



The Ruston High School Alumni Association



June 2010



2803 Tara Dr., Ruston, Louisiana 71270



Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to the first edition, Volume 1 Issue 1, of the Ruston High School Alumni Association Newsletter. It has been a goal of the Board of Directors, for several years, to publish a newsletter informing all RHS Alumni Association members of activities of the association and news from Ruston High School. We hope you will enjoy this edition and will share it with other RHS alumni and encourage them to join the association if they have not already done so. A Big Thanks goes to Jim Hilton '72, John Sachs '61 and Lloyd Bruner, RHS Chatterbox sponsor, for all their work in making this newsletter a reality.

For the past two years I have had the privilege and honor of serving as president of the RHS Alumni Association. What fond memories I have, and hope you have, of days as a student at one of the finest high schools in America. I am thankful for the wonderful teachers, coaches, and administrators that influenced and molded our lives, and helped create memories that have lasted a lifetime. Those days of walking the halls with special friends, yelling as loud as you could at pep rallies and ball games, victories over Neville, West Monroe, Jonesboro Hodge and others, singing the fight song and alma mater as the band played, attending assemblies, being involved in clubs and organizations, and having friends sign your Resume' were just a few of the memories we all have from our days at RHS. It is a goal and purpose of the Alumni Association to continue to provide assistance in funding academic programs, equipment, or capital improvements and to foster the rich history, spirit, and tradition of Ruston High School.

The alumni association is very active and throughout this newsletter you will read of many of these activities. Be sure to visit our website, rustonhighalumni.org to see all the exciting things going on with the alumni association and to keep up with your classmates and friends from RHS. All members have access to information on each person that has joined the alumni association.

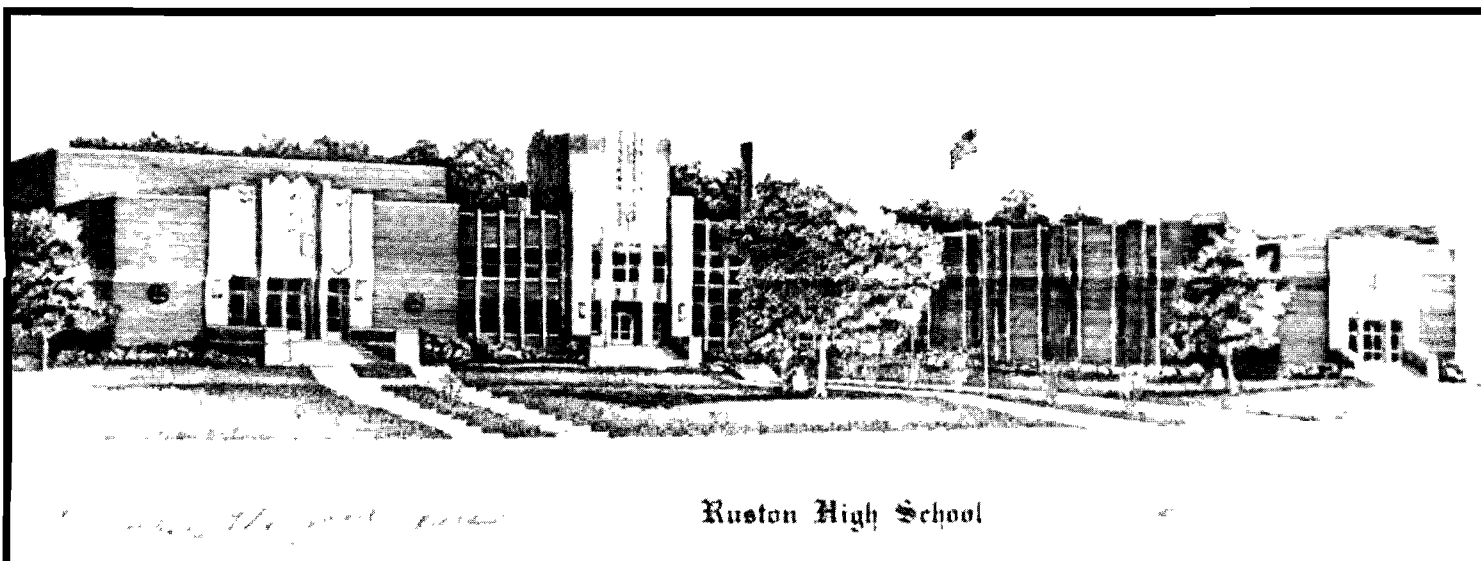
Let us know what you think of our first newsletter and suggestions as to what you would like to see in future editions. There is expense involved in printing and mailing the newsletter to over 800 alumni. If you would like to help defray some of this cost please send your donation to RHS Alumni Association 2803 Tara Dr. Ruston, La. 71270.

Each year we add new members to our committees and members rotate off. If you are interested in becoming a member of one of the committees, please email me. This association is yours and we want you to help make it even better.

ONCE A BEARCAT ALWAYS A BEARCAT!

Jackson "Jack" Thigpen '63

jthigpen@suddenlink.net



Ruston High School

A unique 16" X 6.5" pin and ink drawing of Ruston High School, drawn by RHS alumni James White '55 is available for purchase. A print, beautifully matted and framed, sells for only \$40. The print only is \$20. Shipping for the framed print is \$15 and for the print only is \$5. Prints can be purchased at Classic Designs in Ruston or by contacting the alumni association at 2803 Tara Dr., Ruston, LA 71270. Order forms are also available on the alumni website, rustonhighalumni.org. Evoke memories, some to be shared and some best kept to yourself. In either event, good memories will occur each and every time you look at the picture of the place where they all happened.



Homecoming: Friday September 24, 2010



Distinguished Alumni and Teachers

Since our Association's inception in 2004, we have honored 15 current and former teachers. We have also honored 19 Alumni. To read the complete list of those honored, please visit the Association's website (www.rustonhighalumni.org) and click on "Awards".

Awards Committee Chairman, John Sachs, said "Being involved with this aspect of the Alumni Association has been nothing short of joy. Learning of the positive impact that various teachers have had on the lives of their students is both revealing and heartwarming. And learning of the difference for good that so many of our alumni have accomplished is astonishing. I have come to appreciate that Ruston High School over its almost 90 year life has consistently served as a springboard to success for its graduates and not a quagmire ending in mediocrity."

The Distinguished Alumni and Teacher Committee is asking that every alumni consider nominating a teacher or alumni for recognition by the Association. Nominations may be made by e-mail to John Sachs. Again, at the Association's website, click on "Contact Us" where you will find John's e-mail link and telephone number. He welcomes each and every nomination and will gladly assist you with the process of compiling the relatively simple data needed to complete the nomination.

In making its selection, the committee looks to its Mission Statement for guidance. Excerpts are provided below to assist with your understanding of the process.

1. Those individuals recognized for distinction will have demonstrated not only expertise and success in their chosen field of endeavor, but will have conducted themselves in a manner that serves as a role model to current and future RHS Students and Faculty alike.
2. Each year three distinguished alumni will be recognized. Only one from each of five defined categories of endeavor will be chosen. Those five categories are:
 - a. Commerce and Industry
 - b. Government and Military Service
 - c. Education, Humanities, and Liberal Arts
 - d. Science, Medicine, and Engineering
 - e. Group and Individual Athletic Achievement
3. Each year three RHS Faculty educators will be recognized. Those will be an Active Teacher and two Former Teachers.
4. The Committee's overriding mission and purpose is to seek, find, and recognize those RHS Educators and Alumni who by their good works, deeds, and accomplishments inspire current and future RHS students and faculty to believe that they too can achieve distinction in their chosen field of endeavor, and that their affiliation with RHS will facilitate and enhance their chances for success

The Association encourages you to get involved in this rewarding and enjoyable process of looking for and recognizing RHS Teachers and Alumni that have done good works. It's not about the money they have earned; rather, it is about the positive impact they have had on others.

Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Educator Awards Luncheon

**Friday September 24, 2010
Squire Creek Country Club
\$30 per person**

**Contact Pat Kavanaugh Tippit '59 for reservations
145 Double Tree Lane
Ruston, LA 71270
255-7750
pktippit@yahoo.com**

A great way to get together with friends, classmates, and former teachers, at the areas finest and most elegant dining location and help us honor some of RHS's outstanding alumni and teachers.

Table reservations can also be made.



Check out the Ruston High School *Chatterbox* and stay in touch with your Alma Mater.

Access the current edition of the *Chatterbox* at: <http://rustonhigh.lincolnschools.org/whatsnew.html>

Access archived editions of the *Chatterbox* at: <http://rustonhigh.lincolnschools.org/chatterbox.html>

RUSTON@

New Tech @ Ruston: Empowering Students for Success in the 21st Century

Building on a longstanding tradition of pride, excellence, and acclaimed achievement, Ruston High School is now poised to become the gold standard among those now implementing 21st Century teaching and learning models with the launch of its newest “school within a school,” **New Tech @ Ruston**.

RHS researched the New Tech model for more than 18 months, visiting nine different New Tech sites throughout the country. **New Tech @ Ruston** is now slated to open with the beginning of the 2010-11 academic year. With a staff of eight, the program is already garnering high praise.

All eighth grade students from throughout Lincoln Parish were provided the opportunity to apply for this new academy initiative at RHS. Based on the national New Tech Network criteria, 100 positions were available for the opening class. Following informational meetings throughout the community, 127 applications were received from students at Ruston Junior High School, A. E. Phillips Laboratory School, and Cedar Creek School. A lottery-type drawing was then held to determine which students would be enrolled for the fall.

A non-traditional learning environment that will serve as an independent arm within the RHS Freshman Academy, **New Tech @ Ruston** begins with the end in mind. That end might be the completion of a project, a problem solved, a student’s academic proficiency, or even their impending future in the real world.

New Tech @ Ruston utilizes Project-Based Learning to address both rigorous core curricular material and 21st Century skills that emphasize an authentic application of knowledge. During the first year, **New Tech @ Ruston** will offer the school’s first curriculum integrated class—Global Studies, a humanities class that includes both English and World Geography. In addition, each freshman student in the academy will take Biology, Algebra I, and an Animation and Visual Effects class. Teachers within each class will develop highly engaging projects designed to meet the needs of today’s 21st Century learner. With a 1:1 computer-to-student ratio in place, teachers function as facilitators and students are then empowered with greater responsibility for their learning. The process then yields a more productive and successful student who will ultimately become a greater asset to the post-secondary world awaiting them.

For more information, contact Cathi Cox at ccox@lincolnschools.org or (318) 255-1430.

Two \$1500 scholarships presented to 2010 graduating seniors

**Outstanding Achievement Award – Sarah Jones
Ruth Johnson Memorial Scholarship – Ryan Pate**

Previous year’s recipients were:

2009 - T.L. Oakley	2004 - Jacob Lewis
2008 - Hayden Hammons	2003 - Tiffani Simmons
2007 - Gavin Glen McKinney	2002 - Andrew Shipp
2006 - Stephen Lynch	2001 - Mary Lou Kavanaugh
2005 - Tony Cox	

Please consider donating to the alumni scholarship fund.

The Alumni Association contributed \$5,000 to RHS to purchase a large trophy case!



Pictures of all the winners of the Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Educator awards, along with their biographical information, are displayed in a nice binder located in the RHS library.

Thanks to Faith Crump Alexander '81 for doing this.

The Ruston High School Alumni Association Web Site

www.rustonhighalumni.org

The creation of the RHS Alumni Association web site began in January of 2005, not long after the association itself was started. Since that time, it has grown to include features that hopefully are of interest to everyone. Some of the features of the web site include the activities and accomplishments of the Alumni Association, information pertaining to homecoming and class reunions, recipients of the annual scholarships and the remembrances of those classmates who have recently died. Also on the web site is a membership roster of everyone who has joined the association. This roster is found in the secure "members only" section of the web site that is accessible only with a username and password.

We would like to ask everyone who has access to the Internet to visit the web site and take a look at the membership roster. We are sure there are many listings that contain errors and omissions that we would like to correct. If you see an error in your own listing, please contact the webmaster@rustonhighalumni.org and provide your updated information. If you see an error in someone else's listing, please contact that person and request that they update their information.

Feel free to contact the web site administrator at any time with questions, comments and feedback pertaining to the web site. Your input and suggestions are always welcome.



Ruston High memorabilia, of all kinds, is on display in the old RHS library on the top floor. Drop by, take a look and walk down memory lane! Please consider loaning any memorabilia you have. Drop it off at the RHS office or send to Ruston High School. Thanks to RHS teacher Catherine Letendre for heading up this project.

Ruston High School Alumni Association
2803 Tara Dr.
Ruston, La. 71270

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