



# NEWSLETTER

Sunset High School Alumni Association

Fall 2012

## Officers

<b>Jerry Boyd</b> President	1976
<b>Joseph Contreras</b> Vice President	1999
<b>To Be Determined</b> Secretary	
<b>Dixie Thomas Laney</b> Treasurer	1966

## Directors

<b>Lynn Bergoon DeWitt</b>	1950
<b>E. John Ward</b>	1962
<b>Mitch Womble</b> Co-Chair Project SOS/ Sundial CD's Project	1964
<b>Cindy Womble Billman</b> Historian/Newsletter Editor/ Co-Chair SOS	1967
<b>Joe Whitney</b> Project SOS	1967
<b>Doris Murphy</b> Special Projects/Resource Advisor to Classes	1970
<b>Janelle Chandler Bates</b> Sunset Faculty Liaison	1971
<b>Roy Burchfield</b>	1973
<b>Bruce Nance</b> Webmaster	1974
<b>Luis Palomo</b> Project SOS	1996
<b>Bob Castillo</b>	1997
<b>Jaime Contreras</b>	1999

**Members Emeritus:**  
**Weldon Finney ('50)**  
**Don Moore ('50)**  
**Shirley Young Sutton ('50)**  
**Bill Smith ('57)**  
**Ed Cullum ('58)**  
**Steve Levine ('60)**  
**Stephany Pitt White ('68)**  
**Peggy Tomlinson van Wunnik ('69)**  
**Laura Schuller Lockwood ('85)**

This newsletter is prepared and printed courtesy of Curry Printing in Euless, Texas. Sincere thanks to **Cody Curry ('67)** and **Larry Curry ('70)** for their generous support.



## in the **SPOTLIGHT...** **John A.** **"Jack" Wilson**

Sunset High School's first principal was John A. "Jack" Wilson. He was born on April 10, 1878 in Detroit, Michigan to Joseph Wilson and Barbara McMurchie Wilson; both of his parents were immigrants from Ireland and Scotland. He completed his high school education at Central High School in Detroit.

For his scholastic and athletic achievements he was awarded a scholarship to Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. In 1901 he received his B. A. degree and in 1904 he received his M. A. from Lafayette College.

But the call of sea beckoned him and he spent two years on sailing ships before he began his teaching career at his old alma

mater, Central High School.

Once again, he was lured back to the sea, this time it was due to the start of World War I. On April 9, 1917, Mr. Wilson joined the U. S. Navy as Commander of the U.S.S. Summers. During the latter part of 1917, he was the navigating officer of the U. S. S. Bath. He was then transferred to the destroyer force, serving on the U. S. S. Reid and the U. S. S. Laub.

Having been discharged from active duty on January 1, 1920 at the end of the war, Mr. Wilson entered into business in New Orleans but in 1921, the sea called once more and he took his place as chief mate on the steamer, Boswell.

Finally, in October 1921, he left his "sea legs" behind and joined the faculty at Bryan High School. From 1922 to 1925 he taught history and coached athletics at North Dallas High School before taking the helm as the first principal at Sunset High in 1925.

Mr. Wilson married Eva Lenore Smith and they had one daughter, Barbara L. Wilson. Barbara graduated from Sunset in 1929. Mrs. Wilson was also a teacher. While principal of Sunset, he resided on South Montclair. Mr. Wilson died on October 2, 1946 in Dallas, Texas and was laid to rest in his hometown of Detroit.

In the words of Mr. Wilson as he took the helm and began his steerage to the students of Sunset:

"It is my earnest wish that Sunset High School may represent a spirit in this community which shall bespeak scholarship, tolerance and integrity."



# In Recognition: Carol Helton Walt, Class of 1962



Carol Helton Walt, Class of 1962

After receiving her Masters in Social Work, she worked for the State of Texas in the field of child protective services for thirty-two years. Upon retirement, she began writing travel articles which were published in Frommer's "Budget Travel" magazine and in the Dallas Morning News. She has

since published seven books with an eighth book now in production. She has written fiction including short stories, romances, serious fiction, children's books and one murder mystery. After retirement, she and her husband moved to

their ranch in Cross, Texas near Rising Star, TX. She enjoys speaking to groups such as students, book clubs and civic groups about writing and literature. For several years she has worked in behalf of Howard Payne University as a guest reviewer doing reviews of newly published children's books. She offers editing and consultation services to aspiring writers through "Walt's Across Texas Writers Services".

Each year she participates in book fairs and other literary events around the state. In September, she will be at the West Texas Book Fair in Abilene and also at the East Texas Book Fest in Tyler. When not writing or engaged in book events, she travels a lot internationally. She keeps wondering where are these "golden years of leisure" that were promised since she is busier now than ever! We wish Carol continued success!

## 1933 Gas Explosion at Sunset

On Oct 11, 1933 at 2:30 p.m. there was a gas explosion that damaged the west wing of the school. The head custodian was killed. No one remembers who the custodian was, his name, etc. He has long been forgotten or so we thought!

William Henry Franklin was born on Jan 2, 1896 in Tennessee to George W. Franklin and Nancy Carter. His wife was Willie Mae Franklin and they resided at 2614 Maryland. Mr. Franklin was 37 years old and suffered burns over 75% of his body. He was laid to rest at Laurel Land Cemetery. Mr Franklin had been with Sunset for 3 years when the accident occurred. Now we know and he will forever be remembered!

## World War II Memoriam



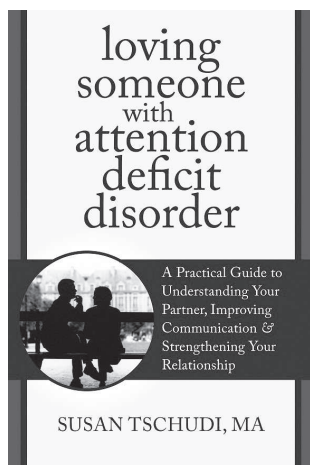
### Ballard Burgher "Buck" Cobb Class of '38

Seaman, US Navy was born January 2, 1920 to William and Josephine Cobb in Dallas. Seaman Cobb was a crew member on board the battleship, USS Arizona (BB-39) on that fateful day of December 7, 1941. He was the first Sunset High School Alumni to die in World War II. His final resting place

is within the hull of the ship along with 1,115 other crew members who perished that day.

*The SHSAA are eternally grateful for the hard work and dedication that Ron L. Harris Class '56 has compiled on the 144 Sunset High Alumni that perished in WWII. We feel that it is befitting to honor each of these men in future newsletters.*

## The Authors Among Us:



**S**usan Dillon Tschudi, MA, LMFT (1967) has written a book, "Loving Someone with Attention Deficit Disorder: A Practical Guide to Understanding Your Partner, Improving Communication and Strengthening Your Relationship." As a licensed Marriage and Family therapist, she noticed that there was a lot of information available for the individual diagnosed with ADD but there wasn't very much information that could help the non-ADD partner in a relationship. Her book helps the reader understand that the symptoms attached to ADD can cause relational problems and offers thorough, practical advice for handling the frustrations that can build up.

## Sanger Trophy Dedication



On Saturday March 10th, 2012 a ceremony was held at the Old Red Courthouse museum in Dallas to dedicate the Sanger trophy, given by the 6 original Dallas High Schools to the museum for all the citizens of Dallas to cherish and enjoy, and to honor those distinguished alumni chosen by each of the schools. The original 6 schools were Sunset, Adamson, North Dallas, Woodrow Wilson, Crozier Tech and Forest Avenue. The Sanger trophy was awarded annually by DISD from 1929 to 1955 to the school with the best record afor athletics based on a points system. Sunset was awarded the trophy 12 times, more than any other school. The Sunset honorees were:

John M. Stemmons '27  
Betty Jameson '39  
Linda Darnell '39  
Louise Latham '40  
Hon. Robert S. Folsom '44  
Davey Williams '45  
Don January '47  
Clay Armstrong '52  
Eddie Southern '55  
Jerry Mays '57  
Bill Melton '58  
Jerry Rhome '60  
Dr. Lee Smith '53

Sunset had the most living honorees present of the 6 schools. Those present were Bill Melton, Jerry Rhome, Dr. Lee Smith, Eddie Southern and Joyce Mays McClellan '52 who represented her brother Jerry Mays. Other Distinguished guests present were Caroline Cobb Morgan '70 who is the granddaughter of P.C. Cobb, members of the Cobb family, Current Sunset Principal Anthony Tovar, Current Sunset alumni board members and several Sunset Alumni. Alumni board President Jerry Boyd '76 presented the Sunset honoree list of names. Special thanks goes to Don Martin '52 who played a vital role in restoring the trophy and organizing the committee that worked on the dedication. The photo above shows the honorees present at the ceremony.

## ■ ■ Important Links ■ ■

[newsletter@sunsetalumni.com](mailto:newsletter@sunsetalumni.com) – Articles for the newsletter

[saveoursunset@sunsetalumni.com](mailto:saveoursunset@sunsetalumni.com) – Project S O S

[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) – Use this to help earn money for the Sunset Alumni to benefit the school

[www.sunsetalumni.com](http://www.sunsetalumni.com) – To access our website

[www.gooddining.com](http://www.gooddining.com) – Earn donations for Sunset Alumni and save money, too!

[www.cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com) – Order items with the Sunset and support the alumni association

ROTC MEMBERS - CAMP DALLAS website

<http://rotccampdallas.shutterfly.com/> – Thanks to William T. “Dub” Thomas '54 for sharing this link where you can view photos and videos.

[newsletter@sunsetalumni.com](mailto:newsletter@sunsetalumni.com) – the deadline for submitting articles for the Winter 2012 Newsletter is November 1st.

You can help support Sunset High School Alumni Association (Dallas - TX) when you search the web, shop online or dine out. Find out more about GoodSearch.com <http://bit.ly/pnwg> . Support our cause when you search or shop online! Download the new GoodSearch/GoodShop toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/sunset-high-school-alumni-association/>

It does NOT cost you anything and all donations come directly to the Sunset High School Alumni Association (a 501(c)(3) organization) for the benefit of the students. We would really appreciate your support. Thank you!



# Gathering of the



# HERD

**The classes of '38 thru '45** meet the 3rd Saturday of the month at Texas Land & Cattle Restaurant on Lemmon Avenue and Cole Avenue. Contact Roy Kinslow '42 for more info at (972) 661-1941.

**Graduates of the 50's and 60's** meet each year at Midway Point (Midway and LBJ) for a gathering and Golf Scramble for those who would like to participate. For more information contact: Mike Dunn at dunnjwc@hotmail.com

**Class of '63 – 49 year reunion** will be held on October 12, 2012 at the Old Red Courthouse in Downtown Dallas. For additional information and events [www.sunsetbison63.com](http://www.sunsetbison63.com)

**Reunion class '83 ('81, '82 & '83.)**  
We were not notified about this event but we found out that these classes held their reunion at J. Gilligan's in Arlington on July 21, 2012.

**If your class is having a reunion,  
please contact us at  
[newsletter@sunsetalumni.com](mailto:newsletter@sunsetalumni.com)**

## 50 YEAR reunion

Class of 1962  
Saturday, October 20th

**The Class of 1962** will be holding their 50th reunion on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency DFW, 2334 N. International Parkway, DFW Airport, Tx 75261. The main event on October 20th features an elegant sit-down dinner and silent auction. Some of the items up for auction include:

*Straight Egyptian Arabian Mare  
"LIVE HORSE"*

*Four tickets + dinner + VIP  
parking  
at the Myerson in Dallas*

*Four tickets for opening night of  
"Catch Me if You Can"  
at the Dallas Summer Musicals.*

*Dinner for 2  
at the Silver Fox Steak House*

*Two weekend get away houses  
Located in Little Elm & Glen  
Rose*

*90 minute golf lesson with a pro  
from Goldsmith Golf & Tennis*

*Hand painted china painted by  
Judy Terry Hanson  
AND LOTS MORE*

The price, per person, is \$75.00. There will be an icebreaker at the hotel on Friday, October 19th to "reconnect" with our classmates. We're also planning a Saturday, October 20, 2012 brunch at The Rose Garden Tea Room, 3708 W. Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, TX 76013 and a Sunday, October 21, 2012 brunch at the hotel. The price for the brunches are not included in the price of the reunion. For further information contact Judy Terry Hanson at [hansonjats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hansonjats@sbcglobal.net).

BISON SPIRIT



Forty years (and a week) after graduating from Sunset High School, the Class of 1972 proved that spirit, knowledge, and friendship are alive and well within the herd! The '72 alumni reunited in Dallas on June 8-10, to enjoy a golf tournament and a mixer on Friday, a tour of the alma mater and "main event" on Saturday, and a picnic on Sunday.

The agenda was a familiar one, as the lineup was similar their 10, 20, 30 and 35-year reunions. While all events were well attended, those who joined in on the school tour may be the last to be photographed on those stately front steps in front of Sunset High School! Inside the recently renovated structure, members of the current baseball team and yearbook staff volunteered as tour guides. The class showed appreciation by "tipping" these SHS students and thereby donated over \$1300 to supplement school spending for the baseball and yearbook programs!

The original class of over 540 students is now spread out across the USA, and, literally, around the world. Classmates who attended came from all over Texas, and at least 12 other states. Some who couldn't make it begged to be "Skyped in" [Maybe next time!], and those who did attend dubbed it the "best reunion yet!"

At the main event, the Sunset Fight Song grabbed everybody's attention for a brief program, including a presentation by Dallas City Councilwoman Delia DeLeon Jasso. "Most Talented Senior Boy" Richard Malmos offered

an a cappella rendition of the alma mater, and, in a slideshow produced by Shannon Braden, the class revisited the culture of 1972 and watched as their Sundial mug shots "age progressed" into more recent photographs, quickly illustrating what 40 years can do!

Just before '72 Class President Rick Loy offered a blessing for the meal, David Allen lead a very special memorial tribute to those who have departed the herd. As he read the roll of the deceased classmates, individuals in the audience answered "present" or "here" to recognize that these classmates were there in spirit – and will always be remembered.

The Bison Spoke! [Yes, you read correctly.] This class has their own bison which, from a prominent spot above the crowd, repeated the words last heard by this group at a pep rally in 1972. Via the recorded voice of Dr. H.H. Johns – "Bo" admonished the class to "...develop and keep throughout your lives 'worthy and true friendships with other Bisons...'"

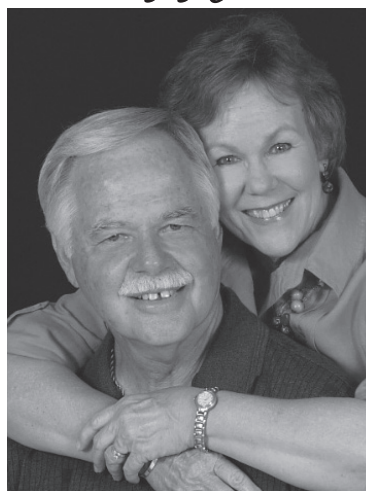
Though in some cases it took a few minutes, a re-introduction, and a story or two to recognize once-familiar faces, for others, reconnecting was immediate. Some tears were shed for those lost along the way but – through those tears, shared memories, hugs and laughter, dancing, photographs, and true camaraderie – Sunset's Class of '72 honored Bo's timeless guidance with a bond that holds fast after forty years. ...And counting!

## Happy 50th Anniversary

### June Wedding Bells *were ringing!*

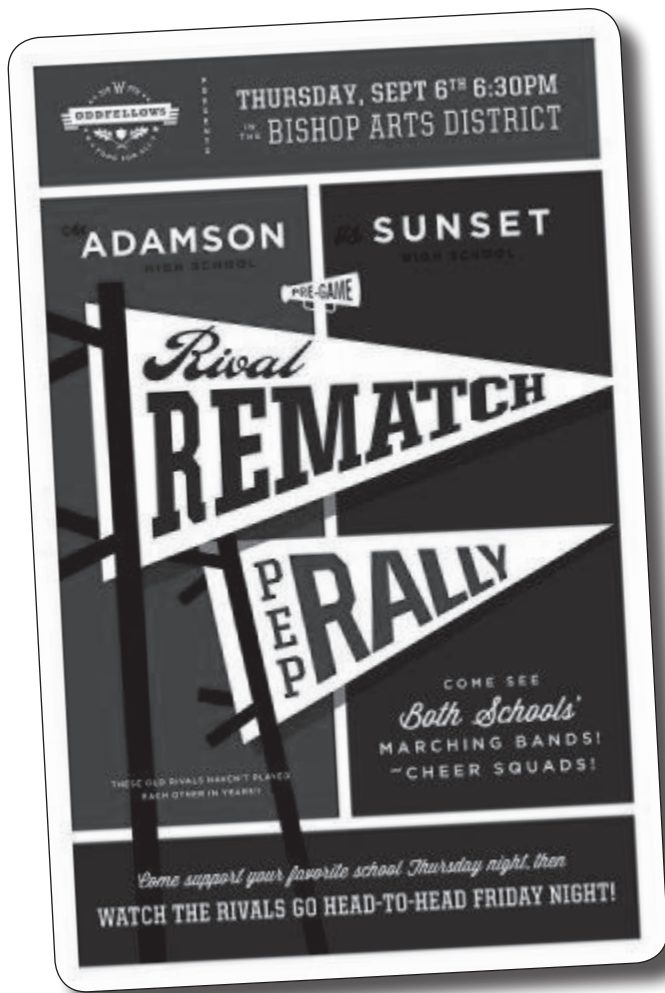


Congratulations to James Robert (Bob) Mayo, Class '66 and Sara Starnes, Class '66 who were married in Plano on June 27, 2012. Bob and Sara connected on Classmates and the rest is history! They are currently residing in Richardson. We wish them the very best and wonder why it took so long!!



James Kocian '61 and Melinda Leath Kocian '62 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June by taking their two children and five grandchildren on a 7-day cruise to Montego Bay, Grand Cayman Island and Cozumel. Everyone had a wonderful time and what a great way to celebrate 50 years together!

## Bison in the News...



### ADAMSON 33 - SUNSET 5

We congratulate the Leopards for winning the first football game against their old rival, the Bisons on Friday night, Sept 7th after many years. We thank everyone for their support and who cheered for Ole Bo! Well, as they say, there is always next year!

## New Fieldhouse for SUNSET Bisons...

**DISD approved the new Fieldhouse to be named after Coach Byron Rhome at their June Meeting – the Dedication Ceremony will be announced as soon as we know.**

## sunset trivia

The first Bison Football squad was coached by Harold Higgins.

What was their nickname?

Answer will appear in the Winter Newsletter

Answer to Summer Trivia - Jack A. Wilson, Congratulations if you got this right!



A committee has been formed in order to preserve and protect Sunset High School and obtain a historical designation for our school. A preliminary meeting was held in May 2012 to determine the first steps needed to move forward with our goal and a committee was formed. The committee is co-chaired by Cindy Womble Billman and Mitch Womble.

A second meeting was held on August 18th and assignments were given to Joe Whitney and Warren Johnson who will obtain building plans, sketches, renovations, etc that is needed for the report. Cindy will be drafting the report, Mitch will be taking current photos and co-ordinating with Marcel Quimby, a Preservation Architect, who has volunteered her services and will assist in tying the report together.

Many thanks to the Adamson Alumni Association members, Johnny Ruiz and Bob Johnston for sharing the Adamson High School Report, their generous time and continued support to help Sunset obtain the historical designation.

If you have an interest or questions about this Project, please email us at [saveoursunset@sunsetalumni.com](mailto:saveoursunset@sunsetalumni.com)



## Sunset Alumni Association Contribution/Contact Info Update

Your annual contributions is 501 (c)(3) Tax Deductible and our only source of funding

Contribution year is January 1st to December 31st

This is a: ☐ New Contribution ☐ Renewal ☐ Current Member Info Update

### Annual Membership Contribution (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership.....\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Level.....\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple Membership.....\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Level.....\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Century Club Membership*.....\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Level.....\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount.....\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Level.....\$2500
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not wish to contribute at this time, but please add my name to the Sunset Alumni database.	

\* If both are Sunset Alumni, please complete separate forms

A reminder, many employers will match employee contributions 100% and especially to an educational organization.  
Just check with your Human Resources/Personnel Dept.

Donations can also be made using **PayPal** on our website at [www.sunsetalumni.com](http://www.sunsetalumni.com)

**FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ONLY:** (Check One) Member information ..... SAME ..... CHANGED

Name: First: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden/Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse SHS Grad? ☐ Yes If Yes, Year? \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

May we send you Alumni newsletters by email? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Make checks payable to Sunset Alumni Association **(Please do not send cash)**

Mail completed form to:

Sunset Alumni Association, P O Box 225276, Dallas TX 75222-5276

## In Memoriam

The following are names of Alumni whose deaths have occurred since our last newsletter or of whose deaths we were made aware of since the last newstetter. If the graduation year is not known, it is shown as "est". If anyone knows of the correct year, please contact the Editor at [newsletter@sunsetalumni.com](mailto:newsletter@sunsetalumni.com). For a complete list of Departed Bison, please visit our website at [www.sunsetalumni.com](http://www.sunsetalumni.com)

Frances Arlene (Filiere) Fowler	(est.) 1934	Norman Eugene McNeil	1948	Mrs. Mary Ellen (Roberts) Mokry	1963
John Broadus "J.B." Christian, Jr	1940	Harry Donald Moore, Jr	1950	Robert Allen Hutcheson	1963
Thomas C. Burkhead	(est.) 1940	John McGlamery	1950	Gary Arthur Pfiel	1964
James Thomas Jones Jr	1940	Phyllis Scott "Scotty" (McGee) Geiger	1952	Peter John McGill	1964
James Forrest Widener, Jr	(est.) 1941	Charles L. Johnson	1953	Robert Campbell	1965
Helen (Hester) Glover	1942	Carole Jean (Elam) Ward	(est.) 1953	Donna Marie Beimer	1967
Louis Gene LaBarbera	1947	Ms. Polly M. Reeves	(est.) 1954	Ms. Donna Lynn (Curry) Miller	1967
William Geddis Noble, Jr	1947	Maureen (O'Sullivan) Richards	1959	Willard Richards "Rick" Gunderson, Jr	1968
Lt.Col. Thomas Rodney Abernathy	1947	Jerry Lee Morris	1959	Cynthia (Pine) Connell	1969
Jack Wesley Ashworth	1948	Thomas Ezra "Tommy" Peebles , III	1963	Laura Margaret (Daugherty) Watson	Teacher

They will not grow old, as we who are left grow old...

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn...And at the setting of the sun, and in the morning...

We shall remember them.

Our sympathy and caring are extended to the families of these Sunset alumni.



Sunset High School Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 225276  
Dallas, TX 75222-5276  
*Supporting Sunset Students is Our Mission*

**POSTMASTER: RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Is it time to make your contribution for 2011?  
The Alumni Association thanks you!*

**We're on the Web!  
Check us out at  
[www.sunsetalumni.com](http://www.sunsetalumni.com)**

## *Fall 2012 Bison Spirit Newsletter*

## Editorial Policy...

Your Alumni Association Board hopes to make this an informative newsletter that will present you with items of interest relating to Sunset past, and also news about current-day Sunset. Our goal is to help today's students, while remembering that we who went before them laid the foundation upon which their education is being built.

We welcome letters from alumni. Tell us about your years at Sunset, or your memories of the school or of Oak Cliff. Letters or articles may be edited to meet space limitations, and excerpts may be used.

Your privacy is important to us. We will not publish phone numbers, addresses, or e-mail addresses without permission.

We consider all membership information proprietary, and will not release it to any outside organization or individual.

Your continued financial support is needed and much appreciated by the Alumni Association, students, and faculty of Sunset High School.

## 2012 Yearly Contributors

These members made contributions of \$100 or more to the Alumni Association since the publication of the last newsletter. All gifts, no matter the size, are greatly appreciated by the students benefiting from your generosity.

<b>Diamond</b>	<b>\$2500</b>	Dr. Steve Haley	1965
<b>Platinum</b>	<b>\$1000</b>	Mark Laney	1965
<b>Gold</b>	<b>\$500</b>	Dixie Thomas Laney	1966
<b>Silver</b>	<b>\$250</b>	Bob Mayo	1966
E. John Ward	1962	Cindy Womble Billman	1967
Cynthia Rambo Mitchell	1971	Cheryl Carson Cassidy	1968
<b>Century Club</b>	<b>\$100</b>	Kathy Kempfer Lee	1968
Charles B. Morton	1948	Anna Lyle Barclay	1968
Lynn Bergoon DeWitt	1950	Stephany Pitt White	1968
John Wagner	1953	Janelle Chandler Bates	1971
Bill Melton	1958	William "Bill" Velasco	1972
David A. Bowers	1961	Bruce Nance	1974
Dr. Joseph Finley	1961	Nan Suggs Nance	1974
Mitch Womble	1964	Beth Morgan Whitaker	1977