

Doug,

Thank you so much for discussing the status of the graduation composite portraits with the Alumni Association. I am sorry to not be available for the dinner, but if I can answer any questions or help in any way, please contact me any time this weekend, or later in the summer. My dream is to see a copy of each portrait displayed in the cases in the high school auditorium lobby, and to know that the originals are stored in a safe location, preferably in an archival storage box.

As you know, when I came to the high school three years ago the portraits were stacked in the media center storage room, still in their original frames. A decision had been made to display them in flip cases in the library, but there was some concern about placement of the cases because of lighting and humidity, and supervision of the originals. After talking to Sandy Bromley and Brian Thompson, I arranged for a professional photographer (John Sullivan, of Aerial Associates Photography in Ann Arbor) to make digital copies of each portrait, including the ones hanging in the old high school, now the Schoolhouse Apartments, so high quality copies could be made for display while keeping the originals safely stored. We also moved the display flip case into the auditorium lobby for better public access.

After digital copies were made, the originals from 1912-1940 were returned to the Schoolhouse Apartments, reframed with archival quality materials by James Dameron who generously donated his time and expertise. Composites from 1941-1959 were also hung with them in the original frames, since all those classes graduated from the old high school. The building is locked to the general public, but the pictures can be viewed by request; contact Dick or Marlene Clark. The remaining composites 1960-2002 are in a cardboard box in the high school library storage room; the corresponding frames are stored separately in a maintenance room [where? I don't know].

This is where the project has stalled. The high school now has a poster printer that is capable of making photo quality copies from the digital images, and the media center has ordered 2 rolls of photo quality paper suitable for printing the composites. (Each roll should print about 20 photos @ about \$65.00 per roll. Ink is \$35 per cartridge, and we can only estimate it would take 2-3 cartridges to print all 65 graduate composites.) Here are questions to consider:

- Most portraits need digital editing to restore the photos to their original condition. Many have stains, discolorations, tears, even small pictures torn out that can be repaired with photoshopping. But the process is time-consuming and requires some expertise. Who is to be responsible for “cleaning up” the digital images?
- The pictures could be printed ‘as is’, and displayed until restored copies are completed, but that would be more costly to print. Given a limited budget, the school district plans only to print a few composites at a time, as they are made available for viewing.
- Composites of 1941-1959 hanging in the old high school need to be reframed in archival quality materials. Who will sponsor the materials and reframing?
- What should be done with the unframed originals—from 1960-1994? [Linda Hebert is checking on price quotes for photo storage cases and archival sleeves.]
- What is to be done with the original frames in storage?

There are 65 digital images from 1912-1994, excluding the following years: 1913-19, 1921-24, 1927-28, 1932, 1934, 1990, 1992. Apparently no composites were made from 1995-2002. Original composites from 2003- present are displayed in the flip case (digital images of these would be a copyright violation).