

Aggie News

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2008



From The Editor:

Greetings Classmates,

We would like to thank everyone who contributed last year with their membership dues, general fund and scholarship fund donations. We still have an alarming low percentage of paid members but those who stepped up to the plate last year and sent in their membership dues and donations have ensured that we can continue to operate. We carefully watch every penny that is spent but it does cost money to provide a free newsletter, an alumni web site that is the best in the nation and our scholarship funds. We hope

to expand our programs in the future but it all depends on the support that we get from alumnus. Please don't forget us this year. There are many things that we can do to benefit both Aggie grads and current students if we get enough support.

Charlie Main Class of '56

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Election year for alumni officers & directors:

All terms for alumni officers and directors expired on December 31, 2007. There were no more than one candidate for any office. The alumni board of directors has made an executive decision to conduct the election within the board to save the cost of printing and mailing of ballots for an uncontested election.

We still have several open positions on the board so if anyone would be interested in serving they can mail their request to be nominated to our on campus address or contact any current board member. Any open position can be filled by appointment by a majority vote of the board. The term of office for board members is two years (2008-2009) Board members must be paid members of the alumni association.

Officers and Directors for 2008-2009:

President - Bertrand Cote '74

Vice President - Peter Tierney '75

Secretary - Charles Main '56

Treasurer - Robert Gaudet '56

Director 1930s - (open)

Director 1940s - (open)

Director 1950s - Alice Henning '56

Director 1960s - Henry Zawadzki '68

Director 1970s - Kenneth Elwell '75

Director 1980s - Elaine Flanagan '83

Director 1990s - (open)

Director 2000s - (open)

Director College Division - Mary Wood '77C

Director School Staff - (open)

Director At Large - Michael Gaudette '74

Director At Large - Thomas Blair '81

Director Current Student - (open)

An Alumni Center on campus?

The alumni association is interested in establishing an Alumni Center somewhere on the Aggie campus. The facility would be used for an alumni office & meeting room, alumni meetings, functions, reunions and a greeting center and would provide a means for a closer working relationship with Aggie staff and students. The Alumni Center would be staffed by a rotating staff of volunteers who would man the office and would be available to greet visitors.

There are several possible locations that could be utilized with the currently unused Catherine Larkin Cottage being the most prominent. Ms. Catherine Larkin was a 1934 graduate of the school, as well as a casualty of WWII. The cottage was built as a memorial in her honor. The Larkin Cottage represents an important 50 years of school history and would be an ideal location to preserve and to display a collection of historical artifacts and photographs. We have managed to gather a substantial collection of historical photographs and are anxious to obtain a proper facility to exhibit them.

We envision a central place on the Aggie campus where students both past and present could visit and enjoy some of the Aggie's rich history. The alumni board of directors has appointed a committee that will be working with Director of Community Relations, Ron Vercellone and Superintendent, Roger Bourgeois to see if something can be accomplished with establishing an Alumni Center.



Board member Tom Blair '81 and Ron Vercellone inspecting the Larkin Cottage

Environmental Science Trip:

Charles Saulnier, head of the environmental science department began the Merrimac River expedition program at the Aggie nine years ago. During the school year students study all aspects of woodlands and wetlands. Their studies include raising fish in the fish barn. They also spend a lot of time building wood and canvas canoes.

When all is complete they undertake a seven day, 62 mile voyage on the Merrimac River. The trip includes camping along the banks of the river. While on the trip, students gain additional experience with maps and global positioning systems. The students also get to perform experiments and water quality tests.

The expedition is a great opportunity for Aggie students to apply classroom studies in the field.



Charles Saulnier & student Caitlin Fitzpatrick



Stephanie Muise conducts a water quality test

News From The Classes:

Donna Starbird Class of 1997

David Caram Class of 1986

Donna and David have had their first child. Their daughter Kristin was born March 19, 2007



Kristen at 5 days

Jennifer (Larson) O'Neill Class of 1996 and Shawn O'Neill Class of '95

Jennifer and Shawn had their third child on August 9, 2007.



Avon Fundraiser:

For those who might be interested, on-line shopping for Avon products is now available from one of our alumnus.

Jennifer (Larson) O'Neill, class of 1996, is an independent Avon Sales Representative and has offered an exclusive shopping opportunity for Aggie alumnus. You can shop from her on-line catalog and a percentage of the sales will be donated to the Essex Aggie Alumni.

We urge everyone to take advantage of the fine products that she has to offer and at the same time you will be supporting the alumni association.

To shop the Avon catalog, simply go to Jennifer's web site and register.

<http://www.youravon.com/jenniferoneill>

To ensure that the alumni is credited for any sales you must enter EAA (for Essex Aggie Alumni) in front of your Last Name on the registration form.

Volunteers and Supporters:

With every non profit organization it is a well known truism, "There is always room for one more worker or supporter." An organization such as ours can use a large variety of skills. If you have any skills or interests that you think might be useful please let us know you are out there by submitting the volunteer form that is available on the alumni web site. If you are unable to help with time & effort but are financially able to do so, please consider supporting the alumni association with a financial donation. There are many things that we can do and would like to do but nothing is possible without support from the alumnus.

Web Site Class Rosters:

We have an alarming number of registered alumni on the class rosters that do not have valid mailing or e-mail addresses. Please take a few moments to check your class roster listing to verify that we have current contact info. If you see a red ????? in your listing it means that you need to send us updated info.

Deceased Classmates:

Walter Hichens Class of 1937

Honorable Walter W. Hichens, 90, of Eliot, Maine, died July 22, 2007. He died peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family, following months of failing health.

He was born March 8, 1917, in Lynn, Mass., son of Walter G. and Mary (Norton) Hichens. As a young person he grew up in Lynn and later moved to Eliot, Maine. He married Elmira Ballard of Berwick. They were married in 1941. They spent 61 years together on their farm in Eliot. He was a poultry and produce farmer for 40 years. He drove the school bus in South Berwick/Eliot for 23 years.

He was an Eliot selectman for three years, the Water District director for three years, and toll collector at the Maine-New Hampshire Interstate Bridge for 10 years. He was the first president of the Eliot Band Boosters, and president of the Gideons International of Maine and the Maine Baptist Men. He was on the Board of Directors of the Maine Christian Civic League. He was a member of the Eliot-York County Republican Committee. He was a member of the Farm Bureau of Maine for many years. He was a member of the Maine state House of Representatives for six years, National Council State Legislators for six years, and Maine state senator for 16 years, and Georgetown University correspondent for three years, N.E. American – Canadian Health Council for four years. He was member and past president and advisory for the Southern Maine Agency of Aging. He was a member of the State Advisory Committee for the Blind and Advisory Committee for Mental Retardation. He was an author who published six volumes of poetry and three non-fiction books. He had spent summers from 1967 through 2002 with his wife at their home in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Georgette Khoury Class of 1948

Georgette P. Khoury, 78, of Lawrence, passed away on July 8, 2007 at the Lawrence General Hospital in Lawrence. She was born in Lawrence to the late Mr. Joseph A. Khoury and Mrs. Rose (Bistany) Khoury. Ms. Khoury was educated in the local schools and attended Essex Agricultural School.

She worked as an assistant manager and greeter for Learners Clothing Store in Boston and for Wal-Mart Store until her retirement in 1991. Ms. Khoury enjoyed traveling and especially spending time with her family.

Donald Buxton Class of 1953

Donald R. Buxton, 71, died suddenly on June 26, 2007, at his home.

He was born Dec. 1, 1935, in Danvers, Mass., son of the late Horace F. and Frances (McNeill) Buxton.

He was the third of 12 children raised in Danvers, Mass., and was a graduate of Essex Agricultural Institute in Hawthorne, Mass. After high school, he immediately enlisted into the U.S. Army and served during peacetime in the military police, stationed in several areas in the U.S., and was discharged in 1961.

In 1962, he married Patricia Sampson, they settled in Brentwood to raise their family and resided there for the past 45 years.

He had lived a very accomplished life, which included graduating from the FBI Academy, a 23-year career with the New Hampshire State Police, eight of those years as commander of Troop A, and he was a former lead detective for the Major Crimes Unit. He was employed by the Secret Service as a special agent for 17 years through both President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton administrations. Currently, he served as a N.H. state representative in his third year, second term and was on the House Judiciary Committee and the N.H. Claims Board.

He also devoted time to other area organizations including the Kensington American Legion, a member of the Bektash Shriners, a thirty-second degree mason in Epping, a member of the Wilderness Society, a member of the Rockingham County Law Enforcement Association, a member of the Society for the Protection of N.H. Forests, a member of the Brentwood Historical Society, a life member of the N.H. Criminal Investigations, and a life member of the Save the Redwoods Association. He enjoyed reading, walking, boating, fishing, and storytelling.

Deceased Classmates:

James “Buzz” Mosher Class of 1957

James Mosher, 68, of Northwood, N.H. and formerly of Andover, died June 10, 2007 at the Hospice House in Concord, N.H.

Born in Lawrence, the son of William and Hazel (Hardy) Mosher. Buzz was a member of the Rockbusters - Northeast chapter, a member of the Historical Construction Equipment Association, attended Essex Agricultural School where he studied market gardening, and he was a Charter member of the Oriental Hot Rod Club.

Buzz also built the Alpine Slide in Jackson Hole, Wy. in 1978 to 1979 and he owned and operated Andover Equipment Rental from 1961 to 1990. Buzz also drove cross country trucking for various trucking companies with his own truck.

Ronald Castonguau Class of 1972

Ronald J. Castonguay, 54, of East Kingston, N.H., passed away on March 5, 2007 at Exeter Hospital. He was born in Peabody and raised by Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Malvina Castonguay. He was educated by the Saint Joseph Grammar School, Essex Agricultural High School, and graduated the New England Institute magna cum laude.

He served in the National Guard and was a member of the BPOE #65, Lawrence Lodge Elks, and also received the honor of the Deputy Grand Night for the Knights of Columbus in Salem. He was a member of St. Jukes Counsel in Plaistow, N.H.

He shared his love of music with his daughter, Rebecca. He spent countless hours playing golf with his daughter, Sarah. And his love of water sports was best shared with his son through fishing and diving as well as his duty as a referee on the Exeter Swim Team for his son. Ron enjoying taking cooking and dancing lessons with his wife and long walks on the beach with their two labradors, Maggie and Zoe.

He was a highly respected funeral director in the Massachusetts and New Hampshire region

and worked at the John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc. for the past 20 years.

Martin “Mattie” Merritt Class of 1990

Martin J. Merritt died suddenly early in the morning on November 15, 2007 in his home in Lynn. While at the Aggie he excelled at basketball and track. The Carbone Landscaping company employed Mattie as a tree specialist, a job which he loved. Mattie had many favorite past times, but the one he held closest to his heart was coaching his son's Pop Warner Football team. He was first to lend a hand, quick with a smile and plenty of Irish charm that carried him through most situations in life.

Reunion News:

If any classes are planning on organizing a reunion this year be sure to let us know about it so we can post an announcement on the alumni web site and in the June newsletter. Paid members of the alumni association can also request a class roster list with contact information of their classmates. A class roster list is a good place to get started with organizing a reunion.

Essex Aggie Family BBQ:

Last August the Essex Aggie Family BBQ was held in Belgrade Lakes, Maine. The event was hosted by Scott Greaney, '82. The excellent menu consisted of BBQ pork, deep fried turkey, roasted baked potato, corn on the cob, salad, rolls, soda, home made pies and strawberry shortcake. We would like to make a similar event an annual affair that would be held on the Aggie campus in the future if there is enough support.



Scott Greaney checks the grill

History Corner:



Homemaking School - Home Nursing

One of the important features of the Homemaking School division (1914-1962) of the Aggie was the Home Nursing class.



After the Catherine Larkin Cottage was built in 1950 space on the second floor was utilized for home nursing classes and demonstrations.



The lessons learned in these classes were later applied to lifelong careers in nursing for many of the students and provided valuable knowledge to all as future homemakers.

In The Spotlight:



Spud's Restaurant & Pub

We have recently discovered a connection between alumnus Richard Spaulding '51 and the Spud's Restaurant chain. The brothers of the Spaulding family are owners and operators of the popular restaurants in Eastern Massachusetts. They have four locations in Danvers, Rowley, Saugus and Woburn.

Richard manages the Danvers restaurant. Stop in for super-fast lunch specials or bring your family to dinner and you'll enjoy the freshest seafood, steaks, chicken and chops anywhere on the North Shore

SPUD'S DANVERS: 139 Endicott St., Danvers MA 01913 978-774-7786



Do you have a business or profession? Let us know about it and we will feature your story in the "In The Spotlight" column.

Essex Aggie Alumni Association Membership Registration Form 2008

Membership dues for 2008 will be \$20.00
\$5.00 for Junior Membership (current students)
(Term of membership is Jan 1 to Dec 31)
Please fill out the form below
We need your support



Member Name and Address: (Please Print)

Class of _____ () High School Division () College Division School Staff ()
First Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____ Cell Phone () _____
E-Mail _____

Please register my membership and/or donation for 2008

I am enclosing my check for \$20.00 for 2008 Membership: \$ _____
I am enclosing my check for \$5.00 for 2008 Junior Membership: (current or graduating student) \$ _____
In addition, I would like to donate to the Scholarship fund: \$ _____
In addition, I would like to donate to the General Fund: \$ _____
Total amount enclosed for membership & donations: \$ _____

(Essex Aggie Alumni Association is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax deductible)

Check should be made out to: Essex Aggie Alumni
Mail this form to: Essex Agricultural & Technical High School
Attn: Essex Aggie Alumni Association
562 Maple Street, P.O. Box 362
Hathorne, MA 01937

The Aggie News

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562 Maple Street, P.O. Box 362

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"Getting old friends and classmates together"

www.essexaggie.org