

CBHS has a new member of the Purple Wave team with the naming of Janet Hill as the new Director of Alumni Relations beginning this July. Janet grew up in Athens, Alabama. She received her B.A. from Birmingham-Southern College and her M.S. and Ph.D. from Auburn University. She has been married to her husband Mark (CBHS '74) for 21 years, and they have three sons, Henry (CBHS '12), junior Warner, and sophomore Ben. She wrote the following as an introduction to the CBHS community:

Shortly after I moved to Memphis and met my future husband Mark, I found it curious that on one of our first dates he took me to a Christian Brothers football game. It struck me as unusual because we had both been out of high school for more than a few years, and while I had fond memories of my own alma mater, a small public school in Alabama, I had never felt the urge to go back and spend a Friday evening cheering on my old team. It became immediately clear to me however, that Christian Brothers was not like my high school. And although at the time I couldn't quite put my finger on it, it struck me that the CBHS community was special, and I remember thinking "I'm glad to know a place like this exists."

Twenty years and three sons later, I have become very familiar with what makes Christian Brothers such a special place and how its Lasallian tradition and values set it apart from so many other schools. And while I have grown accustomed to CBHS and the difference it makes in the lives of young men, I still delight in seeing the reaction of someone who is new to the Brothers.

When my 80-year old mother visited from out of town to attend one of the CBHS senior ceremonies for our oldest son, her eyes filled with tears as students processed into Heffernan Hall while Patrick

Bolton and the CBHS band played "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" in the background. I looked at my mom and she said, "You don't know how good it makes me feel to know that a place like this exists." And although my mom, like me, probably couldn't put into words exactly what

struck her during her initial visit to Christian Brothers, she knew that CBHS was the place she wanted her grandsons to be.

I have seen similar reactions from parents who are new to Christian Brothers but choose to send their sons here after one visit to the campus. I've heard comments from parents about how their sons, who were initially enrolled in CBHS at their parents' insistence, later thanked their parents for making them Brothers' boys. I've heard others speak about their decisions to transfer their sons from schools that didn't support their values, choosing instead

Janet Hill



Director, Alumni Relations

to send them to CBHS because they realized the importance of educating their sons in a place where they could embrace their faith. I've heard mothers speak about the importance of their sons growing under the Brothers' tutelage where their guidance had a profound effect in shaping who their sons would become as young men. And I've heard current CBHS students tell annual fund supporters, "Thank you for giving me the chance to be a Brothers' Boy". They all recognize the uniqueness of CBHS.

To the casual observer, evidence of the Christian Brothers difference can first be found on the banners that adorn the campus. "Brothers pray." "Brothers defend the weak." "Brothers love." "Brothers discern." "Brothers believe." These statements all reflect the unique qualities of life at CBHS. However, the true difference between CBHS and other schools is most evident when you walk the halls, see the interactions between faculty and students, attend a school Mass, or speak with a student about his experience with the Brothers. It becomes obvious that the values that have defined Christian Brothers for the past 142 years -- faith, tradition, service, and brotherhood -- are alive and well within the halls of CBHS today. Is it any wonder that people in the community support the Brothers' mission, that alumni come back for campus events, or that the stands are filled on a football Friday night? There is something special about this place.

I believe the same is true for our CBHS alumni. Our alumni follow in the Brothers' tradition leaving CBHS to make their worlds a better place. Living out the legacy of faith, tradition, service, and brotherhood, the CBHS alumni are a direct testament to the sincerity of the Brothers' mission and the quality of the men it produces, and they stand out as unique to the outside world. An incredible asset, CBHS

alumni represent Christian Brothers and spread the light of Lasallian tradition to friends, families, and communities. They also give back to CBHS supporting the Brothers' continuing mission to produce men of unique character and quality, giving others the shared privilege of becoming Brothers' boys.

As I take on my new role as Director of Alumni Relations, I feel incredibly humbled and blessed by the opportunity to work with the many generations of CBHS alumni. Whether you've been away for a while or whether you are one of our newest alums from the proud class of 2013, you are all Brothers for life and each of you is an integral part of the CBHS community. If you've never had the chance to reconnect with Christian Brothers, come back and experience the uniqueness of this special place. Even if you are a frequent visitor to the campus come back when you can see the heart of the school. Take a tour when school is in session. Bring a friend, a spouse, a child or grandchild. Great things are happening at CBHS, and we want to share it. You will be enriched to see that the Lasallian tradition is alive and well, just as we will benefit from reconnecting with you and your unique contribution to the legacy of CBHS tradition and brotherhood.

I will officially begin on campus in July, and I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me in the Development Office at 261-4930. Your questions and suggestions are always welcome. If you'd like to schedule a tour I'd be more than happy to arrange that, too. I look forward to meeting you, hearing what you've been doing, and working together as we enhance your alumni experience, strengthen alumni bonds, and support the Brothers in their mission to bring CBHS tradition to future generations.

God Bless and Go Brothers!

