

Spring/Summer 2012

*Out with the old...*

**GREENSBORO GRIMSLEY SR HIGH SCHOOL  
ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**

*...and in with the new!*

## Greensboro Grimsley Senior High School Alumni & Friends Association

### Your All Volunteer Board of Directors

For more information or to contact your Alumni Association board members, please use the emails listed below:

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[weaverp2@juno.com](mailto:weaverp2@juno.com)

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## FROM THE DESK OF *Phil Weaver*

Dear Friends of Grimsley:

The Annual Whirlie Walk was a success with netting over \$4800 after expenses. The Walk funds many of our smaller projects and has become an integral part of our multi-sourced educational funding campaign. We applaud the efforts of Roberta Rohan '83 who does a wonderful job each year in almost singlehandedly pulling off this event. Also, a special thanks to our sponsors, *Nike* and *NC GRAD Services*.

If you are like me, it's difficult remembering when it's time to make your annual contribution to the association. To encourage timely giving and assist with our annual fund budgets, your Board of Directors has enacted a plan to have an annual due date for membership contributions. We suggest a minimum annual donation of \$25 to cover the cost of member communications and allow for a meaningful contribution to our educational fund.

June 30<sup>th</sup> has been selected as the cutoff date for annual contributions. We do not want to diminish the importance of the Normandy invasion in 1944 but have decided that the annual recognition of the real D-Day could also easily remind members of "Donation Day" for the organization. The fundraising committee is working on plans for a tiered structure for memberships but we still want all donors, regardless of the amount they give, to be members. You can mail your donation using the attached preaddressed envelope or use our secure PayPal account online.

Our campaign to raise funds for the preservation of the auditorium should begin soon after you receive this newsletter. The committee has been working hard to prepare a presentation and is completing the details of how the campaign will proceed. Anything you can contribute to this effort will be useful.

The Scholarship Committee has concluded its interviews and recipients have been announced. Rumors abound proclaiming the decline of public education but to meet these students is to have one's faith in Grimsley High School and its students' accomplishments reaffirmed. I think those of us who attended college will attest to the level of academic preparation we received from our high school. Those same results are still being realized at Grimsley. I offer special thanks to the Class of 1956 which has funded a scholarship every year since 2006, Dr. Margaret Szott who funds the Melvin Coleman Memorial Scholarship, the friends and family of Lester Gross, Jr who fund the Lester Gross Memorial Scholarship, and to Will Curtis '09 who established the Lee Guard Memorial Scholarship.

I sometimes feel like a broken record as I continue to talk of donations and how our monies are spent, but I feel it's important for all our alumni members to be aware of our financial responsibility. I would also like to reiterate the fact that none of our Board of Directors receives any compensation for the tireless hours they spend not only assisting the students and teachers at Grimsley but for also helping to keep all of you, our alumni members, connected. Our Board of Directors hopes you will take time to make suggestions as to other things we could be doing for you.

## Grimsley Graduate Beverly McIver '81 the Subject of HBO Documentary *Raising Renee*

Beverly McIver lays something heavy on you in the opening minute of *Raising Renee*, a film about her family, her painting and the lines of force that cross between them. It's an uncomfortable truth that McIver tells, squirming a bit onscreen, begging the question "Why?"



Self Portrait

Directors Jeanne Jordan and Steven Ascher deny you a direct answer to that question. Instead, the rest of this documentary about McIver taking in her developmentally disabled older sister Renee serves as an appropriately complex explanation of that truth, something more than a mere articulation could handle.

McIver lives in Durham and teaches art at North Carolina Central University. She was born in Greensboro just after the lunch counter sit-ins, and the murder of five anti-KKK protesters happened in front of her house in the projects when she was 17. She's now a nationally known painter, having had solo shows throughout the country. The North Carolina Museum of Art hosted a retrospective of McIver's work this past December.

*Raising Renee* begins as McIver's career is just taking off with her first New York solo show in 2003. Her mother Ethel fell gravely ill with cancer back in Greensboro, which brought up the question: When Mom passes away, who will take care of Renee? Mom asked Beverly to take Renee in, and Beverly said yes because she could hardly say no. But she was immediately overwhelmed, thinking about how she would bring her sister—who developmentally is akin to a third grader—into her home in Phoenix, and how her life as a painter and university professor could continue with this responsibility.

Jordan and Ascher were there to chronicle Renee's move and Beverly's struggle to accommodate her in her life, while also grieving their mother. As she narrates family memories, we see footage of Ethel hanging clothes and Renee making potholders intercut with Beverly's paintings of these scenes. The effect is of a visual stilling of mother and sister to a partially abstracted composition. There's both a pleasure and a coldness to the aesthetic transformation.

McIver's style imprints on your eye after just one painting. Based on snapshots that she projects, outlines and alters as she fills, her paintings are portraits of the people and places in her life. McIver's masterful technique and color choices make the paintings seem deceptively simple. Her art lies in her ability to render a photographically coherent overall image from decisive brushstrokes that retain their color integrity on the canvas. The closer your nose gets to the canvas, the more they go abstract.

But in life, the closer you get to emotions, memories and people, the more real they become. Sitting down to lunch with Renee after working in the studio, Beverly is clearly still in painting mode. She sighs and rolls her eyes at the camera in a mixture of frustration, amusement and perhaps even shame as she chastises Renee for forgetting to put drinks or napkins on the table. It's a tense, yet mundane moment.

*Raising Renee* takes us through their five years together, including a move back to North Carolina, eventually arriving at a triumphant—but also kind of lonely—place when Renee gets her own apartment in Greensboro. Along the way, we see Beverly come to better understand her painting through her life with Renee, and better understand herself and her family through her art. Honesty proves to be the medium in which McIver works, not paint, in the same way that a camera never lies.



Beverly as a Grimsley Senior

Story written by Chris Vitello and reproduced from [www.indyweek.com](http://www.indyweek.com).

# Academics

Your generous donations to the Alumni Association help to pay for three or four scholarships to assist graduates that are seeking a higher level of education. Additionally, your Board also oversees the application and awarding of several other privately funded scholarships. Here are the scholarships and recipients for the school year ending 2012.



**Roxanne Henshall**  
UNC-CH

Dr. Richard Andringa Alumni Assoc Scholarship \$2000



**Robert Whiting**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
John Atkinson Alumni Assoc Scholarship \$2000



**Alec Rotounda**  
Davidson University  
Alumni and Friends Assoc Scholarship \$2000



**Mitchell Lewis**  
NC State University  
Class of 1956 Scholarship \$1000



**Natalie Harris**  
UNC-CH  
Melvin G. Coleman Memorial Scholarship \$1000



**Gray Johnston**  
UNC-CH  
Lester Gross '76 Memorial Scholarship \$1000



**Brianna Tate**  
Appalachian State University



**Vikram Sethuraman**  
UNC-CH

each received the  
Lee Guard Memorial Scholarship \$500

Greetings to you from the Herbert R. Hazelman building! The school year was one of great accomplishment and continued musical excellence as we come off a string of successful programs.

Vocal Music enjoyed another year of new and exciting programs, including two new a cappella choirs and a special partnership with music education majors from UNCG. The Madrigal Singers wrapped up their 44th anniversary season that included the annual performance at the Carolina Renaissance Festival, our caroling series "Carols and Cocoa", and a tour of Chicago where they performed on Armour Stage at the world-class Symphony Center. This spring the vocal music department continued to focus on contemporary a cappella music, with an added focus on individual performance opportunities. Student accolades this year include the selection of junior Madrigal member Paul Rich to the North Carolina Honors Chorus, and junior member Susanna Trotter to the North Carolina Governor's School in Choral Music. The Madrigals returned to Biltmore House in November, along with a host of other public performances. Please visit [www.ghsvm.com](http://www.ghsvm.com) to find a performance near you.

In instrumental news, the orchestra program at GHS upheld its standard of excellence by once again achieving a superior rating at the NCMEA Festival in Charlotte. Five orchestra students were selected through competitive audition to participate in the North Carolina Honors All State Orchestra in Winston-Salem in November – the highest honor possible for high school string players in North Carolina. Most schools are lucky to have one student selected, let alone five! 13 orchestra students were selected to participate in the NCMEA Western Regional All State Orchestra in Boone. Unfortunately this event was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions in the mountains. Congratulations to Ms. Green Stimpson and her students for these tremendous achievements! The orchestra program also had an excellent student teacher from UNCG this year in Ms. Megan Morris.



1965 Choir Rehearsal

Our bands have remained diligent in delivering exceptional performances on campus and around town. Whether the marching band at a football game half time show, the drum line in a parade, the jazz band gigging out, or the concert bands on stage in Chance-Cousins auditorium, the Band Department serves Grimsley High School in outstanding fashion. The marching band was very excited to receive new uniforms this year. These handsome new uniforms combine classic and contemporary elements and look stunning on the field! The old uniforms have been made into keepsake pillows which can be purchased through the GHS main office or the band boosters.

Once again the entire music department collaborated to present our annual Concerto Night extravaganza. This year's Concerto Night featured a Bach Concerto for Two Violins, Jorge Sarmientos' Concerto for Marimba, and Handel's Coronation Anthem #1, commonly known as Zadok the Priest. The music department had two other major collaborations this year, the first being a holiday assembly presentation for the entire student body in December and our annual Recital Night in February.

All alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend music department concerts on campus and in the community. If you have any questions or would like to support or get involved in music at Grimsley in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me, Marshall Johnson, by email at [sing@ghsvm.com](mailto:sing@ghsvm.com) or call the school and leave a message. We could not possibly maintain these traditions without your generous support!

# Athletics

This spring at GHS, the big story around here deals with facilities. Over the past few months, we have seen improvements in our athletic facilities and ground has been broken on a new cafeteria. When I first attended Grimsley back in the fall of 1975, the New Science Building was actually NEW! In my 29 years teaching here, I have seen improvements to the campus in the double deck walkways, the elevators, the air conditioning, improvements in Jamieson Stadium and the baseball field. What we have seen over the past 6 months with regard to athletics is the biggest story for our athletic program in a generation. And with improvements to the Sawyer Gym this summer, we will once again have what I consider the finest on-campus high school facilities in North Carolina!

As witnessed on the front of this newsletter, we have a new track! Located behind the tennis courts, this new track will offer our track and field programs a first class facility in which to train and perform. In addition, it has provided an excellent practice field for women's soccer this spring. You can see construction as you pass on Benjamin Parkway, and especially as you move up Campus Drive, you can see how nicely the new track blends in. The shot and discus screens are up as well and the final touches will be put on the surface as the weather warms up.

Above Jamieson Stadium, we now have a true Baseball / Softball facility. The new softball field is a great addition to the area between Grimsley and Kiser. The field is already in use and really gives Grimsley a signature facility that many other schools have enjoyed for many seasons. When you combine that with the new restroom facilities on the west side of Jamieson Stadium, we now have a facility that can be a source of pride for us and a facility worthy of respect from our visitors. Given the rich history that includes state championships in track and softball, the stage is set for the next generation of Whirlies to put their marks in the record books.

While the facilities improvement is a huge story for us, our greatest athletic achievement of the year has to be our State Champion Women's Tennis Team! Coach Karyn Collie had a super group of young women who really came together and provided dominant performances last fall. Time for another banner in the Sawyer Gym!!

Have a great summer and I hope to see you at some of our games, meets and matches during the year!

Coach Joe Franks '78





## New Cafeteria

If you've driven by Grimsley and noticed the construction at the corner of Westover Terrace and Benjamin Parkway, then you've seen the groundwork being laid for our new cafeteria, the rendering of which is above. A third lane from the intersection heading northwest on Benjamin Parkway will turn behind the new cafeteria, merging with the existing road that weaves through the campus to Campus Drive. Curbing has been poured for additional parking on the south end of the campus behind the New Science building. The old cafeteria will be converted into classrooms. Did you ever have a class above the cafeteria around lunchtime? Some days the aroma was good, and others it was.... well, not so good.



### Class of '52

October 5, 2012

For information contact  
Bob Laughon at 614-861-0490 or  
[blaughon@compuserve.com](mailto:blaughon@compuserve.com).

### Class of '63

September 27-28, 2013

Proximity Hotel  
For information contact Candy Bernard  
at [rcbbanker@aol.com](mailto:rcbbanker@aol.com) with the  
subject line as "1963 reunion".

### Class of '72

September 28-29, 2012

Carolina Theater  
For information visit the  
website [www.grimsley72.com](http://www.grimsley72.com)

### Class of '82

September 28-29, 2012

For information visit the whirlies  
website at [www.whirlies.com](http://www.whirlies.com)

### Class of '85

(two years late but they say this class has  
always been a bit unconventional)

September 28-30, 2012

For information contact Lisa Freiberg Dion  
at [lisa.dion@live.com](mailto:lisa.dion@live.com)

### Class of '87

September 28-29, 2012

For information contact Kim Wingfield  
Campbell at [kcampbell@triad.rr.com](mailto:kcampbell@triad.rr.com) or  
Keith Brown at [tarheez3@yahoo.com](mailto:tarheez3@yahoo.com)

If your class is planning a reunion in  
the next 18 months, please contact  
Mary Jane Beavers at 336.852.1038  
or by email [mjbeavers@aol.com](mailto:mjbeavers@aol.com)  
or [whirlies@triad.rr.com](mailto:whirlies@triad.rr.com). We will  
publish reunion information in the  
newsletter, on the alumni webpage  
([www.whirlies.com](http://www.whirlies.com)) and on our  
facebook page. We can also  
provide a listing of classmates  
and addresses for your reunion  
chairperson.



## Reunions



## ASK THE HISTORIAN

By Peter Byrd '74



### 50th Anniversary of Greensboro Senior High School Name Change

On July 1, 2012, an important milestone in the history of our school will occur: the 50th anniversary of the day in 1962 when Greensboro Senior High School's name officially became "Grimsley Senior High School." This change has long been acknowledged as resulting from complaints from some associated with Greensboro's Page Senior High, which opened in the fall of 1958.

As told to me by Mr. A. P. Routh, principal at the time of "Senior High School" (as GHS was generally referred to then), on Tuesday afternoon, January 16, 1962, he received without warning a telephone call from an official with the Greensboro City Schools who said, "Tonight, the school board is going to change the name of GHS. You have three hours to pick a new name for the school, or else the school board will assign one for you." Despite the great shock of this unexpected news, there was no time for delay. The policy of the school system at that time was to name schools for educators with local or state ties, which provided a helpful parameter, but what GHS officials wanted first and foremost was a name that started with a "G," allowing the school to maintain the initials "GHS" and thus provide some sense of continuity. George Adonijah Grimsley's name quickly surfaced in the list of former superintendents of the Greensboro Schools, and that was the name submitted to the board and approved that same evening.



George A. Grimsley  
circa 1910

It may be hard for Whirlies of more recent years to understand this, since the name "Grimsley" has come to represent the same traditions of excellence associated with the school since it was founded as "Greensboro" in 1899, but in 1962 the name change--made with no allowance for any real public discussion on the matter--brought on a firestorm of anger, frustration, and controversy that is still painful for those who were a part of GHS at the time. Lost in the midst of all the controversy was an appreciation of what a giant George A. Grimsley--who lived from 1862 to 1935--was, in both the fields of education and of business:

- in 1899, in his position as superintendent of the Greensboro Public Schools (in which role he served from 1890 to 1902), Grimsley founded Greensboro High School--one of the first public high schools in North Carolina--so he truly can be called the "Father of GHS." After he resigned as superintendent, Grimsley continued to support education locally for a number of years as the president of the Greensboro School Board.

- in 1897 he was the main catalyst for obtaining passage in the General Assembly of the act which provided for tax-supported public libraries in North Carolina, and in 1902 he led the movement which created the Greensboro Public Library.

- between 1901 and 1920, Grimsley helped organize three insurance companies, all of which he served as president: Security Life and Annuity, Jefferson Standard, and Security Life and Trust (later known as Integon), and he worked in this field until his death in 1935.

There was also an interesting personal connection of George Grimsley with some well-known GHS faculty and alumni: he was the great uncle of Eleanor Grimsley Jamieson, a long-time art teacher in Greensboro (including briefly at GHS) and the wife of 42-year GHS coach Bob Jamieson, and he was the great-great uncle of the Jamieson children: Barbara J. Kaylor '54, Bob Jamieson '60, and Ann J. Cavallito '64. Also of interest, one of George's sons, Harry Grimsley (GHS Class of 1908), served as GHS's football coach in 1911 and 1916. Finally, it is worth noting that the 1910 *Reflector*--the GHS yearbook prior to the *Whirligig*--was dedicated to George A. Grimsley for all his support of public education in Greensboro over many years, and it specifically mentions his founding our high school.

The more I have learned over the years about George Grimsley, the more convinced I have become that he was *exactly* the right person to name our school for, when the decision was made--outside of our control--to rename GHS. I am just so very thankful that Mr. Grimsley's last name began with a "G"!

## Give the Gift of an Outstanding Educational Experience

I've enclosed a donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for my annual membership in Greensboro Grimsley Sr High Alumni & Friends Assoc.

*I'd like to make this donation in memory or in honor of:*

*Their date of graduation* \_\_\_\_\_

To make a secure credit card payment, please visit [www.whirlies.com](http://www.whirlies.com)

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Please send accompanying forms if your employer will match your gift!

Please enclose this card and your donation, made out to GGAA, in the self-addressed envelope provided.  
Donations should be mailed to PO Box 4248, Greensboro, NC 27404

But fate ordains that dearest friends must part. ~ Edward Young

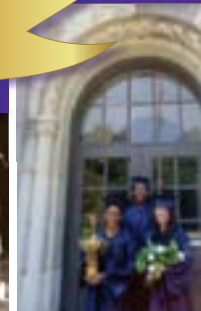
Annette Donavant Coltrane Fordham '29	5-02-12	Janis Noah Hartsook Stephens '55	12-27-11
Mary Carolyn Hines '33	2-27-12	Sara Jean Williams Hall '56	10-29-11
Dorothy Pearl Hamburger '35	2-09-12	Francine Morgan Cook '57	4-01-12
Chauncey "Chan" Lane '37	1-13-11	Joseph Hilliard Hensley, Sr. '57	5-02-12
Virginia Gabriel Lowe '37	3-30-12	Vera Dianne Covert '58	12-19-11
Lois Calhoun Cheek '38	4-06-11	Preston Earle '60	1-02-12
Frances Styers Perkins '39	4-29-12	Paul W. Kivett '61	3-08-12
Peggy O'Connell Wilson '41	3-18-12	Miles Brown, Sr. '63	12-30-12
Virginia Hunter Dockery McDermott '42	4-30-12	Donald (Cotton) Hartig, Jr. '65	1-31-12
Mary Frances Jones Burch '42	12-04-11	Allen Forsythe '71	12-14-11
Jean Lavinder Glenn '43	12-26-11	Carol Scarborough Jones '71	3-30-12
Robert B. Lloyd, Jr. '43	2-13-12	Bob Fine '74	1-31-12
Rose Kontoulas '44	1-11-12	Carlton Leroy Smith '75	11-08-11
Hoyt "Bud" Whitcomb '46	11-27-11	John Stanick '76	4-15-12
Magdalene Carter Seawell '49	12-07-11	Becky Silverstein Whetstone '82	4-21-12
Betsy Bishop Flynn '50	2-05-12	Patrick M. Goodwin '86	12-25-11
William Marshall Price '50	11-19-11	Suzette Davis O'Neal '86	11-27-11
Betty Medders Comer '52	11-14-11	Julia S. Doggett '00	3-10-12

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*Some Need Your Help to Maintain.*

*Please consider  
renewing your  
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### **Greensboro Grimsley Senior High School Alumni and Friends Association**

Amazing changes in education since you graduated! Your annual membership of \$25 will help us help Grimsley students and faculty, past and present, continue to "sing thy praise through all our days" through:

*Project Graduation* - contributing to "the (safe) place to be" activities following Graduation each year

*Alumni and Friends Newsletter* - been missing this? We have lots to brag about!

*Scholarships* - we contribute \$7,500 directly and administer five others, totaling \$3,500

*Auditorium Renovation* - our newest project - bringing ours into the 21th Century

*Educator Grants* - providing GHS teachers with funding for special projects

*Senior Tea* - co-sponsored by the Association, this tradition is unique to Grimsley

Please consider renewing your membership this June to: Greensboro Grimsley Senior High School Alumni and Friends Association

PO Box 4248 • Greensboro, NC 27404-4248 or renew online at [www.whirlies.com](http://www.whirlies.com). June is our renewal month.

Our Grimsley Traditions are important to us all. Your memories and support play a big part in continuing these. *Thank you always!*