As you read this newsletter the school year has come to a close, but the activity on campus is just getting started. Renovations will begin on the north end, second floor of the main building. Those classrooms—including that of 2nd VP Sonya Sullivan—will be displaced to the portable buildings located along South Street on and near the tennis courts. The construction process will likely span multiple school years, but we are excited to see the school return to its former glory.

The Alumni Association has been busy as well. Although we have not been able to move forward on many campus projects due to the upcoming renovations, thanks to the support of alumni like you, we have given over $5800 to various sports teams and groups. Now that renovation plans are being finalized by the school board, we can begin our plans to “fill in the gaps”. We are already planning the next phase of campus lighting improvements and hope to move that forward in the next several months. The Carlen House fence will be re-built and the campus iron fence will get some necessary repairs.

This is my first time addressing the alumni base as President. I pledge to continue the great work of this association. I am eager to hear from my fellow alumni about what you would like to see the Murphy Alumni Association do to improve our Alma Mater.
The 2014 Hall of Fame event was held on April 27 in the Murphy High School Cafeteria. Everyone was welcomed by Ryan McKee, the newly installed president of the Alumni Association. The invocation was given by the Reverend Max Woodruff. Past president Carmen Kearley introduced each inductee and Mike McNair, founder of the Hall of Fame, presented each honoree an award. During the reception the culinary department, headed by Jeremy Weaver, provided an artful display of delicious hors d’oeuvres. Director Jim Lichtenberger and the Murphy String Quartet entertained guests with beautiful chamber music.

James M. Eubanks, Col., U.S.A., 1948

As a student at Murphy James Eubanks served as a hall monitor, teacher and office assistant, and was a member of the student council. Eubanks joined Alabama National Guard his senior year, and was trained as a medical technician. After graduation, he worked for International Paper and then transferred on to Brookley Field Air Force Base.

James was called to active duty in Korea (1951-1952) at the rank of Sgt. 1st class and was assigned as combat medic. In this capacity, he gave battlefield treatment to hundreds of soldiers. He was wounded himself while carrying a wounded soldier to safety through enemy fire. His brave determination earned him the Purple Heart and the Combat Medical Badge. He returned from active duty as Master Sergeant and later commissioned as 2nd LT and went on to rise to full colonel in a 31 year army career. Col. Eubanks received a B.S. degree from Maryland University while an officer in the army; also MBA from George Washington University.

Retiring from the army, Eubanks attended Emory University, earned a law degree and practiced law in GA. He later worked for a corporation based in Atlanta, rising to Group VP over two of the four major company divisions. He retired from this career, returned to Mobile in 1996 and became involved in Veteran’s Affairs.

Although he had a busy professional life, James still reserves time for service to his communities. He worked with United Way while in Atlanta. Once back in Mobile, he served as President for a community action group that would become Citizens for Smart Growth in Mobile County. He also became involved in Veterans affairs: legislative coordinator for South Alabama chapter of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), worked with elected representatives to pass legislation to establish and operate a state veterans’ cemetery for the first time, expanded veterans’ representation on state board of veteran affairs, and pushed for improvements in absentee voting system for Alabama servicemen on active duty. Eubanks also helped set up an educational consortium between states to ease the transfer of credits for children of transferring military.

Awards Received: George C. Marshall Award from Command and General Staff College (given to the class honor graduate); Bronze Star and Legion of Merit (3x each); Military Officers Association of America gave him its President’s Award and Chairman’s Award, the organization’s highest award for his legislative efforts.
Billy C. Bedsole, 1957

While attending Murphy High School Billy Bedsole was a leader in sports and service. He was a member of the football team, Key Club and National Honor Society. These activities represent interests and characteristics that are seen throughout his life’s work.

Billy received a B.S. in Business and Commerce and a law degree from the University of Alabama.

Bedsole has had a law practice in Mobile since 1969. Highly respected for his ability and for his integrity, he was elected to and served for 20 years (1993-2013) as Bar Commissioner from the 13th Judicial District. Billy presently serves a Disciplinary Hearing Officer and Judge for the Alabama State Bar concerning complaints and discipline actions against attorneys. He was also elected to Board of Bar Commissioners in 2010 and currently serves as one of the lawyer representatives on the Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission. His work ethic and good reputation were recognized in 2011 when he was selected to receive the Howell Heflin Award for Honesty and Integrity from the Mobile and Baldwin County Bar Association.

Billy has also been generous to Mobile’s community. He is the past president of the Municipal Park Youth Football and Baseball Associations. He coached youth football and basketball for 41 years and his teams won numerous championships. Bedsole was named Coach of the Year by the city of Mobile eight times. His contribution to community sports was recognized by the city government. December 11, 2001 was proclaimed by the City Council as Billy Bedsole Day and on March 23, 2002, a street at Municipal Park was officially dedicated and named Billy Bedsole Run.

Billy Bedsole has been an avid runner for 40 years, running 5Ks, 10Ks and marathons. He has taken and active part at Springhill Baptist Church and has held numerous leadership positions. He has been married to Mamie for 52 years and they have two children son, Rusty Bedsole and Karen Golightly.

James L. Busby, 1964

At Murphy James Busby was a member of the JETS club, a telling choice, as it stands for Junior Engineering Technical Society.

Billy earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from University of Alabama in 1969. For six months he worked at IP as systems engineer where he learned computer programming language. Busby then entered the Army Signal Corp as a 2nd Lieutenant. The Army was in the process of computerizing, so Busby was assigned to the Military Intelligence Branch as part of a team of hardware specialists and programmers, earning a top secret clearance. The civilian managers recommended Jim for a special monetary award as recognition of the substantial money he was able to save the government through his work. In 1972 toward the end of the action in Vietnam, 1st Lt. Busby was called to active duty. Military Intelligence was reluctant to lose him and, as the result of their request, his deployment was delayed. Jim was Honorably discharged in 1972 and given a “meritorious service medal.” He then returned to programming work, now with Scott Paper Company. He earned a MBA from the University of South Alabama, going to school at night. While at Scott Paper, Busby saw the need for “something that didn’t exist,” something to place on paper and print what one saw on a computer screen. He started Southern Computer Systems in 1975 and the circuit board he designed for allowing communication between a computer and printer was patented in his name. Years later he began Quality Micro Systems Inc.(QMS), where he designed and made high-quality printers. Sales exploded and the company went public and was listed on the NYSE. The company was sold to Minolta and became private in 2000.
Carolyn Bishop Stone, Ed.D., 1968

While a student at Murphy High School, Carolyn was a member of the French Club. She attended the University of South Alabama after graduation and earned B. Ed. She continued her education, earning a M. Ed. at University of North Florida, and her Ed. Specialist and Ed. D. at University of Florida.

Dr. Stone works as a professor at University of North Florida and is a leader in the national movement for transforming the school counseling profession, “promoting equity and access for all students and the critical role of school counselors in closing information, opportunity, and achievement gaps.”

Carolyn has worked extensively with establishing training programs and models for high school counselors locally and nationally.

Stone has carried her passion for counseling into her volunteer activities as well. She is a founder and contributor to BEACON (Bringing Economic and Career Opportunities Nearer), a financial aid program that trains volunteers to help seniors complete FAFSA paperwork (1990-present). Another of her creations is Instant Decision Day—designed, organized and conducted bi-annually for first generation college students in two urban high schools, bringing 15 plus colleges to campus for instant admissions and scholarships (2011-present). She has done fundraising for Himalayan Health Care Organization (2004); and multiple sclerosis fundraiser (1994-2004); Carolyn was also a Study Abroad Leader to Turkey (2010); and has served as the leader, organizer, and fundraiser for six cultural immersion trips to NYC since 2008.

Dr. Stone has been very active in her field’s professional organizations: American School Counselors Association (president-2006-7; ethics chair-2001-2006 and 2008-present; representative to the national school board conference-2012; and American Counseling Association for revisions to ACA Code of ethics(2011). The College Board- TCB’s Advisory Council with National Office for School Counselors (2006-present); The Education Trust-Advisory Council for Transforming School Counseling II (2009-present), Education Trust/Met Life trainer. Florida Counseling Association-executive board member (1995-2004) and president (2002-
John Tyson, Jr., 1970

John Tyson, Jr. is a name known to many here and to many in the nation because of his work on behalf of citizens of this state.

While a student at Murphy, John foreshadowed his sense of involvement and responsibility by participating in football, where he lettered and earned membership in the M Club; and by participating in the Student government as a section representative. He also belonged to the Key Club. John was selected as a class favorite his senior year.

After graduation he enrolled at the newly established University of South Alabama and continued that pattern of involvement. He was an active member of his fraternity, and again served the student body in government: he was a senator, then vice president, and ultimately, president of the Student Government Association. He also was listed on USA’s national championship debate team. He was awarded numerous honors at South: induction into ODK National Honorary, the debate honorary society, and the Political Science Honorary. After graduating from USA, Tyson attended law school at the University of Alabama. He participated on the MOOT Court team, which competed against others in mock trials. After graduating, John entered into practice with his father.

John’s career in public service began when he ran for the state Board of Education. He was elected in 1980 and served for 14 years, spending nine as the presiding officer. He was later appointed and subsequently elected as the Mobile County District Attorney and served there for 17 years (1994-2012). His management of his prosecutors was a model for others and he traveled the country for the National College of District Attorneys teaching a week-long course to other DAs. He was a member of the Alabama District Attorneys Association, serving as member, board member, and holding all offices including president; and he also served in the National District Attorneys Association.

During his tenure as DA, John prosecuted many cases, but just as importantly, he instituted several programs for crime prevention. These included “Helping Families,” a program that established an intervention team to identify child behavior that might lead to future crime and counsel those children and their parents; “Good Samaritans,” a national pilot program which fought crime by asking communities to support and help crime victims; and “Make the Right Choice,” which used videoed interviews of current prisoners to reveal to students the results of bad choices. The program which garnered John and the Mobile-area the greatest attention and praise was the “Secret Safe Place for Newborns.” Developed in 1998 in conjunction with local broadcaster Jodi Brooks after numerous cases of abandonment and infant deaths in the city of Mobile, this program “allowed mothers in crisis with a safe, anonymous option for giving up their unwanted newborns for adoption.” The program was named a finalist in the “Innovations in American Government Awards” and all 50 states now have statutes authorizing versions of the program. These programs earned Tyson the Alabama District Attorney of the Year award in 2004.

John’s last public service was done via appointment by then Governor Bob Riley. He was Commander of the Governor’s Task Force on Illegal Gambling. John now has a private law practice where, as one friend found, he “continues to take on the bullies.” He is married to Beth and they have two daughters, both of whom attended Murphy.

John’s long and exemplary public service record have earned his place in our hall of fame.
Kay Hire represents the varied interests of "Panthers" and the heights to which Murphy graduates can soar.

Her father, Robert, was a land surveyor, but her mother really set the pattern for Kay’s life. She was a draftsman, an unusual career for women at the time.

While a student at Murphy High School, Kay was an excellent student, achieving membership in the National Honor Society. She was also inducted into Quill and Scroll, the journalism honor society, and held the office of Vice President. She was editor of the MOHIAN her senior year and was outstanding senior in both Journalism and English. All this excellence in language led her to the U.S. Naval Academy! She graduated with a B.S. in 1981, was commissioned as an officer upon graduation and earned her Naval Flight Officer wings in 1982. After flying many hours for oceanographic research and teaching Naval airborne operations to over 600 students, Kay became the first female in the United States military to be assigned to a combat aircrew. She supported Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as a member of the U.S. Naval Central Command Staff.

Hire’s career with NASA began in 1989 at the Kennedy Space Center as an engineer, processing more than 40 space shuttle missions. Having earned her master degree at the Florida Institute of Technology, Kay reported to the Johnson Space Center for Astronaut Training in March 1995. She served as flight engineer on the Space Shuttle Columbia in 1998, conducting experiments (and serving as a subject) for 26 life science experiments focusing on effects of microgravity on the brain and central nervous system.

In 2010, Kay returned to space aboard the SS Endeavour on a mission to assemble parts on the International Space Station. The crew delivered and installed Node 3 and the cupola, a seven-windowed portal (Kay’s experience helping her father with house repairs and maintenance paid off here!) Kay operated the robotic arm and led the transfer of 2.25 tons of cargo and helped install water recycling, air cleaning, and cooling systems. Kay made sure that Mardi Gras was celebrated by the crew in the shuttle and the space station.

Kay has always remembered Murphy throughout her career. She sent a commemorative photo and patches from her first space mission and recently returned to Murphy High School to present mementoes from her second mission, to speak to students, and to plant several oak trees donated by Dr. Bernard Eichold.

Kay’s award was accepted by her classmate Paula Ingram Kiszla.
Andrew “Andy” Hubbard Diamond, 1937 (1921-2000)

Andy Diamond was active in four areas at Murphy High School: Parking space monitor (1), library assistant (2,3), Kodak club (photography 3,4), and the Torch Club(1)

After graduation, Andy went to work in business supporting the shipping industry, eventually rising to be President of Marine Specialty Supply Company. Diamond was a faithful member in the Grace Lutheran Church community and served in numerous roles, and was also on the board of directors for Camp Dixie Lutheran Church Camp.

Andy’s love of his hometown was seen in his active civic life. Diamond was deeply involved in the Mobile Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees)-member and president. He served as the Azalea Trail president, earning the M. O. Beale Scroll of Merit for his work.

His exceptional talent was in producing events. When with the Jaycees, he was producer of the 1956 Azalea Trail pageant at Ladd where thirty-seven thousand people attended.

He worked alongside fellow Mobilian Jimmie Morris producing Senior Bowl Halftime shows and again earned M. O. Beale Scroll of Merit for the 1961 production spectacle celebrating Mobile’s 250th anniversary.

Perhaps Diamond’s greatest contribution to Mobile was his work with the America’s Junior Miss Pageant, now Distinguished Young Women. Andy was one of the five original founders and was producer of the first 1958 pageant for what has become “the largest and oldest national scholarship program for high school girls." It has provided life-changing experiences for more than 730,000 young women across the country and more than $100 million in cash scholarships at the local, state and national levels. In addition to cash scholarships, Distinguished Young Women participants are eligible for college-granted scholarships from almost 200 colleges and universities. More than $365 million in college scholarship opportunities were provided last year, some of which included full tuition, room, and board to first-class institutions.”

His experience with AJM led to his being asked to produce state pageants in Virginia and California. He also produced the nationally televised 10 Outstanding Young Men of America's Congress.

Closer to home, he also produced Mobile’s US Bicentennial Independence Day celebration. Andrew “Andy” Hubbard Diamond loved his home city, and used his producing talents to the development and promotion of its signature events. He made Mobile a better place. Award was received by daughters Andrea Barbour and Sylvia Gray.

Sherrell Beverly Hoffman, 1956 (1938-2008)

Sherrell Beverly Hoffman’s life was fully foreshadowed by her activities while at Murphy. She served as a monitor, was on the Hi-Times staff, and was a member of numerous clubs: the Spanish Club, Riding Club (loved horses, riding at Braswell Stables and in Mardi Gras parades), the Junior Speakers Bureau, and National Honor Society. Then there were the theater related ones-the 4 Arts Club, Troupers, and Special Chorus, (operetta).

She performed in plays her junior and senior years, and credited Lois Jean Delaney and the theatre training as the great base for her later career. Sherrell also was active in Joe Jefferson Playhouse.

Hoffman graduated from Newcomb College (Drama), and moved to NYC to pursue a career in television. Not footlights but backstage was her area of interest. Her first job was answering fan mail for The Garry Moore Show. She stayed with Garry Moore until GMS cancelled, and then moved with Carol Burnett to The Entertainers. When Carol Burnett went to the west coast, Hoffman moved to The Jimmy Dean Show as
Joy Donaldson, 1960 (1942-2010)

Dr. Joy Donaldson, class of 1960, was an active member of the Murphy student body, setting a pattern that would play repeatedly throughout her life. Joy was a cheerleader, part of the Student Government, and a member of the National Honor Society.

After her graduation, she attended the University of Alabama (B. Ed.), the University of New Orleans (M.Ed.), and the University of Kentucky (Ph.D. in Education/Special Education). She taught at the University of Louisville, where she focused on her passion—teaching others to help and stand up for those who were mentally disabled. This passion was born in her relationship with her cousin Chuck, who had Mosaic Downs Syndrome. She devoted her career to changing the prevalent attitudes toward similar individuals regarding their education and living. Her commitment to helping that population even led her to become the legal guardian of an elderly lady who had long lived in an antiquated institution. She helped her move into the community, and supported her through the adjustments and through medical challenges.

Joy showed her commitment to her passion in her civic activities as well. She was board member and president of The Council for Developmental Disabilities, and a founding member of Louisville Diversified Service, a human services organization (now ZOOM).

Her service to the community was recognized by her being awarded the Cedar Lake Lodge Jericho Friend Award in 1994 (CLL is an organization that improves the Quality of life for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities), and her recognition in 1978 as one of 10 outstanding contributors in the preceding 25 years to the field of mental retardation in Kentucky. She also volunteered support for AIDS sufferers in the early years when it was a frightening, poorly understood disease.

Ill health caused Joy to have to retire from her demanding vocation, and as she was confined to bed, she chose to pursue her dream of being an artist and opened a gallery, Sister Dragonfly, which featured her jewelry, painting, and ceramics.

In 2000, she moved to Mentone, AL, where she quickly became an integral part of community life in the small town. She drew on her Native American heritage, becoming an elder who could counsel and guide younger people and she once again showed her commitment to the disabled, befriending a citizen with Downs Syndrome. She had the idea of a community center in Mentone where people could gather to share art, music, and history; and this idea came to be a reality, but not one Joy saw. In 2001, she suffered another health crisis, a rare cancer that would ultimately claim her life.

Joy Donaldson’s life-long and all-encompassing devotion to those with special needs and those who were on the margins of society has earned her induction into the Murphy High School Hall of Fame. Joy’s sister, Sheri Estes, received her award.

Bubba Brewton began Murphy High School in 1958 and led both in clubs and on the field. He was representative to the Hi-Times staff, 10th through 12th grade; held two positions in the Youth Appreciation Weeks (Tax Collector and probate judge). In sports, Bubba was cheerleader and Letterman in pole vaulting and cross country, earning membership in the M Club his senior year. He was also treasurer of the Spike Shoe Club as a senior. Along with all this, he was also president of his fraternity, Phi Sigma Chi. A remarkable fact mentioned in his nomination essay, Brewton had Perfect Attendance for all 12 years of school.

Brewton began the University of Alabama in 1961, where his record of involvement was repeated: he was a member of Debate Club, a fraternity, and the Young Republican Club. Bubba ran Cross Country track, was a cheerleader for four years and earned a B.S. degree.

Post graduation Bubba formed forces with Scott Paper Company. After enlisting in the Naval Reserve in 1966, Brewton was accepted into Officer’s Candidate School, and subsequently accepted as member of the SEAL team in the United States Navy.

Bubba was called to active duty in Vietnam as Platoon Officer of his team and was severely wounded on his second tour. His conduct on that day was remarkable: he was wounded in arms and back, yet he refused treatment for himself and saw the men from his team were tended first; he was wounded again, but still directed helicopter attacks, completing the action assignment. Bubba was then evacuated after action to Saigon field hospital where he became acquainted with Admiral Zumwalt, who visited with Brewton daily. Bubba died from wounds on January 11, 1970. Admiral Zumwalt, impressed by the courage and determination shown by Bubba, recommended a US destroyer be named in Brewton’s honor. USS Brewton was christened in New Orleans, LA by Admiral Zumwalt and his wife. The destroyer was commissioned in Los Angeles in 1972 and assigned to the Pearl Harbor fleet. The Brewton fired the first shot of the Gulf War. After she was decommissioned, she was leased to Taiwanese Navy and is still in service.

Posthumously promoted from LTjg. to Lt. of the US Navy, Brewton was awarded the Silver Star for “valiant leadership and courageous fighting spirit in the face of grave enemy opposition and serious personal injuries.” He also received the Bronze Star with one gold Star and combat V, Purple Heart with 1 gold star. His outstanding performance was also recognized by Vietnam, which awarded him the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Bubba’s service in Vietnam has been remembered in stand-alone chapters in two books about the Navy SEAL team. His award was accepted by his twin brother H.E. Brewton.
The Murphy Class of 1962 donated $2,000 to the Murphy Alumni Association, Inc. This was a gift from the class reunion fund and may be used for the restoration of Murphy.

In appreciation of her service to the Murphy Alumni Association as President, 2012-2014, Carmen Kearley was presented an award by Ryan McKee.

Jim Lichtenberger, director; Hannah Murrill, violin; Christian Williams, viola; George Basset, cello

Billy Bedsole visits with Jeremy Weaver, head of culinary department.

Donaldson Family

Diamond Family

Hoffman Friends

Bedsole Family

Brewton’s Class of 1961

Stone Family

Pat Downing & Col. Eubanks

John Tyson and wife Beth

Jim Busby & Brandi Lindsey

John Tyson and wife Beth

Jim Busby & Brandi Lindsey

Pat Downing & Col. Eubanks
The MAA held its annual luncheon meeting at Roshell’s Café & Deli on Sunday, March 30, 2014. New officers were elected and the year’s accomplishments and financial report was presented. Joining the board as members-at-large are Lucille Badger ‘64, Connie McLean ‘62, and Judson Fidler ‘61.

Head coach, Timothy Waller, appeals for your sponsorship of summer camps and clinics for the basketball team during the month of June. All donations are tax deductible, ID #63-600-74. Their goal is to boost the "Panthers" back to state prominence! View murphyalumni.org and mhspanthers.com web sites for more information on how you can help or contact Coach, 251-622-8317, towaller@mcpss.com.
Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ________________ Zip ________________

Home Phone ______________________ Work Phone ________________ Cell Phone ________________

_____ 2012-13 YEAR GRADUATE Receives Newsletter, FREE

_____ PANTHER LEVEL Receives Newsletter & Alumni Certificate, $25 INDIVIDUAL or $35 COUPLE

_____ BLUE LEVEL Receives Newsletter, Certificate, & Alumni Lapel Pin, $50 INDIVIDUAL

_____ GOLD LEVEL Receives Newsletter, Certificate, Alumni Lapel Pin, & Alumni Paperweight, $100 INDIVIDUAL

_____ TOWER LEVEL Receives Newsletter, Certificate, Alumni Lapel Pin, Paperweight, & One Memorial Brick, $250 INDIVIDUAL

_____ I wish to order: MEMORIAL BRICK. $50 (up to 3 lines) (18 characters per line)

_____ I wish to order: RESTORATION PLAQUE. $100 (up to 3 lines) (18 characters per line)

_____ I wish to order: TREE FUND PLAQUE. $100 Acorn Level, $500 Sapling Level, $1000 Mighty Oak Level

_____ I wish to send a GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO THE PERSON NAMED ABOVE.
( I will notify the alumni or friend my gift has been donated. I understand the Alumni Association will not notify the person of my gift.)

For more information contact Marion Stille, 251-665-0509.

Forms for bricks, restoration, and tree fund will be sent to the above address.