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Top Ten Things We Learned in Starting An Alumni Association

1) Plano ISD has more than 500 alums currently employed

Plano ISD Alumni Association Newsletter

The Plano spirit runs proud in the Plano Independent School District, which has spent the last 100 years preparing students for a competitive workplace, building enduring friendships and changing the community. As alumni, you share a special bond with your many classmates from memories of overnight camp, football games, late night study sessions, open campus lunches and high school dances. Indeed, your public education helped lay the groundwork for the future you now live.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation is embarking on a new initiative to reacquaint graduates with the district. The Plano ISD now has three senior high campuses and graduates more than 3,500 seniors each year. We invite you to join the inaugural reunion class project and help us continue the legacy of excellent education for the current 55,000 students of Plano ISD. This year the Foundation will unveil an alumni newsletter and website to begin reuniting alumni and the Plano ISD. We encourage you to sign up for the newsletter and to visit the website for information regarding reunions and current Plano ISD happenings.

The Foundation started planning early this year

by the School District.



Alumni staff at Beverly Elementary

2) Plano ISD has several celebrity graduates including: Brad Leland Williams from *Friday Night Lights* who emceed PISD's Ski Plano; Justin Blalock current Atlantic Falcon; and Michael Urie from *Ugly Betty*, to name a few.



Brian Jensen, Lisa Raskin and Brad Leland Williams at Ski Plano 2009

3) Plano West Senior High established a PWSH Choir Alumni Association that has more than 200 members and has raised more than \$3,500 for St. Jude Children's hospital.

4) Some of you don't know we now have three senior high schools (Plano Senior High School, Plano East Senior High School and Plano West Senior High School) and more than 55,000 students.

5) Several alums are still connected to the City of Plano in the schools and city government:

PISD Board of Trustees:
Missy Bender and John Muns
Plano ISD Education
Foundation: Mitch Bramlett,
Bart Ridley, Beth Webb and
Liz Bonet

Plano City Council:
Ben Harris and Jean Callison

6) It matters to alums if you

with a committee of PISD alums and Foundation board members. The initiative was kicked off with the Plano ISD convocation where more than 500 Plano ISD employee alums shared their Plano Pride with a multi-media production and marched onto the stage in caps and gowns to celebrate their educational heritage. During the celebration, Beth Webb, President of the Plano ISD Education Foundation and PSHS alum, announced the unveiling of the Plano ISD alumni website.

The Alumni Association will offer a quarterly newsletter, website with recent alumni happenings, distinguished alumni awards and an annual event to bring together Plano ISD alums. The Foundation is excited to reach out to alums, the district's strongest supporters. "The Plano ISD alums know the value of a Plano public education and are our best spokespersons in the community" said Beth Webb, president of the Plano ISD Education Foundation.

The Alumni Association will offer an annual membership for \$30/year. The annual dues will provide the resources for the alumni activities and provide funds for Plano ISD programs for which tax dollars are not available.

Alumni Spotlight

Plano ISD alumni gears up for another great year behind wheel of bus 814

Story: Mary Gorden; Photos: John Pippard



Bus Driver Norm Nicholson drove his wife crazy around the house after he retired ("under foot," he said), so he decided to drive a school bus instead.

Following a career as a data processing instructor for the US Army and twice serving as a company vice-president in the high-tech industry, Norm has elected to put his foot to the pedal for the past nine years, safely transporting students on bus #814.

A 1958 Plano High School graduate who attended all 12 grades at what is now the Cox Building, Norm recalls fond memories of attending school in Plano in a recent interview with Plano ISD's District Digest.

Digest: Who are some of the people who shaped your education?

Norm: Aline Mendenhall was my first grade

are a Plano Senior High School alum or a Plano High School alum.

7) You still love Plano football.



8) Many of you have stayed in touch through social networking on Facebook and social gatherings besides class reunions.

9) Many of you returned to the area so your kids can be raised "Plano Proud."

10) Alums are fierce competitors and are generous with their giving. This year's PISD reunion classes started "Giving with Class" alumni challenge to help raise funds for 5th grade camp scholarships.



[Visit Us](#)

Join Today

Become a member of the [Plano ISD Alumni Association](#).



Plano East High School Alumni Directory Underway

The Plano ISD Education Foundation is teaming up with Harris Connect to reunite

teacher. My second grade teacher was Mrs. Williams (wife of T.H. Williams, principal), and Mary Alice Skaggs was our high school English teacher. I was taught by and went to school with many of our school namesakes like the Harringtons, the Haggards and the Armstrong twins. What I recall is that even the wealthiest people in Plano were down to earth and very kind and friendly. Another favorite person was Mr. Cox, our school janitor. My brothers and I would visit with him most mornings before school. We'd watch him shovel coal to stoke the furnace in the building.

[Read More](#)

Leading Edge Alumni: 2009 PISD Convocation

Approximately 70 Plano ISD alumni who are members of the school district's faculty and staff represented their 500 peers districtwide by joining Beth Webb, Plano ISD



Education Foundation president, on stage to kick off the program. They were also featured in a [pre-event alumni video presentation](#).

"We're Plano Proud!" was their unanimous shout out from the stage, before they joined the staff choir in the choir loft to enjoy the program. At the program conclusion, the alumni joined in a celebratory cap toss. Ms. Webb, also donning cap and gown, opened Convocation with greetings and a message from the Plano ISD Education Foundation. She explained the Foundation's new alumni initiative which will include an annual newsletter, website and an alumni challenge to raise funds for the Foundation's programs to support students and staff.

[To view event videos](#)

Returning to Plano ISD

by Suzanne Drotman
Plano Senior High School
Class of '94



Plano East Senior High Alumni. Harris Connect is working on a new publication designed to bring our Plano East Senior High School Alumni back together. They started contacting alumni in August 2009.

Contact Us

If you would like to comment on a story, share your Plano memories or photos, submit news or obituaries, volunteer or otherwise get in touch with us, we would love to hear from you.

E-mail: foundation@pisd.edu

Online: pisd.edu/alumni

Phone: 469/752-8272

Share Your Story

In future newsletter we will feature a section for connecting with classmates. In this section we will feature latest developments in the PISD alumni community and tell your fellow alums what you've been up to since graduating. Send your news to foundation@pisd.edu.

Job promotion? Won an award? Have a photo to share with fellow alums? Great stories from reunions? Making a difference in the community? Send your images and stories.

Seeking Volunteers

Interested in serving on the planning committee for the alumni

My experiences in the Plano ISD have taken place both personally and professionally. My family relocated here in the early 1980s when Plano was mostly open farmland. I quickly became accustomed to growth and movement throughout my schooling. During my Plano ISD schooling, I never questioned the intent of my teachers. The philosophy was very visible. My teachers found the gifts that I had and built upon those gifts. They coached me to become a lifelong learner. I took unique traits, knowledge, and growth from my experiences at Aldridge, Huffman, Shepton (7-10), and Plano Senior High School. In fact, I was so inspired that I returned to this extraordinary district as an educator in 1999.

In 2008, I joined district administration as a Human Resources Coordinator, I am an active part of the recruitment process and former Plano ISD graduates are always anxious to introduce themselves as PISD alumni. We have over 500 graduates working as teachers in our district. In addition, we have a number of paraprofessionals, bus drivers, cafeteria workers and facility service employees who attended Plano Schools. It is wonderful to see the pride our Plano ISD alumni have as they come back to serve our district as employees.

Plano High School - Class of '75 Announces the 35th ATAOWWG Party



by Kris Schaaf Kirby Plano Senior High School Class of '75

The Plano High School - Class of '75 is pleased to announce that the date has been set for the 35th ATAOWWG

(Almost The Anniversary Of When We Graduated) Party. The party will be held April 24, 2010. The plans for the party have not yet been finalized. We are still trying to determine how many classmates and guests plan to attend.

association? Email
foundation@pisd.edu

Join Our Mailing List!

After four members of the Class of '75 met for a long, long lunch, two of them decided to try to find every member of their graduating class. The quest began in January 2009 and more than 400 of the 565 graduates have been located so far.

Classmates have been found still living in Plano to as far away as Alaska and Brazil. Old friends have been located through diligent detective work using the alumni directory as well as internet resources (mylife.com, classmates.com and facebook.com).

Social networks have proved invaluable with www.facebook.com becoming the primary gathering place for our group. We have set up a class page named Plano High School - Class of 1975. The group page includes pictures from the past to the present, information about gatherings. The discussion board includes topics such as deceased classmates and a list of those we are still trying to find.

If you are a member of the Plano High School - Class of '75, or have information on one of our classmates, please contact Kris Schaaf Kirby at itsme@consolidated.net or Robin Harrington Brady at robinbrady@hughes.net

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