

September 2014



Dear Friends of the AAF:

We hope this newsletter finds all of you well, having enjoyed the summer months.

We are glad once again to have the opportunity to honor and congratulate the 2014 AAF Scholarship recipients from Pomperaug High School. These 5 players are selected by their coaching staff and the AAF board. A \$1000.00 scholarship is given to a graduating boy(s) and girl(s) lacrosse player who best represent Alex's love of lacrosse and academics, commitment to improve himself and his teammates and to honor the Creator's game. Alex loved lacrosse and also cross country. He was a fan of Steve PreFontaine and one of his favorite quotes was "to give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift."

The 2014 Boys' scholarship recipient is Nick Harper. Nick played attack and midfield and served as Co-Captain for the PHS team. Nick is attending UCONN in the engineering program.

The 2014 Girls recipients are as follows: Caroline Fleming – College of the Holy Cross, Rebecca Foster – University of Delaware, Virginia Galante – Fairfield University, and Amanda Silk – Florida State University. Congratulations to these outstanding student athletes from Pomperaug High School.

The Girls' Lacrosse team has been a constant supporter of the AAF, thanks especially to the head coach, Mike Fleming. Each spring the girls hold a clinic for youth players and they collect donations for the AAF. Again this year, the Foundation received over \$200.00 from the Girls' Lax Night. We also appreciate that the Girls' team continues its tradition of "passing on #16" each season. The senior player wearing #16 has the task of selecting a younger player at the conclusion of the season. We are honored by this support and thank Mike and his team very much.

In addition to the Pomperaug Scholarships, the AAF gives an annual \$1,000.00 donation to The Hill School where Alex was attending as a post-graduate. Ned Ide, his coach, advisor and friend continues to be our liaison to The Hill and the Hill lacrosse team. He let us know that the donation was used to film 9 high level games in professional HD. The team was able to get immediate game film to study and the players highlight films were greatly enhanced. The Hill also selects a postgraduate player to wear #16 each season, this year – Dan Katzman. Ned shared with us that Dan very unfortunately tore his ACL and MCL early in his season at The Hill. Nonetheless, he wore #16 on the sidelines and was an inspiration to his teammates. We had a great call from Dan this summer, which we truly appreciated. We wish him well as he gets settled in at the University of Richmond.

We will share more about #16 later in the newsletter, but first we would like to let you know about our growing relationship with Hilltoppers Lacrosse of Central High



School, Bridgeport, CT, led by their coach, Shane Martin. The Foundation was able to complete the jersey donation that had begun in the spring of 2013, by providing red home jerseys last fall. In addition, the AAF also provided backdrop netting for the Hilltoppers' field, enabling them to practice while other sports were going on. In return, the Foundation was honored by the players with official Hilltoppers Lacrosse jackets! The team had its strongest season to date, finishing 6-5. In the upcoming 2015 season, the team will rise to the varsity level for the first time in its history. Shane continues to hold his players to disciplined standards, on and off the field. Five of his graduated seniors are attending college this fall. One player, Garfield Brown, is the first recipient of the new annual \$500. AAF scholarship – given to a graduating senior who embodies the same characteristics of the Pomperaug recipients, who is selected by his coach, Shane Martin. Garfield is attending the University of Bridgeport and he will play lacrosse there this spring. The AAF also covered camp tuition for two Central players, Chris Chann and Darwin Morales who attended the Gamebreaker Lacrosse Camp in New Canaan, CT this August. Both boys reported that they loved the experience and now have new skills to take back to their team. And congratulations to Chris who was selected as Camper of the Week for his leadership skills. We have included a copy of a letter we received from Shane and his administrators at Central – we are so encouraged by positive feedback about the AAF and its mission.

We have mentioned our friend, Don Wilson in past newsletters. Don is the reason the AAF has a relationship with Central High School and Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse. Last fall, the Foundation supported one of Don's high school fall league teams. The AAF paid for the team to play in a fall showcase tournament in November. Don invited us to volunteer at Bridgeport's Healthy Kids Day in July. We joined Don and his son and other volunteers to share lacrosse with Bridgeport kids attending summer camp in the city – what a fun, positive experience for us. Those kids picked up ground balls in a flash!

The AAF assisted the Pomperaug boys' team early in the season with two boxes of balls, and again, the Foundation donated \$100.00 to New Fairfield Youth Lacrosse on the first anniversary of the death of our friend in lacrosse, John Pendergast, Jr.

This newsletter has grown into the primary fundraising source for the AAF. Last year, the newsletter generated over \$3000.00, which was tremendous. Thank you again to all of our supporters. With that in mind, Dave and Anne Archie, Tom's brother and sister -in-law, have suggested that the AAF get set up to receive stock donations. The Archies, with the help of our accountant, Jay Witek are in the final stages of the set-up. Please feel free to email us with any questions about this option ([jzarchie@aol.com](mailto:jzarchie@aol.com)). Thank you to Dave, Anne and Jay for the stock help, and to Jay who continues to help with the AAF taxes at no cost to the Foundation.

Our friends at Cheshire Sport helped the AAF again with a renewed stock of the three t-shirts at cost – Bob Bush has been a forever supporter and his discounts are truly appreciated.



Now back to #16... we wish to recognize the players who have worn/wear#16 – at least those we are aware of, and for anyone we have forgotten or do not know about, please get in touch with us. We are realizing that Alex's spirit is carried on in many states, on many lacrosse fields and hockey rinks, which is quite amazing. So here we go: Sam and Henry Archie -PHS (#16 was retired at PHS Boys' lacrosse after Henry graduated), Henry Archie - ASU, PHS Girls' Lacrosse, Ricky Pitman - WCSU, Mike Curcio – Summer League "14, Chris Howell - Hofstra, Dan Katzman – The Hill (one of many since 2008) and maybe Richmond, Duncan Saunders – UNC, Sean Brown – Gettysburg, Colin West – Walpole Youth Lacrosse and hockey, Harry Yohn – Lewisburg Youth Lacrosse – wow! Thank you all for keeping Alex so close to your game. A special thanks to Nate Ide who apparently received great interest from Brazilian friends regarding the AAF wristband he wore while there this past summer. Please send us pictures of #16 in action and traveling wristbands.

We have a range of sizes in all three t-shirt designs (AAF/16, Stick and Feather, Braid). Please let us know if you would like to purchase one for a \$15.00 donation, and we have wristbands available for free.

On a final note, we would like to recognize Samantha and Anne Archie for their commitment to the AFSP (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention). The AAF was founded to remember Alex's life, but we would be remiss to not talk about his death by suicide. We wish so badly that we could have saved him and we honor those who work so hard to raise awareness about suicide so that fewer lives will be lost and fewer families will have to feel this pain. Samantha, Alex's cousin, has been an active participant in the Out of the Darkness walks, and she has been supported by her mother, Anne (Dave and Ricki too). We are grateful to them for honoring Alex's life and death in this pro-active way. Tom and I did our first walk last October and plan to do another again soon. These are touching and very positive events should you ever want to try one ([www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)).

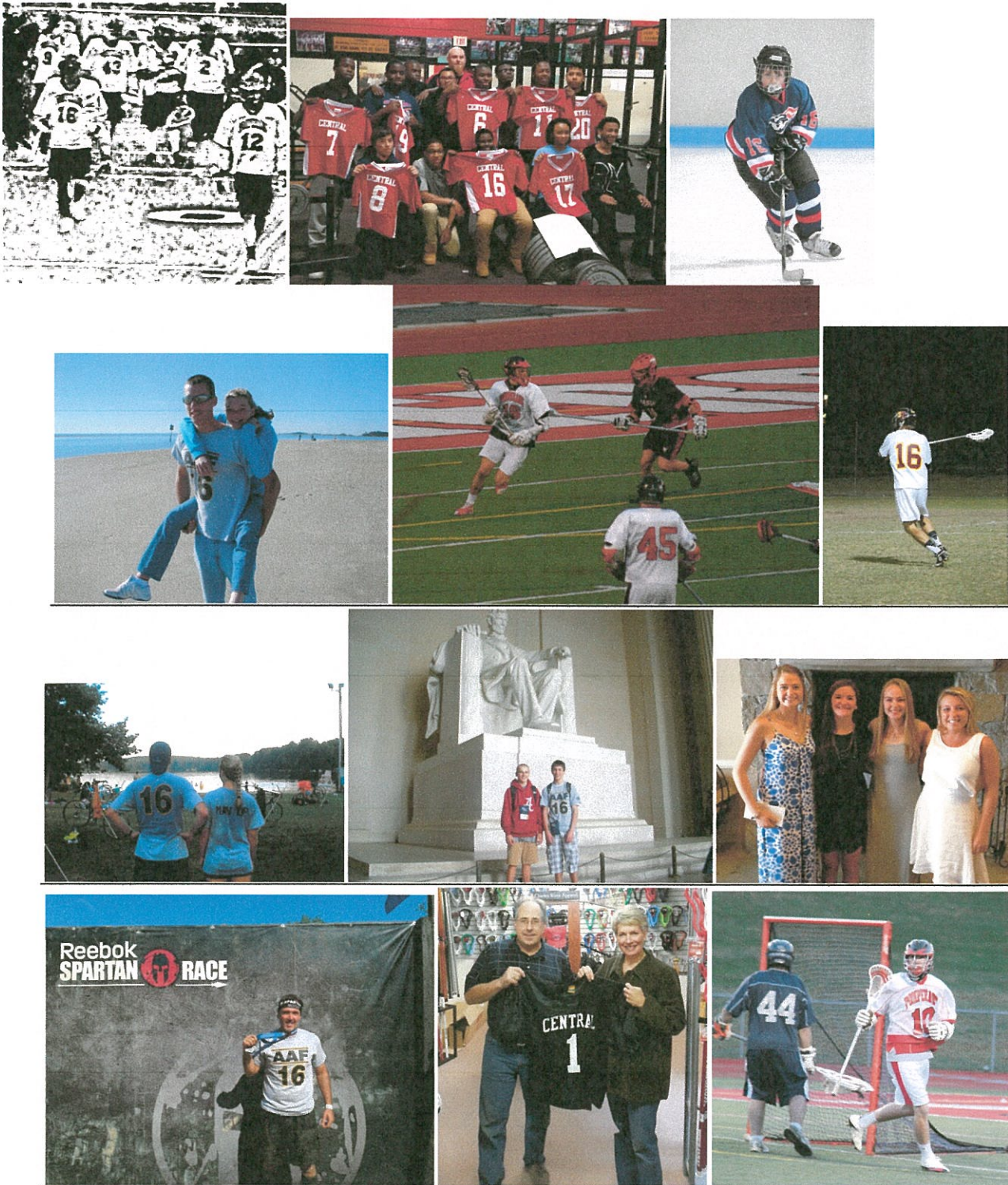
Thank you all for your continued support. The Foundation continues due to your generosity and interest. If you know of a program, family or individual who is in need of support re: a lacrosse program or interest, please let us know.

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## 2014 Gallery of Events and AFF Supporters



Pictures above - Top left going across and down/across: 1) Alex and Sam- PHS '07, 2) Hilltoppers- Central High School, 3) Colin West, 4) Jack and Jane Campbell, 5) Sam Archie – PHS 6) Henry Archie - ASU, 7) Mike and Taylor Fleming, 8) Henry and friend Dom Rosa, 9) 2014 PHS Girls Scholarship winners, 10) Charlie Guck – Spartan Champion, 11) Bob Bush, Cheshire Sport Center, 12) Nick Harper- 2014 PHS Boys Scholarship Winner, 13) Not Shown Garfield Brown – 2014 Central High Scholarship Winner.



## AAF Apparel



Pictures above - Top left going across and down/across: 1) AAF Bracelets 2) AAF Shirt 1 – front and back, 2) AAF shirt 2 Front and back 3) AAF shirt 3 – front and back

## AAF Apparel





# Central High School

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Making Our Students College Ready*

RE: New Uniforms / Alex Archie Foundation

4/14/2013

Dear Tom and Lisa,

On behalf of myself, the team, our Athletic Directors (Neil Kavey and Daniel Coleman), and our principal Stephen Anderson; we would all like to say thank you again for the new uniforms the Alex Archie Foundation so generously donated to Central Lacrosse. Our players have looked like a genuine high school lacrosse team over this last week due to the spirit and energy our new uniforms have provided, as well as a lot of hard work and dedication to the sport.

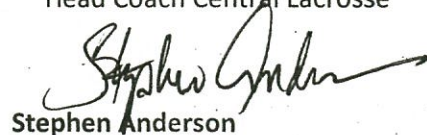
The AAF has once again fulfilled their mission in helping more kids play lacrosse. We sincerely thank the foundation and the Board of Directors in their decision to help Central Lacrosse this year. We will continue to carry on the spirit and integrity of Alex and the foundation.

Sincerely,



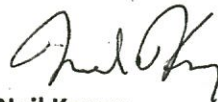
Shane M. Martin

Head Coach Central Lacrosse



Stephen Anderson

Principal Central High School



Neil Kavey

Bridgeport Director of Athletics



Daniel Coleman

Central High School Athletic Director