

GREENSBORO GRIMSLEY SR HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION



From Principal Charles Blanchard

The 2016/17 school year is quickly coming to a close for the Whirlies. Our students and school carry on a long tradition of excellence academically, athletically, and in our community. This tradition of excellence is not possible without the support of the Alumni Association. Education budgets across our state are as tight as they have ever been. The Alumni Associations gracious giving helps us fill budget gaps to provide more opportunities for our students and teachers. The Whirlie Walk on April 29th was a wonderful example of our Alumni and current students coming together to raise funds for the betterment of our school. It's always fun to see our current students, teachers, alumni, and their dogs walk together from our campus to the Greenway in a showing of Whirlie Pride! Thank you to our Alumni Association for your support!

Below is the district's announcement about Grimsley being recognized as a State School of Character. This is a tremendous honor for our school and makes us eligible to become a National School of Character. The National School of Character schools will be announced in May.

Grimsley Senior High School Recognized as a North Carolina School of Character

The GCS Character Development team would like to recognize our 7 GCS schools who have been named 2017 State Schools of Character by the Department of North Carolina Public Instruction and Character.org. Additionally, two schools received honorable mention recognition. These schools received this outstanding achievement because of their effective application of character development in creating a positive impact on academics, student behavior and school climate.

Our 2017 schools of character join 10 other GCS schools that have been named State Schools of Character since 2014. This year, GCS received the highest number of schools named in the state, and this is also a record high number for GCS. Once a school receives this honor, they keep it for three years. The application of our 2017 schools of character will move forward to Character.org in Washington, D.C. for consideration in the National Schools of Character program. With 17 State Schools of Character, GCS has the most in North Carolina. GCS now has ten national schools of character, named by Character.org, and is one of only 21 National Districts of Character in the country. Schools and districts keep the national designation for five years. We are so proud of our schools for exemplifying a strong commitment to educating our youth to be empowered to lead, learn, and serve with strong character.

State Schools of Character: Erwin, Grimsley, Oak View, Dudley, Southwest, Sumner, Sedalia



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Greensboro Grimsley Senior High School Alumni & Friends Association

Your All Volunteer Board of Directors

For more information or to contact your
Alumni Association board members,
please use the emails listed below:

Joe Franks '78, Co-President
franksjoe@hotmail.com

Mary Jane Healy Beavers '73, Co-President
mjbeavers@aol.com

Ruth Comer
comerruth@gmail.com

Marta Force, Newsletter
mforce@triad.rr.com

Susan Gentry, Secretary
susangentry@bellsouth.net

Felicia Ford Reader '81
f.reader@me.com

Bobby Rives '65, Treasurer
brives@triad.rr.com

Bo Rodenbough
melabo@triad.rr.com
brodenbough@brookspierce.com

Roberta Rohan '82
rohanr@gcsnc.com

Bob Sawyer '55
rssawyer61@bellsouth.net

Phil Weaver '65 Immediate Past President
pweaver@triad.rr.com

Tim Weikel '66
tweikel8@gmail.com

Erik Summers '78
eksum1111@aol.com

Linda Wilson, Auditorium Renovation Chair
lindaw3303@bellsouth.net

GHS Alumni & Friends website address:
www.whirlies.com

GHS Alumni & Friends email address:
Whirliealumni@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor, Print and Online/
Photographer
Marta Force, mforce@triad.rr.com

From Your GHS A&F Co-Presidents

Mary Jane Beavers '73 and Joe Franks '78

Alumni and Friends of Greensboro Grimsley,

Greensboro Grimsley High School has almost concluded another successful school year continuing the tradition of shaping, molding and educating another group of young adults and sending them into the world to show what being a Whirlie really means.

Your donations have helped us finish our renovations of the Chance Cousins auditorium for the moment. We also take great pride in the fact that we are able to continue to contribute to traditions that have made Grimsley great like *Project Graduation* and the age old, one of a kind, *Grimsley Senior Tea*.

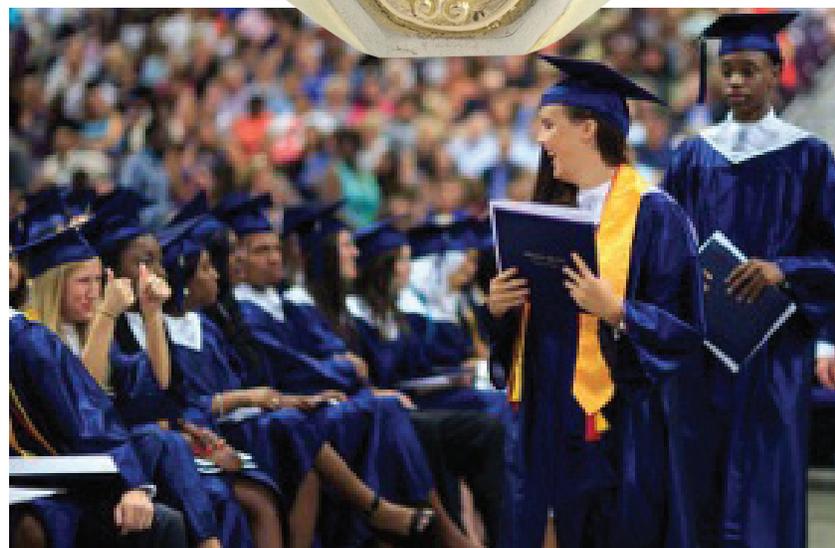
Our Whirlie Walk was held on Saturday April 29, 2017. This is held every spring in order to attempt to raise enough money to fund our 4 Senior Scholarships. This year we made \$3532. A great time was had by all as students, parents, alumni (and many dogs) ate, drank, walked, ran, jumped, drooled, strolled and talked all while raising money for a great cause.

In case you don't know or remember, each year, Seniors are notified by the Counseling Office about the scholarships the Alumni Association provides and administers. A date is set for interviews and every 15 minutes all day long several members of our board interview Grimsley Seniors. The Alumni Association awards 4 scholarships ourselves and then interviews and decides on the winners of several other scholarships set up by various groups and individuals who have decided that investing in Grimsley students and their higher education is a sound investment.

One such scholarship new this year is **The Passion Project Scholarship**. This was started by several alumni who were interested in how Grimsley students were exploring their passions. An essay is written to tell how you will pursue your passion in your higher education. The graduates will receive \$500.00 to help with further education.

The David Reader Sr. Scholarship was given in memorial of a Grimsley father, who was also a teacher. The requirements of this scholarship are for an honors or IB/AP student who is also a student athlete filled with school spirit. This rewards one senior with \$2,000.

SO as you can see, your Alumni Association is doing many varied and wonderful things with your donations, but they are never enough. We have thousands of alumni who forget that to remain a member of the association you must make a **yearly donation**. They also forget that your high school needs you just as much as your college, graduate school or church does, to remain the place that you remember and that shaped your teenage years.



Quick Note

About the Alumni Directory That Has Finally Been Delivered

Mary Jane Beavers '73 and Joe Franks '78

We know that there has been a great deal of concern about the length of time it took to produce and errors made in the printing process. Please know that your Alumni Association made an agreement with Harris Publishing, who published the last directory. After our agreement and the printing of the post cards and calling of the classes, Harris was sold to another company. This complicated the problems with information and the final printing date. For various and assorted reasons, it was not completed in a timely manner (to say the least) and for that your Alumni Association extends our sincerest apologies.

The Alumni Association never anticipated that this would have been so poorly handled. We would never have given our blessings if we had known the problems that ensued. But hindsight is 20/20.

Whirlie Walk 2017

by Joe Franks



On April 29, a group of about 70 students, parents, faculty, alumni and multiple four legged Whirlies embarked on a trek from Grimsley along the Downtown Greenway through the Westerwood community and back to help raise money to support Alumni Association scholarships. The weather cooperated this year with partly cloudy skies and warm temperatures. For the first time, folks were able to request dog collars and/or leads for their furry Whirlies by raising a set amount. Marta Force donated the nearly 30 collars & leashes. Students representing the National Honor Society raised over \$900.00, and will get a nice donation back to the group from the Alumni Association. This has become a great annual event and we hope to see more folks in 2018.





Want to Order a Special Edition Grimsley Whirlies Leash and/or Collar for Your Dog Following the Whirlie Walk?

(Made by GHS graduates Mike '71 and Don Dempsey '78 of Yellow Dog Design!)



Small or Medium collar \$20
Large collar \$25
60" Leash \$20
Shipping \$5



**Contact us at
mail@whirlies.com to order!**



Yellow dog DESIGN



Class of 1962 Reunion

June 9-11, 2017

55th Class Reunion

O. Henry Hotel, Greensboro, NC

Details available at: GreensboroSenior62.com
or contact Charlie Ephland, cephland@nc.rr.com

Class of 1957 Luncheon

September 2017

60 yr. REUNION (Will Be Our Last)

Bur- Mill Club in Greensboro

** Watch for Save the Date Card (Forth-Coming in Mail)

Phone number: 336-668-9403

Betty Kernodle Franks • btyfranks@triad.rr.com



Class of 1967 Reunion ***September 15 & 16, 2017***

An informal outing on Friday is tentatively planned for the Hamilton Pool clubhouse. We are planning on having a rendition of the food made famous by the Boar and Castle catered in. For Saturday night's gala, we are planning a return to GCC's Carlson Farm location. Details to follow.

If you **HAVE NOT** received an email or phone call from one of us yet, please call or email your contact information ASAP, because we do not have your current information.

Email to: ghs1967reunion@gmail.com

Facebook: Grimsley High School Friends 1967

You can also find info on: Classmates.com

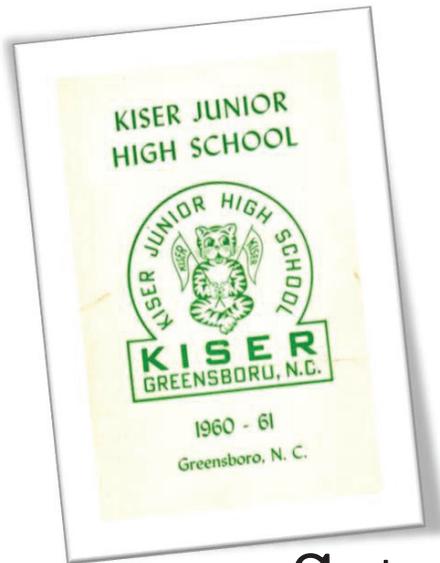
Committee Contacts: Ruth Dance Edwards 336-509-5481

Class of 1977 ***October 27-28, 2017*** ***40th Reunion***

Plans are still being developed and final details will be announced.

For further information contact:

allen.gillespie@wellsfargoadvisors.com



Help Kiser Celebrate 60 years



Saturday, October 28, 2017

(the same weekend as the Page-Grimsley game)

From 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Kiser Middle School, 716 Benjamin Parkway

- ❖ It will be Kiser's 3rd All-Classes Reunion
- ❖ Join us for food, fellowship, tours and memorabilia!
- ❖ Reunite with former classmates, teachers, and friends.

Spread the word!

To keep in touch:

- ❖ Join the **Kiser Alumni Association** by sending your contact information to kiseralumni@gmail.com



- ❖ Join the **Kiser Middle School Alumni Facebook group**
- ❖ Like **Kiser Middle School** on Facebook
- ❖ Follow **@KiserMiddle** on Twitter



In Memoriam



Mary Tom Colones Hoffler

After 95 years of a fully engaged life, **Mary Tom Colones Hoffler** of Greensboro died on April 23, 2017. Mary loved the English language and was a life-long student of literature. As an educator, she passed on this love to her students. Her educational philosophy was guided by high expectations of achievement and dedication to her students. She taught English at Florida State College for Women (FSU), the University of Southern Mississippi, and the University of Tennessee. Mrs. Hoffler taught English at Grimsley from the fall of 1963 through the spring of 1983, for a total of 20 years. She served as co-chairman of the English Department from the fall of 1970 until she retired.

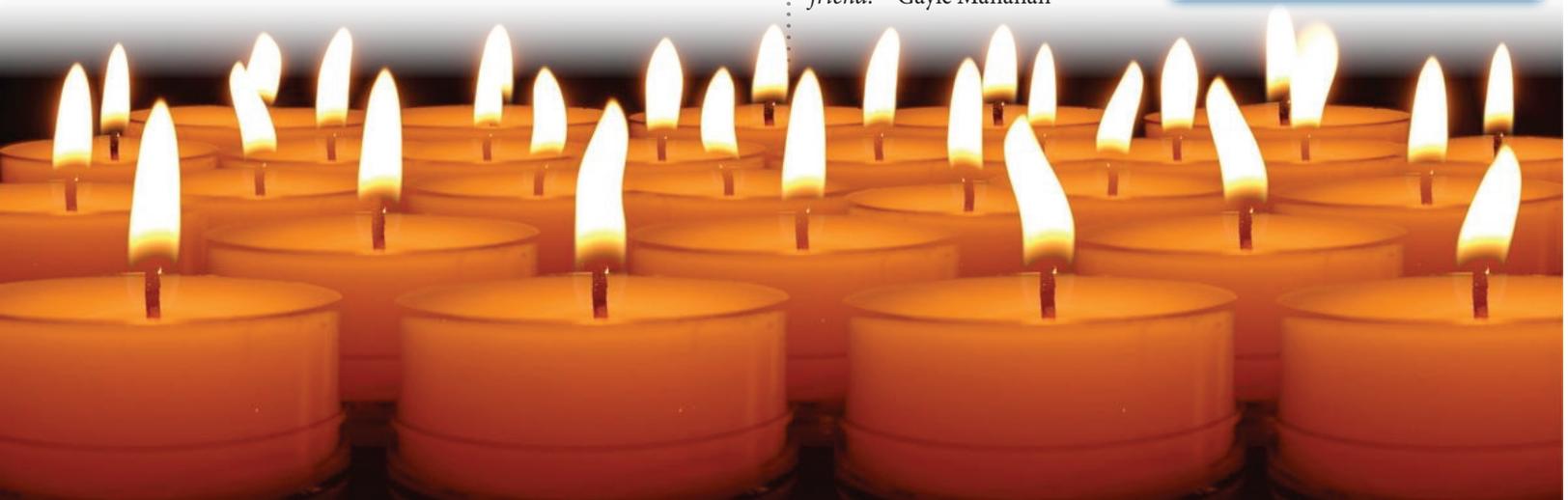


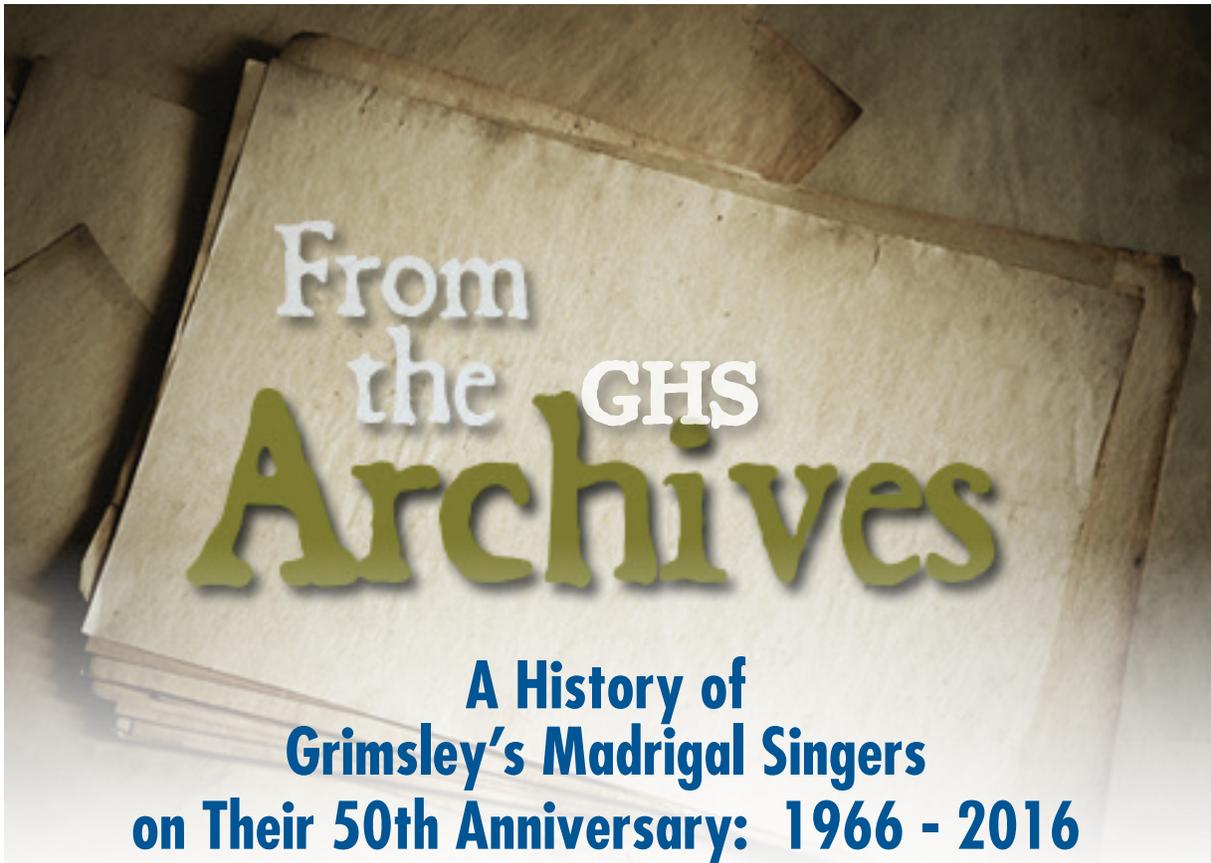
Mary Floyce Price Sigmon

Mary Floyce passed away on March 15, 2017 in Greensboro. She arrived at Greensboro Senior High School in the fall of 1959, teaching Home Economics there (and of course at Grimsley, once the name changed in '62) until her retirement in 1985, a total of 26 years. She served as chairman of the department for many of her years at GHS. She also was the faculty advisor for many years for the Sub-Junior Women's Service Club.

"Mary Floyce spent most of her teaching career in the Home Economics Department at Grimsley, and I was privileged to meet her in my early teaching years. But it was only after I retired that I really got to know her on a personal basis. As you know, Mary Floyce was one of the founders of our annual retired GHS teachers luncheon, and she included a number of recent retirees on her planning committee. By working with her on that committee, I found out what a special person she was, so kind, considerate and dedicated to preserving all things GHS. She spent countless hours planning for our luncheons, calling people and writing notes to make sure everyone had been contacted. She was the ultimate "southern lady," with all the social graces plus nerves of steel to persevere through hardships in later life.

One of Mary Floyce's main goals was to make sure that we keep our Whirlie connections strong, even after we leave the buildings, so the best tribute you can give to her is to continue our traditions. Remember what she always said, "We're glad we taught, but we're glad we taught when we taught." Rest in peace, dear friend." Gayle Manahan





A History of Grimsley's Madrigal Singers on Their 50th Anniversary: 1966 - 2016

*by Peter Byrd '74 (Madrigal in 1972-73)
and Marshall Johnson (director since 2004)*

In 2016 Grimsley Senior High School celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of its Madrigal Singers choral group, which, since 1966, has proudly represented Grimsley and the city of Greensboro while being known throughout the state and beyond for choral excellence. Instantly recognizable today by their period Renaissance costumes (a tradition not begun until the group's fifth year, in 1970-71), the Madrigals, as they are commonly known, have presented captivating performances locally, within North Carolina, and both nationally and internationally, for 50 years.

The Madrigal Singers have always been selected by competitive auditions, and for many years have received honors credit because of the advanced level of the class. In the years when the Madrigals have competed in vocal contests, they have always received Superior ratings. Members of the group have routinely been selected for the North Carolina High School Honors Chorus and the Governor's School, and many have advanced to the national finals of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) high school-level competition. After graduating from Grimsley, many Madrigal alumni have gone on to major or minor in music performance and education at major universities in North Carolina and around the country.

Like any group that is half-a-century old, the Madrigal Singers at Grimsley have seen changes over the years, but besides the high quality of music-making for which the group is justly re-nowned, another constant through all 50 years is the bond of friendship that has connected these singers, working with be-loved directors, resulting in a sense of family that has been quite remarkable.



A History of Grimsley's Madrigal Singers (continued)

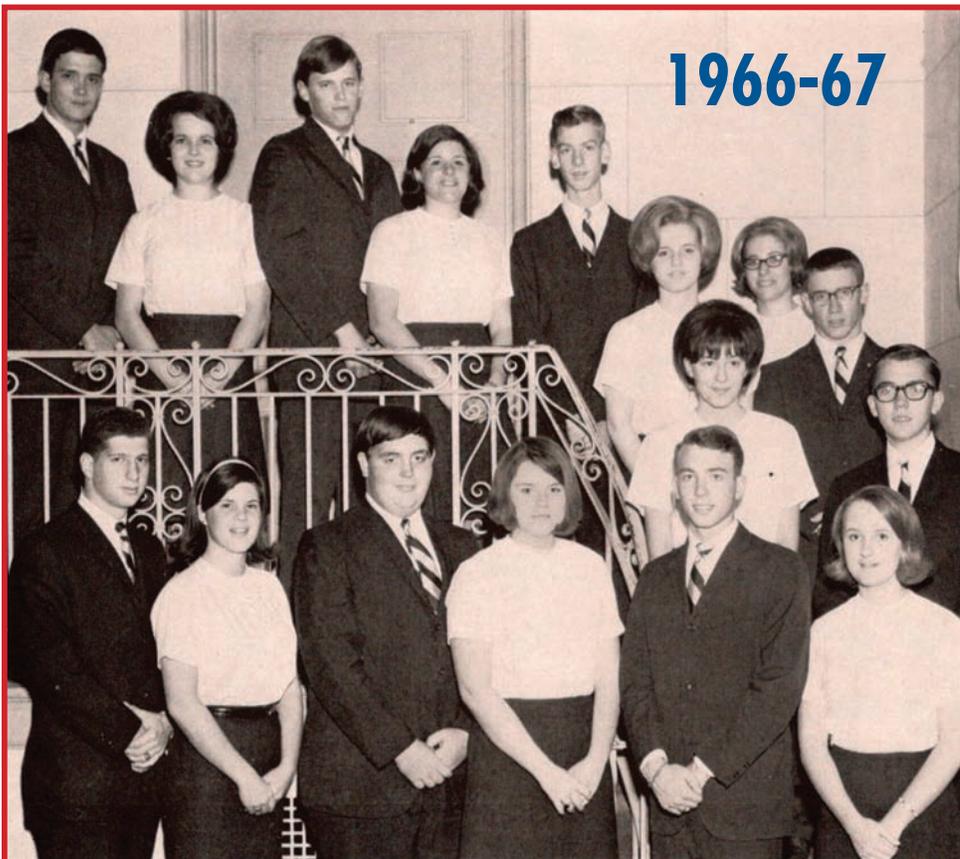
In the fall of 1966, **Miss Jeanne Meredith** became the director of the choral program at GHS, after having served as assistant director for a decade under the legendary Miss Eula Tuttle, who retired that spring. Miss Meredith was strict in her expectations of her singers, but the loyalty and love they felt for her was extraordinary, and the results were amazing. Mr. Ronald Hill, fresh out of graduate school, was hired that fall as the new assistant choral director at Grimsley, and he added a new dynamic to things as well. This was the period when the "Baby Boomers" were of high school age, and with many less class electives than there are today, on top of the high

quality that was a hallmark of the GHS vocal program, there were about 200 students in Grimsley's choral department at that time. Besides the Choir, there were two Girls' Glee Clubs, a Boys' Glee Club, and the Queen's Men quartet (a long-existing tradition at GHS). Singing appearances by Grimsley's vocal groups were basically all local: mostly school assemblies, concerts, and graduation, with a number of Greensboro civic appearances each year as well, and the GHS choruses also participated annually in the state choral festival and contest.

At the time Miss Meredith assumed the lead role for Grimsley's vocal department, she became aware of a

new addition being made to music programs around the country, that of small choral ensembles – approximately four-voices-per-vocal-part – with a focus on 16th- and 17th-Century Renaissance-era English madrigals (complex, unaccompanied multi-part vocal pieces with light, secular poetry texts), which she felt would be a good addition to the choral program at Grimsley. So in October of 1966, she and Mr. Hill held try-outs among the members of the Choir, and 16 were selected as GHS's first Madrigal Singers. It is noteworthy that in the early years, all of the Madrigals (with the number of singers each year fluctuating between about 18 and 25, in the first decade) were also required to be members of the Grimsley Choir, which remained the preeminent vocal group at the school during this period. But from the very beginning, the Madrigal Singers were an important subset of the Choir, and their reputation for excellence grew quickly. Besides singing at assemblies and concerts, the smaller number of Madrigals were able to perform more extensively for local civic groups than the larger vocal groups at Grimsley could do, and in March of 1969, they even sang at Mr. Hill's wedding.

After three years leading the Madrigals, Miss Meredith moved to her native Virginia in 1969 to continue her teaching career there, and **Mr. Hill** then became the vocal director at Grimsley – a position he held through the spring of 1978 – with help from assistant directors Mr. Sam Doyle (1969-71), Mrs. Jerrye



A History of Grimsley's Madrigal Singers (continued)

Mooring (1971-73), and Miss Marta Force (1973-74). (Since the fall of 1974, Grimsley has had only one choral faculty position.) During Mr. Hill's second year as director, the Madrigal Singers began the tradition – continued ever since – of wearing the Renaissance-era costumes, which they and their families are responsible for researching and making (or obtaining from previous members) each year. Over time, the costumes have become more historically

accurate, and when a local furniture-fabric store became a regular place for Madrigals to obtain material for their costumes (in the 1980's), the humorous nickname "Singing Sofas" first appeared in reference to the GHS group.

During Mr. Hill's nine-year tenure, the Madrigals sang in school concerts, for breakfasts, luncheons, and other functions for local civic clubs and churches, and for several years the group made regular appearances at the

Institute for Small Ensembles held in Chapel Hill, led by Dr. Lara Hoggard. The Madrigals went on their first concert tour in the spring of 1975, when the singers travelled to perform at a high school in Atlanta. During this time, the Madrigals also became major supporters of and participants in the annual musicals produced at Grimsley, starting with "South Pacific" in the fall of 1973. The quality of the Madrigal Singers remained high throughout this period.

1969-70



A History of Grimsley's Madrigal Singers (continued)

Former assistant director **Miss Marta Force** assumed the role of director of Grimsley's choral groups in the fall of 1978 and remained in the position for 26 years, until her retirement in 2004. A warm and caring person with boundless energy and enthusiasm, Miss Force was a dynamic, creative, and master teacher whose Madrigals set a new standard for excellence. She inherited a program whose numbers had been declining for several years, caused by a number of factors, including more electives for students to pick from, as well as a declining enrollment overall in the student population at GHS. (One result, by the late 1970's, was that the Madrigals were the only choral group at Grimsley whose membership still required an audition.) As a result of fewer vocal students at GHS, for about 15 years or so, Miss Force directed the choral groups at Grimsley for only part of the school day, while also teaching for various years at a number of different junior high/middle schools as well (and surprisingly, only a few of those years were at Kiser, the feeder school for her choruses at Grimsley). But because of her amazing choral skills and wonderful ability to relate to and inspire her students, the Grimsley Madrigals continued to shine through this entire period and received 24+ consecutive Superior ratings at state choral contests.

During the 1980's, besides the madrigal repertoire that had always been the staple of the group, the

Madrigal Singers also added show choir performing to their resume (including performing in show costumes) and vocal jazz as well. Regular fundraising projects by Miss Force's Madrigals included annual, elaborate Madrigal Dinners, and for many years, creatively designed T-shirts sold to Grimsley students during the week of the annual Grimsley-Page football game added funds as well.

In the fall of 1994, a second Madrigal group was formed at GHS – the “Silver Madrigals” – and while their music was slightly less difficult than the original group – now the “Gold Madrigals” – the Silver singers quickly established themselves as worthy of the Grimsley Madrigal Singers' name and tradition. This addition also helped stabilize the numbers in the entire choral program once again, allowing Miss Force to be able to teach at Grimsley full-time during her last decade in the position. During this final period of her tenure, a major project undertaken was the creation, a few years apart, of two CD recordings, containing multiple pieces sung by each of the groups of Gold Madrigals from 1995 to 2003, with some pieces by the Silver Madrigals included as well. These recordings capture the extraordinary quality, both technically and in text interpretation, of the Madrigal Singers in these years.

Besides reaching the point of giving 20 to 30 civic-group concerts locally each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas (sometimes several a

day), and appearing regularly on local segments for Greensboro's WFMY-TV, annual appearances in North Carolina at the Reynolda House of American Art in Winston-Salem and at the Biltmore House in Asheville provided wonderful opportunities to showcase Grimsley's premier ensemble as well. By the early 1990's, the Madrigals also began appearing each year at the Carolina Renaissance Festival in Huntersville, and for a decade the Gold Madrigals were invited to participate each year in the Chamber Ensemble Invitational Workshop at Winthrop College in South Carolina, receiving valuable criticism each time from noted composer and conductor Simon Carrington. Over the years, programs in North Carolina were presented at the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh, Duke Chapel in Durham, and High Point University. The Madrigals during this time also performed at several North Carolina Music Educators' conventions, and major honor came for the group by being selected twice to sing at the Southern Division of the Music Educators Association Convention, in Winston-Salem and then later in Savannah, Georgia, and in 2000 at the Southern Division of the American Choral Directors Association, in Orlando, Florida.

One of the hallmarks of Miss Force's time over her years as director was extensive concert touring beyond the local area, with trips both domestically and internationally. The list of significant

A History of Grimsley's Madrigal Singers (continued)

tour performances by the Madrigals from the mid-1980's through 2004 is extensive: in New York City at Carnegie Hall (three times, as part of groups conducted by John Rutter, Ronald Shirey, and Moses Hogan, respectively, with the last two occasions in solo performance as the "featured choir" of the programs as well), at Avery Fisher

Hall at Lincoln Center, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, and at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; in Washington at the White House (two times, with a third invitation for December 2001, which unfortunately was cancelled after 9/11) and at the National Cathedral (four times); in Williamsburg for Bruton

Parish Church and Busch Gardens; and in Orlando at Disney World and at Epcot Center. Internationally, the Madrigals made a number of European tours with Miss Force over the years, with performances at historic venues in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, and Italy.

First Carnegie Hall Solo Performance



A History of Grimsley's Madrigal Singers (continued)

Miss Force retired in 2004 and was succeeded that fall as vocal music director at Grimsley by **Mr. Marshall Johnson**, one of her former student teachers. Besides several years of teaching before returning to Grimsley, Mr. Johnson also spent a year performing in the internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble Chanticleer. At Grimsley, Mr. Johnson has continued to promote the high standards expected of the Madrigal Singers, and his warm, relational style with his students has helped maintain the strong sense of family that bonds the members of his choral groups. During Mr. Johnson's 13 years, to date, as the Madrigals' director, the group has received Superior ratings each year at the state-level Music Performance Adjudication (MPA), and his singers have consistently been selected for both

the North Carolina Honors Chorus and the Governor's School, with a number of students also advancing to the national finals of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) high school-level competition, all significant honors for Grimsley's singers.

In Mr. Johnson's second year, the Silver Madrigal class was discontinued, and in more recent years, other parts of the vocal music program at Grimsley have changed as well: besides returning to just the one group of Madrigal Singers, there are now separate Men's and Women's choruses (which also join together in concerts to perform mixed-choir music), and also a separate Show Choir. Despite these and other, previous changes made to the choral program offered at GHS over the years, the members of the Madrigal Singers have

continued to maintain their signature presence and stature in it throughout.

Currently, each year the Madrigals prepare an extensive list of repertoire for a number of major performance seasons and events, including each year still at the Carolina Renaissance Festival and the Biltmore House, for Christmas caroling, for civic-group performances, and for the Masters in the Hall A Cappella Showcase (a competitive touring program). While the students and their families continue today to be solely responsible for the Madrigals' funding, generous support has also been given to the program in recent years by the Grimsley Vocal Music Boosters (parents' group), the GHS Alumni Association, and the Harris Teeter Together-in-Education Program.

Continued on next page 



A History of Grimsley's Madrigal Singers (continued)

Touring has remained a staple for the Madrigal Singers each year under Mr. Johnson; however, the same year he became the vocal director at Grimsley (2004), the Guilford County School Board decided that no more international travel would be permitted by GCS student groups, hence tours by the Madrigals in the years since have been limited to trips within the United States. Despite that limitation, notable Madrigal tour performances led by Mr. Johnson have included ones at New York City's Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, St. Bartholomew's Church Park Avenue, and Trinity Church Wall Street; at Chicago's Symphony Hall; at Washington's National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; and at San Francisco's Mission Dolores Basilica and at the City Hall. The Madrigals have also competed in recent years to great acclaim in the World Strides Heritage Festivals in New York, Chicago, Myrtle Beach, Orlando, and New Orleans.

Each group of Madrigal Singers at Grimsley over these 50 years has worked hard to create the special magic that results from great choral performances, and all the singers individually can be proud of having had the privilege of being a part of this very special Grimsley tradition with such a great reputation. It is exciting that the Madrigals today – under the inspired leadership of Mr. Johnson – continue to enthusiastically embrace the traditions which have made this beloved group such a special part of GHS now for a half century.

Thanks to Jeanne Meredith Busse, Marta Force, and Marshall Johnson for their assistance with this article.



EXTRA! EXTRA!
Grimsley looking for news articles
for Fall Newsletter!
Deadline for submitting articles
is September 1, 2017.
Email Marta Force
mforce@triad.rr.com

ARCHIVES REQUESTS

Looking for GHS Historic Items for the School Archives

From Harry Bradley and Pewter Byrd of the GHS Archives

We are always eager to receive donations of historic items associated with Greensboro Senior - Grimsley Senior High School for the GHS Archives, and we hope you will consider donating items you or your family no longer wish to keep. Please do not throw out items of historic interest connected to GHS! We would like to add them to the school's collection. (*Please note: the following is not an exhaustive list of items we would like to have.*) If you have items you would like to donate, please contact me so we can make arrangements. Thanks, Peter Byrd '74, Byrd908@aol.com

HOME MOVIES: One thing in particular we have long hoped to obtain are **copies of home movies of GHS events**, in particular of May Day ceremonies (held each year at GHS from 1939 until 1972). We feel sure that other GHS events over the years were filmed by parents or students, for posterity; we'd like to add copies to the school collection as well (and possibly put them on-line for all to enjoy)!

EARLY-YEARS' DIPLOMAS, CLASS RINGS

PROGRAMS: printed programs from graduations, baccalaureate services, concerts, plays, May Day, Homecoming, Torchlight inductions and other groups' ceremonies, athletic events (including football and basketball programs), awards ceremonies, building dedications, etc. Also, invitations to graduations and other school events.

PHOTOGRAPHS: photos of people and events connected to GHS, either on-campus or away. (A key should be provided, mentioning date, names and class years, and other pertinent details of the photograph; care should be taken if writing on the back of a

photograph.)

"SPIRIT ITEMS": buttons, ribbons, pins, pennants, a letter jacket or sweater, mugs, license plates, and who-knows-what?

RECORDINGS: pre-1960 records and tapes of the band, orchestra, and choir (please note: phonograph records require special handling for shipping)

SCRAPBOOKS: not only personal scrapbooks, but also scrapbooks for clubs and other school organizations you were a part of

REFLECTORS: the school yearbook from 1909 to 1930, we are always looking for copies of *Reflectors* to add to our collection

HOME SPUNS: the school literary magazine from the 1920's to the 1960's, we are missing issues from many years of this former publication

HIGH LIVES: we especially need copies of many issues of the school newspaper from the late 1930's through the early 1950's. Several of the school years in this period--the late 30's and several years in the 40's--we have no copies of *High Life* at all. (Some later years are also needed; please feel free to ask if you have some to donate.)

WHIRLIGIGS: while we have copies of every issue of our yearbook first published in 1950, we do need some better-condition copies of some of the books in the 50's, especially 1957, and we're always on the lookout for copies of the 1952 and 1958 *Whirligigs* as well. Also, at this point, we do have limited numbers of extra copies of most years of the *Whirligig*, so if you are wanting to replace a lost or damaged (or never-bought) copy, please contact me to inquire about availability.

Thank You!

Department Feature

More Than Scheduling: Grimsley Counseling Center

**How outstanding service to GHS students
has evolved with the times.**

by Phil and Suzanne Weaver

Until the late 1950's, the responsibilities we now associate with the Counseling Center were handled by the (one) assistant principal, a faculty member who also served as Dean of Students, and a math teacher who maintained student records. In the 1957-58 school year, the GHS Guidance Department was begun, with three counselors (two of whom also taught some classes): one each for seniors, juniors, and sophomores. (There were no freshmen at GHS at that time.) GHS student body numbered 2007. It was not until the early 1960's that counselor assignments for the students were made alphabetically rather than by class, the format which has been used ever since. And not until the mid 1960's were the counselors gathered together, and into the location where their offices are today in the Main Building. (1)



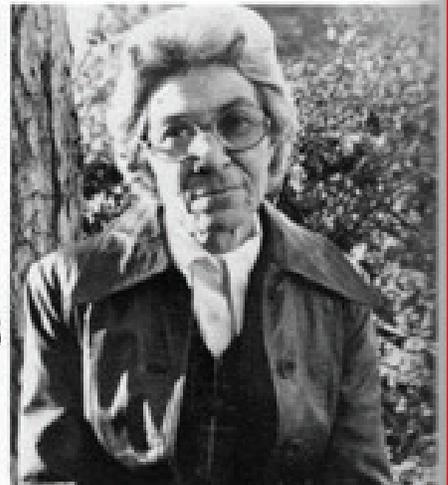
I, Phil Weaver, was a senior in 1965; one of 610, all served by Mrs. Mary Alice Moody. Needless to say, personal attention was there only if requested. The Guidance Department's main function was scheduling (working closely with the principal) testing (SAT and PSAT), and college advising. Well over 90% of the seniors went on to higher education. We students (families) basically took care of ourselves, only seeing the counselor if we had a question. An interesting side note is that scheduling until the mid-seventies was done all by hand, arena style; where the students carried a paper to the desired teacher for the desired period and built their schedules. The 1964-65 student body numbered 1571.

I returned to Grimsley as a teacher in 1970 and became a counselor in 1978. By then, counselors were trained mental health professionals and had grown in number to five, with each taking one-fifth of the alphabet as counselees. At this time the student body

numbered 1611. By this time students were scheduling visits with counselors for many reasons; including those functions that Mrs. Moody had performed. Keeping up with students' graduation credits was another big duty assigned to counselors. College advising was the foremost activity after scheduling was concluded. For many years, 95% of seniors would go on to higher education with over 75% going to 4 year schools. Scheduling was still done by hand with the master schedule made with the assistance of computer generated requests. Everything was done on paper as the internet was non-existent. College applications consumed a great deal of time as did National Merit paperwork (GHS had 20-30 National Merit candidates and Commended students almost every year). Around the mid-eighties, we began using computers at a very rudimentary level and by the nineties; registration and paperwork relied on computers. Personal/social

Continued on page 20

GHS Counseling Center Staff 1979

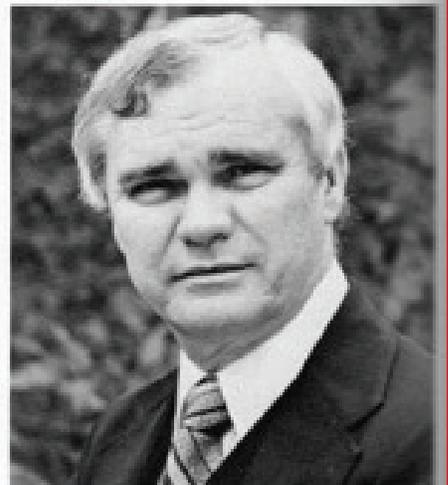
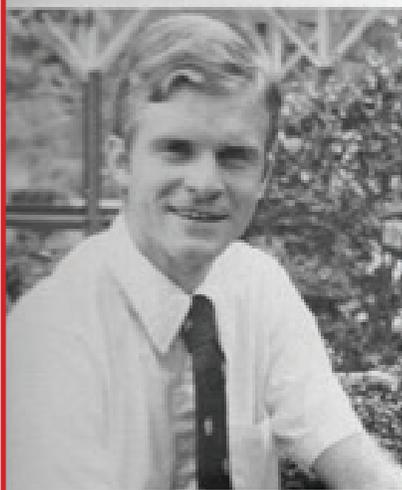


Counselors help students prepare for future.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Moody, Coach Weaver, Mrs. Harrell, Mrs. Bowden, and Mr. Wade are kept busy. These individuals deal with SAT'S, Achievements, junior tests, and schedule changes in the middle of the second nine weeks. The guidance office is a well-organized portion of the senior high school curriculum.

Students seeking a secondary education turn to their guidance counselors for preparatory assistance. The guidance office secretary, Mrs. Anna Shaw, also proves that she is invaluable when a 1999 graduate calls from San Francisco and wishes his high school transcript sent with a job application.

Caught in the act! — Mrs. Bowden is caught searching through student files.



Mrs. Bowden

Mrs. Moody

Mr. Wade

counseling was still the primary function in counselors' minds, but the school system always evaluated us for what we could do for scheduling and to keep parents satisfied about college applications. When Mrs. Jane Teague became principal in the mid-nineties, the Counseling Department became "The Hub of the School." She was demanding of counselors but she greatly elevated the faculty's and public's perception of the department's importance to the students and school.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the Counseling Department began changing rapidly, assuming duties previously held by others in the school and all functions began heading to computer generation and online completion. I used to joke that the Counseling Department had become the "default department". If the principal



Today the Counseling Center at Greensboro Grimsley High School is a busy hub of activity. During the months in the summer it is staffed by one counselor who is working with incoming students and registering them for classes. The summer counselor also works with summer school students who are repeating courses necessary for their graduation requirements. Summer school is also available for industrious students who choose to take online classes via NC Virtual Public School or Guilford County Virtual Public School. These courses are taken at home on a student's home computer. If a Grimsley course does not have enough students signed up "to make" for the school year, the summer counselor reviews the students' choices and places them in their alternate course choice.

In August, all counselors are working together to enroll new students, change schedules, and begin the college application process. Currently there are 280 International Baccalaureate students in a student body numbering

1630. All seniors are met through English IV classes and later with a one-to-one conference to review graduation requirements and to discuss options after high school. Financial Aid is now completed in the fall and scholarship information is emailed to each senior monthly. Letters of recommendations are written and sent to colleges via on-line sites (for example: The Common App). Transcripts accompany the letters online. Parent Information Nights are held. This process continues through January. If a student is interested in entering the military, assistance is also provided.

Throughout the year counselors can be found during both lunches on "lunch duty". They must always be available to distribute medications, check blood sugar, etc. for the student body. There is only money available to have a nurse on campus two days a week or less. Counselors spend time before and after school hosting student/parent/teacher conferences to encourage those who need a boost. These conferences occur daily. Counselors work with students who are being bullied and to complete the paperwork to report the incidents. They work with students who are depressed and feeling suicidal; contacting parents and referring to outside agencies for continued help. Oftentimes counselors help mediate problems between students and work to avoid conflicts. Registration for classes for the upcoming school year takes place in the spring, along with hosting open houses for the incoming 9th graders from our many feeder middle schools.

The month of May is a busy month as counselors are required to administer the many, many Advanced



*Suzanne Angermeier
DeSimone Weaver (retired)
Counselor, 1986*

Placement and International Baccalaureate final exams given off campus. Grimsley offers the most AP and IB courses of any Guilford County School. The PreACT, ACT and PSAT are also administered by the counseling staff to sophomores and juniors.

In June, counselors are working hard to ensure that all seniors are eligible to graduate. Final transcripts are sent to colleges and local and state reports are completed.

For the current 2016-17 school year, the counseling staff consists of five counselors. There is one counselor who works solely with IB students. The other four counselors work with students in grades 9-12. (2) Counselors work with students with special needs, athletes, and everyone in between. The Counseling Center is also considered a “safe place” where students’ concerns are heard and assistance is provided. The reality, complexity and expectation of the workload is very different from what one was taught while preparing for the job in graduate school.

Counselors are very proud of the achievements of their students and the “Brag Board” (bulletin board in the Counseling Center Lobby) is full of acceptance letters to colleges.



footnote (1):

this first paragraph is the historical contribution of Peter Byrd, GHS Historian

footnote (2):

The student body at Grimsley High School numbers 1630 for 2017. Of these, 265 students are enrolled in the IB program.

Article written by Phil Weaver ('65) and Suzanne Angermeier DeSimone Weaver. Phil served GHS Counseling from 1978-2004 and Suzanne served from 1986-2016 making this couple the longest serving counselors in GHS history. All five of their children graduated from Grimsley. Post retirement Phil served as President of GHS Alumni & Friends Association from 2009-2014 and continues as co-executive director of the NC Coaches Association. In her first year of retirement Suzanne works with Catherine Barnhardt, fellow GHS retiree, selling Herff-Jones graduation products.

GHS Counseling Center Staff 2017



*L to R: Beth Marsh, Tom Lauer, Jasmine Pearson, Will Brown, Mike Harrington.
Not pictured: Cindy Underwood, Registrar, Rhonda Calhoun, Data Manager,
Courtney Anderson, Counseling Center Secretary.*



Calling All GHS Alumni!

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, October 27, 2017

**Sink the “chip!” 6-5 Page leads...
but GHS won last year!**



**The Twelfth Annual Page/Grimsley
Rivalry Reunion Golf Tournament**



Chris Skoog '83 presenting Erik Albright '83 GHS Athletic Booster Club President (Athletic Booster Club)



L to R: Tommy Neese '82, Brien Brandenburg '79, Chris Skoog '83, Johnny Hodges '77 and David Irvin '77. We were singing “All hail to thee...” as the winners.

Contact Don Dempsey (don@yellowdog-design.com) for details.

SAVE THE DATE

GHS Annual Retired Faculty and Staff Luncheon

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

for the GHS Retired Faculty and Staff Luncheon

at Congregational United Church of Christ

200 W. Radiance Dr., Fellowship Hall.

*Meet at 11:30 AM for Fellowship and 12:00 noon for lunch
(bring your own bag lunch - dessert and beverage provided).*



Cindy Underwood, GHS Registrar, expresses her thanks for the improvements to the Counseling Center.

Here is what YOUR GHS Alumni & Friends Association have provided for GHS in recent years:

Annual contributions to GHS Students and Faculty

- Office Depot gift cards to each staff member to begin each school year
- Scholarships (see scholarship page this issue)
- Annual contribution to Senior Tea
- Annual contribution to Project Graduation
- Printing of Senior Awards Day Program
- Providing Faculty Grants for extended study
- Provide \$1000 gratuity to the GHS Teacher of the Year

Projects

- Planting hardwood trees on front lawn (twice)
- Funded the start the GHS Lacrosse Team
- Major renovation to athletic weight room
- Security Cameras for campus
- Campus phone system
- Auditorium Renovation
 - restore and refinish/stain original stage floor*
 - new to GHS black curtains for stage*
 - new to GHS acoustical ceiling cloud*
 - new windows and doors (courtesy GCS)*
 - roof leak repairs (courtesy GCS)*
 - update electrical service (courtesy GCS)*
 - new lighting and sound system*
 - grand piano storage box*
 - replace auditorium seat covers - coming soon*

Coordinating Counseling Center Refurbishment: Moving secretarial/registrar station providing improvements to traffic flow.

If you have historical items you wish to donate to the GHS Archives, please contact **Harry Bradley**: hbradley25@msn.com

If you would like to donate goods or services towards any improvement at GHS please let us know.

Our Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

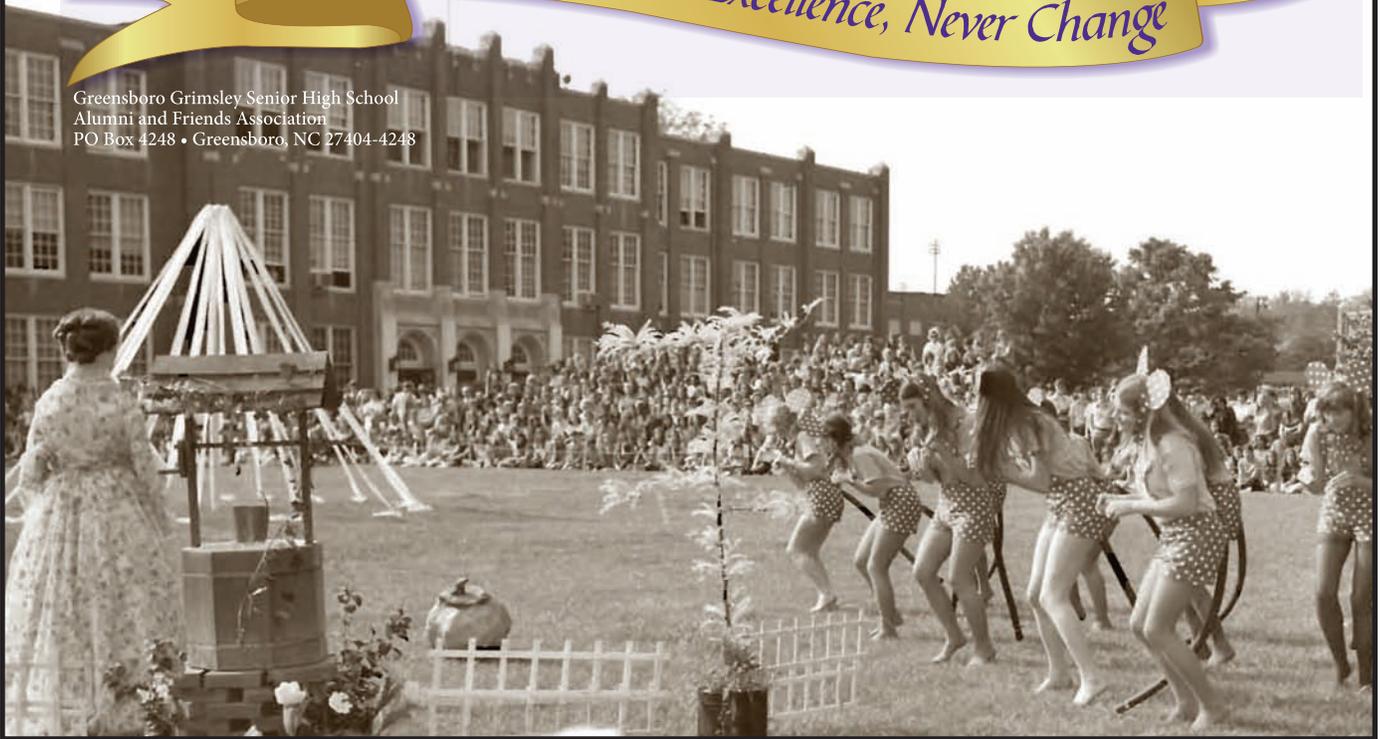
We want to make sure we are meeting all needs ... if you have a suggestion or idea regarding what you would like to see the Alumni & Friends Association do next please contact:

Susan Gentry

Alumni & Friends Association Secretary
susancgentry@bellsouth.net

Traditions: Some, like Excellence, Never Change

Greensboro Grimsley Senior High School
 Alumni and Friends Association
 PO Box 4248 • Greensboro, NC 27404-4248



Some Need Your Help to Maintain.

*Please consider
 renewing your
 membership.*



Greensboro Grimsley Senior High School Alumni and Friends Association

Amazing changes in education since you graduated! Your annual membership of \$25 will help us help Grimsley students and faculty, past and present, continue to “sing thy praise through all our days” through:

Project Graduation - contributing to “the (safe) place to be” activities following Graduation each year

Alumni and Friends Newsletter - been missing this? We have lots to brag about!

Scholarships - we contribute \$7,500 directly and administer five others totaling \$3,500

Auditorium Renovation - our newest project – bringing ours into the 21st Century

Educator Grants - providing GHS teachers with funding for special projects

Senior Tea - co-sponsored by the Association, this tradition is unique to Grimsley

Please consider renewing your membership this June to: Greensboro Grimsley Senior High School Alumni and Friends Association
 PO Box 4248 • Greensboro, NC 27404-4248 or renew online at www.whirlies.com. June is our renewal month.

Our Grimsley traditions are important to us all. Your memories and support play a big part in continuing these. *Thank you always!*



The Whirliebird tradition lives on. The Whirliebird has long been GHS's mascot; however, last spring after years of service, the old bird suit was retired, and in 84-85 our new bird was unveiled. The new suit allows more movement because there are no cumbersome legs to hamper activity.



WHAT IS A WHIRLIE



**GREENSBORO GRIMSLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**

Name: _____ Grimsley Graduate? Year _____ or Grimsley Friend _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Annual Membership *Initiate or renew my annual Association membership: _____\$25*

_____ *Whirlie Sustainer Membership (\$60 annually once or Monthly donation of \$5.00)*

_____ *Whirlie Society Membership (\$240 annually once or \$20 donation per month)*

_____ *Whirlie Lifetime Membership (\$1,000 one time)*

Please visit the GHSA&F website to choose from the following options above for the NEW Tiered Membership Plan. You will have the following donation options: join via check/mail, join via PayPal, PayPal monthly bank draft , set up direct bank draft. Announcement in the Fall 2017 newsletter will illustrate further incentives for membership renewal beginning January 1, 2018.

Mail form with check to: GGSHS Alumni and Friends Association, P.O. Box 4248, Greensboro, NC 27404-4248. This form is also available on the website: **www.whirlies.com** (Payment via credit card is also available via **PayPal on our website.**) *The Association is a 501(c)(3), tax exempt organization and the appropriate tax letter will be mailed for the year in which you donate.*