

**Homecoming
Sept. 13th
& 14th
Honoring the
Class of 1963**



TCHS Hall of Fame Inductees for 2013

The TCHS Alumni Association is proud to announce the induction of three very worthy alum into its Hall of Fame during this year's Homecoming festivities. Chosen are: Mike Weber, Class of 1962; Joe Kleiss, Class of 1963; and Robert Wetzel, Class of 1962. Here is some info on their backgrounds:

Professor Emeritus **Michael T. Weber**, Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, grew up on a cash grain farm in rural Tuscola. He was nominated for

the H of F by classmate Marsha Graham Strader. He started his professional career in 1965 working for 3 years as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer/agricultural extension agent in rural areas of Huila, Colombia. He completed a B.S. degree from Southern IL University and an M.S./Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Working with MSU he was instrumental over 37 years of professional work in building and sustaining programs on agricultural and food marketing, international ag development and food security. His contributions have spanned areas of teach-

ing, research, outreach, and service to Michigan State University. Dr. Weber's faculty career at Michigan State University began in 1976, when assigned for two years as a visiting professor teaching in the Department of Rural Economy at the Federal University of Ceara in Fortaleza, Brazil.

Later at Michigan State University, he taught in the agricultural marketing area and helped develop international agricultural development and training activities of...

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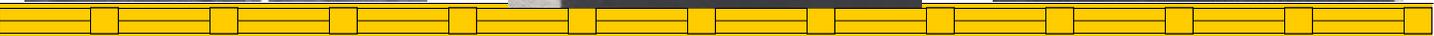
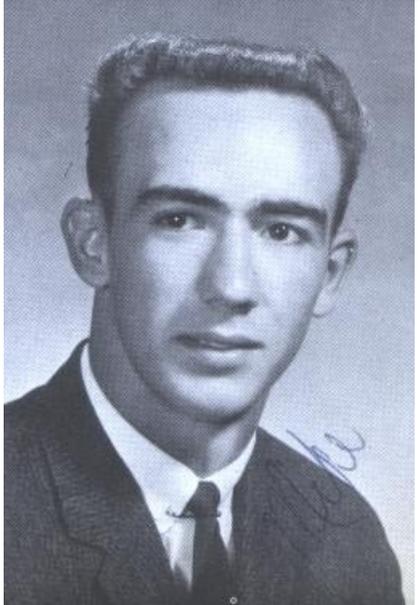
Robert Wetzel



Joe Kleiss

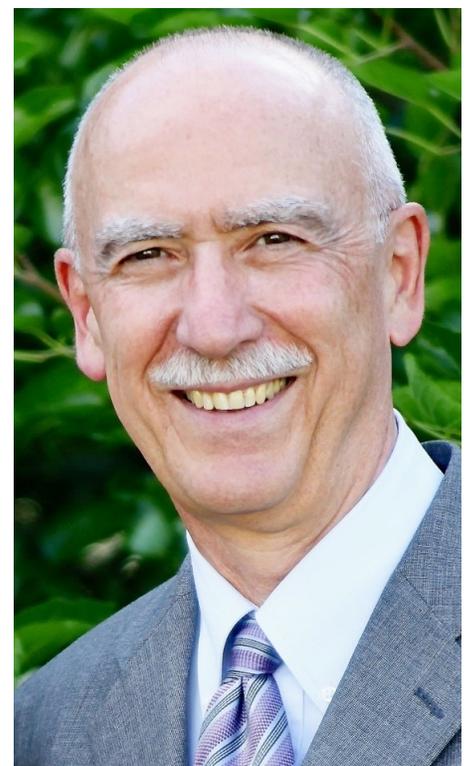
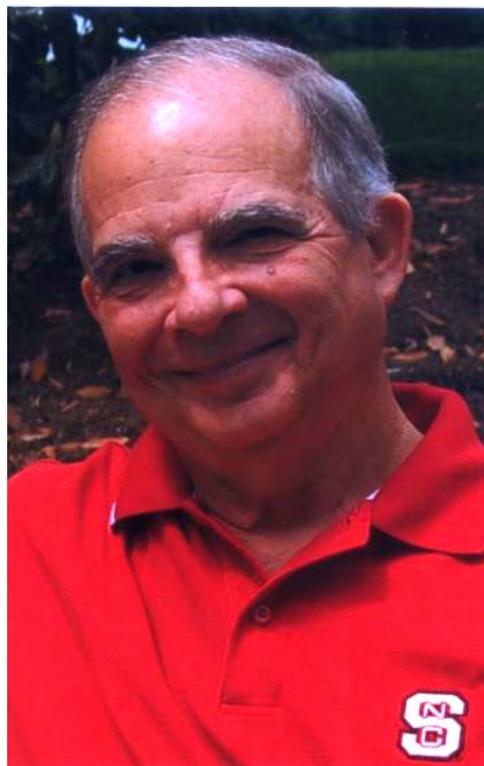


Michael Weber



(cont.) the University in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and especially in Africa. Starting in 1984, Dr. Weber helped spearhead intellectual and managerial leadership for work by the MSU Food Security Group aimed at developing strategies to reduce hunger and poverty in low-income countries in Africa and elsewhere. In these efforts he served as co-director and director for some 20 years of a flagship program in international ag and food-system development, the USAID-MSU Food Security Cooperative Agreements. In early 2007 he accepted an MSU field assignment as a long-term food security advisor/researcher in Zambia, S. Africa. In June of 2009 he returned to East Lansing to continue assisting the MSU Food Security Group, helping backstop applied research and policy outreach in Zambia and other countries. He retired from MSU in August of 2011. The MSU programs he helped implement over his career have joined together: 1) applied research by a large group of campus-based faculty and graduate students (many from developing countries), by MSU staff based in the field, and by host-country colleagues; 2) in-service training of local professionals; and 3) outreach programs which disseminate research results and stimulate the formulation of improved national food policies. This “joint-product” approach he helped pioneer, typifies a team approach to research, outreach and teaching by faculty, grad students, and host-country counterparts. In this role his work has exemplified MSU’s tradition of the timely application of the best features of the US University Land-Grant model to address the challenges of international development and poverty reduction. Recognizing this contribution, in 2003 Dr. Weber was awarded the Ralph H. Smuckler Award for Advancing International Studies and Programs at MSU. He took the lead in developing a publication series of “MSU Food Security Policy Syntheses,” which are read world-wide and are available on the Internet via the MSU Food Security Group and MSU AFRE website. Dr. Weber is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, and has modest French capabilities. Dr. Weber and his wife, Francisca, reside in East Lansing, MI.

Joe Kleiss began his life-long interest in soils growing up on a farm in rural Tuscola. In high school he was president of the local chapter of Future Farmers of America, co-captain of his football team, a member of the track team, had a lead role in the senior class play and graduated salutatorian of his class of 1963. After receiving a B.S. degree in agricultural science at the University of Illinois in 1967, he completed an M.S. in agronomy in 1969 from Iowa State University and then returned to the U of I where he received his Ph.D. in soil science in 1972. Following his grad studies, Joe worked for 3 years with Dames and Moore Consultants in the Environmental and Applied Earth Sciences in Park Ridge, IL. In 1975 he took a faculty position in the Dept. of Soil Science at North Carolina State University and began a 36-year career that included research, teaching and extension activities. He taught undergrad and grad courses that spanned introductory soil science and advanced courses in soil morphology, genesis and classification. As coordinator for the undergrad soil science teaching program he was the primary faculty advisor for the soil science majors. A co-curricular activity Joe maintained throughout his tenure at NC State was his role as advisor and coach of the student soil judging team. He was recognized by the student Agronomy Club as outstanding instructor of the year on 5 occasions and was elected to the NC State Academy of Outstanding...(cont.)



(cont.) Teachers. Joe was a licensed soil scientist in NC. He served as president of the Soil Science Society of NC and was also a recipient of that society's achievement award. He served on the Council of the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and was honored with the chapter's superior service award. As a member of Gamma Sigma Delta Ag Honorary Society he received an award of merit. At the national level he was a divisional chairman of the Soil Science Society of America, served on the Council of Soil Science Examiners and was awarded the education award from its national society. The American Society of Agronomy elected him a Fellow in 2000. In his community of Cary, NC Joe served on the city Planning and Zoning Board and was active as a Eucharistic Minister in St. Michael's Catholic Church. His professional service included an appointment by the NC legislature to serve as a member and chairman of the NC Board for Licensing of Soil Scientists. On 2 occasions he received gubernatorial appointments to the NC Sediment Control Commission and served as vice chairman. He also served as chairman of the Commission's education committee for many years. Joe married his high school sweetheart, Jacki Thomas, in 1966. They have 3 children and 3 grandchildren who live in the Raleigh area. Since retiring in 2011 he has continued to assist in the teaching program at NC State and conduct soil science training workshops for high school teachers and students. Alan Jones nominated his classmate, Joe Kleiss, for this honor.

Bob Wetzel grew up on a farm southeast of Tuscola. He attended Tuscola schools until graduating from TCHS in 1962 where he was salutatorian of his class. Bob was active in 4-H, sports and academic pursuits while attending school. He is the son of Edward and Margaret Wetzel (Hackett) and has two sisters, Patricia Reynolds of Champaign and Phyllis Burress of Tuscola. After graduating from TCHS, Bob attended the University of Illinois, majoring in engineering. While at the U of I he was a member of Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity and a James Scholar. He met his future wife, Jane Mursener of Princeville, IL, at the U of I. Bob graduated with a B.S. in industrial engineering. Immediately upon graduation, Bob and Jane married and moved to Hampton, Virginia where Bob accepted a position at Newport News Shipbuilding Co. as a reactor test engineer on Polaris nuclear submarines. Bob had extensive training in operating the nuclear propulsion plant and was certified by the Atomic Energy Commission as a Reactor Engineer. Concurrently, he enrolled in the M.B.A. program at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA and in 1971 received an M.B.A. degree from the Mason School of Business. In 1972, Bob left the nuclear field and became a consultant with Touche Ross based in Detroit, Michigan. In 1976 Bob was promoted to manager and was asked to move to Cleveland, Ohio to help start a new consulting practice. Two years later Bob was made a partner with Touche Ross and became the leader of the Ohio consulting practice. He managed the consulting practice for 10 years and in 1989 was made the Cleveland Office Managing Partner for Touche Ross with responsibility for all audit, tax and consulting work for the firm. In 1992 Bob was again asked to move. This time to Los Angeles to manage the southern California practice for the merged firm of Deloitte & Touche. Under his leadership, the practice grew to more than 1500 professionals and included the western half of the U.S., as well as Mexico. In 2002 and 2003, Bob and Janey temporarily relocated to Frankfurt, Germany where Bob was responsible for the German, Austrian and Swiss practices of Deloitte, doubling the size of the practice in the time he was there. He returned to the U.S. and retired from Deloitte in 2007. Today he is an active member of the Board of Directors of the San Gabriel Valley Boy Scout Council and Muselique, a community-based orchestra. Bob and Janey have two children—a daughter, Chace, living and working in Los Angeles; and a son, Jonathan. Jonathan is married to Lindsey and they have one son with another due to arrive shortly. Lindsey and Jon both work in the financial industry in San Francisco. Bob and Janey are enjoying life in retirement and split their time between Los Cabos, Mexico and Pasadena and Tahoe, California. Bob was nominated for the Hall of Fame by Doug McCumber, TCHS Class of 1967.

HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON

The 3 Hall of Fame inductees—Mike Weber, Joe Kleiss and Bob Wetzel—will be honored at the Alumni Association's luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at the Douglas County Museum, 700 S. Main, Tuscola. The event will take place during Homecoming weekend on Saturday, Sept. 14th. There will

be a catered dinner served at \$15/person. You won't want to miss this memorable event when you get the chance to hear from the inductees. Please call the TCHS office at 217-253-2377 to make your reservation by the 6th of Sept. All are welcome to attend. The Alumni Associ-

ation hopes that past Hall of Famers will be able to make this event. Special guests will be our Class of '63, and the 1953 and 1962 football teams. Raffle tickets for the 50/50 cash drawing will be sold and the winner drawn at the end of the luncheon.

Homecoming**2014****Oct. 3rd****& 4th**

Membership Funds

The TCHS Alumni Assn. is now five years YOUNG. We are a very new club, but we have now accumulated some funds from membership dues, memorials and a 50/50 cash drawing which was held the last two Homecomings. What do we use these monies for? We have costs in our Hall of Fame inductees' plaques and awards, our reception in the Library after the Homecoming parade, and our luncheon at the Museum. The committee would like to see any excess funds be used to

make a difference at the high school and last year we did with our first scholarship to be given to a student who is the son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter or sibling of a past graduate of Tuscola High School. We'd like to make sure we can keep this group going and hopefully, GROW. Any ideas or suggestions you may have—our alumni—please, let us know at shoemakerm@tuscola.k12.il.us. This group was formed to make a better Homecoming for the alumni—we feel it

has! COMMITTEE: Our present group consists of: Patti Waters (Class of 1949), Bob Utterback (Class of 1959), Barb Utterback (Class of 1962), Danny Matthews (Class of 1974), Bruce Wood (Class of 1975), Susie Harbaugh (Class of 1975), Alan and Marci Shoemaker (Class of 1974), Ryan Hornaday (Class of 1997), Justin Bozarth (Class of 2004), Becky Kappes (Class of 1972), Cheryl Bozarth (Class of 1974), Kathy Frye (Class of 1977), and Sherri Stewart (Class of 1985).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

-Friday, Sept. 13, 2013-

- 2:45-4:00** **Parade/Pep Rally**
- 4:00-5:00** **Tours/Alumni Reception in Library honors Class of '63**
- 5:00-6:00** **Tailgate (fee benefits Pow-Wows)**
- 6:32-6:37** **Recognition of the Class of '63 – 50th reunion - please report to the football field at 6:30**
- 6:38-6:45** **Recognition of 1953 & 1962 Football Champs - please report to the football field at 6:36**
- 7:00** **Kick-off of Tuscola/Clinton football game**
- 9:00** **All TCHS Homecoming Reunion—Tuscola Community Building—21 and over welcome**

-Saturday, Sept. 14, 2013-

- 8:00 a.m.** **5K Run/Walk—Tuscola Community Building**
- 7:00-10:00** **Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast—Community Building**
- 12:30** **Hall of Fame Induction Lunch - Douglas County Museum, 700 S. Main St., Tuscola, for reservations call 217-253-2377 (TCHS office) by Sept. 6, \$15/person**
- 7:00** **TCHS Coronation & Dance**

TCHS Class of 1963 Celebrates "50th" Reunion

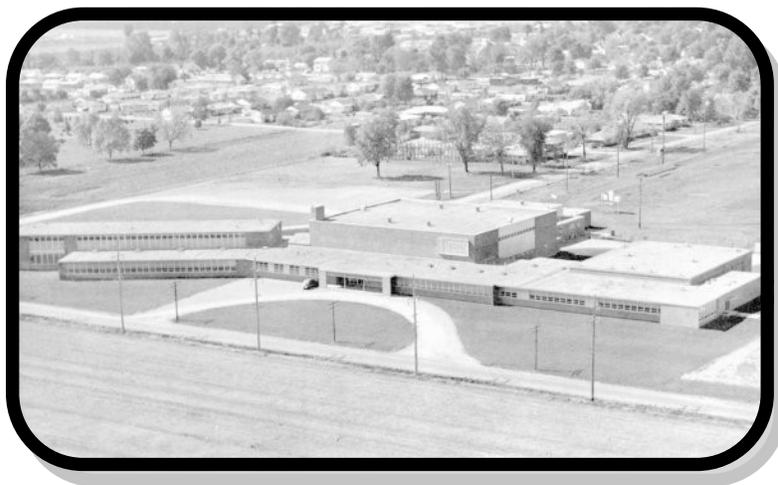
Alan Jones—Class of 1963—informs us that their 50th class reunion will be held Sept. 14 at Ironhorse Golf Course, Tuscola. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and the party will continue through 10:30 p.m. A cash bar will be open from 5:00—10:00.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. There will be announcements and activities throughout dinner. "The Other Guys" (a University of Illinois men's a capella group) will be entertaining the class from 8:00—8:30. Please, make a point to attend Friday, Sept. 13th's Homecoming activities as well—schedule on page 4.

Classmates from the TCHS classes of the early to mid 60's meet at 10 a.m. at the Tuscola McDonald's every second Monday morning of the month for coffee and conversation. Please, join us!



Homecoming Court: (l-r front) Sandy Smith (Queen), Linda Moore, Mary Ann Holste, Jeanne Ferchow, and Sue Wetzel. (l-r back) Ed Beauchamp (King), Joe Kleiss, Mike Kyle, Duane Green, and Tom Grubb.



Golf Outing Raises Over \$5,000 for Athletics

Ryan Hornaday, TCHS Athletic Director, says the Tuscola Open Golf Outing was a huge success. The June 10, 2013 event raised just over \$5,000 for the athletic department. Several alum played in the tournament field of 64 players. The first three flight winners were: Justin Gensler (Class of '05), Matt Dean (Class of '98), and Duff Hoel (Class of '83). Mike Jacobs (Class of '75) was the second overall finisher. The majority of the money went towards a locker room renovation project. The participation in this wonderful event was greatly appreciated!

5K RUN/WALK-BREAKFAST

Homecoming is right around the corner...and we want you to participate in this year's 5K run/walk!



What: 2013 Tuscola Homecoming 5K Run

When: Saturday, September 14, 2013 8:00 a.m.

Where: Community Building, Tuscola, Illinois

Proceeds from the 2013 Tuscola Homecoming 5K Run/Walk will help provide educational supplies, equipment, training and other needs of the Tuscola School District.

Also that morning: **Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast:** The local Kiwanis chapter will sponsor a pancake breakfast (donations only) from 7:00-10:00 a.m. Proceeds will help fund computers for the school.

Sign up at www.tuscola.k12.il.us and receive a discount!



The Alumni Association is hosting an “All-TCHS Homecoming Reunion” at the Tuscola Community Building, downtown Tuscola. Sponsors of this inaugural event are Tuscola Tourism, It’ll Do 2, and the TCHS Alumni Association. This will take place after the TCHS/Clinton football game on Friday, Sept. 13th. Entry will be by donation. All graduates over 21 are encouraged to attend this special event with their guests. There will be a catering service for adult beverages and snacks from Marvin Meadows. Showing of old football games will be shown on a big screen. The host DJ for the evening will be Class of 2001 alum—Ken Cunningham—playing the oldies we all want to hear. Come and reminisce with us all . . .



**Remember when?
Saturday night teen dances at the “Wick”
During the 1960’s—1970’s**



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

At the end of the school year in May, the TCHS Alumni Association awarded **Ashley Hunt**, daughter of Brad and Chris Hunt (both grads of TCHS), a \$250 scholarship for assistance in furthering her education following graduation. She was a fourth generation TCHS graduate in her family's lineage. She is attending Parkland college before transferring to a four-year university. Ashley would like to pursue a major in political science and minor in history. She's also volunteered in the community with the Easter Egg Hunt; Salvation Army; Douglas County animal shelter; and the run during the Fourth of July celebration. It's such an honor for our alumni to give back and help a high school graduate.



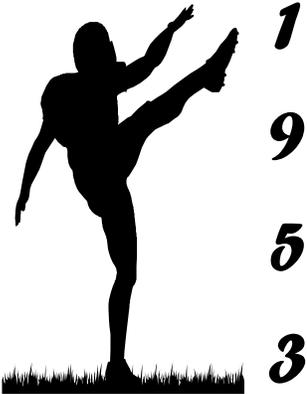
Gerhard M. Freche

Gerhard M. Freche—TCHS Class of 1949—was a distinguished graduate by being a member of our Hall of Fame. He was inducted in the business category. Gerry Freche, 81, of Naples, FL and Lake Toxaway, NC, died on May 29, 2013 in Asheville, NC. Gerry was born on July 13, 1931 in Kansas City, MO. His parents, the late Rev. Martin and Anna (Naumann) Freche were both children of Lutheran missionaries who served in India. Gerry grew up in Tuscola, where his father was the pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Following his 1949 graduation from TCHS, he married Jean Ellis in 1951. They were married nearly 62 years. He graduated with honors from Valparaiso University in Indiana in 1955, with a bachelor degree in business administration. Gerry served 4 years in the U.S. Navy Reserves and was a veteran of the Korean War.

Gerry's career with the Bell Telephone System spanned 33 years, beginning in 1955 with Ill. Bell Telephone Co. in Chicago. His leadership skills led to rising management positions in the Bell System companies including AT&T, Northwestern Bell, and Western Electric involving 14 relocations around the country. He became President/CEO/Chairman of New England Telephone (now Verizon) in Boston. During his career he served on many civic and corporate boards, among them First National Bank of Boston, Equitable of Iowa, Bank of Boston, Omaha National Bank, Mass Mutual, United Way, Freedom Trail Fndn., John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Museum of Science. Gerry was Chairman of the Boston Chamber of Commerce and a founding member of Friends of Post Office Square and Boston Against Drugs. He was honored to receive numerous awards including the Community Human Relations Award from the American Jewish Committee, Valparaiso University's Hall of Honor Award, Distinguished Bostonian Award, and an Honorary Doctorate of Commercial Science from Suffolk University in recognition of his civic contributions and leadership in Boston and MA.

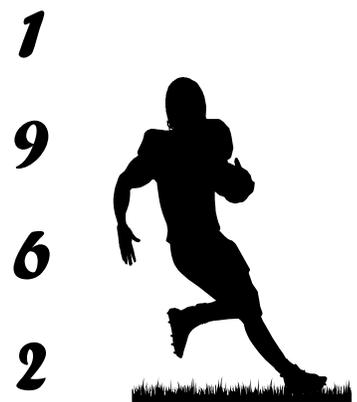
In 1988 he retired to Naples, FL, with wife, Jean, where he continued his life of service through his church and various boards. He is survived by his wife; son Mark Freche of Mt. Dora, FL; son and daughter-in-law Steven & Karen Freche; 3 granddaughters; brother-in-law & sister Orval & Hildegard Luhrsen of Buckley, IL; and sister-in-law Kathryn McCumber of Tuscola.

Homecoming is about football and its game...



1953 TCHS football team—UNDEFEATED OKAW VALLEY CHAMPS. This is their 60th anniversary. This team was coached by Bob Brigham who only coached at Tuscola for two years, but compiled a record of 15 wins and 3 losses. The '53 team out-scored its opponents 224 to 43 points. A few stars of this team were Phil Flanigan, Carl Quinn, Junior Decker, Tom Atwell, Larry Little and Ronnie Schultz.

“The final championship team of the Butkovich era was the 1962 team which won the Okaw Conference with a record of 6-0-2. Of all of Tuscola’s championship teams, this was probably the most pleasant surprise. A physically small and inexperienced team, the '62 group managed to eke out win after win. As proof that this team clearly won on character and hustle is the amazing fact that no one from this Okaw championship team was named on the All-Conference Team. They only beat one opponent by more than 8 points all year long and that was Monticello 14-0. In the Newman game, the next to the last game of the season, Bob Wyatt fell on a fumble in the end zone for a 19-13 victory over a strong Newman team. And then, in the last game of the season, in what many considered to be one of the finest games of all time, Tuscola returned a punt with 20 seconds on the clock to edge Arcola 13-7. Arcola was heavily favored as they were undefeated going into the game and were averaging victory margins of over 40 points per game. The '62 team was captained by Duane “Pete” Green and Joe Kleiss.” Excerpt from History of Tuscola Football, 1895 through 1989, by Rick McGuire and Mike Carroll.





**Get your 50/50
Cash raffle tickets
From Alumni Assn.
Members
And at the football
Games**

***1973 Class Reunion*
Meeting at Proud Mary's
Homecoming
Saturday Night**



**~Class of 1988~
25-year
Reunion
Meets at the
Moose**

Like getting
these
newsletters?

Keep them coming
to your email/
mailing address by
sending in your
donation today to
TCHS Alumni
Assn., 500 S. Prai-
rie, Tuscola, IL.
Membership forms
on the school web-
site.



**—1963 Class—
Reunion
At Ironhorse
Sat. night**

Just like they all say:
"Join us on Facebook"
Tuscola Alumni
has over 1,050 friends!
Join in on the conversations!
Renew ol' friendships!
Keep up on the
Homecoming agendas!
Also check out
"Tuscola Remembered"
for some great reminiscing. . .

**We are on the web:
www.tuscola.k12.il.us
For Hall of Fame
list—click on Hall of
Fame on the left at
the website**