

# TIGER TRACKS



Official Newsletter of the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc  
January, 2013 - Mark Ahrens, President - [www.AmherstAlumni.org](http://www.AmherstAlumni.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mark Ahrens '73 - President

What a 2012 it was! The March Fund Drive, Golf Outing, Tigerfest and The Educator Emeritus Dinner; not to mention the many reunions and tours through our halls. We have given out \$5,500 in grants and are hoping to increase that amount this coming year. Why are we able to take this proactive road? It is because of you, our Alumni, who have stepped up to help the student of today experience the opportunities we had along with the new technologies of today.



We took a major step in answering the need for bringing the Community and the Alumni together for the good of the district, with the formation of the Alternative Funding Committee. This Partnership will pave the way for a stronger, safer school district and community. Sarah Carney, our director, will work hard to bring us together and keep us focused on the goal. Please make her feel welcome.

### **What's new for 2013**

We are going to try something new to help the Amherst Operetta Association sell more tickets to this year's production, which is Les Mis. The plan is that you will be able to purchase tickets thru our website: [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org). You will be able to pay via Paypal or check and we will have a will call table the night of the performance. The final plan will be posted on [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org) and on Facebook. **THIS WILL BE FOR THE ALUMNI NIGHT ONLY ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 @ 7:30 PM.** We will have an Alumni section reserved for us in the auditorium.

**We will again have a Fund Drive in March to coincide with March Madness.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alumni Challenge of the Decades will commence March 1<sup>st</sup>. Our goal this year will be \$25,000. We need your support!!

The Golf Outing will be earlier this year on Thursday, July 11. More information will follow is at the end of Tiger Tracks. The Committee has started to meet and

formulate a new and exciting day of Golf, Food, Prizes and Fun!

**We are looking for new members on the board.**

If you are interested in joining a great group of Tiger supporters contact Chris Byrd at: 716.362.8259 or [alumni@amherstschoools.org](mailto:alumni@amherstschoools.org). Did you enjoy your days at Amherst? Do you have financial, marketing, event planning or would just like to give back? Please consider our invitation.

I want to again thank you for all you have done to make 2012 a year to remember.

## HELLO SARAH CARNEY

In August 2012, the Alternative Funding Committee, made up of Amherst Alumni, School District representatives and residents, named Sarah G. Carney the coordinator of The Amherst Appeal. Sarah will be a liaison between the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, the Board of Education, the Amherst School District and the Community. She will work with alumni, current Amherst families and business owners to garner financial support for the Schools of Amherst.



With over 20 years of operations in fundraising, sales, targeted marketing and event planning, Sarah is uniquely comfortable in soliciting any prospect and easily establishing a rapport with a broad constituency. Sarah's recent project list includes: ECMC Lifeline Foundation's Operation Critical campaign, Alternating Currents - The 2011 National Preservation Conference, Mercy Flight's "Sponsor a Mission" campaign, The Preservation League of New York State's 2012 Pillar Award Ceremony honoring Margaret L. Wendt and The Park School of Buffalo's Centennial Celebration.

Volunteer efforts include: Amherst Central School District's Alternative Funding Sources Committee, Park School's Advancement Committee, Buffalo Microparks, "Hope for Two", Nichols School Alumni Association,

Tapestry Charter School, North Buffalo Bison Hockey and Mel Ott Little League.

Sarah is a lifetime resident of 14226 and she, her husband Timothy, and their Smallwood students, Jane and Jack Carney (age 8), are very proud to support Amherst.

*A note from Sarah...*

*Happy New Year! Please consider The Amherst Appeal. The Amherst Central School District, its Board of Education and The Amherst Alumni Foundation invite your participation and partnership in a promotion which directly benefits The Amherst School District – Amherst’s students, teachers, academic programs, arts offerings, athletic experiences, and our schools’ buildings and learning spaces. Sustainability and enhancement are critical. The Board of Education and Amherst’s leadership have recognized limitations on revenue and the dire need which exists to seek sources of alternative funding.*

*Please consider your tax-deductible donation in support of our Amherst students and our community of good neighbors. Our residents are those who feel an incredible pride and partnership as evidenced in the district’s 4:1 vote in favor of the 2012 Capital Improvements Project. We know how much work there is to do now! Therefore, support from the members of the Amherst community – its alumni, parents, residents, businesses and friends - will generate key enthusiasm and momentum as we begin our work and as Amherst’s donors commit to this worthy cause.*

*Please consider a donation in 2013 which will directly affect the people and places of Smallwood, Windermere, Amherst Middle School and Amherst High School. Please make your gift payable to the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc. Please remember that participation, gifts of any amount, support The Amherst Appeal!*

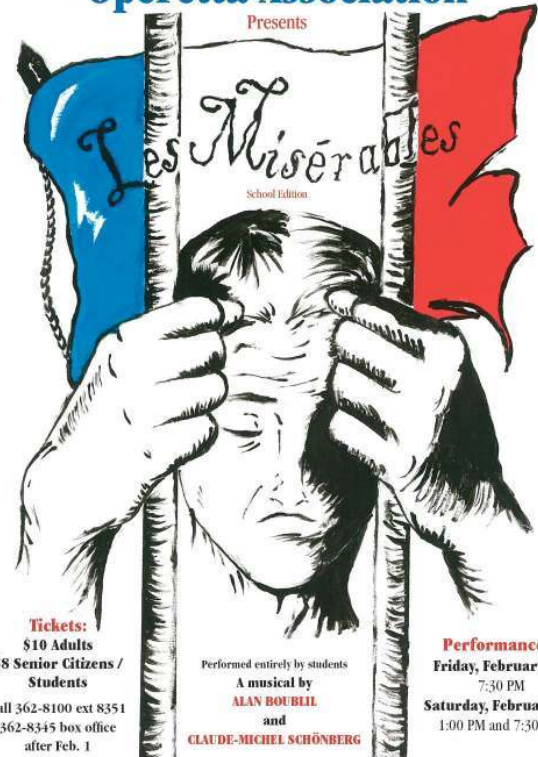
*Your 2013 donation will directly strengthen, endorse and support our mission to provide a superior educational experience in the Amherst School District. In collaboration with enthusiastic parents, residents, school administrators and volunteers, who make up our Alternative Funding Sources Committee, we ask you to please place The Amherst Appeal at the top of your philanthropic priority list this year. Every district resident and business owner benefits when the students and teachers benefit. We have evidence that strong schools create a strong community!*

Thank you for considering this special request. Thank you for your support of Amherst! Go Tigers!



## JOIN US FOR LES MISERABLES

### The Amherst Central High School Operetta Association



**Alumni Night @ the Operetta**  
**Friday, February 8th**  
**Special Alumni Seating**  
**Visit [AmherstAlumni.org](http://AmherstAlumni.org) for details!**

Join us on Friday, February 8, 2013 at 7:30 pm for the Operetta Association’s production of ‘Les Misérables’ at Amherst Central High School.

There will be a special alumni section for Friday’s performance. Help support the arts in Amherst.

For tickets, please visit our website. The deadline to order is Friday, February 1. (Ticket form at the end of Tiger Tracks.)

This is a great way to support the arts in Amherst.



## LOOKING FOR INFO ON VETERANS

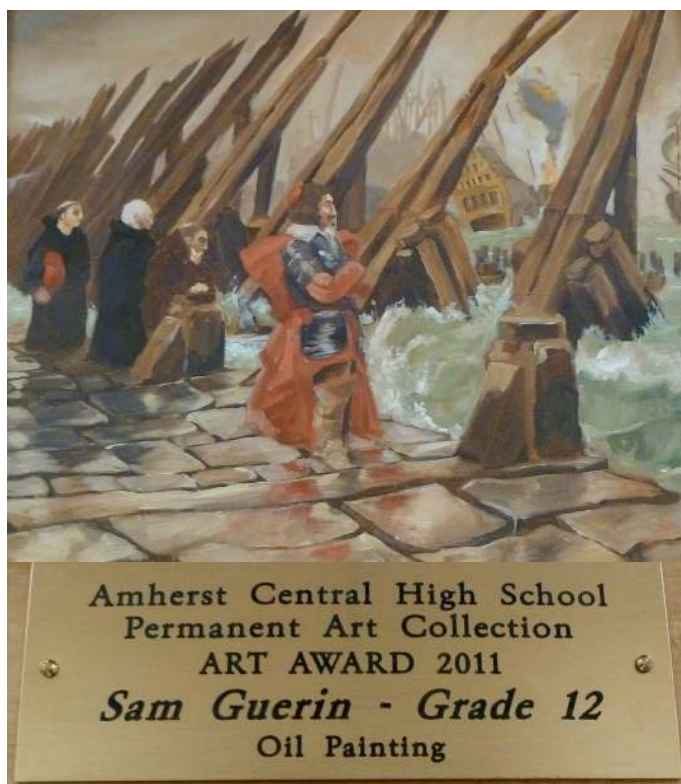
By Christopher Byrd - Alumni Office



On May 22, 2013, we are planning on honoring our Amherst Alums who have served our Country in the Armed Services. Plans are still in the works. You can help by providing us the names of people you know who served from WWII to today's conflict. We want to make this a special event. Please help us.

If you have any questions, please contact our office. 716.362.8259 Follow this link for more info--->  
<http://tinyurl.com/amherst-vets>

## FROM THE AMHERST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PERMANENT ART COLLECTION



## EDUCATOR EMERITUS RECAP

By Ellen Marshall '69



In 2004, the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc. and the Amherst Central School District embarked on an initiative to recognize retired Amherst Central educators. This recognition/award is titled "Distinguished Educator Emeritus". The honor is bestowed upon an educator (teacher - administrator - counselor - etc.) who is held in the highest regard for his or her contributions to students while in service at Amherst. It is designed to embrace all staff grades K-12, whether it is at the High School, Middle School, Harlem Road School, Eggert Road School, Smallwood Drive School or Windermere Boulevard School.

Graduates of Amherst Central and current or retired faculty members may submit a nomination. The format requires a statement that outlines the attributes of the nominee to be considered for this recognition. It may focus on a single encounter of guidance or inspiration that affected a "student" or a series of efforts over the course of a year or years that exemplifies dedication to education at Amherst Central. The Alumni Foundation members greatly value the contributions of these educators at each grade level and every year receives many letters, which is certainly a tribute to all of the former teachers and administrators who have served over the years in the Amherst Central School District.

The 1st Distinguished Educator Award was presented in 2004 to retired Amherst High School Principal, Donald Munson. Since then, ACAF has recognized a total of 16 retired teachers and administrators. This year's recipients were honored at an awards reception at the Sonoma Grille on October 25th. Co-Chairs for this year's event, Virginia Rusk '71 and Robert Laskie '57, along with ACAF President, Mark Ahrens '73, introduced the presenters and honorees.

The 2012 Educator Emeritus Awards recipients are:

**Truman Beckley Brown, Ph.D** - *High School Economics, History & Social Studies Teacher from 1964 - 1991*

Retired High School Social Studies Teacher and Department Chair, David Ulrich, introduced Dr. Brown who had been nominated by Jill Forshee '67 and Steve Greenfield Raikin '67. They stated that "Beck was a tremendously effective and creative teacher whose sage advice, wisdom, guidance and mentorship inspired several generations of Amherst students to achieve not only influential leadership roles in their chosen professions, but also to become actively involved in the

betterment of American society at the local, state and national levels.”

**Dr. Howard Craig** - *High School Guidance Counselor & Department Chair from 1972 - 2005*

Presented by fellow retired Guidance Department colleague, Gary Runckel, Dr. Craig was nominated by Thomas Theophilos '80 who declared that “as an advisor to the Student Council, Dr. Craig performed tasks above and beyond the call of duty. He offered trenchant and incisive advice, expertly moderated disputes among members of the Council regarding policies and procedures and was always available to the students.”

**(The late) Gail Eisen** - *Elementary Teacher at Windermere Blvd. School for 37 years*

Sarah Korn-Rothschild '69 & Retired Amherst Special Education Teacher described Mrs. Eisen as a “fabulous 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher who approached teaching with great dedication and enthusiasm and who truly enhanced the lives of her students. Whether she was teaching 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, the atmosphere in her classroom was electric.” Mrs. Eisen was designated posthumously by Julia Savarino Spitz '01. Dr. Sanford Eisen accepted the award on behalf of his late wife noting that “every child was very special to her.”

**Jack Koch** - *Retired High School Assistant Principal/Dean of Students in 2007*

Retired High School Principal, Joseph Podgorski, characterized Koch as “thoughtful, complex, and loyal while relating numerous stories of lives at Amherst he had touched while working under 6 different administrators. Nominated by Detective Lieutenant Donald Wright, Jr. '67, Koch and Wright, a member of the Amherst Police Department, worked closely together with administration. Detective Wright states, “I observed his interaction with many students and marveled at his ability of dealing with kids in a firm, fair and impartial manner. The respect the students had for him was amazing. Jack touched many lives, and in my opinion is likely responsible for putting many on the right track.”

**Virginia Federico** - *High School French and Spanish Teacher for 35 years*

Dr. Thomas Virginia, High School Latin Teacher, closed the evening with an emotional tribute to his friend and former colleague. In her award recommendation, Katy Wright Nash'75 said that Miss Federico had a special

bond with her students. When planning trips to France as part of the class, she encouraged and directed her students, but allowed them to be part of the preparations. Nash said it was a “tremendous learning opportunity for us.” Miss Federico had a great love for the French language, and her patience and encouragement through the years made her students appreciate the French language as well.

### REUNIONS 2013

By Christopher Byrd - Alumni Office



There are five reunions scheduled thus far for 2013.

- Class of 1963 - 50 Year
- Class of 1968 - 45 Year
- Class of 1973 - 40 Year
- Class of 1978 - 35 Year
- Class of 1983 - 30 Year

For more information, visit our website.

If your class doesn't appear on the list and you know you are having a reunion, please contact the alumni office at 716.362.8259 and we will add information to our website.

### Were you a swimmer at Amherst?

By Lynn Ramsey '79

Did you set a record and have your name on the school record board? If so, keep reading....The swim program is desperately in need of a new record board. Currently there are separate boards, one for girls and one for boys and it is difficult to modify and update. The coach would like to see one combined record board highlighting accomplishments of both boys and girls. At this time the only pool in use for



Varsity, Junior Varsity and Modified is at Amherst Middle School.

The board costs \$2000-\$3000 and they have asked the PTSA for a grant to cover some of the costs. The swim teams are also fundraising for this project. They have come to us, the alumni grant Committee, for a request of \$1500.00 and we do not have enough to fund this large project, so we are reaching out to you! There are many records set by alumni that are still unchallenged. What a thrill to see your name on a brand new, readable, record board!

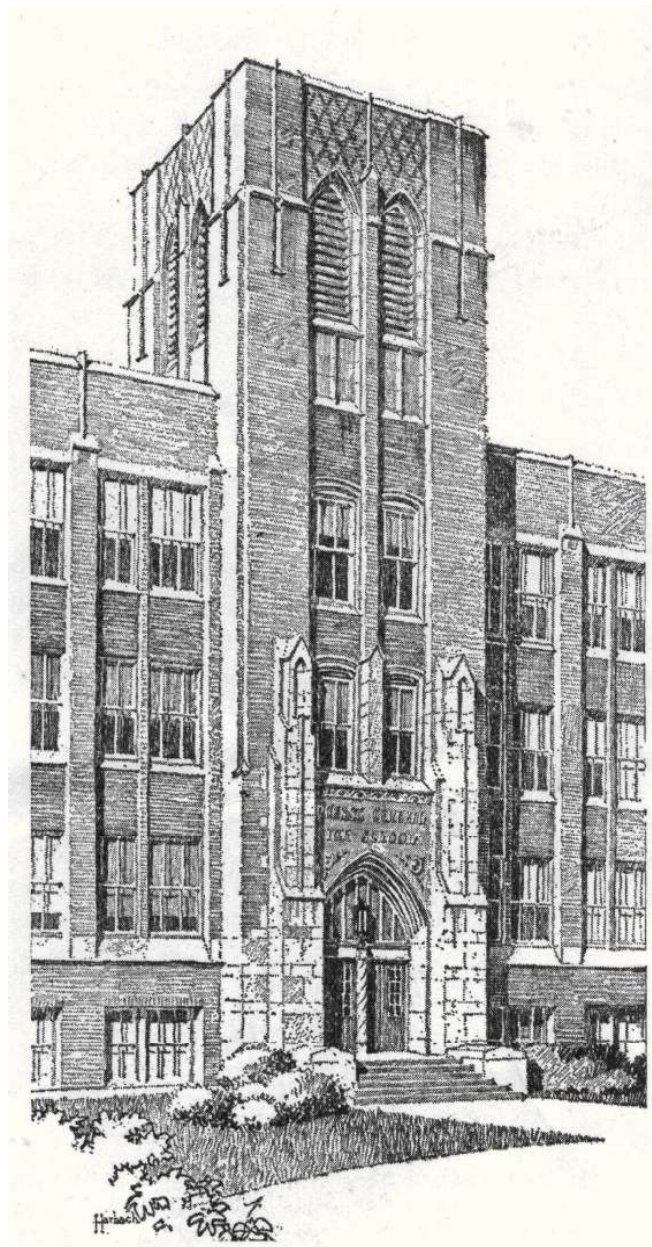
You can make a donation to this effort by sending a check to the Alumni Foundation.

Make checks payable and send to:

ACAF, Inc. - 4301 Main Street - Amherst, NY 14226

Please indicate money is for swimming board.

**NEXT ISSUE OF TIGER TRACKS WILL BE  
PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2013!!**



Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc.  
4301 Main Street - Room 103 HS  
Amherst, New York 14226  
[www.AmherstAlumni.org](http://www.AmherstAlumni.org)  
716.362.8259

The Amherst Central Alumni Office is open year-round on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am-1pm!

# Les Misérables

## AMHERST ALUMNI ORDER FORM

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets @ \$10: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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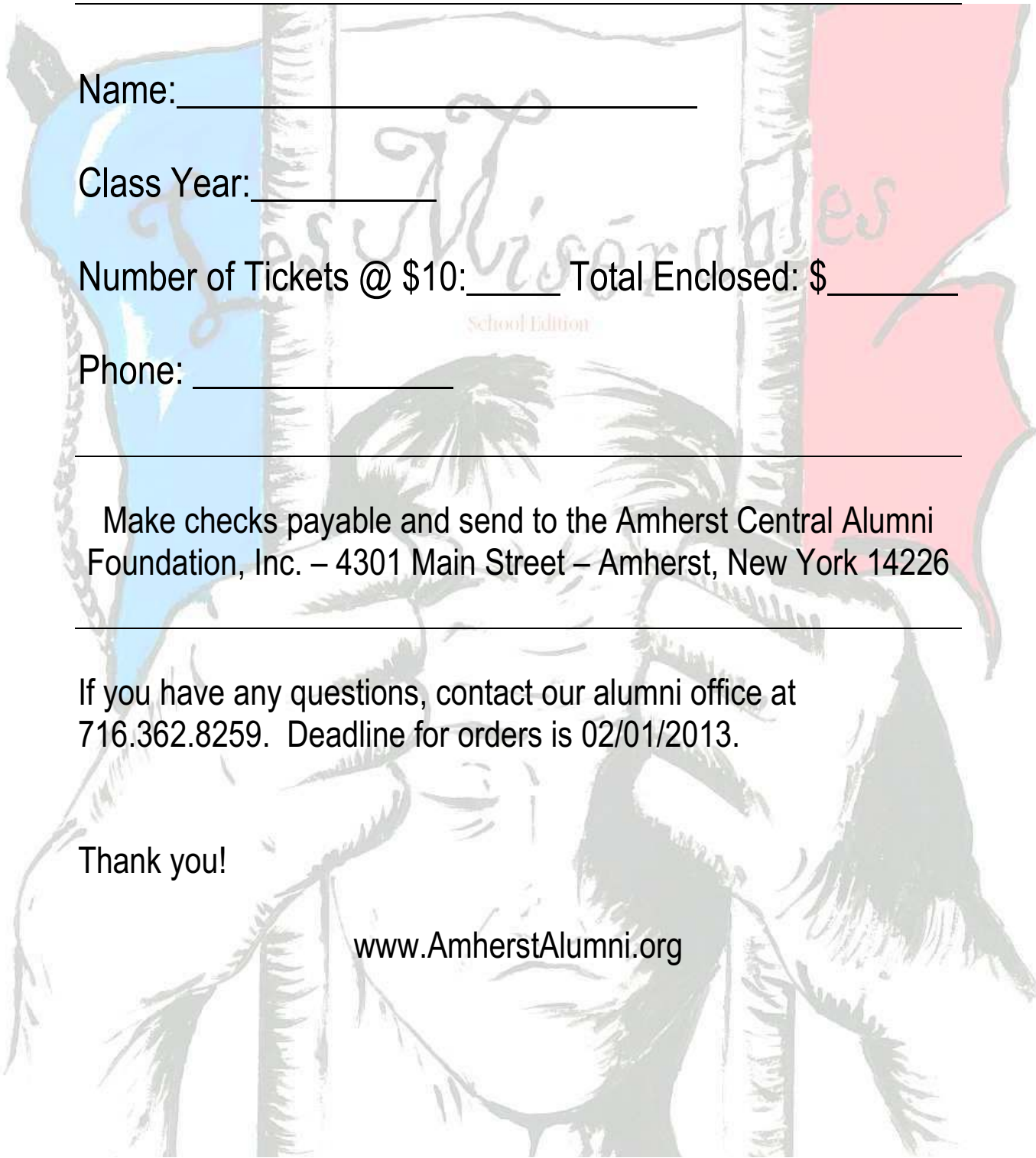
Make checks payable and send to the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation, Inc. – 4301 Main Street – Amherst, New York 14226

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If you have any questions, contact our alumni office at 716.362.8259. Deadline for orders is 02/01/2013.

Thank you!

[www.AmherstAlumni.org](http://www.AmherstAlumni.org)



**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Amherst Central Alumni Foundation Golf Classic**  
**Thursday, July 11, 2013**

**Glen Oak Golf Course "Scramble" Format - 12 Noon Shotgun Start**

**Includes: 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, refreshments on course, dinner buffet, raffles & prizes**



**Adult golfer - \$135; Student (21 & under) - \$85; Dinner only - \$25**  
**Early Bird Adult Price = \$125; Student = \$75 if registered by 5/31/2013**

**New this year: LIVE AUCTION! Items include custom fit set of Titleist irons + gourmet catered gourmet dinner for 10 ... many more items to come!**

Reserve your spot today! Come with a foursome or as a single and we'll pair you up.



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Detach and include with your reservation. Thank you.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I will be playing with the following foursome: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I'm coming as a single  please pair me up.

I'm coming for dinner  raffles & auction. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend. Please accept my donation. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to: ACAF, Inc., and mail to:  
Alumni Golf Classic, 4301 Main St. - Amherst, NY 14226*

*Questions? Please call the Alumni Office: 362-8259 or e-mail: [alumni@amherstschools.org](mailto:alumni@amherstschools.org)  
Visit our website for sponsorship opportunities & additional information: [www.amherstalumni.org](http://www.amherstalumni.org)*