williams.

Roger Bedford, Class of '74

Roger H. Bedford, Jr., 67, passed away on October 11, 2023. Born July 2, 1956 to Roger H. Bedford, Sr. and Jane Bonds Bedford, Roger attended CMA for three years graduating with the Class of 1974. He then graduated from the University of Alabama and from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in 1981, moving home to

Russellville and beginning a career in law and politics. Roger began his legal

career as a trial lawyer practicing with his father, uncle, and cousin. Later his career, Roger served as the Municipal Court Judge in both Russellville and Hackleburg. In 1982, he was the youngest person ever



Roger Bedford

elected to the Alabama State Senate at the age of 25, serving District 2 and then District 6 for over 20 years. Roger's wife Maudie was his closest ally and staunchest supporter. Roger endured an astonishing number of earthly challenges and turned them into lasting legacies. After a bone-shattering three-wheeler accident left him in a halo brace, friends and family knew he and Maudie were destined for marriage by the loving way she cared for him. A multi-decade survivor of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Roger used the lessons he learned as a patient to advocate for and support innumerable Alabamians who walked the same path. After Maudie battled breast cancer, one of Roger's top legislative priorities was to sponsor bills to educate breast cancer patients about their treatment options. In addition to his son Roge, adored nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews, and a host of colleagues, constituents, and friends, Roger is survived by his brother John Lawson Bedford (Julia), sister Helen Bedford Roberson, niece Audrey Bedford Ogilvie (Morgan), nephew Evan Lawson Bedford, and stepmother Betty Hall Bedford. Roger was predeceased by his cherished wife Maudie, his parents, brother Robert E. Bedford, and brother-in-law William "Bill" Roberson.

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BUGLE QUARTERLY

Woody Pettigrew 101 Sansberry Lane Madison, AL 35756 wpettigrew@knology.net

804 Atheneaum Place • Columbia, TN 38401-3156

