

Aggie News

Volume 9 Issue 1

January 2006



From The Editor:

Greetings Classmates,

The election of alumni officers and directors for the next two year term (2006-2007) took place last month. Peter Tierney '75 will serve as our new President. Alice Henning '56 will serve as Vice President (Pro-Tem). Charles Main '56 will continue as Secretary and Robert Gaudet '56 will be our new Treasurer. The remaining board members serving as Decade Directors will be Alice Henning '56, Henry Zawadzki '68, Kenneth Elwell '75, Elaine Flanagan '83, Theresa Venuti '98, Mary Wood '77C, Michael Gaudette '74 and Thomas Blair '81. A special thank you goes out to George Jones '58 for serving as Treasurer for the past eight years and keeping our finances in order.

Charlie Main Class of '56

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Multi-Decade Reunion:

On Saturday, October 1, 2005, a multi decade reunion for the classes of the 1930's, 1940's & 1950's was held at the Andover Chateau Restaurant in Andover, Massachusetts. There were 76 alumni and guests in attendance and a good time was had by all. All those handshakes and hugs between classmates and friends were a sight to behold!



Message from incoming Alumni Association President:

As incoming president of an alumni association whose school has undergone so many changes over the years it humbles me to represent such a diverse group. Charlie Main's work on the alumni web pages brings this point home. The alumni are made up of students from the Essex County Agricultural School, Essex County Home Making School, and Essex Agricultural & Technical Institute which is comprised of both the College Division and High School Division.

It is not my mission to live in a nostalgic past but to bridge our love of Essex Aggie to future generations. The school has indeed changed and will continue to do so. In the early 1900's Rufus Stimson, supervisor of Agricultural Education for the state of Massachusetts, developed the "project" method of teaching. Students were to learn agriculture at school but would apply what they had learned on their home farm, through their use of home projects. Fast forward 100 years;

"On December 30, 2004, Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey, serving as acting governor while Mitt Romney enjoyed an end-of-the-year vacation, signed legislation allowing the North Shore's three vocational high schools to merge. Where currently three schools exist - the Essex Agricultural and Technical High School in Danvers, the Peabody Vocational School in Peabody and the North Shore Technical High School in Middleton - the legislation paves the way for the creation of the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District.¹"

2013 is just a few years away and it would be wonderful to celebrate the centennial of Essex Aggie as a diverse group with a common vision of the next 100 years. Robert Kennedy said "The future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow man alike, timid and fearful in the face of bold projects and new ideas. Rather, it will belong to those who can blend passion, reason and courage in a personal commitment to the great enterprises and ideals of American society."

The purpose of the Essex Alumni Association is to objectively forge a steadfast union of past, present and future students and faculty of Essex Aggie to ensure sharing of experience, knowledge and goodwill. Together as a team with all of our school spirit we can help lead Essex Aggie to new heights.

**Essex we cheer for thee, True we will ever be,
E - S - S - E - X Rah, Rah, Rah,**

Thank you for your support,

Pete Tierney, Class of 75'

¹ By William Henderson/ WHENDERS@CNC.COM
Thursday, January 6, 2005

Blast From The Past Contest:

Identify the two gals in the photo which was taken on the Aggie campus and win a Essex Aggie Alumni hat!



Mail your answer to:
Essex Aggie Alumni Assn.
643 Main Road
Phippsburg, ME 04562

The first correct entry to arrive by mail wins the hat.



These attractive alumni logo hats are available for \$20.00 each, postpaid.

Contact Charlie Main for ordering info.

News From The Classes:

Joseph Roche Class of 1943

(A letter from Joe's Daughter)

I am the daughter (Marcia Roche Koerner) of two alumni who married: Joseph Roche, class of 1943, and Cynthia McAuley Roche(class of 1945, who died in 2003). Her sister was also class of 1945 - Helen McAuley Barker; she is living in Tehacchapi, Calif., and although she was not interested in being contacted was excited over my forwarding yearbook photos from her class!

My dad (Joe Roche) was here in Md. due to my husbands recent death, and locating your site brought so much joy and excitement to his face ! He is traveling today back to Riverhead, New York and will contact you following his arrival, I am sure. His e-mail address is: JTCROCHE@webtv.net

He did not navigate the reunion page while here, but after I did so today I learned of the Oct. 1 multi-class reunion in Andover; had he known he would have been there! He is in touch with two other alumni, Charles DeGrandpre and Walter Mills '45

I have heard of Essex Aggie all my life and feel as though I attended! So I am excited for my dad who has so many memories to this day.

I will put my excitement to the curb for now, and let my dad contact you. I will tell him of the scheduled reunion so he will be aware.

Thank you and the others for starting the alumni site; if it brings to others the same excitement it gave my dad, your efforts are well appreciated!

Sincerely, Marcia Koerner

Lee Sanford Class of 1964

(Reflections and Thank you)

In May of last year I searched the net for information on Essex County Agricultural and Technical Institute, mainly out of curiosity. I had not had any contact with the school for more than 35 years. It is difficult to describe how I felt as I located and browsed through the web sites of Essex Aggie and the Alumni Association. I was overjoyed to see how the school had developed since the 1960s, but saddened to learn of the passing away of some of the staff that I knew and of some of my

classmates. I registered on the alumni site within a few days and joined the association earlier this year.

My desire to attend Essex Aggie came from an emerging interest in agriculture, as well as a convincing "sales pitch" given by Mr. Raymond Potter to my junior high school class. I stayed with the program because for the first time in my life I was eager to learn. There was a greater sense of purpose to my education. The teachers at the time enjoyed teaching and enjoyed students, well...most of the students anyway. Teachers like Mr. Powell and Mr. Kester did their best to at least familiarize my classmates and myself with the English language and literature. Mr. Bennett (librarian/guidance counselor) managed to teach us a little math and enlightened me considerably on what it meant to pursue a college education. Other teachers such as Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Eastwood helped lay the foundation for my career in animal science.

I am indebted to everyone who helped make Essex Aggie what it was during my days as a student, including the late Mr. James Gallant. I am thankful for the opportunities the school provided and for the support and encouragement given to me by so many people. As I continued my education I began to realize the value of what I had learned in the formative high-school years. Essex (where it all began!) was not far from my mind when I started my academic career in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Manitoba (located in Winnipeg just above Fargo, ND). I am especially proud of a couple of my early M.Sc. students who are now science teachers.

My heart-felt thanks to you and the other Alumni Association Officers for your efforts. I am grateful that there is an association to join, and that I am able to reminisce a little about Essex Aggie with like-minded people. Your caring about the school, it's past, present and future, is truly commendable. And, by the way, the Alumni Association web site is a masterpiece!

With kind regards, Lee, class of '64

Lee M. Sanford, Ph.D

Reproductive Endocrinologist/Physiologist
Small Ruminants Kirkland, Quebec Canada
email LSanford@total.net

Deceased Classmates:

Ernest Stansfield Class of 1933

Ernest Stansfield, 91, of Andover, died Aug. 13, 2005, at Wingate at Andover. He was born Sept. 27, 1913. He was a graduate of Essex Aggie Class of 1933. Ernest was a member of the Army National Guard, and an avid sports fan. He was a cook for the John T. Berry Rehab Center in North Reading, until his retirement

Huntington Howard Class of 1935

Huntington Howard made music until the day before he died. Known across the North Shore for his involvement in musical groups, Mr. Howard played his last performance Oct. 9 with the Danvers Yacht Club Band, a pastime he shared with as many as 14 family members. He died the next morning. He was 95. Born on a homestead in Indian Territory in Walla Walla, Wash., Mr. Howard's family gave up their homestead and moved to Lynn after his father became ill. During the Great Depression, Mr. Howard traveled the rails, living as a hobo. After graduating from Essex Aggie with a degree as a dairy herdsman, he worked at the Westfield Farm in Danvers, and later became a machine repairman at the United Shoe Machinery Corp. He and his wife raised eight children on their farm in Beverly. As a musician, Mr. Howard played with the Rockport Legion Band, the Beer Barrel Band, Bucci's Lousy Band, and the Danvers Pops, and performed with many other North Shore groups. He was especially well known for flute and piccolo playing.

Henrietta Booth Class of 1943

Miss Henrietta Booth, 80 of Lynn, died Oct. 19, 2004, in a local nursing home after a lengthy illness. Born in Swampscott. She was a graduate of Lynn English High School and also attended Essex Aggie. She worked at Youth World Children's Clothing Store in Lynn until it's closing. She then worked as a shipping agent for the Lydia Pinkham Company in Lynn.

Martha (Gould) Hamelin-Silva Class of 1954

Martha (Gould) Hamelin-Silva, 68, of Salisbury, died Sept. 2005 at her home. She was born July 22, 1937 in Lawrence. She attended Lawrence schools and also graduated from Essex Aggie. She worked as a seamstress for many years for The Scene on Appleton Street in Lawrence.

William Hersey Class of 1954

Died November 12, 2005 from cancer.
(No other details available)

John Watkevitch Class of 1955

John C. Watkevitch, 66, of Salem, director of facilities for the Salem School Department, died June 21 2005 at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston. Mr. Watkevitch was born, raised, and educated in Lawrence, Mass. He graduated from Essex Aggie in 1955. He lived in Salem for the past 42 years. Before he was director of facilities for the Salem School Department, Mr. Watkevitch was employed at Wang Labs in Lowell, Mass., and Allied Stores in Peabody, Mass. In his free time, Mr. Watkevitch was an avid golfer and loved gardening.

James Cole Class of 1959

James W. Cole, 64, died Nov, 27, 2005, at Boswell Hospital in Sun City, Ariz., following a long battle with heart disease and cancer. Formerly of North Andover, Mass., Alton Bay, N.H., and Kittery, Maine, James was born July 11, 1941, in Lynn. Following his graduation from Essex Aggie, he attended the University of Mass before joining the U.S. Air Force and serving in Vietnam. He left the Air Force after 24-and-a-half years of service due to a major heart attack at age 42. During the past few years, when his health allowed, Jimmy spent time with his family and traveling with his wife, Aurora.

Richard Cole Class of 1975

Richard A. Cole of Peabody, a quality control inspector at Ametek Corp. in Wilmington, died June 17 2005 at work in Wilmington. He was 48. Mr. Cole was born in Peabody in 1956 and resided there for much of his life. He graduated in 1975 from Essex Aggie. He was a former employee of the General Electric plant in Wilmington, which later became Ametek Corp. He has been an employee of Ametek Corp. for the past 26 years. Mr. Cole also enjoyed traveling.

Robert Gagner Class of 1993

Robert "Big Bob" William Gagner, 31, of Peabody, formerly of Lynn and Salem, died July 16, 2005. He was born and raised in Lynn. Mr. Gagner was a graduate of Essex Aggie, Class of 1992. He resided in Salem for five years, prior to moving to Peabody. Robert was a landscaper.

Reunion News:

Class of 1975 Reunion

On the 13th of August, 2005 the class of '75 held a reunion at Royce Knowlton's farm in Ipswich Mass. A good time was had by one and all. Our special guest was Ed White who has been an instructor at the Aggie since 1973. We had 8 students from a class of 45.

Pete Tierney '75



Classes of the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s

The introduction of our special guests for the multi-decade reunion held last October (see page 1) was made by Joe Labonte '58

“We have some special guests with us today. I would like to introduce Harold Kelly’s family. His Daughter Rosemary Corley and her Husband Charlie and his Daughter Kelly Nickerson. We are pleased that they could be with us today.”

One of our favorite instructors at the Aggie was their Dad, Harold “Bud” Kelly. Bud grew up and lived in Beverly all of his life. He graduated from Beverly High School in 1939 and took a Post Graduate course at the Aggie where he graduated in 1942.

After his military service and several years of agricultural experience he took a teaching certification course and was accepted to teach in August, 1949. His entry level position was Assistant Instructor of Fruit Growing.

I was one of Bud’s students in the mid 1950s. He was a great teacher but my best memory was the day he took Dan Conery and me on a field trip to Boston in his new Ford station wagon. We went to Faneuil Hall to review the fruit and vegetable market and then he took us to lunch at Durgin Park. This was pretty exciting stuff for two kids who had never been to Boston and had never eaten in a large city restaurant! He made us feel pretty important for a day and he also got us back to campus before the closing bell rang!

Bud took a real interest in his students and was truly dedicated to his fields of study which included Poultry Science. He taught at the Aggie for 30 years and retired in August 1979.

Sadly, Bud passed away earlier this year. I had the privilege of visiting with him Last October and it was great to see the sparkle still in his eyes. He had a quick wit, a sharp mind and we talked about old times at the Aggie.

Joe LaBonte '58

Thank you note from Rosemary Corley

Dear Mr. and Mrs. LaBonte,
Thank you for arranging the beautiful tribute to Dad. Dad was the “real thing” in a world often filled with image makers. We adored and admired him and try to follow his example.

Your kind words and gifts deeply touched Kathy, Charlie and me. Mom and Danny have heard every detail of the reunion and send their thanks also. We will always have Dad’s photo and employment papers to remind us of a very lovely afternoon. Wishing you happiness and health,
Sincerely,

Rosemary J. Corley

Aggie Grams & Alumni Forums

Due to the increasing number of alumnus who fail to notify us of their e-mail address changes and the work involved dealing with all the rejected e-mail Aggie Grams, the usual method of communication via Aggie Gram will be used less and replaced by the new Alumni Forums on our web site. Announcements, news, death notices, etc. will now be posted on the web site discussion forums.

History Corner:

Library, Homemaking Department - 1937

The library of the Homemaking Department is a branch of the main library which is located on the second floor of the Agricultural Building. Our little branch library has between 2500 and 3000 books. Miss Clarke, one of our instructors has direct charge of the library, but four students – Lena Tela, Yolanda Scamperino, Mary Lafond and Hazel Mason have the actual work of checking and discharging books. These four student librarians handle between 300 and 500 books each day.

Each girl in the homemaking department has her own personal library card and when it is necessary for her to secure books for her assignments she goes to the library and secures the book or books she desires. Most books are charged on the overnight basis and a long line of girls can be found at the library door each morning.

Phyllis Marks '37



Photo of the school library in the main building.
(date unknown)



Deceased Classmates (cont.):

James Briggs Class of 1996

James "Jim" R. Briggs, 28, husband of Penny (Cameron) Briggs, died Sept. 22, 2005, at the Massachusetts General Hospital, following a long battle with Cystic Fibrosis for many years, and died from complications from a double lung transplant. Born in Beverly, he was raised in Ipswich. He graduated from Essex Aggie Class of 1996. He continued his education, and received his certificate in automotive mechanics from the Tad Technical Institute in Chelsea, Class of 1998. Mr. Briggs was previously employed with Ira Toyota as a mechanic, with Varian Semi Conductor Co, and with the North Shore Community Baptist Church in Beverly Farms, where he worked as a care taker, until his illness prevented him from working. Mr. Briggs was involved with the Neverland Theatre Group in Hamilton, and was also a very active member of the North Shore Community Baptist Church.

Jim and his Dad enjoyed riding their Harleys together and he was also an avid fisherman and enjoyed restoring old trucks. Jim was a very compassionate man, facing his illness and limitations with great courage.

Homework Assignment:

We need everyone's help with our effort to document the school areas & buildings for the alumni historical archives. We now have most of the photos needed but now need writers to provide articles for the photos. Along with a photographic record we need to document what each of the buildings were used for, past and present.

Everyone has some knowledge of what went on in each of these buildings during their particular term at the school. If we each take a little time to write an article or two, describing the uses of any area of particular interest, this project can be completed.

The Campus Views Photo Album is now available on the alumni web site for viewing and downloading on the [Downloads](#) page. We ask everyone to please consider contributing to the project by providing documentation on any building of their choice.

Essex Aggie Alumni Association Membership Registration Form 2006

Membership dues for 2006 will be \$20.00

(Term of membership is Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Please fill out the form below

We need your support



Member Name and Address: (Please Print)

Class of _____ (____) High School Division and/or Class of _____ (____) College Division

First Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

E-Mail _____

Please register my membership for 2006

I am enclosing my check for \$20.00 for 2006 Membership: \$ _____

In addition, I would like to donate to the Scholarship fund: \$ _____

In addition, I would like to donate to the General Fund: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed for membership & donations: \$ _____

Check should be made out to: Essex Aggie Alumni

Mail this form to: Essex Aggie Alumni Association, Robert Gaudet, Treasurer, P.O. Box 685, Newburyport, MA 01950

Occasionally our members move and forget to notify us of their new address. This often results in us never being able to find them again. Please provide the name of someone who will always know how to find you.

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ E-Mail _____

Your Alumni Association Officers: Always available for questions, comments & suggestions.

President: Peter Tierney ('75) 11 Old Rowley Road, Newbury, MA 01951 978-463-1108 ptierney@ajh.org

Vice President (Pro Tem): Alice Henning ('56) 3075 Woodsmill Drive, Melbourne, FL 32934 alicefromwonderland@cfl.rr.com

Secretary: Charles Main ('56) 643 Main Road, Phippsburg, ME 04562 207-443-6309 cmain@suscom-maine.net

Treasurer: Robert Gaudet ('56) P.O. Box 685, Newburyport, MA 01950 978-462-6792 bobgaudet@netscape.com

Director 1950s: Alice Henning ('56) 3075 Woodsmill Drive, Melbourne, FL 32934 407-255-9843 alicefromwonderland@cfl.rr.com

Director 1960s: Henry Zawadzki ('68) 18 Heritage Lane, Methuen, MA 01844 978-685-4493 hzawadzki@attbi.com

Director 1970s: Kenneth Elwell ('75) 8 Hilltop Road, Barrington, NH 03825 603-868-5098 kenel@thegemgroup.com

Director 1980s: Elaine Flanagan ('83) P.O. Box 114, Antrim, NH 03440 603-588-3974 irishhearts_03442@msn.com

Director 1990s: Theresa Venuti ('98) 257 Newton Road, Haverhill, MA 978-621-7083 theresavenuti@hotmail.com

Director College Div.: Mary Wood ('77C) 466 Main Street, Dunstable, MA 01827 978-649-3903 marymurphywood@aol.com

Director At-Large: Michael Gaudette ('74) 360 South Street, Beverly, MA 01915 978-921-6304 mgtree@yahoo.com

Director At-Large: Thomas Blair ('81) 130 Bridge Street, Beverly, MA 01915 978-927-5634 tom@tblairlandscape.com

The Aggie News

Essex Aggie Alumni Association

643 Main Road

Phippsburg, ME 04562

"Getting old friends and classmates together"

www.essexaggie.org