

Vol. XLVI, No. 2
Summer 2025

College of Emporia NEWS

GREAT PROGRESS

BY: JIM BROOKS, A72

The summer heat is upon us, and this is the time of year when the Scholarship awards will be paid to this year's winners. Like the summer, the scholarship fund managed by the Emporia Community Foundation is on fire as well. The total contributions to the fund during this calendar year amounts to \$49,363. This is an amazing feat. You may recall that the previous newsletters have been urging the alumni to remember the scholarship program and do what you can to contribute as well. Many of you have heard the call and responded.

This year there were 12 applicants, and 5 were selected for the award. As usual, the applicants are from different parts of the country and have different life goals in mind. Reading their essays and anecdotes instills a sense of pride in our younger generation. Remember, the alumni association is diminishing as the years roll on, but the children related to us are thriving. Although an award of \$2,000 may not be a life changing amount, it does let our association get a sense of pride as we help young students work toward their life goals. Since the year 2020, 73 students have applied, with 25 winning the award. Looking over their applications, I noted that these students will be attending 18 different colleges located in various parts of our country. The award payments since then have amounted to \$50,000! Remember, we have no restrictions as to where they attend. These schools range from The College of William and Mary, Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts, the University of Nebraska, the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and even the Flint Hills Technical College in Kansas. The degrees sought range from technical skills to accounting, veterinary medicine, engineering, and medical doctors.

I hope your hearts are filled with pride as

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Editor's Column

I have a couple of different thoughts to share in this column. First of all, the number of Obits in this issue is record setting. This stems in part from a thorough audit of our mailing list and some assiduous digging by **Cynthia (Allen) Huisman, X73**, our Vice-President/Membership. I hope that you don't find this to be depressing. These obits, running over many issues of this newsletter, provide a rich panorama of the varied, interesting and valuable lives that those who attended or worked at C of E led. They enhance my pride in and understanding of the C of E legacy.

My other thought is about the success of our scholarship fund raising drive as chronicled on the front page of this issue by **Jim**

Brooks, A72. We have come a long way, but we haven't reached the finish line. We have set a goal of \$175,000 for this fund drive, which is intended to keep the scholarship program going long after your alumni association closes. Even if we reach the goal, more money may still be needed. Some fees from the Emporia Community Foundation and the potential of future economic problems that can lower the value of the investments in our fund are possible. So, we will continue to ask you to remember your alumni association's scholarship fund in your will. We appreciate it!

John Acomb, X64

NEWS

We were contacted by a relative looking for information about his aunt, **Frances McCormick, A23**. We learned that Frances, who never married, taught school in Concordia, KS after graduating from C of E. She eventually moved to Emporia where she

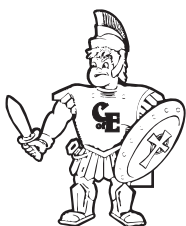
worked for an area building & loan for more than 25 years. She retired in 1972 and moved back to her childhood hometown of Minneapolis, KS. She died in 1976.

Chuck Augat, A71, reports that he is doing well. He remains in his successful role as President of Cape Cod Label Associates, specializing in labeling solutions and barcoding systems. He sends his regards to friends and classmates.

Chester Huff, A72, was recently honored by his hometown of Grand Rapids, MI, for 40 years of great service with the Grand Rapids Public School District, serving as teacher, coach and principal.

Keep Us Informed

Please send us news about yourself. We want to hear from you. E-mail John Acomb, newsletter editor, at jacomb2@mac.com or Cynthia Huisman at mrsdavidh@gmail.com.



Cover: Great Progress

you read this and feel that you have made all of this possible. Our small College of Emporia, in the beautiful Flint Hills of Kansas has, and will make a difference in a meaningful way as the years roll on. However, mentioned previously, in order to have a never-ending impact, the scholarship fund needs to have a corpus amount around \$175,000. This would make it possible to say our funds will last indefinitely. Currently, the ECF is holding a fund bal-

ance for our scholarships in the amount of \$126,032. Just think that is only \$49,000 short of a very noble goal.

Keep contributing as you can, remember the College of Emporia Scholarship Fund in your last wills and testaments, and keep the spirit of "C of E Fights!" alive!!!!

If you want to participate in this most satisfying endeavor, let me know. The committee intends to keep making the selections as long as we are able. Come join us!!

Distinguished Career

Carroll Newsom, A24, FF, had an interesting career. At C of E, he majored in Mathematics and Chemistry. At some point in his life, he became known as a mathematics prodigy. He was a founding member and Vice-President of the C of E Science Club, and he was inducted into the Athena Society.

After graduation, his teaching career began as a mathematics instructor at C of E. He then moved on to the University of Michigan (U of M) where he taught and earned an MA and a PhD. He became a professor there and served as head of the Mathematics Department from 1931 to 1944. A scholarship in Newsom's name was established in 1990 at U of M to support mathematics graduate students.

Subsequent to his tenure at U of M, he served as a professor and chair of the science division at Oberlin College. Then in 1948 he moved to the public sector, where he became Assistant Commissioner for Higher Education, then Associate Commissioner for Higher and Professional Education for New York State. In 1955 he was appointed executive vice-president of New York University (NYU). A year later he became the

10th NYU president. During his NYU tenure, Dr. Newsom was the speaker at the 1957 C of E graduation.

After 6 years at NYU, Dr. Newsom made another career move. He resigned from the presidency and accepted a position as senior vice-president of Prentice-Hall, one of America's major educational publishing companies. One year later, he was named as president of Prentice-Hall.

Throughout his career, he served on various boards, including NBC, the 1964 New York World's Fair, the American Geographical Society, Briarcliff College, the Guggenheim Foundation, the L. W. Singer Company, New York Institute of Technology and New College. He was chairman of the committee that created Educational TV, later to be renamed Public TV.

He authored 8 textbooks for college or military use. In addition, he wrote *A University President Speaks Out*, *Roots of Christianity and Problems are for Solving*, *An Autobiography*. Unhappily, all of his books are out of print, although a used copy of *Roots of Christianity* is for sale on Amazon.

Dr. Newsom passed away in his Ohio retirement dwelling in 1990.

Jacqueline (Wegg) Brittain, X46, of Topeka passed away March 29, 2024, at age 99. After C of E, Jacqueline embarked on a career as a secretary in the Topeka Public School District. 2 children, 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren survive her.

Marion (Steckel) Wullschieger, A48, of Fort Myers, FL, passed away November 18, 2024, at age 98. She and her attorney husband raised their children in various communities in Kansas, Michigan, Oklahoma and Nebraska. In each of the communities where they lived, she became active in church and community. She had three sons, 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Betty Jane (Roberts) Blex, A49, of Emporia died June 22, 2023, at age 96. After graduation from C of E, she earned a master's degree from Emporia State and then embarked on a junior and senior high school teaching career, mostly in Admire, KS. She taught about 1,000 students during her career. A daughter, 5 grandsons and a great-granddaughter survive her.

Velma (Hagadorn) Coleman, A50, of Muncie, IN, passed away October 21, 2024. After graduation, she taught high school home economics. Subsequently, after a move to Indiana, Velma earned a master's degree and accepted a position in the Director of Athletics office at Ball State University. 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren survive her.

William "Bill" Immenschuh, X50, of Salina, KS, died February 5, 2020, at age 89. He was a pharmacist. 4 children, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren survive him.

Joann (Walker) LaCerte, A50, of Olathe, KS, died October 15, 2020, at age 92. Joann had a sub-urb soprano singing voice. At C of E, her "soprano solos" in Handel's Oratorio received an extremely positive review in the Emporia Gazette. Also, at C of E, she sang in both the Women's Trio and the Mixed Quartet. Throughout her life she was a soloist and choir leader in churches she attended. In addition to her musical endeavors, Joann also taught middle school music and English. 3 sons and 2 grandsons survive her.

Maurine (Pierce) Gilbert, X51, of Dimondale, MI, passed away July 18, 2020, at age 92. She met and married her husband, **Gene Gilbert, X51**, at C of E. He predeceased her in 2006. After C of E Maurine completed her bachelor's degree at Marymount College and earned a master's degree from Central Michigan University. Both Maurine and Gene had long and successful careers teaching. They are survived by 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

Bartholomew (Bart) Johnson, X51, of Winsted, CT, passed away August 12, 2011, at age 83. He was a U.S. Army Korean era veteran. His subsequent employment was as quality control manager at Son Chief Electronics, where he had a 30-year career. In addition, he served for 20 years on the Board of Trustees of the Beardsley Memorial Library. His wife, 3 children and a granddaughter survived him.

Donald W. Kelly, A51, of Whittier, CA, died July 13, 2014, at age 86. At C of E, Donald, a U.S. Navy veteran, was captain of the track team and served as athletic trainer for the football team. The latter was a paid position, which covered his tuition and allowed him to finish at C of E after his G.I bill ran out. After graduation, he began a teaching and coaching career at Whittier High School, which lasted almost 60 years. 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and a great-grandson survive him. His wife predeceased him.

Leon R. McKusick, A51, of High Point, NC, passed away November 18, 2021, at age 91. At C of E, Leon's interest in music and theater led him to a part in Let's Make an Opera, the first performance in Kansas of a new musical drama. Acting in musical theater continued throughout his life. Some of his poetry was published. His career was in sales. His wife, 5 children and their families survive him.

Betty (Redfield) Rampy, X51, of Twin Bridges, MT, died July 21, 2023, at age 94. She and her husband were ranchers. 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren survive her. Her husband predeceased her.

D. Paul Burke, X52, of Long Beach, CA, passed away August 17, 2019, at age 91. He served in the U.S. Navy and then worked as a truck driver for 30 years. 5 children, 16 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren survive him. His wife and 2 sons predeceased him.

John W. "Doc" Forsberg, A52, of Whitefish, MT, died November 3, 2020, at age 90. After C of E, he served as a lieutenant in Naval intelligence in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He then went to veterinary school before beginning his veterinary career, first in Idaho and then in Montana. After retiring from veterinary service, he worked for 20 more years for the federal government supervising meat inspectors. His wife, 4 children, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren survive him.

Dale A. Searcy, X52, of Seattle, WA, died June 12, 2019, at age 87. Dale, a military veteran, worked 44 years as a part of Boeing's Supersonic Transport (SST) team. He also represented his employer buying and selling used air-

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Donate to College of Emporia Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

www.emporiacf.org/donate/c-of-e-scholarship-fund

College of Emporia Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

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Is this gift a memorial? _____ **If so, in whose memory?**_____

Is this gift to remain anonymous? _____

Donation Amount: _____

Please Make Checks Payable To “Emporia Community Foundation”

**Mail To: Emporia Community Foundation, 527 Commercial Street, Suite B,
Emporia, KS 66801**

This is the form and mailing address to use if you wish to mail in a check with your donation. If you wish to print the form at:

www.emporiacf.org/donate/c-of-e-scholarship-fund and send it with your check to the above address, you may do so.

craft around the world. He estimated that his global travels covered more than two million miles of air travel. 2 children and their families survive him.

Gene Bloxom, X53, of Emporia died July 30, 2021, at age 90. He was a U.S. Army veteran. He worked as an Independent Insurance Agent in Emporia for more than 40 years until his retirement. 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren survive him.

Evelyn (Huebner) Canfield, X53, of Hutchinson, KS, died July 15, 2008, at age 85. She worked as a bookkeeper/secretary for 17 years and then as church secretary at her Presbyterian church until retirement. She was active in her church and her community. A daughter, a stepson, 5 step-grandchildren, 14 step-great-grandchildren and 17 step-great-great grandchildren.

Pat (Valyer) Langford, X53, of Omaha, NE, died August 28, 2021, at age 90. 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren survive her. Her husband and a daughter predeceased her.

Cynthia (Acre) Ziegler, A53, of Thornton, CO, passed away April 26, 2025, at age 95. Subsequent to C of E, she earned a master's degree in library science from Emporia State, which she then put to use in a 22-year career as a librarian in a Topeka elementary school. 3 children, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren survive her.

William "Bill" Crosley, A54, of Pretty Prairie, KS, died March 3, 2017, at age 84. He was a teacher, principal and coach at Emporia, Tonovay, Vesper, Sylvan Grove, Troy and Pretty Prairie, all in Kansas. His wife, 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren survive him.

Shirley (Kirk) Homewood, A54, of Osage City, KS, died March 16, 2021, at age 88. After C of E, she earned a master's degree in Librarianship from Emporia State and then went to work as an elementary librarian in the Osage City Elementary School. 2 children survive her.

James (Ted) Walters, A54, of Topeka passed away December 20, 2020, at age 89. After C of E, he earned his master's degree at the University of Kansas. He then was employed in the Topeka School District for 38 years. Much of his tenure was as a principal of various schools. He served in the U. S. National Guard and Army Reserve. He retired in 1980 as a Lt. Colonel. He was married for 63 years to **Alice Pauline "Pat" (Mitchell) Walters, A54**, who in 2014 predeceased him. 3 children, 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren survive him.

Duk Sun (Park) Lyu, A55, of Fort Washington,

MD, died November 1, 2019, at age 93. After C of E, she earned a master's degree in Christian Education from McCormick Theological Seminary. Most of her life was devoted to dual careers. She was President of Palyki, Inc., an importer and exporter of chemicals and industrial equipment. At the same time, she had many major accomplishments within the Presbyterian Church, including serving as a commissioner to the General Assembly. She was a leader of projects for her Synod and was a speaker at various national conferences. 3 daughters and 5 grandsons survive her.

Patricia "Pat" (Gibson) Howard, X56, of Emporia died February 23, 2025, at age 90. Pat and her late husband owned and operated Crawford Furniture in Emporia for 57 years. 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren survive her.

Donald "Don" Blaylock, X57, of Emporia died July 11, 2024, at age 88. He and his wife owned and operated Blaylock's Restaurant near the Santa Fe Depot, Red Lion, Angela's, Mr. B's, Blaylock's Catering and the International Tourist Travel Agency. He also served as Club Manager at the Emporia Country Club and as Food Service Manager of Sierra Ski Ranch in Tahoe, CA. In addition, he served on the Planning and Zoning Board for 9 years, the City Commission for 2 years and was Mayor of Emporia for a year. His wife, 2 sons and a grandson survive him.

Dr. Ronald G. "Ron" Higgins, X59, of Wichita died April 15, 2025, at age 88. He was a dentist known for at times working for up to 60 hours a week. His wife, 4 children and 17 grandchildren and great-grandchildren survive him.

Patricia "Pat" (Pruitt) Dierks, A61, of Cottonwood, AZ, passed away February 7, 2025, at age 84. She met her husband, **Darrell Dierks, A61**, at C of E. After C of E, she earned a master's degree in psychology. Her career was in teaching and later as a school psychologist. In addition, she was an active volunteer in her church and community. She and her husband founded 3 food pantries, one of which continues, feeding hundreds of families weekly. Her husband, 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren survive her.

John J. Mah, A61, of Seattle, WA, passed away March 15, 2022, at age 87. After C of E, he earned a master's degree at NYU and launched a career in information technology, which began as a news desk editor for Time-Life Magazines and, after several interesting jobs, culminated in a long career as a computer analyst at Boeing. His wife, 3 children and 7 grandchildren survive him.

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Olivia (Medina) Moore, A64, of Council Grove, KS, passed away April 11, 2025, at age 83. She met her husband, **Eldon Moore, A64**, at C of E. After C of E, she earned a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado. She and Eldon began their teaching careers in Colorado and then moved to Kansas. There she was instrumental in starting her county's first preschool. A few years later, her school district tasked her with beginning a Title 1 preschool for children with special needs. Her multifaceted education career included reading instruction. She was named Outstanding Kansas Reading Educator by the Kansas Reading Association. Eldon and Olivia's sister, **Patricia (Medina) Swensen, A67**, predeceased her. 2 children and 5 grandchildren survive her.

Jo Anne (Hoellerich) Siebel, X64, of Wilmette, IL, passed away January 8, 2024, at age 81. She owned and operated a gift shop in Northbrook, IL, designed custom carpets and flower gardens and was the "master architect" for vacation homes in Wisconsin and Arizona. 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and her husband survive her.

Merritt W. Fineout, A67, of Holmes Beach, FL died February 6, 2017, at age 75. He owned a successful import business before his retirement to Florida. His wife, 5 children and 8 grandchildren survive him.

Leonard (Len) Pallis, A67, of Harveys Lake, PA, died in 2024 at age 81. Most of his career was working as a training coordinator and weapons instructor for the

State Correctional Institution in Dallas, PA. His first marriage ended tragically when his first wife and one of his two children died in a boating accident. His second wife, 3 children, 4 granddaughters and 4 great-grandchildren survive him.

Robert N. "Bob" Freeman, X69, of Waterbury, CT, passed away September 13, 2021, at age 78. A U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Vietnam War, he taught and coached basketball in area high schools and middle schools. His wife, 2 children and a granddaughter survive him.

Douglas "Doug" DeSale, A73, of Las Vegas, NV, passed away June 30, 2025, at age 73. With his degree from C of E in Music Education he spent 5 years playing trumpet for a traveling show band before settling in Las Vegas working in the casino business. He then started his own vending machine business which he ran for 14 years until retirement. His wife survives him.

Paul J. Nantz, A73, of Houston, TX, passed away March 17, 2025, at age 75. His wife, 2 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren survive him.

Jack Tomaselli, A73, of Toms River, NJ, passed away December 27, 2024, at age 74. After graduation, he earned 2 master's degrees and went to work at the Essex County Children's Shelter in New Jersey. He then moved on to a 32-year career in the county probation department primarily supervising juveniles. His wife survives him.

Membership Information for the College of Emporia Alumni Association, Inc.

Please write legibly. Make checks payable to the C. of E. Alumni Association.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Maiden Name	*C. of E. Class
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Spouse's Info	Spouse's First Name	Middle Initial	Maiden Name	*C. of E. Class
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Street/Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP + 4
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Phone #	E-mail
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*C. of E. Class is the graduation year of the class with which students were associated, whether or not they graduated. Please use prefix "A" for alumnus, or "X" for former student or non graduate. "O" here means did not attend.

Membership dues (\$15 per year per member): Number of memberships: _____ For Years _____

Total for Membership \$ _____ Scholarship Fund (Voluntary) \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to:

C of E Alumni Association, P.O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405



College of Emporia Alumni Association
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Scholarship Winners

Five students were selected as the winners of \$2,000 scholarships for 2025. They were: Christina Atkinson, Pittsburg State University; Ryan Brush, University of South Carolina; Jaxon Klein, University of Kansas; Jacob Mullin, University of Maryland and Braedon Stroda, Kansas State University.

Alumni are urged to begin now to think about applying for a scholarship in 2026. Go to the C-of-E.org website, determine what information is needed and get your grandchild or great-grandchild involved in collecting the necessary data. That way, your family is well-prepared for the deadline next April 1.

c-of-e.org

