

# ELGIN EPILOGUE

The newsletter of the Elgin Alumni Association

January, 2009

Issue 1

The newly adopted purpose of the alumni association is:

**E** - everlasting

**L** - legacies

**G** - gained

**I** - in

**N** - nurturing

The common bond in our association is the nurturing that all students gained in attending the Elgin public schools.

## Alumni Officers

President – Donna Snowden

Vice President – Carl Cole

Secretary – Glynda Schroeder

Treasurer – Willie Haywood

High School Principal –  
Janis Linder

Special Events Co-Chairmen  
Sydna Arbuckle  
Marjorie Matetzschk

Special Events Committee  
Members – Deborah  
Cartwright, Rhonda Lundgren  
Moore, Gayle Hibbs Graham

Membership Chair – Judy  
Davis

Technology – Connie Nuñez

Past President – Eric Carlson

Distinguished Alumni Co-  
Chairs – Deborah  
Cartwright and Judy  
Matetzschk-Campbell

Scholarship Chair – Open

## President's Notes

Although I lived in Elgin until the age of five and spent holidays and summer vacations in Elgin, I did not begin my education in Elgin schools until my freshman year of high school when we moved back to Elgin from Corpus Christi. I look back and I know how much I have received because of that move. I know many others feel the same way. Have the Elgin schools benefited you in some part of your life? Do you remember a teacher or support person who influenced your life? I do.

When I was struggling to learn how to type in Joe Martin's typing class, I had no idea that many years later I would be teaching elementary students the same skill. When I was sitting in Kittie Henderson's Spanish class, I didn't realize that I was not only learning Spanish but I was developing a love of Mexico and its culture that I still have today. When my daughter, my father and I spent the night in Canterbury, England, on our way to Sweden, I silently thanked Dorothy Fitzpatrick, my high school English teacher, who taught me about Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. All of my high school teachers influenced me for the better.

How about you? Is it time that you give back to the Elgin schools? The Elgin Alumni Association strives to keep former students connected, but it also strives to insure future students reap the benefits of an education in Elgin. I urge you to join the association and help us grow!

**DONNA LUNDGREN SNOWDEN, President**

## SAVE THE DATE!

**APRIL 24, 2010**

The first Purple and White Jubilee will be held April 24, 2010, celebrating the history of the ethnic make-up of the Elgin ISD and recognizing three distinguished alumni. A golf tournament hosted by the Elgin Educational Foundation plans for the 1959-1960 State Championship golf team to lead off play. Then you won't want to miss the Saturday evening mixer to be held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Fellowship Hall. The party is free, but donations will be appreciated to offset refreshment and decoration expenses. There will be a cash bar and rumor has it that a celebrity will make a surprise appearance. A Sunday morning breakfast at the new Middle School is also on the slate of events. Details are being finalized and updates will be available on the website as we get closer to the Purple and White Jubilee. **BUT SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 24, 2010.**

## The "Cinderella" Team's Golden Anniversary Can You Believe It?

The "Cinderella" football team of 1958 is compiling a scrapbook of that magical season when Elgin went to the State Finals. Have you ever heard of White Deer, Texas? The team of 1958 remembers it vividly. If you're interested in obtaining a copy of this historical treasure, contact Ken Daughtry at 512-285-3333.

## Where are they now?

Astrid Carlson, class of 1932, vividly remembers her days at Elgin High School. After graduation Astrid taught school at the Lund School for four years before she married Hilbert Larson in 1936. She then devoted her life to her husband, their farms and their only son, Jerry (EHS class of 1960). At age 94 you'd think Astrid would slow down, but she doesn't. She is very involved with her family and friends; starts prayer chains for three different groups; regularly attends Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Lund; and is still regarded as one of the outstanding cooks on the prairie. She's famous for her *ostakaka* and will be happy to give you the recipe. Astrid thinks only 3 others from her class are still alive, but she doesn't dwell on those who have gone on ahead. She's too busy living!

**Because of the high cost of postage, we plan to send our next newsletter electronically. Please send us your email address so you won't miss out on any of the EHS alumni news.**

## ***ELGIN ALUMS RECALL FAVORITE TEACHERS AT EHS***

### **Do You Remember?**

#### ***Joyce Bellamy***

My favorite teacher in Elgin High School wasn't my favorite until well after I was out of school. There was an English Teacher in Elgin very briefly, maybe three years, named Joyce Bellamy. She drove over every day from Austin. While I enjoyed her class, it wasn't until I was in college and realized that she had actually taught me a great deal about how to write that she became my favorite. I quickly found that all of those papers she made us write had prepared me well for college. I was actually having a far easier time than many of my college classmates. And I still use the methods she forced us to use when I'm working with students on their writing now. She taught me how to organize thoughts on paper. Thank you, Joyce Bellamy, wherever you are!

**Judy Matetzschk-Campbell  
Class of 1981**

#### ***T. Berry***

Going through Elgin schools, there were so many influential teachers that each taught me a thing or two. If I had to pick the one teacher that I would say was my favorite teacher, I would have to say Mr. T. Berry. I was not a history person by any means, but his style of teaching really got to me. He always had a way of keeping your attention in class, yet he still made it enjoyable and interesting. I always thought history was in the past so why bother. I remember learning everything from the Vietnam Era to Jim Brown. I also learned that when someone asked you "Who your peoples" that meant your family. I think every person that came in contact with Mr. Berry had a story or two about his class or even if you didn't even have his class everyone knew him.

**Willie Haywood  
Class of 2001**

### ***Distinguished Alumni Awards***

The Distinguished Alumni Awards committee will be meeting soon to consider the nominees for outstanding alumni of Elgin High School. Many El-Hi students have gone on to do great things that reflect on their education in Elgin. Be thinking of someone to nominate that you feel displays the positive spirit and moral characteristics of leaders in their chosen fields. Check the Alumni Association section of the Elgin ISD website [www.elginisd.net](http://www.elginisd.net) for a nomination form.

### ***Become a Member of the Elgin Alumni Association***

The Elgin Alumni Association is the best way to stay connected to Elgin ISD. Please send personal information (including name, address, phone number, EHS class year and email address) together with a check for \$10.00 annual membership. Make check payable to Elgin Alumni Association.

Elgin Alumni Association  
PO Box 351  
Elgin, Texas 78621

Thanks for your support, and... ***GO WILDCATS!***



### ***We Need Help!***

We need volunteers to help with Alumni projects. Can you fold a piece of paper? Put a stamp on an envelope? Then you're qualified to help. And just because you don't live in Elgin, don't think you can't do your part. We need Class Agents for each graduating class. The Agent will be responsible for updating addresses of their classmates and advising the Alumni office of any changes to be made – married names, deaths, etc. Of those Agents, we will then choose a Decade Agent who will be responsible for the whole decade in coordinating activities with the Alumni Association. Please contact us if you want to volunteer as a Class Agent.