

Good morning,

The Alumni Association held an official launch party during Homecoming Week on Friday, October 8th, to coincide with the varsity football game. Thanks to a generous donation from a family within the community, a large 30'x60' tent was set up on the south end of the football field. Executive Council members for the Association assembled a wonderful display of memorabilia inside the tent, for visitors to enjoy throughout the night. A complete set of yearbooks from 1943 to present allowed alumni to reminisce while current students had fun looking for their parents and grandparents. A rack of vintage clothing featured three generations of varsity jackets, worn by members of the Frerichs family.

Grandfather Adrian earned his jacket in 1962, while his son Steve earned his in 1989, followed by his grandson Steven in 2019. Don Basil, a 1977 graduate, loaned his 'Orange Man' jacket to the display. To receive the illustrious Orangemen Award, both back then and now, students have to play three sports a year for four consecutive years. Jackie Benton, also a 1977 grad, loaned the Association her orange graduation gown, as well as her mother's black Wilson sweater. In the corner of the tent, a slideshow of photographs ran on a loop, documenting 100 years of school history (the slideshow is also included on the Alumni website). The Wilson Historical Society loaned several items to the display, including old diplomas, report cards, photographs, keepsakes and trophies. Trivia questions based on school history were posed from the press box throughout the night, which prompted many in the crowd to remember people and places they thought they had forgotten. (Did you know that the school colors, orange and black, were officially voted on and adopted in 1900?) Finally, new members were signed up, to add to the 600+ who have already shared their contact information.

The Association has submitted the paperwork necessary to become a not-for-profit organization, and is waiting on its official status. Eventually, donations may be accepted and dues will be collected, with the long-term goal of establishing scholarships for Wilson graduates.

The Executive Council extends our thanks to everyone who helped make the official launch such a success. To stay connected to the Alumni Association, please: [wilsoncsd.org/Page/947](http://wilsoncsd.org/Page/947) .

Go Lakemen!

Maureen Mahar

*Class of 1987*