

THIS IS SURRATTS FOUNDATION E-NOTICE 2017-2 OF FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Hello Hornets! Here are some items that might be of interest:

1. FOUNDATION FUNDS COLLEGE FAIR TRIP. The Foundation has once again funded the annual trip by Surrattsville students to the annual NACAC College Fair held at the Curry Center in Prince George's County. Best of luck to the students attending this excellent chance to survey many college opportunities in one convenient location!

2. SCHOOL ACHIEVES REMARKABLE GRADUATION RATE IMPROVEMENTS! Congratulations to the students, faculty, staff and families at Surrattsville for achieving a truly remarkable improvement in graduation rates between 2015 and 2016. Specifically, the graduation rate rose, in that one year, from 80.20% to 90.81%, a 13.23% year-over-year increase! Surrattsville now is one of the ten (of 31) high schools in Prince George's County to have a graduation rate above 90%.

Principal Katrina Lamont made these remarks when recognizing particular members of the Surrattsville community for their outstanding contributions toward this achievement: "We envisioned this accomplishment and with your commitment and dedication to our students we made it happen. You provided instruction, allowed for mistakes, adjusted when there was lack of maturity, and encouraged our scholars when they didn't believe in themselves. Special thanks to Ms. Jeffery, Ms. Godfrey, Ms. Oliver, Ms. Wigfall, Ms. Hadfield, Ms. Simpkins, Ms. Pegues, Ms. Smith, Ms. Pettigrew, Ms. Puller, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Green, Ms. Anderson and Mr. Wilson for their efforts and patience with credit recovery, HSA projects, QLMS, testing, cohort management, senior contracts and parent conferences. Thanks to each and every one of our faculty AND staff because each of you, from the security team to the cafeteria personnel to the custodians, paraprofessionals, admin team and support staff, had an integral role in our scholars' success. We Are Surrattsville! Simply great!"

3. ... AND GRADUATION RATE INCREASE FEATURED IN GLOWING TV NEWS STORY. WUSA 9 ran a very nice feature about the School's extraordinary graduation rate achievement. It can be viewed at: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/record-graduation-rates-fueling-pride-in-prince-georges/393660149>. Congratulations to the School community on this very nice press!

4. NEW BOOK TELLS STORY OF SURRATTSVILLE PARENTS. Sally Spohn Lowe (71) passed along information about a new book by Len Sandler, "Because of You, We Live: The Untold Story of George & Simone Stalnaker." The book tells the fascinating story of two members of the Surrattsville community, the parents of Sylvie (71) and Gerri (69) Stalnaker, George was a WWII bomber pilot shot down behind enemy lines and Simone was a courageous

member of the French Resistance who was captured and tortured by the Nazis. The story-telling in the book is riveting, and it also provides a clear, concise and interesting overview of WWII as a whole. Sally also pointed out this impressive fact: “As a side note to their parents’ history and bravery, it is nice that book mentions that the Stalnaker contributions did not end with Sylvie’s parents. All three of Sylvie’s and Gerri’s brothers followed their dad into the military. Jerry flew combat missions in Vietnam, and Marc served in Operation Desert Storm. And even today Eric’s son is a midshipman at the Naval Academy.”

What an extraordinary story about two members of an extraordinary Surrattsville family!

5. TWO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS PERFORM AT SPECIAL EVENT.

On Sunday January 29, attendees at a concert at the Creative Cauldron in Falls Church got to see two Foundation Achievement Award recipients – Dave Chappell (75) and John Previti (72) -- perform together on the same stage. (<http://surrattsville.org/achievement/2011.shtml>) The event was part of Creative Cauldron’s acclaimed “Passport to the World” concert series, and was a tie-in with the upcoming documentary film “Anacostia Delta” (anacostiadelta.com), a film about D.C.’s role in producing and supporting two electric guitarists rated by many to be among the best (or the best) of all-time, Danny Gatton and Roy Buchanan.

The concert featured the extraordinary virtuosity of John (http://www.mapleshaderecords.com/artists/john_previti.php), Dave (<https://www.guitardavechappell.com>) and their fellow performers, and was enlivened by story-telling from the performers about their experiences with these two guitar greats. (John was Danny Gatton’s bassist for 18 years, and is featured on many recordings and youtube videos of Gatton, and speaks eloquently about Gatton’s very unique and special gifts on Gatton’s Wikipedia entry. And Dave was inspired to follow a career path as a guitarist by a trip as a teenager with his friend Jim Lawrence to see Gatton perform at the Psychedeli. Dave quipped during the story-telling that Jim immediately gave up the guitar after watching Gatton play the first song of the evening!

The “Anacostia Delta” documentary will be previewed at the Strathmore AMP on February 25. Information can be found at this link <https://www.strathmore.org/events-and-tickets/amp-anacostia-delta>, which contains this summary:

“AMP presents a sneak preview of the new, full-length documentary concert film Anacostia Delta: Home of the World's Great “Unknown” Guitarists. Meet the filmmakers and musicians, and hear a live Anacostia Delta performance at this special screening. The film includes performance and rehearsal interviews from a 2015 concert celebrating guitar legend Danny Gatton, who the Washington Post called, “the greatest guitar player you’ve never heard,” and other DC guitar greats. Hear about DC’s influential music scene from those who inspired and who were inspired by Gatton—those who carry the torch, performing the intoxicating mix of

blues, jazz, and country music that he played...a sound recognized around the world as truly unique.”

[Ed. Note: Dave and John regularly perform at events around the area. For example, John will be performing on Friday February 3 at 8 p.m. at “49 West” at 40 West Street in Annapolis.”

6. MORE INFORMATION ON SHS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS. We received this email from Sandy Johnson Highsmith (59) in response to our recent article about Surrattsville’s glorious basketball history: “My brother, Bob Johnson, was a member of the 1960 State Champions Hornets team. He made 28 free throws in that game. Sadly he died three years ago. He was a three-sport athlete: catcher on the baseball team, guard on the basketball team and quarterback on the football team. He was awarded a full scholarship to Washington College. Sandy”

[Ed. Note: We would love to have additional information about legendary Surrattsville sports teams and their members.]

7. FOUNDATION ARCHIVES ACQUIRES PRICELESS TREASURES. Thanks to the generosity of Ron Kaplan (50), the Foundation Archives have acquired copies of the 1946, 1947 and 1950 yearbooks and an interesting Evening Star photo from November 1948. The latter can be found on the Photos page at www.surrattsville.org.

Many thanks to Ron for donating these treasures to help us move toward completion of the Foundation’s yearbook archives!

8. PAINLESS WAYS TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE FOUNDATION. Thanks to the many of you who make your Amazon purchases not through “regular” Amazon, but through smile.amazon.com, with the Surrattsville High School Foundation designated as their charitable beneficiary. The smile.amazon.com prices, products and Amazon website are identical to “regular” Amazon, but Amazon makes a charitable contribution to the designated charity for every purchase made on smile.amazon.com.

And thanks to those of you making your internet searches using the goodsearch search engine. It uses the yahoo search engine (which we’re told rivals google and apparently has never failed any Foundation user) and, like smile.amazon.com, makes a contribution to your designated charity for every internet search. Here’s the link: <https://www.goodsearch.com/causes/surrattsville-high-school-foundation>.

9. MORE PRICELESS TREASURES FROM “GREEN LIGHT.” As we previously noted, in 2015 Duke Coleman (53) donated to the Foundation’s Archives a number of copies of an early SHS student newspaper, the “Green Light.” Those editions provide a fascinating glimpse into

student life at Surrattsville during the 52-53 academic year, 65 years ago! Here are some interesting excerpts from the January 15, 1953 edition of Green Light:

“The New Score Board. Many students have no doubt noticed the addition of a new score board to the gymnasium. This scoreboard is one of the finest that can be bought. The concerted efforts of Mr. Pryde and Mr. Bryan were responsible for obtaining it to a great degree. This scoreboard completes the array of the latest and finest equipment for our gym as well as our school.

Varsity Hornets Defeat Oxon Hill. Last Friday the Hornets played their first league game. They defeated Oxon Hill in one of the highest scoring games of the season. They defeated the once proud Oxon Hill Clippers 68 to 60! Sharing the scoring honors were Lowell Hinchliffe and Jimmy Hall with 22 and 19 points. Also scoring were Jimmy Gates (14 points), John Yerkie (7 points), John Sickler (4 points), and Paul Fleming with 2 points. It’s beginning to look as if the Hornets from Surrattsville will take the Class B County Championship. This Friday the Hornets will play their second conference game of the season against Frederick Sasser. Gametime will be 7:15 for the JV Hornets.

10 . CLASS OF 67 ANNOUNCES 50-YEAR REUNION! We received this note from the Class of 67 about its upcoming 50-year reunion: “Surrattsville Class of 67 Reunion! Friday, October 20 until Sunday, October 22, 2017! The contract is signed, we have a reunion! The Dunes Manor Hotel, 2800 N. Baltimore Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842, 1-800-523-2888. Rooms are \$119 a night plus tax for Friday and Saturday night, all rooms are oceanfront, each with 2 double beds. You will purchase your room directly from the hotel, you will send the reunion committee your check to pay for the reunion dinner. All as soon as possible, please. Here is the link to the hotel’s website, <https://dunesmanor.com> so you can see where we will be staying, but please make your room reservation directly with the hotel by phone: 1-800-523-2888, ask for “in-house reservations.” You must mention Surrattsville Reunion to get the reduced room price, and to help us make the quota of rooms we are required to have. As a bonus, when we reach 30 rooms, one of the first 30 to reserve will be upgraded to a suite for their stay in a random drawing to be held before the reunion. The hotel’s cancellation policy follows at the end of this letter, please read it carefully as the hotel’s cancellation policies are firm, they are not within our control. This hotel has a very few king and queen rooms, they will be \$139 a night. Rooms will be \$79.00 a night for Thursday night or Sunday night if you wish to come early or stay longer.

The Reunion dinner will be at 6pm on Saturday night, tickets are \$80 a person. The price will include the room rental, dinner, dancing (hopefully you remember how to dance!), souvenirs, door prizes, and a reunion booklet. Drinks will be at a cash bar. We have incorporated our reunion, the official title is Surrattsville 67 Reunion, LLC., and have established a bank account at Old Line Bank in Clinton to be able to receive your money for the dinner. Please make your reunion dinner reservations by sending a check for \$80 for each person attending, with the name of each person with your check payable to: Surrattsville ’67 Reunion, LLC, c/o Nancy Miller 8808 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, MD 20735 at the earliest possible date so we can plan for the

number attending. All funds will be placed on deposit in the account at Old Line, all funds will be accounted for and used only to pay for the banquet and items needed for the events of the weekend. If you wish, include with your check one song you want to hear played, we will try to include everyone's favorite.

We will have a reservations table set up at the Dunes Manor to sign in Friday. Check-in is officially after 4, but you are certainly welcome to come earlier. The hotel will provide us with a hospitality suite at the hotel for all to use as a gathering spot if we book enough rooms. So everyone: Come, and book early! We will have a meet and greet Friday evening at Seacrets in Ocean City at 6 pm, it is a very fun bar, the plan right now is that those who wish to get together on Friday will meet there, drinks and eats will be on individual tabs. Seacrets is at 117 49th Street Ocean City, MD 21842. Their website is: <http://seacrets.com>. When you get inside, look for the green balloons to find the Surrattsville group. It is a very big place!

On Saturday, weather permitting, those who wish to will gather in the hotel parking lot for a fun group trip to visit Assateague Park to, hopefully, see the wild ponies. Details of that outing will follow. There is talk of a golf outing Saturday morning at one of Ocean City's great golf courses, we are still looking for a golfer/classmate who wants to organize that. Any volunteers? And Sunday morning, those who wish to have brunch in the hotel's restaurant can do so. We will have an area set aside for our group, but the tabs will be individual. Most importantly, we still need email addresses for our classmates! We have email addresses for less than half our class. Please help us all by locating all classmates so each can receive notice of the reunion. All notices of reunion events will be sent by email only. Thank you! Make your reservations! We look forward to seeing you, The Reunion Committee: Jimmy Hanson, Chris Parker, Nancy Miller, Ron Stout, Janet Brown, Kathie Malkie, Carol Mitchel Baynes and Jeff Buckler."

11. UPDATE ON CLASS OF 75 REUNION. We received this very wild and crazy update from the Class of 75 about their upcoming reunion plans! "Class of 75 Birthday Party - The Class of 75 is turning 60 next year and is planning a birthday party in Las Vegas on Labor Day weekend. All classes, friends, parents, teachers, and adult children are invited to join in. Information will be communicated via the Facebook group "Surrattsville Class of 75 turns 60". Not all of the details are finalized, but Friday September 1, 2017 we will be meeting at the Still Bar, located in the Mirage Hotel. It will be a very a la carte event in order to keep the expenses down. I can be reached by Facebook private message or sberry75@gmail.com, for any private concerns or questions. Steve Berry (75)"

12. FOUNDATION CONTINUES MUSICAL FUND RAISER. Thanks to the inspiration and hard work of Foundation Board member Greg Laxton (81), the Foundation has launched a new fund raiser that offers digital downloads of recordings of Surrattsville's Teen Club and other bands. (In addition to his volunteer service on the Foundation Board, Greg is perhaps the world's leading authority on rock and roll pioneer – and Accokeek native – Link Wray.)

If you have any recordings that Greg could feature, please email him at greg.laxton@gmail.com. Greg's first offering is a recording of Teen Club regulars "Crusader Rabbit," at these links:

<https://loudr.fm/release/live-1972/Ky24D> and <http://www.oldlinemusic.com/styled/page8/>.

Thanks to Greg for his efforts in spearheading this latest fund raising effort by the Foundation!

13. MORE SURRATTSVILLE MEMORIES FROM DAYS GONE BY. The following is the latest installment of Wayne Tatum (74)'s always evocative memories of his time at Surrattsville Junior High in the 1960s. (We're running Wayne's reminiscences as a serial that started in the July 1, 2016 e-Notice, and we're sure Wayne's stories will stimulate lots of memories of times likely long gone-by among our readers. Wayne can be reached at wayne.tatum.ctr@usmc.mil.)

An Elementary School Teacher Remembered: Miss Courtney D. Pringle was my very first "teacher at Crestview Elementary, fourth grade mixed with third together. On an August day in 1969 she entertained an old classmate and myself to lunch and duckpin bowling near Marlow Heights. The following spring, she also put up a photo of my first relay win on the green board in her classroom for all future runners to see and hope. Who said it doesn't pay to be kind to teachers?

Days of Future Homecoming Queens Past: During my pipsqueak non-football-star life. I had been allowed to spend brief but interesting times with Surrattsville's autumn high court of honored ladies. It started before the age of eight when I was the kid down the street who was put up with on an occasional basis by the royal unnamed. In the summer of 69, I tended to a slight foot injury suffered by a down to earth future HQ who was eventually a scorekeeper for Larry Leahy's teams. There was an embarrassing glitch on a beach trip with one popular and beloved honoree who for one brief moment a friend, but who never spoke to me again after a strange turn of events. It was the only time in my life that the bay turned on me. Whoops – make that the Patuxent. Recovering from the damnation of tides, my upside down senior year improved much when the Douglass HS autumn anointed crown owner attended the prom with this most appreciative recorder of time. Is this something I could put on my resume?"

(And as a sound track for the above, Wayne suggests:

http://www.amandfmmorningside.com/wpgc_airchecks_table.html#1969)

[... to be continued]

14. SEEKING YEARBOOKS FOR FOUNDATION ARCHIVES. Thanks to the generous gifts from several of our readers noted in prior issues of the e-Notice, the Foundation's yearbook collection is becoming more complete all the time. However, the Foundation Archives is still lacking:

-All yearbooks before 1950, except 1946 and 1947

-1983-1989

-1995

-1998

-2000

-2001
-2004
-2005
-2007-present

If anyone has extra copies of any of these missing links, we would love to have them.

(And the Foundation has surplus Boomerangs available for \$10 (including shipping) from these years: 1991, 1999, 2002, 2003, and 2006. Please send me an email at hsmith@smithdowney.com if you would like one.)

15. COPIES OF 1929 AND 1944 YEARBOOKS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING. And speaking of yearbooks, thanks to the efforts of Foundation Archivist Shelby Lee Oppermann, the 1929 and 1944 Surrattsville yearbooks are available for viewing online. (Our readers can go to the “Surrattsville Alumni” Facebook Group, click on Photos, and then click on Albums, to view those treasures.) The Foundation would love to have old yearbooks, or even photocopies or scans of them, for its Archives.

16. FOUNDATION ARCHIVES SEEKING PERMANENT PHYSICAL HOME. And speaking of the Foundation’s Archives, we’re seeking a permanent home for these precious objects. Anywhere in the Clinton/Southern MD area would be fine, and a room or building that starts at 8 x 10 and goes to infinity would be very nice. If you have a lead on a space that might be available to preserve this very important history, please send me an email at hsmith@smithdowney.com.

17. CLASS OF 97 PLANNING 20TH REUNION. We received this email from Jim Wilkinson (97) about the Class’ upcoming reunion plans: “As part of our planning for the upcoming 20 year reunion, we are looking to update our contacts information. Please email me at jjwilktnl@gmail.com if you have any information on Class of 97 members. Thank you!”

18. FALLEN HEROES PLAQUE AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS. Here’s an update from Bob Jeter (64) on the Foundation’s Fallen Heroes Plaque that hangs in the Foundation’s Legacy Hall at the School alongside the American and Maryland flags that flew over the U.S. and Maryland Capitols in its honor. “The Fallen Heroes Plaque is available for display at class reunions or any other worthy functions. Feel free to contact me, Bob Jeter, 904jeter@gmail.com or 410-315-9403, preferably well in advance of the date so transfer arrangements can be made. Bob”

19. DON’T FORGET TO CHECK-OUT THE FOUNDATION’S VARIOUS YOUTUBE VIDEO PROGRAMS. Thanks to the tireless efforts and creative talents of the Foundation’s youtube master, Foundation Board member Sandra Smith Simmons (70), the Foundation’s youtube channel now features many programs of interest, such as programs featuring the Foundation’s Fallen Heroes Plaque that was conceived and executed by Bob Jeter (64), the 2015

Achievement Award recipients, and the 2015 Scholarship recipients. The programs can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SurrattsvilleFDN>.

Here's hoping many of you are enjoying this unusually mild winter!

Henry Smith (71)

MANY THANKS TO THESE EARLY DONORS TO THE 2017 CAMPAIGN!

Bob Marr (71)

Debbie Cox Marr (72)

Steve Profilet (71)

Sandra Smith Simmons (70)

Mike Gifford (84)

Ron Kaplan (50)

Ellen Talbert Miller (61 and former faculty/administration), In Memory of Bill Talbert (65))

Richard Grace (81)

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Steve Profilet (71)

Sandra Smith Simmons (70)

Bob Marr (71)

Debbie Cox Marr (72)

Lee Hessberg (68)

Lois Barrett Hessberg (70)

Jenny Griga Austin Farrell (65), In Loving Memory of Tom Austin (64)

Nancy Miller (67)

Larry Romjue (57), In Memory of Lois Marie Osgood (57), "Rubber Tree Plant," Frank Sinatra

Steve Johnson (78), In Memory of Coach Robert Haigler (former faculty)

Vicky Simontacchi Young (57), In Memory of Clyde W. Kidd (57)

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