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# The Forrest Alumni Newsletter

## June 2008

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### A Note from the President:

Hello Fellow Alumni,

2008 is just flying by! It is almost time for our alumni reunion. When I was younger, I remember people saying, “the older you get the faster time goes.” I did not fully appreciate that statement then, but certainly do now. I want to take a moment to thank Joe Allen and Ralph Osteen for their years of service to the alumni association. Both have served as presidents and have been instrumental in “taking care” of the scholarship fund for many years. Thanks A Bunch Guys!! Phil Comstock and Marion Joyce are “learning the ropes” and we appreciate the great job they are doing for the association.

We are continuing to try and preserve the history of FHS. At this time we are re-glassing the composite senior picture of the class of 1982, reworking the 1983 composite, and creating a composite picture of the class of 1986. Sheila Harber continues to oversee this ongoing project. More trophies were discovered stored in the new gym and we hope to have them in the trophy cases by reunion time. We have purchased a 2008 yearbook for our archives—if any of you would like to donate older copies, please contact historian Beth Chunn. Since my mother’s death in March, I have rediscovered many pictures and items that I have given to our historian. I hope you will consider sharing some of your treasures with the association as well. I would like to take this time to thank all of you for the many acts of kindness expressed during the loss of my mother. Our family is very grateful for your love and support.

Our annual reunion banquet will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2008 in the Forrest cafeteria. Fellowship will begin at 3:00pm and our meal will be at 6:00pm. Vice-president John Rickman has as entertainment John Frost, Sr. and his band Simply Black and White. A reservation form is in the back of this newsletter. Send yours in NOW!!!! We will be honoring the classes of 1958 and 1983 this year.

In closing, I want to thank all those who serve on the executive council. Special thanks to Brenda Brown for getting our newsletter together. Remember to visit our alumni website [www.forrestalumni.com](http://www.forrestalumni.com) –check out the reunion pictures from '07 and plan to make some new memories with us on July 26.

Forrest Alumni Executive Council Contact Information

- President—Katie Harris—931-364-7330
- Vice-President—John Rickman—931-857-3649
- Recording Secretary—Elaine Hayes—615-646-3817
- Treasurer—Ricky Sweeney—931-364-7156
- Corresponding Sec.—Mary Etta Pratt—615-794-8335
- Historian—Beth Chunn—931-364-2604
- Scholarship Chairman—Phil Comstock—931-359-7879
- Scholarship Treasurer—Marion Joyce—931-364-2212

Go Big Blue,  
 Katie Harris  
 Class of 1972  
 931-364-7330  
[KH14@united.net](mailto:KH14@united.net)

Webmaster—Jason Curtis—931-364-2243  
Newsletter Chair/Past Pres.—Brenda Brown—931-364-7688  
Social Committee Chair—Ann Winningham—931-364-7647  
Publicity Chair—Becky Delk—931-364-7074  
Service Chair—Sheila Harber—931-364-2207

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**A Note from the Vice-president:**

The after-dinner entertainment this year is a group called "Simply Black and White" [www.simplyblackandwhite.com](http://www.simplyblackandwhite.com). Johnny Frost of Eagleville is a key member of this group and a cousin to Forrest graduate Donna Ralston Preismeyer, Class of '69. He began his career singing with the Frost Brothers Quartet and later joined the Four Guys on the Grand Ole Opry. He will speak to us briefly at our meeting, and then the group will perform some of their best stuff in the auditorium afterwards. They do a lot of oldies but goodies.

*Johnny Rickman*

Vice-president

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**A Note from the Scholarship Chairman:**

This year four of the college- bound seniors applied for the Alumni Scholarship Awards. They are (in no certain order) Caitlin Fagan, Margaret Bishop, Kensie Mckee and Micah Phifer. Caitlin is the daughter of Ricky Fagan and Amy Fagan. Margaret's parents are Mike and Betsy Bishop. Kensie is the daughter of Kenneth and Macie McKee, and Micah is the son of Roger and Brenda Phifer.

The first award of \$1,000 is given from the Orr family, the second \$1,000 award is given from the Hill family and two additional \$1,000 awards were made available from investments of the scholarship fund.

Congratulations to these four deserving students and good luck in the future!

Would you like to have your family or family member honored with an award in his or her name? Contact Marion Joyce or Phil Comstock with the Forrest Alumni Scholarship Fund Committee.

*Phil Comstock*

Scholarship Committee Chair

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**A Note from the Historian:**

A Spirit of Community

Sometime around 1943 community canneries were awarded to fifty communities in Tennessee by the United States government. Among the fifty winners, Chapel Hill received a sausage grinder, a sealer, a canner, a dehydrating plant, and other miscellaneous equipment but was required to provide a building to house the equipment.

The December 13, 1943 issue of the school paper, The Wizard, contained an article entitled "Chapel Hill Receives Cannery; Box Supper Helps on Building" that reported Forrest students along with the P.T.A. held a box supper to raise funds for the building. While this article was interesting it was another article alongside this one that quickly caught my attention.

I believe that the following article printed in its entirety exemplifies a sense of community spirit held by the students of that day. The students' pride and belief that they could make a difference in their community and in their world is a tribute to the parents and teachers of those students. The "greatest generation" is often seen as a group somewhere 'out there' when in reality they were found in the confines of Forrest School.

"F.H.S. Students Go Cotton Picking"

On Friday morning, November 12th, ninety-three F.H.S. students and teachers fished out overalls, old sweaters and shoes so they would be prepared for whatever they met. What they met were acres of cotton as the students and teachers of F.H.S. had promised to pick cotton, which would otherwise have been destroyed in the bombing area. The money received is to help provide a building to house a community cannery given by the government to the Chapel Hill community.

The first bus of students got there about 8:30 and started picking cotton. The other two bus loads came on a little later.

By 11 o'clock the first three patches were picked out and we were ready for another ride on further into the bombing area and another field of cotton.

When Mr. Scott's bus got there with lunch, everybody was ready to eat a mile a minute. We picked out two more patches in the afternoon and were ready to leave the bombing range behind by 5 o'clock. We had 4,970 pounds of cotton to our credit.

On November 23, we started for another day of cotton picking. Back in the bombing area we went, to come out again that afternoon with 4,260 pounds of cotton. The total receipt for the first day was \$410.03 and the second day \$340.80. Our total was \$750.83 with approximately \$500.00 clear to put on the building for the cannery.

*Beth Chunn*

*Historian*

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## A Note From the Webmaster

Greetings, Forrest Alumni members! If you have not had an opportunity to check out our alumni website, I certainly encourage you to do so soon – the web address is <http://www.forrestalumni.com>. I recently reviewed several website usage reports for our site and am happy to announce that 2007 was our best year yet for the alumni website! With over 5,000 page requests coming from you and others on the Internet, I believe that the website is serving our association well. If you so choose to visit the site, you will find a variety of items, unique to Forrest School alumni, that will provide you with everything from alumni banquet pictures to membership forms for joining the association. The site has been intentionally kept simple in design to successfully aid our alumni members in finding the information they desire; however, website design and content ideas are always appreciated and are certainly encouraged. If you have any ideas for items you would like to see placed on the site, please e-mail me at either [jtcurtis1984@msn.com](mailto:jtcurtis1984@msn.com) or [jasoncurtis@forrestalumni.com](mailto:jasoncurtis@forrestalumni.com). Help us make 2008 a banner year for website trafficking and usage; check out [www.forrestalumni.com](http://www.forrestalumni.com) today!

*Jason Curtis*  
*Webmaster*

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## Spotlight on Our Schools

### From Forrest -

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The 2007-2008 school year has been very busy at Forrest School. First of all, all "No Child Left Behind" standards have been met at Forrest School. The students, faculty, and staff have worked hard to achieve this goal.

Next, a seven million dollar building expansion was completed and in August, the middle school students and teachers moved into their new classrooms. This move enabled the high school students and teachers to utilize what had previously been the middle school area. Since the current school enrollment is over nine hundred, the additional space was not only needed but quickly absorbed!

Homecoming night was especially exciting this year because the Forrest Rockets took the field for the first time in the new football stadium. The field, concession area, stands, and parking lot make up a beautiful complex. If you have not had the opportunity to see it, stop by anytime! The Forrest alumni are always welcome.

Sincerely,

*Mike Bishop*

## **Chapel Hill Elementary School Update**

Chapel Hill Elementary School along with the community of Chapel Hill continues its' growth. Although CHES transitioned back to a K-5 school this year, our enrollment is still holding steady at 749 students making CHES the largest elementary school in Marshall County. Every grade level has exceeded 100+ students. Being at maximum capacity with every classroom and portable utilized each day, building programs are being considered in order to alleviate the overflow of students.

CHES would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Stan Curtis as our new Director of Schools. Dr. Curtis, a former principal, came to us from Hampshire High School in Maury County. CHES has also welcomed many new faces to our faculty and staff this year. Eleven new faculty members and eleven new staff members joined the CHES family. The faculty members are as follows:

Mrs. Debbie Hileman, a former Forrest teacher, remained at Chapel Hill Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher.

Mrs. Sheila Holton, a former Forrest teacher, also remained at Chapel Hill Elementary School as a fifth grade teacher. Mrs. Holton is married to Mr. Tony Holton, a 1976 Forrest graduate.

- Mrs. Karen Boots Wells, a 1978 Forrest graduate, is a fourth grade teacher.
- Miss Holly Adams, a 2001 Forrest graduate, is our transition teacher.
- Miss Ashley Hobbs teaches fourth grade.
- Miss Jennifer Myer is our ELL teacher.
- Mr. Randy Gaskill teaches fourth grade.
- Mrs. Jessica Ezell Inlow, a 2001 Forrest graduate, teaches Physical Education.
- Miss Nicole Rotchford, a 2004 Forrest graduate, teaches second grade.
- Mrs. India Johnson teaches kindergarten.
- Mrs. Marsha Copeland Townsend, a 1990 Forrest graduate, returned to teach third grade.

The following support staff were added:

- Mrs. Angel Anderson, Assistant
- Mrs. Crystal Kincaid Darnell, 1997 Forrest graduate, Assistant

- Mrs. Pat Esmond, CDC Assistant
- Mrs. Linda Goodrich-Watts, Assistant
- Mrs. Angie Ferraro Helmick, 2000 Forrest graduate, Assistant
- Mrs. Stephanie Mayes, Assistant
- Mrs. Dawn Yelensky, Assistant
- Mrs. Robbie Wilson, School Nurse
- Mrs. April Charles, Cafeteria
- Mrs. Alison Proffitt, Cafeteria
- Laura Canfield, Cafeteria

Not only are the CHES faculty, staff, and students growing this year, but our CHES family continues to grow welcoming six new additions.

Congratulations to Mrs. Lori Harber and her husband Keith, a 1996 Forrest graduate, on the arrival of their daughter. Sadie Beth was born on September 24th weighing 6 pounds and 9 ounces.

Mrs. Melissa Daughrity McClaran, a 1994 Forrest graduate, and husband, Davy, the Forrest boys' basketball coach, welcomed Charles Owen on December 27th. Owen weighed 6 pounds and 9 ounces.

Mrs. Sherry Harber Strasser, a 1985 Forrest graduate, and husband Leo Strasser, also a 1985 Forrest graduate welcomed Adam Reed on February 2nd weighing 8 pounds.

Congratulations to Mrs. Cooper and husband Brian on the arrival of their son, Grant Thomas Cooper. Grant was born on March 5th weighing 8 pounds and 4 ounces.

Matthew Vinton Morgan was born on March 26th weighing 7 pounds and 13 ounces. His parents are Jaime and Danny Morgan, a Forrest teacher.

Mrs. India Johnson and her husband Ryan are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their baby girl, Shelby Caroline, on August 9th.

Special congratulations to a long time faculty member of CHES and Forrest School, Miss Katie Harris. Miss Katie Harris announced her retirement this year. Miss Harris, a 1972 Forrest graduate, began her teaching profession at Forrest School in 1977. She taught and coached at Forrest School until Chapel Hill Elementary School opened its doors in 1999. During her years at Forrest School, Miss Harris was the Jr. High Girls' Basketball Coach and Girls' High School Softball Coach. Miss Harris' involvement and accomplishments during her years as an educator and coach are numerous. Miss Harris started the Girls' Softball program at Forrest School in 1989 and led the softball girls to their first

appearance in the 1991 state tournament. Miss Harris has also been very involved in the Marshall County Education Association serving as President and a key member of the MCEA negotiating team. Her leadership, coaching, and influence upon the youth at Chapel Hill has been invaluable. Her dedication and hard work to the teaching profession makes all of us at CHES proud to call her our co-worker and friend.

**Congratulations and best wishes, Miss Harris!**

As always, Forrest Alumni are cordially invited to stop in for a visit, read a book, eat lunch with us, drop us a note, or visit us online. Our website features grade level news, school menus, a calendar of events, and a message from our principal, and links to various web sites including Forrest School. Our web site is [www.chapel-hill-es.marshall.k12ktn.us](http://www.chapel-hill-es.marshall.k12ktn.us). We would love to hear from you!

Events to look for in the upcoming 2008-2009 school year:

- § September: Grandparent's Day
- § October: Homecoming
- § October: Fall Festival
- § November: Turkey Supper  
Veteran's Day Ceremony
- § March: Read Across America

*Dawn Kirksey,*

First Grade Teacher  
Chapel Hill Elementary School

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**RACHEL RING STEPHENS - ARTWORK FOR AUCTION**

Beginning in 1998, a very talented and generous woman began offering her artwork for auction to benefit the scholarship fund. Through the years, Rachel Ring Stephens single handedly increased the scholarship fund by \$6, 000! Sadly, Rachel passed away in March of 2008. Her family is donating some final pieces of her art collection to be auctioned off at the July 26 reunion. The association is very grateful to Rachel and her family for once again helping to grow the scholarship fund. Thank you Rachel Ring Stephens for sharing your talent and yourself with us through the years. You will be missed!

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**CORD MCLEAN AWARDED ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY ABROAD**

Cord McLean, valedictorian of the Class 2005, is currently a junior at Rhodes College in Memphis. He is majoring in Anthropology/ Sociology with a minor in African American Studies. At Rhodes he has served as President of the Black Student Association, as a Peer Assistant to incoming first-year students, and as Volunteer Coordinator for PeaceJam. He has a 3.75 cumulative G.P.A. and was recently initiated into the Torch Chapter of Mortar Board. This summer, Cord has been offered the opportunity to study abroad in Arcadia University's 2008 Community Development Program in Cape Town, South Africa. While there, he will be taking a course in sociology on the conceptual issues around development, poverty, and power, as well as on the theories and practices of community development in the context of post-apartheid South Africa. The estimated cost for Cord's six week experience, including tuition, room and board, books, meals, local travel, roundtrip airfare, and student visa, is \$10,000.

At the May alumni executive meeting, the council voted to donate \$1,000 in scholarship to Cord's summer abroad experience. He is a most deserving young man and we are proud of him and his accomplishments. If you would like to make a private donation to Cord, it would be most appreciated. His home address is Cord McLean, 1344 Amberwood Court, Lewisburg, TN 37091.

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Following the death of Carl E. Harris, Class of 1950, Marion Joyce received the following note from his wife, thanking the association for the contributions made in his name.

*Thanks so much to the Forrest Alumni Association, in particular the classmates of my late husband Carl E. Harris - class of 1950, for the contributions in his name. I am honored that this was done as I heard Carl often speak fondly of his high school and grade school years. I have also heard Carl mention his family neighbors, the Worthams, and am glad you mentioned the bull and the apple tree incident. I hope your stay in the tree was not too lengthy.*

*Sincerely,  
Linda Harris  
11004 Shady Hollow Dr.  
Louisville, KY 40241  
Email: [prowite@iglou.com](mailto:prowite@iglou.com)*

*P.S. Any stories anyone might like to jot down about Carl and/or school days and send me, I would truly appreciate. He always remained a "country boy" at heart and appreciated his roots and hard working family.*

All inquiries concerning time spent in the apple tree must be sent to Marion!

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### **Spotlight on the Class of 2008**

Eighty-eight seniors marched into the Forrest Gymnasium to participate in the graduation ceremonies on Saturday morning, May 24th. Valedictorian Bethany Gamble spoke to the class about their years at Forrest. She reminded them of how supportive they have always been of one another and what a competitive class they have been. Not only have they been competitive, they have been successful. Members of the Class of 2008 can lay claim to being a part of four state championship teams: 2006 Girls Class Single A Basketball State Champions; 2006 Cheerleader State Champions; 2007 Small School Marching Band Competition State Champions ( Bethany Gamble was also selected as top field commander at the same competition); and 2008 Class Single A Softball State Champions! Quite an accomplishment!

With the softball championship, Gaby Bussell, who played catcher for the team, became the first athlete from Forrest to play on two state championship teams. Because the final game was played on the Saturday morning of graduation, Gaby missed graduating with her class. Instead she donned cap and gown and was awarded her diploma on the pitcher's mound after the championship game.

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### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

On July 9, 1988 over 100 devoted FHS alumni gathered to form the Forrest Alumni Association. The original formation committee consisted of former Forrest guidance counselor Brenda Bradford, Mary Rozell, Eddie Francis Kilpatrick, and Chris Gilbert. James Harold Jones was elected president at that first meeting and served until July 1994. Seven presidents and many competent executive officers later, we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of the alumni association. Thanks to those who got it off the ground, to those who sustained it through the years, and to those who will carry it into the future. Let's continue to show our class pride and tradition into the next 20 years and beyond.

### **HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS**

Have you turned 80 years of age? If so, you are eligible to become a lifetime member of the alumni association and will no longer be required to pay dues. Certificates of lifetime memberships will be given to these at the July 26 reunion: Elizabeth Whitehead Wood, Bessie Haynes Roberts, and Wayne Murdock. Please contact the alumni president if you need to be added to the list.

### **KNOWN ALUMNI DEATHS SINCE AUGUST 2007**

Nelda Cook, Larry Clay, Will Rickman, Don Wilson, Bernie Cromer, Buddy Cromer, Hazel Davis Holland, Bill White, Sr., Helen Smiley Verven, Donna Wilson Lamb, Embree Blackwell, Sr., Gene Griffin, Carl E. Harris, Kathryn Cooper Harris, Joe Smith, Rachel Ring Stephens, Alma Daughrity Mealer, Jean Rozell, Jean Reynolds, Alvin Caldwell, Annie Lee Tomlin, Albert Jones, Jane Ring Riner, Hubert Crick, and Ronnie Johnson.

These names were omitted from past newsletters as deceased alumni: Lucille Jernigan Campbell, Margaret Murdock Sharpe, and Bill Orr.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

The association extends special thanks to the following for continued financial sponsorship:  
Lawrence Funeral Home—Garrett and Kay Lawrence, Tommy and Jane Howell  
First State Bank—Mike and Nancy Moorehead  
Ronnie Stinson of Woodward and Stinson Printing in Columbia who generously printed the alumni flyers that were mailed out in January 2008

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The association is making plans for a fun-filled trivia night this fall to raise additional funds for the scholarship fund. Scholarship treasurer Marion Joyce is working out the details and hopefully will have a date by the July 26 banquet. Check the association website for updates—[www.forrestalumni.com](http://www.forrestalumni.com).

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**SPOTLIGHT—CLASS OF 1958**

President—Larry Evans Jones  
Vice-President—Margaret Lamb  
Secretary—Beth Trout  
Treasurer—Donelson Smith  
Reporter—Carole Robinson  
Valedictorian—Donelson Smith  
Salutatorian—Mary Johns Rickman

Senior Football Players: Charles Coble, Larry Leonard, Jimmy Orr, Donelson Smith, and Gerald Whaley

Senior Girl Basketball Players: Joyce Harris

Senior Boy Basketball Players: Neal Griggs and Gerald Whaley

Senior Cheerleaders: Joyce Harris, Beth Trout, Mary Johns Rickman, and Carole Robinson

**SPOTLIGHT—CLASS OF 1983**

President—Tammy Riggs  
Vice-President—Stacey Jordan  
Secretary—Sandra Wright  
Treasurer—Anzie Helmick  
Valedictorian—Tammy Riggs  
Salutatorian—Sandra Wright  
DAR Citizenship Award—Kim Mayes

Senior Football Players: Mike Corter, Phillip Copeland, and Marty Ghee

Senior Girl Basketball Players: Kim Todd, Brenda McCord, Stacey Jordan, and Tammy Petersen  
District 9A Champions!!

Senior Cheerleaders: Kim Haynes, Scarlett Cook, and Tammy Holcombe

Miss Forrest—Scarlett Cook  
Bachelor of Ugliness—Phillip Copeland

Please help us contact any members of the classes of 1958 and 1983 that we might not have a current address for and pass the word about the July 26 reunion!! A copy of this newsletter and other alumni information can be found at our website, [www.forrestalumni.com](http://www.forrestalumni.com).

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**Baccalaureate Services**

Dara Gentry Stephens, Valedictorian of the Class of 1990, was the speaker for the Forrest Baccalaureate Service on May 18th. Dara began her career as a chemical engineer after earning a degree from Georgia Tech, but she is currently teaching chemistry and physics at Mt. Juliet High School as part of Governor Bredesen's "Teach Tennessee" program.