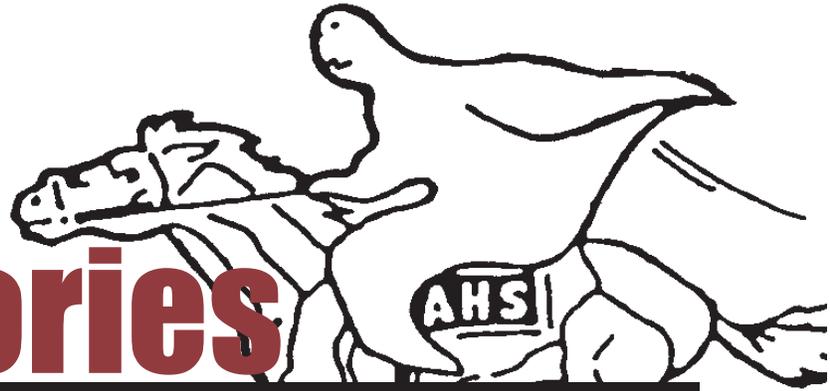


Spring 2015

Abington Ghost Stories



Abington alumnus becomes defense secretary

Abington High School students got a rare treat in March when Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, a 1972 graduate of Abington High School, addressed them in the auditorium. He was welcomed with a standing ovation.

In his address to the students, Carter stated that our service members are not only defending our country against terrorists, but are helping to defend cyberspace, working with technology such as robotics and biomedical engineering. The Pentagon needs 250,000 new recruits every year to keep pace with the need. Carter wants to modernize the military, and this was his first stop on a national "Force of the Future" recruiting tour.

In December 2014, Carter was named Secretary of Defense, succeeding Chuck Hagel. He was confirmed by the U. S. Senate in February 2015. Despite never serving in the military or in Congress, Carter had been the Deputy Defense Secretary from 2011 to 2013.

After graduating from Abington, he studied physics and

medieval history at Yale University. He became a Rhodes Scholar and earned a doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford University. He has been a longtime faculty member at Harvard University and began lecturing at Stanford University in the fall of 2014.

He joined the Pentagon in 1981 as a civilian analyst. Carter worked on missile
Continued on page 3



Carter addresses AHS students

From the president : Alumni success stories

Fifty years ago, my class graduated; 54 years ago, our alumni association was reorganized. As we in the Association look back and reflect on the years that we were in Abington's School system, one common denominator comes up. We were all very lucky to have graduated from what we feel is one of the best school systems in the United States.



Dave Clark '65

We would especially like to thank the administration, principals, and teachers who not only taught us to read and write but also mentored us as kids. I hear stories: One alumnus told me that "Wild" Bill Berkes took him aside when he was hanging around with the wrong people and told him he needed to make a decision and take one of two paths. He listened, he stayed in the area, and finished his career at Jefferson Hospital.

Over the years, Abington students have become great success stories, including our present Secretary of Defense. Most just graduated with a good education and great mentoring.

Since our inception, we have awarded more than \$300,000 in scholarships. This year we are awarding \$18,000 in scholarships. I reviewed our scholarship records from 2003 to 2015 and found we have raised the awards from \$3,000 in 2003 by \$1,000 per year to the present year awarding \$18,000.

Our all-volunteer staff maintains the class lists for the Association's 24,150 members. Annual office expenses are about \$6,000. We also publish the *Ghost Stories* every year at an estimated cost of \$10,000. None of this can happen if we do not continue to get new volunteers and your generous donations.

All donations received are placed into a perpetual account for scholarships. During the year, all donations that are requested to go to scholarships are awarded that year. Any shortfalls for scholarships are then taken from the investments in the perpetual account. If you would like to upgrade your membership status, see page 6 for categories.

Where are they now?

Al Matthews '47 spent 22 years in the Army infantry (Korea and Vietnam), attended law school, and was a part-time judge. He now helps the Veterans Administration in assisting veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. After Korea, he went to Army Language School in California and received a master's degree in Arab Studies from the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. He was placed under arrest when Egypt attacked the U.S. Embassy, and was finally able to fly to Ethiopia and safety, leaving many mementos and memories behind. He and his wife do a lot of traveling. Al lives in Bellevue, Wash.

Wardell S. Holt '60 was inducted into the 2014 Delaware State University Athletic Hall of Fame. Wardell was a two-way standout on the football field as a running back and defensive back. In his senior year, he captained the team. He also excelled as a member of the Hornets track team in the 100, 200 and 440, and participated in the Penn Relays in Philadelphia. Receiving a degree in health and physical education, Wardell began his career in youth development and drug counseling, serving as director of youth recreation programs for the Pennsylvania Youth Development Center. He is a certified drug counselor, a positive restraint instructor, and a group counseling instructor at Temple University. He lives in Philadelphia.

Elizabeth Diamond '65 has been retired for 5 years from teaching elementary school. She volunteers in a kindergarten class one morning a week, enjoys daily visits to the "Y," and fox hunts three days a week. She also is working hard as a member of the 50th reunion committee for her class.

Sandy Frame Singrella '65 has been an emergency medical technician for her local ambulance squad for the past 38 years, serving as president of the association for the past 20 years. She is a graduate of the Whitemarsh Police Citizens Academy and the FBI Citizens Academy, and trained by the Montgom-

ery County District Attorney's Office to work with troubled youth. Her love of adventure includes whitewater rafting in Denali, dog sledding in Juno, and zip lining in Cozumel. She was in the American Profession Business Woman's Who's Who in 1996-97, and is a member of the National Association of Professional Women. Sandy is a member of the 50th reunion committee for her class.

Kathy Tirri Slusarski '73 is a long-time employee of ACTS Life Care as an LPN in the skills and wellness office, specializing in dementia. She is active in her class reunions and shares the position of chair. Kathy was recently elected treasurer of her condo, and recently became a member of the alumni board.

Alison Byerly '79 is the 17th president of Lafayette College and its first female president. She was provost and executive vice president of Middleburg College in Vermont for 13 years. Alison served as a visiting scholar at MIT, Stanford, and Oxford. She received a bachelor of arts at Wellesley College, and her master of arts and doctorate in English from the University of Pennsylvania. Alison received several awards, one being the Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching. She's married to Stephen Jensen, a medical editor, and has two children. Alison lives in Easton, Pa.

Ray Hoffman '80 is a small-engine mechanic at Glenside Lawn & Garden. He enjoys spending time with his two nieces and nephews, and in his free time likes water sports, boating, and wave running. Camping has been a big part of his life, and he spends time camping at his South Jersey camp site. Ray lives in Elkins Park.

Anthony Rossi '81 has been a diesel mechanic for SEPTA for the past 32 years. He has a son at East Stroudsburg University and a son who is a junior at Abington High School. In his spare time, Anthony likes to hunt and fish. He and his wife, **Denise Lerch '84**, live in Glenside.

John King '82 owns Automobile Solutions in Glenside. When he isn't

working, John enjoys motor sports. He is married with four children, one of whom is active in the business. John lives in Upper Dublin Township.

Benson Lee '87 wrote and directed *Seoul Searching*, which premiered this year at the Sundance Film Festival. His film is a semi-autobiographical comedy set in 1986. In his film, Benson wants to depict Asian characters in a different light from what he experienced in the '80s. He says, "Being bicultural is an identity in and of itself." A marketing major at the University of Hawaii, Lee initially chose a career in writing and filmmaking. In 1998, his movie *Miss Monday* won a special jury prize at Sundance for its lead actress. In 2007, he made a successful break-dance documentary, *Plant B-Boy*, which he later adapted in 2013 to the dance movie *Battle of the Year*, starring Josh Holloway and Chris Brown. Benson lives in South Korea.

Michael Gallo '04 sells home owners and car insurance for Vahey Family Insurance in Roslyn. He enjoys spending time with his brother and three sisters. When he has free time, he likes to watch basketball. Michael lives in Roslyn.

Donald Vozzi '04 works in Philadelphia for Henkel Equipment, which manufactures, sells, leases, and repairs high-rise bucket trucks used in the utility industry. He spends his spare time restoring cars, and is working on 1970 and 1987 Chevy Camaros. Donald lives in Abington.

Jim Knight '08 biked 4,250 miles (about 71 miles per day) from Charleston, S.C., to Santa Cruz, Calif., in support of affordable housing in the United States. He and the 30 other riders in the group stopped along the way to help organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together. Jim is studying accounting at Temple University and lives in Glenside.

Ashton Carter

Continued from front page

defense, the nuclear arsenal, and other programs to make sure of government continuity in the event of a nuclear war. He has been highly regarded for speaking plainly, being an innovator, and being a reformer.

Brent Scowcroft, who served as President Carter's mentor and as national security adviser to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, lauded Carter's "heartfelt devotion" to our servicemen and women. Mr. Scowcroft stated that Carter understands that national security must be bipartisan.

While at Abington High, Carter was president of the National Honor Society and class councilman, ran cross country, wrestled, and played lacrosse. He was elected to Abington's Hall of Fame in 1989. President Obama revealed that Carter also has a passion for Motown music.

Class of 2014 scholarship winners

The Alumni Association awarded \$17,000 to deserving graduates of the Class of 2014. Scholarship recipients are:

- Sabrina Farmer, attending Howard University.
- Steven Heintz, attending Keystone College.
- Vsevoid Leskin, attending Rice University.
- Gabriella Lopez, attending Temple University.
- Erica Strauss, attending the University of Richmond.
- Tiara Williams, attending Aria Health School of Nursing.

We wish them much success in their chosen fields.

Former coach Clarence Watts dies at 82

Abington High School lost a good friend and ex-coach when Clarence Watts died in January 2015 at age 82.

Clarence was a graduate of Jenkintown High School, where he excelled in academics, football, basketball, and track. He played basketball for Penn State as a walk-on; the team went to the Final Four of the 1954 NCAA tournament. Clarence graduated in 1955 with a degree in psychology and sociology.

When he retired from his position as a probation administrator in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, he began a 17-year second career as a volunteer coach for Abington High's football team. He was also an avid fan of Abington's basketball teams.

Hall of Fame Nomination Form

The next Hall of Fame is planned for fall 2017.

I wish to nominate _____ Class of _____

to the Abington High School Hall of Fame in the category of _____
(categories are Arts, Athletics, Business, Education, Government, Science and Service. Posthumous nominations should be referred directly to the Abington Senior High School Alumni Association.)

Reason for nomination (attach extra sheets if needed) _____

Nominee's address _____

Nominee's phone number (if available) _____

Nominee's e-mail address (if available) _____

Your name _____

Your phone number and e-mail address _____

Return this form by **June 1, 2016**, to William Penderghest, Chairman, Hall of Fame Committee,
Abington Senior High School, 900 Highland Ave., Abington, Pa. 19001.
williampenderghest@abington.k12.pa.us

Class reunions

Class of 1955 (60th)—informal/casual gathering from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, October 10, at the Willow Grove Moose Lodge on Davisville Road in Willow Grove. The reunion committee will be contacting classmates via email, phone, and postal mail with details.

Class of 1960 (55th)—Friday, April 17, 2015 at the Huntingdon Valley Country Club. Information will be sent out via email or regular postal service mail. Visit <http://www.ahs60.com>, or contact Joanne DeFlavis, joanne.def@verizon.net, 215-675-2401 or Dan Jones, dan@1025wellington.com, 610-438-9181.

Class of 1965 (50th)—Save the dates of October 9, 10, and 11th. Visit <http://www.abington1965reunion.com> and the Facebook page Abington Class of 1965 50 Year Reunion. Like the page to receive regular updates. Please email your preferred email address, mailing

address, and phone number to Abington 1965reunion@gmail.com or contact Toni Price Dougherty on Facebook, at tonidocr@gmail.com, or 610-337-3075.

Classes of 1969 and 1970—combined reunion, 6-10 p.m. Saturday, November 7, at Cedarbrook Country Club in Blue Bell, Pa. Room blocks available at the Hilton Gardens in Fort Washington, Pa., where the afterparty will be held. Shuttles available. High school building and stadium tour on Friday, November 6. Dinner on your own. Sunday, November 8, breakfast on your own at the Hilton Gardens, or nearby restaurants. Contact: abingtonhighschool1969@gmail.com and abingtonhighschool1970@gmail.com.

Class of 1972 (45th)—fall of 2017. Contact Emily Hess at ASH1972@comcast.net and visit the Abington High School Class of 1972 page on Facebook.

Class of 1976 (40th)—Trying to locate classmates. Contact abington76reunion@yahoo.com, on Facebook at Abington Senior High School Class of 1976 *Bi-centennial* Abington PA, or Anthony Armstead at 267-644-8242 or armsteada@msn.com.

Class of 2005 (10th)—June 13th, more information to follow. Contact Jim Rossi at jamesfrossi@gmail.com.

If your class is planning a reunion, please send any information a year ahead of time to the Alumni Association at alumni@abington.k12.pa.us.

New life members

Class of 1953
Leonard Frank

Class of 1960
Wardell S. Holt

Class of 1968
Leo Masiello

Class of 1973
Kathy Tirri Slusarski

Class of 1975
Toni Evans Winters

Class of 1981
Fred Kuss

Class of 1983
Margaret McGee

Class of 2004
Lirui Li

Class of 2009
Lauren M. Turco

Class of 2012
Shawn A. Corhillot

Class of 2014
Tia Barnhardt, *Alumni Award for Culinary Arts*
Rachel Henrysen, *Alumni Award for Allied Health*
Elisabeth Petermichl, *Alumni Award for Culinary Arts*
Taylor M. Sterling

Class of 2015
John R. Burns
Roger S. Deleg
Ziherra S. Dickerson
Brandon S. Levert
Elizabeth K. Martin
Breana A. Myles

Two Abingtonians honored for leadership

Dr. Jeffrey Fecher, Abington School District's assistant superintendent and the former high school principal, and Steven Gourley '96 were honored by the *Bucks County Courier Times* and *Intelligencer* at the newspapers' "Forty Under 40" luncheon in November 2014. This annual event recognizes young community leaders ages 20 to 39 for their professional success and public service contributions in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

Dr. Fecher received his doctorate in educational and organizational leadership from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1995, he attended a semester abroad program at Oxford University. According to Dr. Fecher, his most fulfilling professional experience is leading an award-winning high school (Abington) to high achievement. Dr. Fecher's pet peeve is apathy. His advice to other young people is to be true to yourself and lead with compassion. When asked what he would want his legacy to be, he stated that he would like to affect the

lives and futures of today's students and tomorrow's leaders.

Steven Gourley received his bachelor of arts in journalism from Lehigh University. He is the director of option services at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bucks County. He worked as a teacher and community mobilizer in Uganda from 2001 to 2003. Steven feels that the main characteristic every leader should possess is the ability to help facilitate a team environment where coworkers care about each other as people. He states that trust, respect, and building on each other's strengths toward a common goal flow from these attributes.

He feels that his organization is altruistic and is passionate about its mission, and is inspired by the youth in his program and their great strengths for their futures. His advice is to keep learning from the people around you. Steven would like his legacy to be for him to be thought of as a good and kind person.

Sports

Girls and boys basketball teams took center stage this winter for AHS sports.

Girls basketball was second in the District 1 championship playoffs, losing to Central Bucks West in the final game. However, they made a great run in the Pennsylvania state playoffs, beating Red Lion 67–46 in the first round and Mechanicsburg 35–31 in the second round. They lost in a tough struggle in the semifinals 46–42 to Cumberland Valley, the eventual state champions. The team was paced by Deja Rawls, who led the scoring in each of the final three games. Deja made the Pennsylvania All-State second team, and is receiving a full scholarship to Siena College in New York. The girls team finished with a record of 26 and 6.

Former Abington All-State player, Emily Leer, led the Villanova women to the National Invitational Tournament college quarterfinals. The Wildcats lost in overtime despite 29 points by Emily.

Boys basketball won the District 1 championship after being seeded seventh, beating favored Plymouth-Whitmarsh in the final game 53–35. Coach Charles Grasty '90, former basketball star at Abington, saw his two aces, Amir Hinton (20 points) and Matt Penecale (13 points, 8 rebounds, and 6 assists), lead the way to victory. The boys lost a close game in the first round of the state playoffs to McCaskey



Matt Penecale drives to the basket (above). At right, Amir Hinton cuts down the net after a win.



71–66, despite 27 points from Hinton. The team finished with a terrific 26–4 record, and Hinton made second team All-State.

In fall sports, Coach Randy Garber '71 led his soccer team into the district playoffs, but lost in the first round. In September, Randy was inducted into the Montgomery County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. After making All-American at Penn State, Randy played professionally with the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

Football finished with a 6–5 record, beating Cheltenham in its final game 20–0. After leading 6–0 heading into the fourth quarter, Jordan Neely scored a touchdown pass of 40 yards, and then

ran 41 yards with a pass interception to put the game out of reach. A highlight of the season was a victory over Upper Dublin, a District 1 final four team.

Girls tennis had a record of 18–3 and was led by the Intelligencer newspaper's player of the year, Molly Bair. Molly was undefeated in the Suburban 1 national conference and teamed with senior Amirah Salim-Berg to win the District 1 doubles championship.

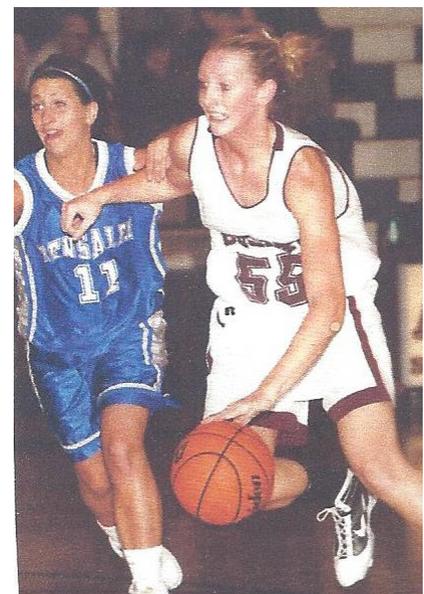
Congratulations to all of the Abington athletes.

Music teacher honored

Ellen Strange, Abington music teacher, was named one of three grand prize winners of the Voices of Inspirational Awards for Teaching Excellence from the Freedom Credit Union and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in 2014. She led the music programs at Roslyn, Willow Hill, and Copper Beach Elementary Schools before retiring last year. Congratulations to Ellen from the Alumni Association.

Change of address? Let us know...

Chances are good that you or your parents have moved since your graduation. Each piece of returned mail costs the association 50 cents. So please, let us know if you have a change of address (include your apartment number if applicable) and include your e-mail address. You can e-mail us at alumni@abington.k12.pa.us or phone us at 215-572-8899. You'll save us some money and your reunion committee the time and effort in trying to locate you.



Alumna Emily Leer '11 (right) is a star player on the Villanova womens basketball team.

Donations 2014

Century Club

437Ray Arment '65

Maroon & White

207Thomas (Tim) Morrow '47

Booster

\$20Nancy Ogle Macur '63

\$25W. Frederick Homiller, '61

\$25Alexandria Yoder Miller '63

\$50Patrick Hughes '93

\$30Kathy Tirri Slusarski '73,
Leanna Slusarski '07, and Jennifer Slusarski '12

\$15Suzanne Scaturro Schoenfeld '65

Memorials

\$25For Norman Kelly '38 by Pete and Joan Fetter Bondi '58

\$50For Norman Kelly '38 by his brother, Harry Kelly '40

\$20For Norman Kelly '38 by Ronald Prosser '56

\$25For Norman Kelly '38 by Paul H. Schnurr

\$50For Norman Kelly '38 by David A. Lowe '67

\$25For Norman Kelly '38 by Violet Rodenhause '64

\$50For Norman Kelly '38 by Phyllis Chiu '69

\$25For Norman Kelly '38 by Susan Latimer Curlett '69

\$100For Norman Kelly '38 by Nancy Bell Hohnstine '63

\$25For Michael J. Morris '74 by Vincent Morris '81 and Elizabeth Ryer Morris '80

\$50For Robert F. Doane '43 by his sister, Jeanne Burford '41

\$50For Robert Smith '47 by Gena Garrett Duff '49 and John Duff '47

\$25For Craig Leatherman '52 by his sister, Barbara Leatherman Smith '47

\$100For Mildred Burger Metzler '40 by Virginia Morris Spellman '40

\$150For Florence Mundy Rauch '48 by her classmates Jean Riemenschneider Garvin, Trudy Schmidt Painter, Barbara Rosenberger Evans, Betty Meurer Kirkpatrick, Natalie Delia Barbano, Thelma Turn Leonhard, Carolyn Wassmann Wright, and Margie Ransford Purvis

\$50For Arthur C. Swartley, Jr. '36 and Ida Schlachter Swartley '36 by their daughter, Bonnie Swartley Martin

\$100For David Bresler '71 by Tim Simmons '65

\$100For Albert McClay '49 by his sister Virginia McClay Cunningham '51 and Wayne Cunningham '50

Specified Donations

\$50Overlook Hills Womens Club of Abington

\$1,700 ..Fifty Plus Club

Membership and Donation Form

Membership

- Life, \$25 (one-time donation)
- Maroon & White, \$50
- Century Club, \$100
- 500 Club, \$500
- K Club, \$1,000

Donations (any amount)

- Booster donation
- Memorial donations—other than life membership memorials
- I am willing to give a little time to work for the Alumni Association.

Class year		Present membership	
First name	Maiden if applicable	Surname	
Address—please check here if this is a new address <input type="checkbox"/>			
City	State	ZIP Code	
Phone number		Email address	
Spouse's full name			
Please add memorial donation information here. Attach second sheet if needed.			
Total enclosed (make checks payable to Abington High School Alumni Association) _____			
Please detach form and mail to AHSAA at P.O. Box 55, Abington, Pa. 19001.			

Annual Fifty Plus Luncheon

Friday, October 9, 2015

This year's hosts: Class of 1960 John Worthington, emcee

Social Hour and Cash Bar – 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon – 12:30 p.m.

Williamson Restaurant, Easton and Blair Mill roads, Horsham, Pa.

For general information, please call
Joan Zimmermann Mosler '54 at 215-658-0132, e-mail jzimmie@aol.com
or Wayne Cunningham '50 at 215-657-2642, e-mail waynngin@verizon.net.

- Please keep this portion as your only reminder!**
Remember your menu choice by checking it here:
- Chicken Normandy (demiglaze sauce, julienne veg.)
 - Veal parmesan with angel hair pasta
 - Broiled filet of flounder almondine
 - Pasta primavera (roasted vegetables with garlic and oil)

Luncheon price – \$25. Any profit from the luncheon will benefit the Scholarship Fund.

Fifty Plus Luncheon reservation form

Menu Choice: (Check one per person attending)

- Chicken Normandy
- Veal parmesan
- Broiled flounder
- Pasta primavera

Class year _____ Phone number _____

First name _____ Maiden if applicable _____ Surname _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

E-mail address (Reminders will be sent via e-mail in September)

Spouse or guest:

First name _____ Maiden if applicable _____ Surname _____

-
- **Reservation deadline:**
- **Sept. 30, 2015**
-
- Mail this portion with your
- check to:
- Joan Zimmermann Mosler
- 3 Twin Brooks Drive
- Willow Grove, Pa. 19090
-
- Reservations will not be
- acknowledged.
-

Class year _____

Number attending _____ x \$25 per person = Total enclosed: \$ _____

• **Please make checks payable to Fifty Plus Club**

•

• Table preference: Seat me/us with the Class of 19__.

• Please use a separate sheet for any additional notes or special needs.

• Thank you!

Abington High School
Alumni Association
P.O. Box 55, Abington, Pa. 19001
Return Service Requested



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Lansdale, Pa..

Ghost Stories

Spring 2015

■ **Classes of 1965 and earlier, register for the Fifty Plus Club luncheon. See the invitation on page 7**

This will be the only notice for this event.

■ **Attend the annual Association business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in the Alumni Office in the Administration Building on Highland Avenue in Abington.**

■ **Contact your class coordinator now to plan your next reunion!**

■ **Visit the Association's web page for reunions: <http://www.abington.k12.pa.us/resources/alumni-association>, email alumni@abington.k12.pa.us, or phone 215-572-8899.**

ABINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Association 2015 Officers

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Tim Simmons '65
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Virginia McClay Cunningham '51 William Hower '57
Richard Hogg '58 Joe Muldowney '85

Kathy Tirri Slusarski '73

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