

## 4 OHS National Merit Scholar semifinalists named

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced that Andrew Berger, David Holdren, Audrey Maney, and Jonathan Pearson join the ranks of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an

opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 National Merit Scholarships. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to obtain

finalist standing and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar Title.

These scholarship recipients will join more than 267,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

OSEF hosts new *Merit and Milestones* luncheons

In three recent small gatherings, 26 Oakwood High School alumni from the classes of 1933 to 1945 attended the Oakwood Schools Education Foundation's first Merit & Milestones Luncheons. The luncheons provide an opportunity for classmates to recount successes, connect with friends and acquaintances, share memories and hear about the recent achievements of the Oakwood School District and the Oakwood Schools Education Foundation. The Foundation is hosting a coffee Homecoming weekend on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 9:30 a.m. before the high school tours begin. Join us at the entrance to the Auditorium. All are welcome!

Guests were encouraged to share favorite anecdotes and memories from their school days. The stories shared were delightful and inspiring. Several luncheon attendees spoke fondly of Ms. Maria Bickham who taught English, grammar and Biology. Ed Herrman '39 recalls, "Ms. Bickham was a gem. I was fortunate enough at my 45<sup>th</sup> reunion to see her and tell her that and give her a big hug." David Smith '39 credits Mrs. Lou K. Weber, a "fine teacher, good watercolor artist, too," with encouraging his pursuit of a Dayton Art Institute scholarship, and his college studies at Miami University which led to his career as an artist.

Mr. Mack Hummon was remembered by Tom Routsong '45 and Bill Potter '45 for his great sense of humor which permeated his teaching and coaching style. Others spoke of undefeated football teams and formidable Speech and Debate teams coached by Mr. John Martin. "He was one of the top speech coaches in the country," shared Doris Morgan Gaffney '42. "I participated in debate in college and I had better competition at Oakwood High School than I had at Ohio University." While many things about the Oakwood School District have changed over the years, Oakwood's commitment to academic excellence is a constant.

The Foundation is grateful for community members and donors who make our grants, scholarships and special initiatives possible. With anticipated future cuts in the State education budget, private funding is increasingly important. A program for planned giving has been initiated to create an opportunity for alumni, friends and community members



Libby Hornbeck '34 reacting to a memory being shared by a fellow OHS Alumnus.



Tom Routsong '45 enjoyed getting together with former classmates.



Helen Holtson Hageman '37 and Marianna Jones Leyes '37 reconnected at the Merit & Milestones Luncheon in June.

who want to give back and make a difference in the lives of Oakwood students. This deferred giving program offers donors an alternative to making current gifts, which has been more challenging for some due to the uncertainty in existing

market conditions.

For more information about the Foundation or deferred giving opportunities, please visit our website at [www.oakwood.k12.oh.us/osef](http://www.oakwood.k12.oh.us/osef) or call Karen Gillingham, Director, at 297-5332.

3rd ANNUAL

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