

Aggie News

Volume 5 Issue 2

June 2002



From The Editor:

Greetings classmates,

The good news is that we now have 650 registered alumni on our mailing list. This means that there are now 650 former friends and classmates that can stay connected for many years to come.

The bad news is that only 27 alumni have chosen to contribute either membership dues or donations this year. That's only 4 percent participation in our survival. Thanks to the donations of a handful of people we are still in business. Even though our expenses are very low, with postage fees about to go up again the first thing to go will be this newsletter. It could be that many are sitting back thinking someone else will take care of supporting the alumni but folks, "It's not happening!" As our Treasurer stated last June, "For less than the price of a restaurant meal you can be a part of your Alumni Association."

The future of your Alumni Association is up to you.

Charlie Main Class of '56

The Alumni Web Site:

The Essex Aggie Alumni web site at www.essexaggie.org continues to grow and now contains 114 pages. We have class rosters, reunion reports, newsletters, a photo album, reunion info, a message board and more. Stop by for a visit often because the web site is updated daily.

A new section that we plan to add soon will be the Alumni Business Card Page. This idea came to us from Ornamental Horticulture teacher Gene Demsey and we think it's a good one. It will provide a good place for alumni to advertise their business and a good resource for alumni who want to support those businesses. If you have a business or profession and have a business card, send us one of your cards with a brief description of your product or service so we can get this section started.

Mail to: Charles Main, 643 Main Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562

Thank You:

Your alumni association officers would sincerely like to thank all those who have made contributions to their alumni. To those who sent us news and notes; to those who helped us to locate missing classmates; to those who have loaned us their yearbooks for establishing class rosters; to those who have paid dues; to those who have made donations to the treasury; your contributions are much appreciated by all.

Alice, Charlie, George, & Lillian

Jim Briggs Class of '96 Needs Help:

We first heard about the plight of Jim Briggs last April when Melissa Holden class of '96 sent us an e-mail asking for help and gave us a link to the news article that appeared in the Salem Evening News. The link to the news article was sent out to everyone on our Aggie Gram e-mail list.

Last May we received another e-mail, this one from Fara Beeman class of '96. The text of Fara's message follows.

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing on behalf of my fellow alumni from the class of 1996, James Briggs. His friends, family, former classmates, and the community have banded together to raise money, awareness, and find lobe lung donors to give Jim a second chance at life.

Jim and his older sister Heather were both born with Cystic Fibrosis. Heather lost her battle with CF two years ago at the age of 24. The doctors say that without a double lung transplant Jim will also die. Although Jim qualifies for the waiting list for a cadaveric transplant, the shortage of donors means it will take a minimum of two years to get a pair of lungs. The long wait carries dangers. Jim's doctors feel Jim may not have the two years to wait.

Therefore Jim and his family are appealing to the public for two "living donors" to each donate one lobe of lung to be transplanted into Jim. To be a suitable lung donor, candidates need only to match Jim's blood type of O (either positive or negative is ok); be age 18-60, be over 5'9", and have a clean bill of health. A normal pair of lungs contains 5 lobes, 3 on the right side and 2 on the left. The donor's lungs will return nearly back to normal capacity after surgery, and Jim's life will have been saved.

However, the financial cost of Jim's surgery, surgery for the 2 donors, the anti-rejection medications, as well as the donor's expenses - from the loss of their working income for 8 weeks, travel expenses, possible child care during their recovery, parking fees, etc. will come to approximately \$500,000. We feel if donors make the life-affirming courageous decision to donate a part of

themselves to save another life, it should not and will not cost them one cent financially. Our goal is to raise enough money to pay for every expense- from the initial blood test screen, to any expenses incurred by surgery-including their weekly income while they are recovering.

Although Jim's health insurance will cover his and his donor's surgeries, it is estimated that we will need to raise \$300,000 for non-covered expenses.

Currently we have planned a yard sale on June 22, a dinner dance planned for the first week of June, an auction, raffle, and a cut-a-thon on May 19.

We would also like to appeal to the Essex Agricultural Alumni Association to offer any assistance.

The miracle of transplantation is within Jim's reach. His life can be extended and transformed by modern medicine, but that is only part of it. Equally important is Jim's own spirit of determination, the care and support he receives from God, family, friends, and by the generosity of strangers.

On behalf of Ron, Pam, Jim, and Penny Briggs
Thank you,
Fara H. Beeman Agribusiness, Class of 1996
978-762-0566 or 508-733-9162
6 Dyer Court, Danvers, MA 01923



Jim Briggs gets support from his wife, Penny, left and mother, Pamela.

Pamela Briggs can be contacted at: 978-356- 7321 or by e-mail at: parrothouse@excite.com

Cash donations can be made to The James Briggs Transplant Fund, c/o Steven Bonaiuto, Customer Service, The Beverly National Bank, 25 Railroad Ave. South Hamilton, MA 01982.

Send Us Your Info

All classmates are encouraged to send contributions to the newsletter and web site so that it can be shared by all. We need information on missing classmates, notification of any deceased classmates, photographs from your school years, current photographs and anything else that you think might be of interest to others.

We still need class yearbooks for 1973 and 1990. If anyone has a copy of those books they could loan us we will be able to make a class roster, scan the photos and our class roster project for covering six decades will be complete.

Send all contributions to:

Charles Main, 643 Main Road, Phippsburg, ME
04562 e-mail: cmain@gwi.net

Important Notice for Internet Users Help Us To Keep Our Records Up-to-date

There are several alumni that have changed their e-mail address and others have no address listed. Without those e-mail addresses we are unable to send them their Aggie Gram e-mail news & announcements.

We urge everyone to go to the web site and check their class roster listings. If you are not listed, let us know. If your e-mail address is wrong or missing, let us know. It only takes a few minutes to check your listing and it will be a big help in getting our records correct.

www.essexaggie.org

Not Connected To The Internet?

The Internet provides access to millions of sources of information. News, entertainment, technology and more are available at any time. Shop on line. Send e-mail to friends and family all around the world. Make new friends and **reconnect with old classmates**. Now that the **Essex Aggie Alumni Association** is on line you can easily check to see who we have found and with the one click you can contact them. With the low cost of computers today, it's time for everyone to get connected.

A letter from Joe LaBonte '58

Dear Charlie: Thanks for the updates via Aggie Gram e-mail notices. I thought I'd let you know how valuable the Aggie website has been to me.

1) Firstly it resulted in re-connecting Dan Conery '58 and me, it's been a long time for both of us. We planned a get-together in Dung, CO, where my son, his wife and two boys live. Dan also happens to be my son Joe's God-father. Dan and his wife Terri were planning a trip to Durango to Ski with their ski club from Houston. Okay, so it's confusing. Bottom line is that we met and spent some valuable time together. We plan to visit with one another again this year.

2) Also: After looking through the web-site I noticed that Bob Stevenson '57 was living in Chula Vista which is a suburb here in San Diego, so I sent him an e-mail and asked him to send his phone number. We talked over the phone which led to a visit by Bob. Interestingly, he spent 30 years in the Navy and settled in San Diego when he retired. He has an antiques refurbishment and wood working business, which was one of his life long interests. We have a piece that was made in the New England area in the 1790s and it really needed to be refurbished. Bob did it for us, and an expert on such furnishings visited us last week and she couldn't say enough good things about Bob's work. I haven't even told him yet. By the way, Bob's tools were passed down from his great-great-grand father and they allow him to do certain refurbishments that simply can't be done with modern tools.

In any event, I wanted you to know that there are some real benefits to having the web-site and I hope other people use it.

All the best,
Joe LaBonté '58.

News From the Classes

Dick Rollins, Class of 1958

Re: Looking for Harold Kelly:

I do know the whereabouts of Harold Kelly. He lives (with his wife Barbara) at 159 Shore Dr. Apt. C Peabody, MA 01960.

The reason I know this is because he is my uncle. I attended Essex Aggie and graduated in 1958. I had my uncle as a teacher for fruit classes and was on the fruit judging team.

I graduated from Middlesex Community College with a degree in Applied Sciences. My concentration was Telecommunications.

I worked for New England Telephone, Nynex, Bell Atlantic and Verizon (without ever changing companies.) I was an Equipment Installation Test Technician my whole career. I worked for them for 35 years, 6 months, and just retired on December 29, 2001.

My wife and I own a home in Gloucester, Mass., and have lived there since my discharge from the U.S. Army Airborne in 1962. My wife is the former Nancy Carter, cosmetology class of 1959 at Essex Aggie. We now winter in our condo in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The rest of the time we spend at our home in Gloucester, where my daughter and her family live also. My son is a surgeon at Mass Medical in Worcester, MA. He will be moving to Arizona to set up practice with his wife, who is also a surgeon, in June 2002.

Hope this keeps you updated as far as my wife and I are concerned.

Hope this also upgrades your records of Harold Kelly.

Dick Rollins Class of 58

Dennis O'Neil, Class of 1960

Dennis O'Neill, '60, and his wife Becky are living in Monteruscello, Italy where Dennis is a GS-12 Ship Surveyor for the U.S. Navy and Becky is keeping the pottery factories working overtime. Ship Surveyors meet ships at sea or in port, inspect damage or breakdowns, write technical specifications to correct the problem and then travel to repair yards all over the Mediterranean to contract for and administer the repair work. He has been to Marmaris, Turkey 4 times since Thanksgiving alone. This is the O'Neills' second 3 year tour in Italy since 1991 with three years in Yokosuka, Japan in between, from 96-99. Dennis' daughter, Shannon, graduated from the Air Force's Officer Training School in Montgomery, AL on 27 Sept. last year after having worked her way up to the enlisted rate of E-5 before being picked up for the training that led to her Commission. Becky's oldest daughter, Gennifer, was married last summer in L.A. and her youngest, Stephanie will be married this July in Seattle. They keep us hopping back & forth to home but at least neither of her two middle children, Andrew & Kia, have anyone too serious on their horizons at the moment. If anyone needs guidance on touring Southern Italy, please feel free to call, write or e-mail. oneilld@cybernet.it Picture attached, Dennis & Becky on a one-day ski trip to Rocarasso Italy.

Dennis E. O'Neill

PSC 810 Box 307 FPO AE 09619

011-39-081-524-9941



News From the Classes

John Perkins, Class of 1961

I keep on coming back to the Essex Aggie web page because these are the happiest times of my life and Essex Aggie is what made me the person I am today. Here's a picture of me and my 14 year old cow, Lady Di, giving me a hug. Thought you could put it on the miscellaneous picture page.

John Perkins '61



John Perkins '61

Florence (Headley) Davis, Class of 1963

Thanks for the updates. I have enjoyed all the information about the Aggie and my classmates. We plan on being in Maine this summer so maybe we'll look you up. We have two sons up there and 4 grandchildren and are expecting a great grandson the 17th of May. The other children are spread out in the south and west. We will be in New England for July and August this year. We will be helping one of the boys and his wife get ready for the Renaissance Faire in Lebanon.

We are fulltime RV'ers and enjoying the lifestyle. We will be here at Greenbrier State Park in Maryland until then, if anyone is in the area they can stop by and see us.

Florence (Headley) Davis '63

Joe Croteau, Class of 1969

This is Joe Croteau from the class of '69 and I live in Lawrence and this past weekend took a ride in my new PT Cruiser to the good ole Aggie and wanted to share it with you and if you would like to add it to your site please do.

Boy the ole aggie ain't what she used to be. But she is still a great sight.

If any of the grads from the aggie are in the Mass PT owners club please drop me a line at:

ldreamalot@webtv.net Thank You, Joe '69



Joe Croteau '69

David Nappi, Class of 1979

I'm sorry to inform you that Elizabeth Sawyer class of 1999 was in a car crash and died on March 11, 2002. I'm a graduate of the class of 1979 and worked with Liz at Wolf Hill Landscape and Supply Inc. in Gloucester. She was wonderful girl. Full of life and a love for agriculture. In my many conversations with her she spoke fondly of her time at the Aggie. She had a strong work ethic and a profound love for gardening these two strong traits she got for her family at home and her family at Essex Aggie. She was a large part of our family and our spirit at Wolf Hill and she will be sadly missed.

David W. Nappi Class of '79



Elizabeth Sawyer Class of '99

News From the School:

MAJOR SMITH HALL RENOVATIONS ARE UNDERWAY

The first major building renovation on campus in 25 years has begun. The work includes a major renovation of the campus administration building, Smith Hall. The school trustees have approved a \$1.5 million renovation plan that will involve replacing the slate roof of the 85 year old building, along with installation of an elevator to make it handicapped accessible. Also slated for improvement are upgrades to the electric and plumbing systems and new restrooms. Smith Hall houses administrative offices, classrooms, the school nurse's rooms and storage. The project is largely being funded by state funding.

(Info above obtained from the school web site)

Essex Agricultural & Technical High School
562 Maple Street, P.O. Box 362, Hathorne, MA 01937
Phone: 978-774-0050 **Fax:** 978-774-6530

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

June 6th: Graduation Ceremony on Smith Lawn,
6:30 PM, rain or shine under the tent

June 14: Final day of classes

June 17: 8th Grade incoming freshmen Orientation Day

Visit the school web site at: www.agtech.org



Essex Aggie Alumni Association Membership Registration Form 2002

Membership dues for 2002 will be \$20.00

Please fill out the form below

We need your support



Member Name and Address: (Please Print)

Class Year:	
First Name:	
Maiden Name:	
Last Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Telephone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Please register my membership for 2002

I am enclosing my check for \$20.00 for 2002 Membership:

\$ _____

In addition, I would like to donate:

\$ _____

Total amount enclosed for membership & donations:

\$ _____

Check should be made out to: Essex Aggie Alumni

Mail this form to: Essex Aggie Alumni Association, George P. Jones III Treasurer, P.O. Box 49, North Salem, NH 03073

Your Alumni Association Officers:

Always available for questions, comments & suggestions.

President: **Alice (Coleman) Henning** - class of '56

3075 Woodsmill Drive, Melbourne, FL 32934 Phone: 407-255-9843

e-mail: alicefromwonderland@cfl.rr.com

Secretary: **Charles Main** - class of '56

643 Main Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562 Phone: 207-443-6309 e-mail: cmain@gwi.net

Treasurer: **George Jones** - class of '58

P.O. Box 49, North Salem, NH 03073 Phone: 603-898-5687 e-mail: jonesgp@attglobal.net

Vice President: **Lillian (Demers) Seaborne** - class of '56

1 Aline Street, Dracut, MA Phone: 978-686-4209