



Vol. XLV, No. 2
Summer 2024

C of E NEWS

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your alumni association's new partnership with the Emporia Community Fund (ECF) has produced a new, easier way to contribute to our scholarship fund. On the internet, go to www.emporiacf.org/donate/c-of-e-scholarship-fund. There you will find an easy-to-complete form, an illustration of which can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Fill in the required information. If your gift is a memorial, place the name of the person being memorialized and any other relevant information in the "Notes about my gift" section. You will, of course, be asked to enter your credit card information on this secure website. Your donation will then immediately be charged to your credit card.

You will then receive via e-mail a "Donation Receipt" from the ECF. This will include all relevant information, including transaction date, amount, the last four digits of the credit card charged and any information that you had placed in the "Notes" section. Keep in mind that both the ECF and your alumni association are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Right now, we urge every reader of this newsletter to go online to visit this website and make your 2024 donation to our scholarship fund. You will be doing a service to a young descendent of a C of E alum, faculty or staff member. Moreover, you will help fuel the continuing C of E legacy.

**Donate to College of Emporia Alumni
Association Scholarship Fund**

www.emporiacf.org/donate/c-of-e-scholarship-fund

The First Newsletter

The newsletter that you are now reading is Volume XLV, Number 2. It is dated Summer 2024. The very first newsletter, Volume I, Number I is dated January 11, 1980. That means that we are in our 45th year of continuous publication. As a part of the files given to the current newsletter editor, we have a copy of this very first issue.

The initial organizational meeting of our alumni association is chronicled on the front page. The association started out very well with about 1,000 members, a treasury containing \$9,694.02 and a successful reunion in Denver, Colorado. **Bill Whitehead, A28**, was our first president.

Initially, the alumni association saw as its primary duty to assure that valid transcripts would be available to any former student requesting the document. "Some, but not all, (was) in the custody of Sterling College." Sterling was an excellent custodian, but there were concerns about the rest of the transcripts which were handed to The Way College. (The Way is the organization that brought out C of E when the college closed.) "A master file of (those) records was deposited in a national archive from which they are not available upon individual request."

Outrage directed at the Way's attitude was expressed on the front page of the newsletter. Whitehead's remarks at a meeting prior to the publication of the ini-

tial newsletter spoke of "the second-class status of C of E alumni at their old campus."

As is the case today, the initial newsletter contained a form to be filled out for new or renewed memberships. Dues at that time were \$5.00. There was, of course, a plea for becoming members. "We invite every person affiliated with C of E prior to its closure in 1974 to join this great organization, the home of C of E Fights!"

Also included was information about an earlier meeting. It was an organizational session held September 28-29, 1979, in Wichita. "Officers were elected, by-laws formulated, corporation procedures approved, banking procedures approved and working committees were appointed." Also, at this organizational meeting, the decision was made to start a newsletter, intended to keep "our members ... informed of the actions of their Board of Directors and of the Board's stewardship of their money."

Initially after closing, C of E alumni news was reported via The View, Sterling College's alumni publication. Our information appeared in the upper left-hand corner of the back page. Ultimately, Sterling ceased publishing C of E information, and our newsletter took its place as the only vehicle for our alumni association to regularly communicate with its members.

Memorials

Often people include wishes in obituaries as to where those who wish to contribute in memory of the deceased individual should direct their contributions. If you, providing pre-demise directions, or if your loved ones wish to direct their memorials be sent to the C of E Alumni Association Scholarship

Fund, the funds should ultimately go to our fund at the Emporia Community Foundation (ECF). A family member should contact the ECF to alert them about a memorial.

Funds can be contributed directly to the fund at the community foundation. More commonly they go through the funeral home, which will either turn them over to the foundation, accompanied by a list of donors, or, give them to the family to forward. Every donation that goes to the foundation will generate a thank you letter that notes the foundation's 501(c)(3) status. Donors should put the notation "Memorial" followed by the name of the person being memorialized on the line in the lower left-hand corner of the check.

Keep Us Informed

Please send us news about yourself. We want to hear from you. E-mail John Acomb, newsletter editor, at jacomb2@mac.com or Cynthia Huisman at mrsdavidh@gmail.com.



Abundant C of E Information

Alumni association newsletters going back to 2006 can be found on our alumni association website www.c-of-e.org. If you joined the association after 2005, you may find it to be interesting to read through these older newsletters to find news about your classmates and about earlier activities of your alumni association.

There is, of course, much more to the website. Alumni who haven't returned to Emporia since concluding their stay at C of E will be interested in the virtual tour of the campus. Also, there are listings for those inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame and the Athena Society. Individuals recognized by the alumni association with Lifetime Achievement Awards are also listed. Note also that there are biographical sketches of both Athletic Hall of Fame

inductees and recipients of Lifetime Achievement Awards.

One can also find C of E history dating back to the school's beginning in 1882, when 15 students met in a downtown Emporia office building. The construction of new buildings and enrollment growth are chronicled on the website.

The vibrant site is regularly updated, and it continues to attract new viewers. Last year over 700 first-time visitors came to www.c-of-e.org. A small number of these visitors were in the process of writing biographies of either family members (ancestors) or alumni with notable accomplishments. They contacted us through the website, and, in most cases, we were able to assist them in their quest for information.

Feedback Still Needed

Your alumni association is still in the process of learning about your interests and preferences concerning a possible alumni gathering in Florida. We are receiving positive responses from alumni from all over the U.S. Note also that we have a sizable group of alumni living in Florida and Southeast U.S. Some of those people have suggested that past reunions in Kansas or Northeast U.S. were not convenient travel destinations. A Florida get together represents a unique opportunity for those folks to travel a relatively short distance to socialize and catch up with fellow alumni.

We urge interested alumni to e-mail **Mary Jayne (Barnes) Gamble, A70**, at mjgamble70@outlook.com to let her know if you might be interested in attending. She asks that you use "Florida/C of E alumni" as the subject line. Note that this e-mail is not a commitment. No date has as yet been set. Let Mary Jayne know if you have a preference between a short, single-destination cruise or a gathering at a resort hotel. If you don't have any real preference between the two, let her know that too.

Scholarships Awarded

Four \$2,000 scholarships were awarded this year to students who were descendants of C of E students, faculty or staff. This year's recipients were Jaxon Klein, University of Kansas; Grace Ann Paolo, University of Central Florida; Abigail Stewart, Iowa State University and Claire Boucher, University of Massachusetts - Amherst.

An article elsewhere in this issue outlines new ways to contribute to the C of E Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Procedures for applications for a scholarship are, however, unchanged. The applica-

tions can be found on our website www.c-of-e.org.

As always, we suggest that you print out and save the application. Having the application form in hand at the beginning of the school year enables those putting together the application to accumulate all of the relevant information in order to meet the April 1, 2025, deadline.

All those, who have eligible grandchildren or great-grandchildren who plan on post-secondary education, should try to get the scholarship application process rolling now.

Mary Ellen (Gunzelman) Colaw, A49, of St. Charles, MO passed away on April 17, 2023, at age 94. After graduating from C of E, Mary earned an MA degree from Emporia State and embarked on a teaching career spent mostly as a high school guidance counselor in the Topeka School District. 2 sons, 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren survive her.

LeRoy E. Dringmann, X49, of Great Bend, KS passed away on October 10, 2020, at age 90. LeRoy was an electrical contractor who owned and operated his own business. He was also active in his community as he was the second person to receive the Great Bend Chamber Citizen of the year award. His wife, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren survive him.

Alta (Nye) Oxendine, A49, of Pembroke, NC died on December 6, 2021, at age 94. After graduating from C of E, Alta pursued additional studies at Scarritt College for Christian Workers in Nashville and Pembroke State College (later Pembroke State University). She came to North Carolina in 1956 as a Methodist deaconess and rural church and community worker to assist pastors of six Native American churches in the area. She also wrote a column for the local newspaper and worked with both the Wesley Fellowship and the Baptist Student Union at the college. A daughter and a grandson survive her.

Adrian Apel, A50, of Topeka passed away on October 28, 2022, at age 96. Before attending C of E, Adrian served in the U.S. Navy as an aviation radioman. After C of E, he earned a Master of Education in Special Education from the University of Kansas. Most of his career was spent teaching Special Education in the Topeka School District. He was instrumental in developing the Parental Stress Hotline to help reduce child abuse. 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren survive him.

Mary (Timbrook) "Tweesie" Sauder, X51, of Wichita passed away on February 24, 2009, at age 76. Her husband, 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren survive her.

Ina Floy (Good) Geier, A52, of Girard, KS passed away on July 1, 2023, at age 91. After graduating as Valedictorian from C of E, she married the late **Melvin Geier, A52**. She and Melvin were King and Queen of Hearts at the 1952 C of E Valentine Dance. She went on to Pittsburg State University where she obtained her master's in education. She taught school for 40 years, the last 10 of which were in special education. In addition she assisted her husband in his cattle business. 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren survive her.

Maxine (White) Mitchel, A54, of Emporia died on July 9, 2024, at age 91. Maxine was a lifelong educator teaching music at all levels, elementary through

high school. Most of her career was spent teaching in the Emporia School District. She received the Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching in 1997, and she retired that same year. She served her church as Choir Director, Elder and Clerk of Session. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the C of E Alumni Association. Her husband, **Jack Mitchell, A59**, FF, and a grandson predeceased her. 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren survive her. Maxine has asked that memorial contributions be directed to the C of E Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Lewis A. Dyche, A56, of Maryville, MO passed away on December 31, 2021, at age 91. After graduation from C of E, Lewis earned a master's degree from Pittsburg State University. He taught and coached in Utah and Kansas before moving to Maryville to accept a position with Northwest Missouri State University, where he coached and taught physical education. In addition, he and his wife were also realtors and owned Dyche Realty. His brother **Jerry Dyche, A60**, 6 children, 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren survive him.

Dean Harold Wohlgemuth, X56, of Jesup, GA passed away on October 27, 2022, at age 87. Dean was a lifelong journalist, freelance writer, public relations representative, photographer and public speaker. During his career he served as Chief of Information for the Georgia Game and Fish Commission and was editor of Georgia Game and Fish Magazine. In addition he wrote a weekly column for the local newspaper for more than 40 years and provided many columns and stories for nationally circulated magazines. His wife, 3 children, 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren survive him.

Rex Wayne Cool, X57, of San Antonio, TX died on April 24, 2022, at age 86. He served in the U.S. Air Force after leaving C of E. He then began working in the banking industry in San Antonio. He became a Savings & Loan Examiner, which stretched into a career of over 30 years working for the Federal Government and the State of Texas. His wife, 5 children, 13 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren survive him.

Donald R. Edwards, X57, of Yates Center, KS passed away on October 10, 2018, at age 83. After leaving C of E, he began 60 productive years of cattle farming and ranching. His wife, 2 sons and a grandson survive him.

JoAnn (Baillie) Fehr, X57, of Iola, KS passed away on June 26, 2023, at age 88. 3 children, 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren survive her.

Kendall Simcox, A58, of Linn, KS passed away on June 26, 2018, at age 84. His lifelong career was in education. He was a teacher, coach and principal in various school districts in Kansas and Missouri. His wife, 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren survive him.

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Cremaains in Lake Mergendahl?

One of our alumni recently asked your alumni association about the possibility of having his cremaains scattered in or around Lake Mergendahl. While the College of Emporia Alumni Association has no ownership of the former campus, we were happy to look into the issue.

We secured a response from an attorney's office. Our understanding is that the lake and its immediate surrounding land are public lands. Kansas has no state laws controlling where ashes may be kept or scattered. There are permit requirements in Kansas for actual cremaation. In the case of this alumnus, however, cremaation would occur outside of the state of Kansas.

While checking city and county regulations is always a good option, "many people simply

proceed as they wish, letting their judgement be their best guide." In other words, it appears that there is no problem as long as the scattering is done respectfully and privately. In the event that this event will be on a larger scale with a funeral service or a gathering of 10 or more individuals, a check of local regulations may then be prudent.

Note that this information is specific to the state of Kansas. Regulations vary from state to state. Sometimes, federal laws can come into play as well. The federal Clean Water Act, for example, regulates cremaains scattered in the ocean, requiring scattering at least 3 nautical miles from land.

Donate to College of Emporia Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name*

Last Name*

Spouse/Partner First Name

Spouse/Partner Last Name

Home Phone*

Work Phone

Email*

Business / Organization

This is a copy of the form you will access at:

www.emporiacf.org/donate/c-of-e-scholarship-fund

Note that only the items marked with an asterisk * need to be filled in. Other information is optional.

Charles Ward Brenneisen, A59, of Mico, TN died on December 26, 2016, at age 81. Before his short time in Tennessee, Ward lived and worked in Kansas. He was an HR Manager for the state of Kansas for 38 years and served as a reserve police officer for the Kansas City Police Department for 20 years. His wife, 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren survive him.

Robert Hans "Zip" Zinszer, X59, of Tyler, TX died on June 5, 2020, at age 81. Robert served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper. He lived in Pocatello, Idaho where he worked as a conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His USDA work also had him living and working for relatively short periods of time in the Kansas communities of Smith Center, Greensburg, Osborne, Strong City and Emporia as well as in Carbondale, IL. His wife, 3 children and 7 grandchildren survive him.

Stahis Solomon Panagides, X60, of Bethesda, MD died on April 20, 2024, in Nicosia, Cyprus at age 86. He fled Cyprus in 1956 to evade arrest for his involvement in the underground movement to rid Cyprus of British rule. With the assistance of **Dr. Katy (Chogouill) Goldsmith, A56**, he was able to come immediately to a safe haven at the College of Emporia. After two years he left C of E to earn his bachelor's and master's at Kansas State. He then earned a doctorate from Iowa State and then embarked on an international career focused on civil society, sustainable economic development and conflict resolution. He primarily lived and worked in Brazil and then Cape Verde. He was the World Bank representative to Brazil. Subsequently, he held an executive position with the Organization of American States and ultimately co-founded a successful foundation aimed at poverty reduction. Dr. Panagides is survived by his wife, 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Dennis S. Michael, A61, of Terre Haute, IN passed away on July 16, 2022, at age 82. He worked at the local Forrest Sherer Insurance Agency for 30 years. His partner, a daughter and 5 grandchildren survive him.

KB Thomas, A63, of Emporia passed away in July 2022. He ran Emporia's American Real Estate office for many years. He retired about 6 months before he died.

Richard Marlin "Dick" Switzer, A64, of Concordia, KS died on May 29, 2024, at age 83. Dick had a distinguished career as a coach. His accomplishments earned him a spot in the C of E Alumni Association's Athletic Hall of Fame. He was also inducted into the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. At the time of the latter induction, his basketball coaching record was 310-96. Dick also had an illustrious career as a track coach. He was associated with nine state championship teams, coached fourteen state champions in the hurdles and coached over thirty state champions in sprints and relays. He was preceded in death by his

sister and his brother, **Jim Switzer, A64**. His wife and 2 sisters survive him.

Claude René Schoenlank, X65, of Little Silver, NJ passed away on June 9, 2020, at age 76. An excellent tennis player, he had a 30-year career as a tennis pro. His wife, 2 daughters and a grandson survive him.

James "Bob" Cochrane, Jr., A67, of Lynnfield, MA passed away on January 8, 2023, at age 80. His wife and daughter preceded him in death. 2 stepchildren survive him.

Michael "Mike" Morrow, A67, of Orchard Park, NY passed away on June 3, 2024, at age 80. He was co-owner of a hardware store, who was active in his community. He was a Life member and Past President of the Orchard Park Fire Company, a National Guard member and a 16-gallon blood donor. His wife of 57 years, **Donna (Lovell) Morrow, A66**, 3 children and 6 grandchildren survive him.

Michael R. Scholz, X67, Army veteran, of Rochelle Park, NJ passed away on January 19, 2009, at age 64.

Stephen J. Appell, A71, of Cherry Valley, IL passed away on September 29, 2019, at age 69. His career was with the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS). He was active in his community, serving at various times as Village Trustee, member of the Village Planning Commission and Village President.

Basia "Barbara" (Mundziakiewicz) Duris, A71, of Mountainside, NJ died in July 2024 at age 75. Basia and her husband, **Bob Duris, A70**, who predeceased her, lived for many years in Westfield, NJ. They owned both a general contracting business, Environmental Improvements, and The Golden Age of Antiques, specializing in fine art. 2 children and 3 grandchildren survive her.

Daniel J. Esposito, X71, of Brick, NJ passed away on June 16, 2024, at age 76. His career was on the Jersey Shore where he was a restaurant manager, store manager and boat salesman. His wife of 52 years, **Margaret A. Esposito, A71**, 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

John "Skip" Glotstein, A71, of Overland Park, KS passed away on March 26, 2023, at age 75. After graduating from C of E, Skip earned both a second bachelor's degree and a master's degree in electrical engineering. During his professional career, he had the opportunity to be a civilian employee of the U.S. Air Force, which he found to be particularly rewarding. His partner, 2 sons and 2 grandchildren survive him.

Thomas J. McNamara, A71, of St. Augustine, FL passed away on May 8, 2021, at age 74. After graduation from C of E, Tom earned an MS in Industrial Psychology from Emporia State. His entire 42-year career was in Human Resources. His former wife, 2 children and 5 grandchildren survive him.

Louise (Davis) Lawrence, A56, reports that she is living independently in a senior center in Scottsdale, AZ. She is the sister of **Richard “Dick” Davis, M.D., A57**, who was killed in a tragic accident volunteering for Habitat for Humanity in 2010. Dick and another man were carrying a large piece of drywall. Dick was backing up when another worker removed the cover to a basement stairwell. His resulting fall was fatal. Subsequently, his family worked unrelentingly to get strengthened safety standards for Habitat for Humanity. After a two-year effort they succeeded in bringing about the creation of stringent new standards.

Michael Diamant, M.D., A63, and his wife have left their home on beautiful Kauai and moved back to the mainland. They are delighted with their new home in a retirement community in Santa Barbara, CA. They enjoy the community and continue their travels to interesting destinations. Michael extended his hope that all newsletter readers are enjoying life.

Ken and Connie (Lee) Troup, X65, took three years to build a retirement home in Happy Jack,

AZ. Their move was greeted by their neighbors, an elk and a two-year-old bear.

Jack Mouse, A69, is justifiably proud that his most recent album released from his Tall Grass Records company has spent 12 weeks in the #1 slot of the Avant-garde Jazz Album Chart and 12 weeks on the Top 50 Jazz Album Chart. The album from the “Three Story Sandbox” is titled “Artful Dodgers.” While his music is getting accolades, Jack has released a book with online instructional video on attaining “the ability to execute complex rhythmic counterpoint on the drum set with maximum usage of all four appendages.” The book is currently available from Amazon and other fine booksellers.

Bill Scott, A73, has retired from a demanding career, which included oversight over the processing of the U.S. Navy’s nuclear cores. He is now living deep in rural Wisconsin in a town with a population of about 30. His new home features 4 barns, a wildflower garden, a patio with over 40 plants and a new 1,000 square foot garden.

Membership Information for the College of Emporia Alumni Association, Inc.

Please write legibly. Make checks payable to the C. of E. Alumni Association.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Maiden Name	*C. of E. Class

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Spouse’s Info	Spouse’s First Name	Middle Initial	Maiden Name	*C. of E. Class

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Street/Mailing Address		City	State	ZIP + 4

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Phone #		E-mail		

*C. of E. Class is the graduation year of the class with which students were associated, whether or not they graduated. Please use prefix “A” for alumnus, or “X” for former student or non graduate. “O” here means did not attend.

Membership dues (\$15 per year per member): Number of memberships: _____ For Years _____

Total for Membership \$ _____ Scholarship Fund (Voluntary) \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to:
C of E Alumni Association, P.O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405



College of Emporia Alumni Association
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Updates

We have two important reminders. First of all, we ask you to send updates about yourself to us for inclusion in our NEWS section. Tell us about your retirements, jobs, for those still in the workforce, community activities, moves or accolades. Please send to John Acomb at jacomb2@mac.com.

Secondly, note that the next meeting of your Alumni Association Board of Directors will take place on Saturday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sauder Center, located at 1500 Highland Street on the Emporia State campus. 2025 meetings will take place at the same time and location on April 26, 2025, and October 25, 2025. As always, alumni are welcome to come to board meetings.

c-of-e.org

