

# Bear Tracks



The Suda East Butler High School Alumni Newsletter

June 2016

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## \$17 Million Renovation Begins at Suda E.

**Project will take two summers to complete**

Renovation work has finally begun on the 60-plus year-old Butler Traditional High School structure, but it will take a while to finish. “We are expecting the project to be completed by the beginning of school in 2017,” said Paul Schardein, project coordinator and plant operator. There are two reasons for the length of the project, Paul explained. “We will still conduct classes during the school year so only limited work can be done during that time. And the other reason will be that the work being done is extensive.”

Exactly what is planned? Mr. Schardein answered, “There is so much work that we can’t list it all. The “big ticket” items are new systems throughout the school, including HVAC, hot water, windows, lights, PA, security, and fire. In addition, air conditioning will be added to the large gym, which opened in 1970.”

These are the big projects, but there are other improvements and changes that will be made. The work will be done in two phases. The first phase will be in the area that existed when the school opened in 1954. The second phase will focus on the remainder of the building and some other items that may be added to the project later.

Construction work is nothing new to Butler but it has been a while. “People are surprised when we tell them where the building stopped when it was first built,” said Fred Wright ('58 Class President). Chuckling, he continued, “Based on what we have now, the school wasn’t that big when it opened. It seems like I spent by entire high school career watching construction out the classroom windows.”

*The school opened in September 1954. Construction continued through much of 1959. When classes began in September 1960, the construction was complete and the building appeared much like it does today.*

After the work is complete, what will be most noticeable to a former Butler student? Paul Schardein replied, “The first thing you will notice will be a new front entrance design. We are removing lockers during both phases of the project so the halls will be wider and there will be



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Construction has begun and continues through 2017. The smoke stack was the first thing to go.

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a lot 'new' open wall space. The windows will look different too. Not only will they save us thousands of dollars in heating costs, they are tinted to help keep the building cooler during hot weather. A few things they may not notice unless they look real close are the items that have been removed for the new HVAC. The original smoke stack has been torn down as it is no longer needed. The old boilers have been removed along with the large water heaters. Both have been replaced by smaller more efficient alternatives. The boiler room was very cramped now we have some breathing room.

But I think the one improvement that will be noticed the most will be the AC in the large gym. That is one of the hottest places you can be on an August afternoon. We've had to postpone events because of the heat. Even events in the fall, like the Veterans' Day program are uncomfortable. We've been waiting on this for a long time."

...SEBAA plans to donate \$50,000 to the school in 2016. We had no idea this was coming and will allow us to do so much more than we imagined.....William Allen, Principal

On May 23, SEBAA donated another \$10,000 for the school to use during the renovation. Brittany Campbell Braun '00 points out, "This brings our total 2016 donation to \$30,000. It is our goal to contribute at least \$50,000 to the school

during 2016. We have asked the school to use these funds to add improvements that are not included in the project. We also want the donation to impact as many students as possible."

Principal William Allen explains that SEBAA's donation is icing on the cake. "I'll be honest, when we received the first donation of \$10,000 we were caught off guard. We weren't expecting that kind of donation. Then, to our surprise, we received the second and now the third. This money will allow us to make other improvements that we had on our wish list." He continued, "The project includes a new sound system for the small gym. We want to install permanent bleachers, too. These will save us a lot of room and make the small gym more usable for performances, meetings and gatherings up to 250 people. We are also creating our third computer lab. This will have the most up-to-date equipment, and we will need help with furniture."

At SEBAA's request, Mr. Allen is thinking of a project that the alumni can embrace in 2017. He said "I'm working on that now and we will have a project the alumni will be proud of and be able to call their own."

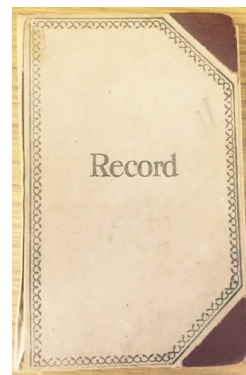


Lockers are being removed. This picture, between the bookstore and the cafeteria, show the block that was installed in 1953-54. It is unblemished and looks new. All lockers, on the first floor, in this area will be removed.

## "Old School" Items

School lockers, chemistry lab cabinet (glass front), maps that hung above the chalk boards, geometry and other math teaching aids are just some of the items uncovered as Suda E. is being cleared for its renovation. What does SEBAA plan to do with these items? "We plan to auction or sell most of these items but we are not sure what methods we will use," said Brenda Darnell Cease '67. "We know for sure we will have lockers available for \$20," she added.

Most of the items will be stored at school until August. Then we will need to move them off-site while the new alumni room is being remodeled. SEBAA is looking for a storage facility for this purpose. We would need about 100 square feet of space for about four months. The storage facility doesn't need to be climate-controlled but it does need to be dry. If you know someone that will help us out, please send us an email and we will follow up.



NHS minutes from the first meeting September 18, 1957 through February 11, 1966

## SEBAA Announces 2016 Events

### Events targeted for class groups

In addition to our annual Golden Bear Induction Dinner, we will be including events for all alumni. Each event will target different age groups. Because of last year's Wine and Music Fest's success, the board wanted to expand its outreach. "We have 58 classes and it's difficult to have an event for that many," said David Moody '75. The association, he said, will launch SEBAA's Summer Soiree. The first of what will be an annual occasion, this will be an opportunity to target a "newer" alumni audience.

Kylie Kiesel will chair the event targeted for classes 1990-2016. David Moody will chair the event targeted for the classes 1958-1989. It is important to remember that both events are for all alumni, even though we will target specific class groups. Both events will be similar, with location, music, and potentially, age of the crowd being a little different. SEBAA is fortunate to have two venues owned by Butler alumni that are willing to accommodate these events. "I have been to both venues and they are both very nice and within 30 minutes from the airport," said Brenda Martin '70.

The first Summer Soiree will be on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, targeting "newer" alumni. It will be held at Talon Winery (owned by Harriett Allen '70) in Shelbyville. Later in the year, The Wine and Music Fest will be held at Brooks Hill Winery (owned by Mike Hatzell '61) in Brooks. This event will target pre-1990 classes. Visit our Facebook page and [website](#) for the most current updates and information on the events.

Editor's Note: The Summer Soiree will be held at Talon Winery on Sunday, June 26 from 1 – 6 pm. The cost of the event is \$15. Wine and beer available. Music by Fairview Tuesday and light hor d'oeuvres will be provided. Bring any food or soft drink/water. You cannot bring in alcohol of any type but wine and beer will be available. Target Audience – Newer Alumni from 1990- 2016 but ALL are welcome.

Reservations not required but you can purchase tickets in advance. [Purchase Now](#)



## SEBAA and Alumni Event Links

These links will be updated until the event is complete

### [Class of 2006 10 Year Reunion](#)

Saturday, June 25  
Patrick O'Sheas - Bardstown Road

### [SEBAA Summer Soirée](#)

Sunday, June 26  
Talon Winery

### [Lunch with the 64-65 Baseball Teams](#)

July 22  
Mike Linnig's

### [Class of 1965 Summer Picnic](#)

July 23  
Beckley Creek Park - Creekside Complex

### [Class of 1976 Golf Outing](#)

August 12  
Class of 1976 40th Reunion  
August 13

### [Class of 1966 Golden Bear Induction](#)

September 9

### [Class of 1966 50th Reunion](#)

September 10

Click on the [SEBAA Calendar](#) then click on the event for details  
Not all events are sponsored by SEBAA but they sound like fun!



## Alumni Celebrations.....

We have found three alumni with exciting things happening in their lives. Both of these stories came to us as tips from fellow alumni. We contacted Kathy, Dennis and Moriah to get their permission to include them in our newsletter. Do you have a tip on a fellow alumnus? If so, let us know and we will follow up. We hope to uncover more stories like these.

### **Kathy Tucker McDonald '69**

Recently, Kathy was featured in [Today's Woman Now](#) magazine in a story about living with multiple sclerosis. This is a very uplifting and motivating article about attitude and healthy lifestyles. Kathy is married to Larry McDonald '68 and they live in Greenville, IN.

### **Dennis Kelley '73**

Dennis' son, Shawn, is quietly building an impressive career as a pitcher in major league baseball. He is in his eighth season and has recently signed a three-year contract with the Washington Nationals.

Shawn attended Ballard High School and Austin Peay University. He was drafted by the Seattle Mariners. After four years with the Mariners, he spent two seasons with the New York Yankees and then played for the San Diego Padres.

[Shawn Kelley's Bio](#)  
[Recent Courier Journal Article](#)

### **Moriah Corey '10**

The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Moriah Corey, a 2010 graduate of Butler High School, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program. As an NBCC MFP fellow, Corey will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to minority transition-age youth. Moriah was a member of the Butler Basketball team and played for Thomas More College. She is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at WKU

[Moriah Corey at Thomas More College](#)

## Duvall Making Big Impact Despite Dealing With Diabetes

We've written a lot about Adam Duvall '06 and the fact that he is the first Butler alum that has played baseball in the big leagues. Not only is he playing but he is near the top of the home run leaderboard with 17 already this year. However, what many of us didn't know is that Adam is performing at this level despite dealing with Type I Diabetes. Here is a recent [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) article about Adam.

## Butler's Newest State Champion!

Senior Alexis Gibbons recently became the state's long jump champion... again. This is the third consecutive year as state champion but this year is special because she set a Class 3A record. She also finished second in the 400 meter dash.

Here is a challenge for all alumni. Can you think of other Butler athletes that have won state track and field or cross country state titles. Any state record holders? Send us an email if you can help us in our search. Give us names, approximate years and accomplishment and we will see what we can find out.

[SEBAA Track and Field](#)



Alexis Gibbons – 3 time State Champion and State

## Butler Baseball Hall of Fame

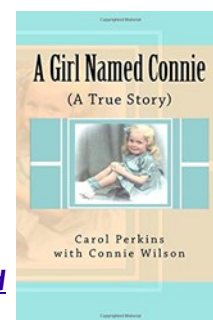
As far as we know there is only one Hall of Fame at Butler High School and it is the Butler Baseball Hall of Fame. It was started and is run by the baseball program. They will be establishing a Veterans Committee to select worthy players from the 50s, 60s and 70s to be inducted. We are including a link to the nomination form. There is a list or criteria on this form but since some of these items did not exist during the time, the list will be used as a guide. Please consider nominating players from this time period

[Butler Baseball Hall of Fame Nomination Form](#)

## Ms. Wilson IS the Girl Named Connie

Connie Wilson taught biology at Butler throughout the 1990s and has served as a 'regular' sub since she retired. It is safe to say that Ms. Wilson was (and still is) a favorite with students, faculty and staff.

A book about her life has been recently published. It is a very interesting (and true) story. If you don't know Ms. Wilson, it is a good book. If you know Ms. Wilson, you won't be able to put the book down until you're finished. The book is available on [Amazon - A Girl Named Connie](#).



## Dale Romans Visits Butler

Recently Dale Romans visited Butler High School and talked about the time he spent at Butler in the late 70's and early 80's. Dale's memory of the school, including remembering his locker number, is phenomenal. This clip was aired on Derby weekend. Here is the clip in case you missed it. [Dale Romans at Butler](#)

*Editor's Note: We received this note from John Von Kannel '68. This is not a SEBAA sponsored opportunity but it seems like fun.*

Butler Alumni: I, along with another Butler alum Dale Romans, am starting a partnership for the thoroughbred horse industry, buying, selling, and racing. This partnership will be open to Butler alumni only. This way we will own a piece of a world-class Thoroughbred partnership. Our goal is to wear the roses the first Saturday in May.

If you are interested in joining the partnership please contact me at 1-646-926-6282 or email me [jvk4@me.com](mailto:jvk4@me.com)

## Welcome SEBAA Members

Nancy Merimee	Faculty
Sharon Kulp	Faculty / Friend
Louis Noe	1962
James Rick Nally	1965
Doug Ashby	1966
Rebecca Lynn Coogle Smith	1981
Kathleen Merimee Newton	1995
Charles Hayes	2015
William Garcia	2016

**SEBAA Lifetime Memberships** The Alumni Association is doing well but we need more members. A lifetime membership is \$25 and you will never be required to pay annual dues. There are no gimmicks!

But, if it is such a good deal, why don't more people join? The most common reasons are they thought they were already members, they weren't sure if SEBAA was actually THE alumni association for their alma mater or they haven't heard of SEBAA. Unfortunately, some alumni have joined for-profit online groups that have no affiliation with the school. We were careful to distinguish ourselves when we incorporated by using Suda E. in our name. There may be other Butler High Schools but there is only one Suda E. Butler.

Are you a member? Click on this [member list](#) to find out. If you're not a member, click on the [membership application](#) and join.



Dr. Alan Akridge, and Earl Dever present donation to SEBAA's Fred Wright

## Class of 1959 Makes Surprise Announcement

Before the recent meeting of the board of directors the class of 1959 asked if they could be placed on the agenda. There was no explanation and they said they wouldn't need much time. They were correct, they didn't take much time, but they made a big impact by announcing their class had voted to give SEBAA a \$3,653.55 donation.

The presentation was made by board members Earl Dever and Alan Akridge. Earl and Alan are SEBAA board members and have been involved from the beginning of the association. Earl explained, "The class has kept an active account for reunions but we decided not to have a 55<sup>th</sup> reunion. We instead voted to give this donation to SEBAA and have asked them to give it to the school to use for as many students as possible".



Suda E. Butler Alumni Association  
 SEBAA  
 PO Box 16685  
 Louisville, KY 40256-0685

**Suda E. Butler High School  
 Alumni Association**

Website: [www.butlerhighalumni.com](http://www.butlerhighalumni.com)  
 Email Address:  
[admin@butlerhighalumni.com](mailto:admin@butlerhighalumni.com)

**Board of Directors**

Charles Myers '58  
 Fred Wright '58  
 Alan Akridge '59  
 Earl Dever '59  
 Dr. Tom Wilkerson '60  
 Fred Krebs '61  
 Charles Rogalinski '62  
 John King '64  
 Larry Birkenfeld '67  
 Brenda Darnell Cease '67  
 Diane Potts '71  
 Eddie Cannon '72  
 Vicki Sinegra Ziegler '72  
 Kathy Embry Denzik '74  
 David Moody '75  
 Brittany Campbell Braun '00

**Advisory Board**

Joan Sternberg Butler '64  
 Bill Colyer '67  
 Brenda Duncan Blevins '69  
 Brenda Martin '70  
 Mike Turley '70  
 Scott Kolter '73  
 Marc Jennings '74  
 Kylie Kiesel '08  
 Katie Benz '09

**Principal**

William M. Allen

**Butler Notes / Alumni News**

*2nd Annual*

Butler Alumni Wine and Music Fest

**Brooks Hill Winery**

Sunday, October 9  
 noon - 6 PM

2016 Golden Bear  
 Induction - Dinner  
 invitations will be  
 sent in June. Join us  
 as we induct the newest class into the club.



*Welcome Class of 1966*

**Memorials for Family and Friends**

Many people are making donations in memory of faculty and classmates that have passed away. Some people do this in lieu of flowers. When SEBAA receives a memorial gift, an acknowledgement is sent to the family and to the donor. Memorial gifts made to SEBAA are tax-deductible. Donations can be made to SEBAA and mailed to:

**SEBAA PO Box 16685 Louisville, KY 40256-0685**

**Alumni Obituaries**

*We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of these Butler Bears. If we have missed the passing of one of our friends, please let us know and we will publish it in our next newsletter.*

Richard Fischer	1958
Jerry Marlow	1958
Dr. Bruce Ashley	1964
Robert 'Trey' Smalley	1966
Robert 'Bobby' Ford	1969
Christy Braune Witten	1969
Robert 'Bobby' Showalter	1970
Don McDonald	1971
Jo Ann Turner Jewell	1971
Mark Wiedmar	1976
Corey Sallee	1995

Visit our website at [www.butlerhighalumni.com](http://www.butlerhighalumni.com)