



# The Ruston High School Alumni Association



August 2013



390 Valley View Drive, Ruston, Louisiana 71270  
www.rustonhighalumni.org



Volume 1, Issue 4

Welcome to the 2013-14 edition of the Ruston High School Alumni Association Newsletter. Those members who have provided their email addresses are receiving the first email transmission of the publication. Other alumni are receiving the issue in the same manner as in previous years, the U.S. Postal Service. The Board welcomes your feedback on the change in delivery method. Please share your concerns, suggestions, or comments. If you would like to change the way you received the newsletter, please send your request to [webmaster@rustonhighalumni.org](mailto:webmaster@rustonhighalumni.org).

You are encouraged to visit our alumni website at [www.rustonhighalumni.org](http://www.rustonhighalumni.org) to see all the exciting happenings in the association and to keep up with your classmates and friends from RHS.

Candy Williams Daniels '65

## Principal Milstead's Message to Alumni

As we approach the 2013-14 school year, we are very proud of what Ruston High offers our over 1200 new and returning Bearcats. Ruston High provides a wide diversity of offerings. These allow us to more nearly meet the educational, real-life needs of our students. The faculty, administrators, and other staff members are dedicated to providing what is best for our kids. We offer the Bearcat mentoring program for all Freshmen. Our New Tech program is nationally recognized. The facilities available for student use are second to none. Our sports program offers a large variety to more nearly facilitate our goal of all students involved in some type of extra-curricular activity. Our music program attracts many students and the excellent way that it is presented to our community continues to impress. It's really fun to see the band and choral groups perform in concerts, on the football field, at our annual "Coffee, Cakes, and Carols," and "Bearcats on Broadway." These ambassadors for Ruston High represent us extremely well. It's really great to be a Bearcat.

I invite all alumni to come visit Ruston High. You will be even more proud of your *alma mater*.

## President's Message

As the 2013-14 school year gets underway for students, the RHS Alumni Association is preparing for its signature event, the Distinguished Educator and Alumni Awards Luncheon. It is amazing to read the nominations that are submitted, to comprehend the achievements of the nominees and to think back to the days when we walked the halls or sat in the classrooms of RHS with these teachers and students. It is an honor to recognize those educators and alumni who have distinguished themselves in their chosen profession and impacted the lives of others. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Luncheon will be held Friday, October 11 at 11:30 a.m. at Squire Creek. The event provides an opportunity for attendees to visit with former classmates and teachers and to hear the inspirational accounts of how RHS helped launch their successes. We hope to see you there. You will leave Bearcat Proud!

Membership growth will be a primary focus for the coming three years. The Board of Directors encourages you to join us in spreading the word about the value of both 'giving back' to RHS and 'paying it forward' to the school and its students. Think about the people you know who graduated from RHS, family members, coworkers, neighbors, friends, and fellow church members. Please invite these individuals to become a member of RHSAA so that as our membership numbers grow, so will the association's ability to provide assistance to the school and its programs. Membership applications are available at our website.

Candy Williams Daniels '65

## 2013 RHS Football Schedule

Sep. 6	Neville	Away	Oct. 11	*NATCHITOCHEs CENTRAL	Home
Sept. 13	AIRLINE	Home	Oct. 18	*WEST MONROE	Home
Sept. 20	RAYVILLE	Home	Oct. 25	*Ouachita	Away
Sept. 27	Haughton	Away	Nov. 1	*ASH (Alexandria H.S.)	Away
Oct. 4	Captain Shreve	Away	Nov. 2	*PINEVILLE	Home

Homecoming: Friday October 11, 2013

All games are at 7:00 p.m.

## Ruston High School Alumni Association Honors Educators and Graduates

The Ruston High School Alumni Association honored distinguished educators and graduates at its annual luncheon in 2012. Each year, the association honors one current teacher, one retired teacher, and one deceased teacher, along with three alumni and one young alumnus.

Distinguished educators honored were current RHS Assistant Principal David M. Crowe, retired science and math teacher Dr. Patsy Boudreaux, and the late football coach and economics teacher Robert W. "Moose" Phillips. Distinguished alumni honored were Dr. Janet Duncan Barnes, O.K. "Buddy" Davis, Major General (retired) Jack Ramsaur II, and Young Alumnus Significant Achievement Award recipient Martie Cordaro.

David Crowe, Class of '71, earned a B.S. in 1976 and M.S. in 1984 from Louisiana Tech University. As a member of the Tech Track Team, under the guidance of Track Coach Jimmy Mize, Crowe set a record in the 400M dash and was selected as a member of the U.S. Track and Field Federation All American Track and Field Team in 1974. Crowe began his teaching career in Homer but returned to RHS in 1978 to teach English and coach football, track and cross country. In 1988 Crowe left the classroom and playing fields to serve as assistant principal, a position he still enjoys today.

Dr. Patsy Boudreaux graduated from Louisiana Tech University in 1958, Northwestern in 1965 and received the Ed.D. from Northeast Louisiana University in 1975. During her 1965-1988 tenure at RHS, Boudreaux taught Physics, Chemistry, Statistics, Research, Physical Science I & II and Math. Outside the classroom she sponsored the Pep Squad, Bearcat Belles, Cheerleading, Art Club, Accent Club, and Science Club. In 1977, Boudreaux was selected as Louisiana Regional II Outstanding Science Teacher and Louisiana State Outstanding Science Teacher. Boudreaux chaired the 1983 committee that wrote the evaluation for the selection of RHS as one of the *Top 10 Outstanding State and National Secondary Schools* in the National Education Program.

Robert W. "Moose" Phillips came to Ruston as a Louisiana Polytechnic Institute football tackle, earning three football jackets. The All-American Intercollegiate Conference tackle for Tech graduated in 1941. While coaching football at Delhi High School, Uncle Sam called Phillips into service in 1942. After spending 40 months in World War II with the U.S. Coast Guard, he was released from active duty in 1945 and immediately joined the RHS coaching staff. Phillips and Head Coach Hoss Garrett were a dynamic duo that changed the RHS defense into a powerhouse feared by rival offensive coaches and players. Phillips retired from Lincoln Parish Schools in June, 1986.

Dr. Janet Duncan Barnes, Class of 1971, was the Senior Class President and voted "The Most Likely Female to Succeed" by classmates. She is a 1974 Summa Cum Laude graduate from Grambling State University with a B.A. in Chemistry. Barnes

moved to New Orleans and received her M.D. and pediatric training at LSU School of Medicine. She also holds an Executive MBA from the University of New Orleans. A pediatrician in private practice and co-owner of Primary Healthcare Associates, Barnes has delivered healthcare to the young people of metropolitan New Orleans for over thirty years. Following Hurricane Katrina, Barnes was appointed to the Governor's Healthcare Redesign Work Group as well as the Mayor's "Bring New Orleans Back" Commission. She has served as President of the only African American female medical organization in Louisiana and is an inductee in the GSU Hall of Fame.

O.K. "Buddy" Davis, Class of 1964, has brought acclaim to the Ruston area and RHS with his sports journalism. Davis began his now 48-year career as sports writer, then sports editor for the Ruston Daily Leader while he was a full time student at Louisiana Tech University, graduating in 1969. He has written an estimated 40,000 stories and is a voting member of the Heisman Trophy Selection Committee. Davis has won hundreds of state awards for excellence in journalism from the Louisiana Press Association, Associated Press, and the United Press International. In 2009 he was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism, the most prestigious honor offered to sports media in the state, and was inducted into the writers' and broadcasters' wing of the Louisiana Hall of Fame.

Major General (Retired) Jack Ramsaur II, Class of 1970, attended Louisiana Tech University, graduating in 1974 with a B.S. in Industrial Management and in 1975 earned a Masters Degree. Ramsaur began his life's work by serving in the U.S. Air Force for thirty year. A pilot since 1976, he was commissioned through the ROTC program at Louisiana Tech. After six years of active service he entered the Air Force Reserves and began flying KC-10's in 1988. Ramsaur was one of the first KC-20 pilots supporting U.S. forces during the Panama Crisis in 1989 and among the first to arrive in theater during Desert Shield in 1990. In 2006 he worked with the United States-Russia Security Program at Harvard University. In 2009 he became mobilization assistant to the Commander, Headquarters Air Education & Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas. Ramsaur is currently employed by Federal Express flying the B-777.

Martie Cordaro, Class of 1991, graduated from Louisiana Tech University in 1998 with a degree in Marketing. In 1999 he began his professional career working with Minor League Baseball teams such as the West Tennessee Diamond Jaxx, the Birmingham Barons and the Southwest Michigan Devil Rays. He is currently in his fourth season as vice president and general manager of the Omaha Storm Chasers. Under Cordaro's leadership, each team experienced increases in attendance, revenue and sales. Among his initiatives, Cordaro focuses on diversity advancement, community engagement and youth leadership development.



## Past President's Privilege

Again this past year we selected and formally recognized distinguished teachers and alumni. We encouraged and made modest gains in membership. We were involved with several class reunions. And we awarded to a graduating senior the Association's Outstanding Achievement Award for the thirteenth consecutive year bringing total stipends awarded to \$16,000. Our current President, Mrs. Candy Williams Daniels, Class of 1965, will discuss elsewhere in this letter those non-Outstanding Achievement Award topics. I will limit my remarks to that topic.

In 2001 the law firm of Vinson Elkins honored the retirement of John Holstead, RHS Class of 1956, by funding an Outstanding Achievement Award. In subsequent years Mr. Holstead personally contributed \$14,600. Two auctions of quilts made by Sharon Swearingen Tusa, Class of 1961, brought in \$2,550. Numerous additional contributions both large and small brought in approximately \$7,450, bringing total receipts since inception to approximately \$29,600. When total stipends awarded in the amount of \$16,000 are subtracted from total receipts of \$29,600, a balance of \$13,600 results. Thus, at a projected annual award in the amount of \$1,500, the current fund balance will support just over nine (9) more years of awards. That is a comfortable balance and one of which we can all be proud. This information is provided to you to keep you informed of Association finances. It's your Association and your money and you are entitled to a periodic accounting of activities and fund balances.

In closing, there is much more that the RHS Alumni Association wants to and should do for the school and for alumni—especially Association members. Accordingly, I request that you keep the Association in mind when considering your giving plans. Your contributions and your dues will be used judiciously.

John Sachs '61

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### Nominations Sought for Distinguished Educators and Distinguished Alumni

Nominations are being accepted for the Ruston High School graduates of distinction and distinguished teacher awards to be honored at the RHS Alumni Association's 2013 Awards Luncheon on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

All current and former teachers and all RHS graduates are eligible for consideration. The RHS Alumni Association's purpose is to seek, find, and recognize those RHS teachers and alumni who by their good works, deeds and accomplishments inspire current and future RHS students and faculty to believe that they too can achieve distinction in their chosen field of endeavor, and their affiliation with RHS will facilitate and enhance their chances for success.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, August 30, 2013. Nominations should be mailed to RHS Alumni Association, 1208 Edwards Drive, Ruston, LA 71270 or emailed to [bettyjofagan47@gmail.com](mailto:bettyjofagan47@gmail.com). Persons making a nomination should include their name and telephone number where they may be contacted for additional nominee information.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Educator and Alumni Awards Luncheon

Friday, October 11, 2013  
Squire Creek Country Club

Contact Pat Smith '64 for reservations  
Phone 318-255-4303, Email [patoms@att.net](mailto:patoms@att.net)

Tickets may be purchased at: CTB Financial Center, 1511 North Trenton Street, Ruston, LA 71270

Plan on joining other RHS alumni, faculty, and friends for a great time and help honor some of RHS's outstanding alumni and teachers.

#### RHS Alumni Association's 2013 Outstanding Achievement Award

Marley Rae Ratcliff was the 2013 recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award given annually by the RHS Alumni Association. The \$1,500 award is given to an RHS senior who has exhibited personality traits of tenacity, strength of character, adaptability and has earned the admiration and respect of the faculty of RHS and Alumni Association.

Marley posted a 3.7 GPA during her four years of high school and was very active in numerous school, church and community activities. She was a four-year member of the student council, Keywannettes president, Bearcat Belles, National Honor Society and selected by the senior class as having "Most School Spirit". Marley also served as a mentor for younger students at RHS and Glen View Elementary.

Outside the classroom, Marley volunteered her time as a Peach Blossom Mentor, a D.A.R.E. Role Model, Senior Citizen Lunch server, Great American Clean-up, and Juvenile Diabetes Research fundraising.

Marley is planning to attend the University of Arkansas and become a pediatric registered nurse.

# *Chatterbox*

“The Voice of Ruston High School”

How long has it been since you read a *Chatterbox*? Well, that’s too long!

RHS Alumni Association is proud to continue its Platinum Level sponsorship for the Ruston High *Chatterbox*, the school’s award-winning newspaper. During the coming school year, the 28-page newspaper will be published monthly September 2013-June 2014 (10 editions). *Chatterbox* is distributed to over 1150 RHS students and to over 125 faculty, staff, administrative, and support personnel as well as to Ruston Junior High School, A.E. Phillips, I.A. Lewis, the Lincoln Parish School Board, and the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, copies are provided to businesses that advertise in the *Chatterbox* and to its sponsors.

As a classroom course, *Chatterbox* is funded by the school and receives excellent academic and classroom support, but the production and distribution of the newspaper is a business project funded solely by organizations, businesses, and individuals. As a business, the *Chatterbox* has won the State Championship in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) “Partnership With Business Project” for three of the past four years and has represented Louisiana at the National Conference all four years. *Chatterbox* students and adviser Lloyd R. Bruner have a goal of attaining the title for best high school newspaper in the nation. It’s possible. Check it out at <http://rustonhigh.lincolnschools.org/pages/chatterbox.php>.

To assist *Chatterbox* in its quest to attain national recognition and to ensure that future publications will be available at no cost to students, the RHS Alumni Association encourages all Bearcat Proud alumni to support this business project by advertising in the paper or sponsoring them with a cash donation.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Bruner at [lbruner@lincolnschools.org](mailto:lbruner@lincolnschools.org).

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390 Valley View Drive  
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## RHS Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Special thanks and appreciation are extended to Paula Pardue '69 and John Sachs '61 who rotated off the Board effective April 2013. Their leadership, service, and vision are invaluable to those who serve now and to the future of the RHS Alumni Association.