



The Ruston High School Alumni Association



August 2011



2803 Tara Dr., Ruston, Louisiana 71270
www.rustonhighalumni.org



Volume 1, Issue 2

Welcome to this year's edition of the Ruston High School Alumni Association Newsletter. The alumni association is very active and throughout this newsletter you will read of many of these activities. Please be sure to visit our alumni website at www.rustonhighalumni.org to see all the exciting things going on with the alumni association and to keep up with your classmates and friends from RHS.

Send us any suggestions as to what you would like to see in future editions. Each year we add new members to our committees and members rotate off. If you are interested in becoming a member of one of the committees, please email me. This association is yours and we want you to help make it even better. Always remember: ONCE A BEARCAT ALWAYS A BEARCAT!

Jackson "Jack" Thigpen '63
jthigpen@suddenlink.net

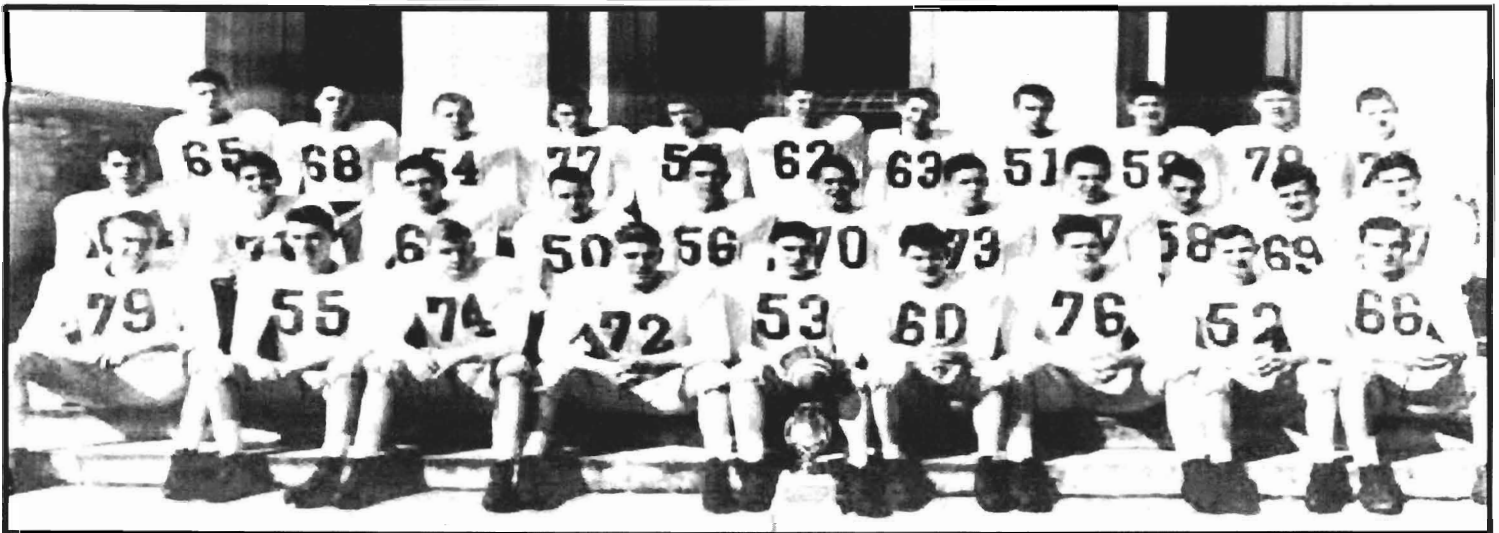
Principal Milstead's Message to Alumni

The 2010-11 school year was exceptional for the Ruston High Bearcats. In the fall we received the news of having one of our highest ACT average scores ever, 21.7, one of the highest in the state for non-magnet high schools. We also began the process of the implementation of our New Tech component of Ruston High—New Tech @ Ruston. Our school performance score of 109 is one of the highest in the state of Louisiana for non-magnet, public high schools. Our spring testing this year is evidence of continued growth for our school. The RHS graduation rate already exceeds the 2014 state goal. Other successes (Ag, FBLA, Cheerleaders, Sports teams, Art, etc.) throughout the year are evidence of a vibrant, exciting, educational institution that continues to grow in stature.

The 2011-12 school year possesses its own exciting prospects and challenges. Vertical alignment teams will work to make sure that there are no instructional gaps in our instruction program. Cooperation from other city and parish schools in this effort means that in future years, students will be arriving at RHS as better prepared 9th graders. The result is an even better product when those students graduate from Ruston High. Our New Tech program will be in its second year, having accomplished amazing things in the first year. My personal goal for this year is the continued establishment of professional learning communities that will allow us to become even better instructors of our students. The 2011-12 school year has the potential to be one of the best ever at RHS.

Class of '61 Auctions Quilt for Scholarship Contribution

Ruston High School Class of 1961 alumni Sharon Swearingen Tusa designed and made a quilt that was auctioned at the 50th year reunion of the Class of '61. The winning bidder at \$1050 dollars was classmate Ronny Graham and wife Judy Odom Graham, Class of '62. The auction proceeds benefitted the RHS Alumni Association's scholarship fund. Tusa created eight different fabrics using RHS symbols and logo plus the school's alma mater to make the 70" quilt. The quilt is made in the Carpenter's Square pattern. The Grahams have donated the quilt to RHS to be on permanent display there.



1951 State Championship Football Team

1st row: L. Martin, J. Hoogland, C. Connell, P. Hinton, C. Drewett, F. Jones, H. Deloney, J. Boyd, and B. Smith

2nd row: L. Jones, B. James, C. Stewart, L. Stinson, C. Barham, T. Allen, W. Reed, J. Richardson, J. Magee, G. Sandifer, and O. Oxford

3rd row: G. Strozier, B. Hornsby, J. Butler, N. Richardson, P. Covington, D. Mabry, W. Hogue, J. Patterson, B. Deloney, T. Hinton, and T. James



Homecoming: Friday October 14, 2011



50th Year RHS Graduation Reunion by the Class of '61

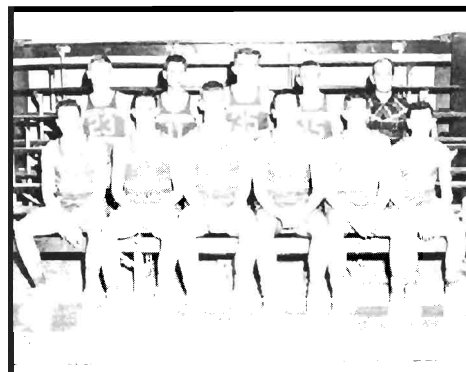
The Class of '61 held its 50th year reunion May 20 -22, 2011. This was the fourth class wide reunion that has been held. The others were in celebration of the 10th, 25th, and 40th years.

There were originally 146 in the graduating class. That number, sadly, over the intervening years has fallen but still exceeds 100. But the good news is that of those remaining, 55 attended the 50th year reunion festivities. More than a few traveled up to several thousand miles to attend.

Many were heard to remark that everyone looked exactly as they did in 1961. However, name tags were fashioned by classmate Judy Bonner with LARGE PRINT and it seemed that almost everyone was reading the names on the tags just to confirm their suspicion as to who that old man or woman was wearing it. The elation of recognition brought such joy—and amusement. It seemed that onlookers enjoyed watching the reacquaintances as much as those to whom it was happening.

Festivities organized by reunion coordinators Lana Moore, Sharon Swearingen and Allen Carpenter included a Friday evening mixer at Sundown West Tavern, a Saturday Bar-B-Q lunch at Lincoln Parish Park prepared by “Chef” Ronnie Jackson, a guided tour of the renovated Dixie Theatre, an evening dinner and program at Squire Creek Country Club, and a farewell buffet breakfast at Ryan’s on Sunday morning.

Reunions are not only fun but important in our lives. In the case of the Class of '61, this was not only the celebration of 50 years since graduating from high school, but it was a renewal of friendships that in many cases went back to first grade, another 12 or so years. Thus, this was in many cases a celebration of 62 years of friendship. Something that has endured that long should not be taken for granted. It deserves nurturing, honoring, and celebrating.



1961 State 2-AA Basketball Champions

Front Row: Jacky Floyd, Chuck Anderson, Jerry Hood, Robert Bretz, Charles Shuffield, and Leon Barmore.

Back Row: Curtis Crowell, Bill Higgs, Lawson Swearingen, Pete Larence, and Coach Denman Garner

2011 RHS Football Schedule

Sept. 2	Neville	Away	Oct. 7	Ouachita	Home
Sept. 9	Bastrop	Away	Oct. 14 (HC)	N. Desoto	Home
Sept. 16	Arcadia	Home	Oct. 21	W. Monroe	Away
Sept. 23	C.E. Byrd	Home	Oct. 28	Natchitoches Central	Home
Sept. 30	Minden	Home	Nov. 4	Pineville	Away

Amelia Kate Warner was the recipient of this year’s \$1500 Outstanding Achievement Scholarship Award!

8th Annual Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Educator Awards Luncheon

Friday, October 14, 2011
Squire Creek Country Club

Contact Pat Kavanaugh Tippit '59 for reservations

145 Double Tree Lane

Ruston, LA 71270

255-7750

pktippit@yahoo.com

We will honor three distinguished RHS alumni, a current educator at RHS, a retired educator, and a deceased educator. This year, we will also honor a young alumna with a significant achievement award. A list of previous recipients are listed on the alumni website. Plan on joining other RHS alumni, faculty, and friends for a great time and help us honor some of RHS’s outstanding alumni and teachers.



1971 - 1981 - 1991 Class Reunions

Classes of 1971, 1981, and 1991 are planning reunions on homecoming weekend October 14-15, 2011. More information can be found on the RHS alumni webpage at www.rustonhighalumni.org.

New Tech @ Ruston: Alumni Project

Ms. Kay Peters, one of the teachers in the Ruston High New Tech Program, is planning a project for her class this fall in which she will have her students contact Ruston High alumni. They will be asking alumni about their experiences as students at RHS. The students will then compare what it is like as a student now to what it was like several years ago.

Ms. Peters would like for the students to compare school spirit, dress, clubs, athletics, student body make-up, and the attitude of students and faculty among other things. What a great way to connect present students with alumni.

**State Champion
1941
Football Team**



Top row: Bobby Aillet, "Racer" Holstead, Dwayne Barmore, Earl Sears, Alan Williams, Lester Lloyd, Hoyo Neal, Jack Dulong, Dick Alexander
Middle row: Shelby Doss, "Goober" Andrews, Henry Brewer, "Hook" Alexander, Zane Skinner, Dub Jones, Buddy Fallin, Earl Liner, "Doc" Skinner
Bottom row: P. B. Colvin, Charlie Dring, Mike Reed, James M. Young, Charlie B. Carter, Warring Wray, Jerry Heard



Chatterbox
The Voice of Ruston High School



Over the years, *Chatterbox* has seen many changes and many faces. Just two years ago, Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner became the adviser for *Chatterbox*, and the new staff began working on what would become an award winning 32 page newspaper, printed August - June. The staff was required to be members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and to assist in preparing various other projects and reports for competition. In the two years since this reorganization, the *Chatterbox* Partnership in Business Project has won the state championship at the State FBLA conference - both years. In addition to this recognition, *Chatterbox* members also used their writing and editing talents to earn additional state championships with the American Enterprise Project and the Business Plan Project, as well as Top 5 state finishes with the Community Service Project and the Local Chapter Annual Business Report.

Chatterbox became a member of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) and was recently awarded a 2nd Class Rating. They are currently waiting results of their super critique from the NSPA, as well as several other possible recognitions for the hard work done by the staff. They are also anticipating the possibility of being included in the Best of the Best of High School Press. This year, *Chatterbox* is hoping to achieve even more and improve to an almost impossible 1st Class Rating.

In addition to providing Ruston High School students, faculty, staff, and alumni with an outstanding newspaper covering every aspect of Ruston High School, the staff receives excellent hands-on training in time management, discipline, leadership, and basic business principles. Thanks to improvements and access to technology, *Chatterbox* has come a long way! *Chatterbox* is completely funded by advertising, sponsors, and donations. As such, the staff has to solicit the funds necessary in addition to preparing the newspaper. As the intent is to ensure that every student receives a newspaper every month free of charge, the entire cost of *Chatterbox* must be earned.

If you haven't seen a copy of *Chatterbox* yet, drop by RHS and ask for a copy or check it out online on the RHS website (addresses listed below). The RHS Alumni Association asks that you consider supporting *Chatterbox* by advertising or sponsoring them with any donations as the service they provide Ruston High School as "The Voice of Ruston High" is without question. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning *Chatterbox*, please contact Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner at chatterbox@lincolnschools.org.

The Alumni Association will contribute \$300 to the *Chatterbox*!



Check out the Ruston High School *Chatterbox* and stay in touch with your Alma Mater.

Access the current edition of the *Chatterbox* at: <http://rustonhigh.lincolnschools.org/whatsnew.html>

Access archived editions of the *Chatterbox* at: <http://rustonhigh.lincolnschools.org/chatterbox.html>

Membership and Keeping Current on the Ruston High School Alumni Association Web Site

We now have 824 members who have joined the Ruston High School Alumni Association. If you know of any alumni that have not joined, please encourage them to do so. A lifetime membership is only \$25, and membership forms can be printed from the alumni web page. You can also join by simply sending in your payment of \$25 along with your name, year of graduation, address, email address, and phone number to 2803 Tara Drive, Ruston, Louisiana 71270.

Please log on to the alumni website at www.rustonhighalumni.org and go to the members only page and check your information. If you have any changes, simply email the webmaster at webmaster@rustonhighalumni.org. We need to keep your information current so that alumni information can be sent and other alumni and friends can contact you. To access the members only page, use "RHS" (all caps) as the user name and "1921" as the password. Feel free to contact the web site administrator at any time with questions, comments and feedback pertaining to the web site. Your input and suggestions are always welcome.

In Memory of Joe Richardson

Joe Richardson, one of the founding fathers of the alumni association and long time treasurer, passed away on May 23, 2011. Several individuals and the Ruston High School Football Program have made contributions to the alumni association in memory of Joe. If you would like to make a donation to the alumni association in Joe's memory, please send it to 2803 Tara Drive, Ruston, Louisiana 71270.



We Need Memorabilia

We are still looking for RHS memorabilia of all kinds to be displayed at Ruston High School. Duddy Burkhalter Garrett '57 is in the process of arranging and labeling the display. Bring any items to the RHS office, mail it to RHS, or contact Duddy.

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2803 Tara Dr.
Ruston, La. 71270

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