

Deceased alumnus leaves \$250,000 for scholarships

North High students have the chance to go to college tuition free

Somerle Rhiner, Sports Co-Editor

If you are a North High student and plan on going to college in your future and want a way to pay for tuition, listen up, this might be your chance. Imagine going to Iowa State University, University of Northern Iowa or University of Iowa with free tuition. It might sound too good to be true, but thanks to a man named Jerry M. Torrence, college-bound North High students could have this reality.

Torrence has left \$250,000 to North



Torrence, bottom center, in his senior class picture of 1953. Photo courtesy of Alumni Association.

High School for this exact purpose. Torrence was an 80-year-old man who passed away on June 19, 2015. Torrence was an only child growing up; he was born in St. Charles, Iowa. At the age of five, Jerry moved to Des Moines, he attended Hard-



Jerry Torrence standing in the middle at his class 40th class reunion. Photo courtesy of Alumni Association.

ing Middle School and graduated from North High School in 1953, he then went to the University of Iowa. He lived most of his life in New York City.

Dr. Cheryl Modlin, vice principal of North, got into contact with Kevin McGrath while showing her respects at Torrence's memorial services. McGrath is a close friend and attorney of Torrence. He left a portion of his money to North High because he didn't have a family to inherit it and he loved North High so much. His wife passed away before him and they

didn't have children. He decided to help students because education is important. Torrence was inspired to help others, he wanted to help those who were unable to go to college.

Torrence used his money very wisely, after his passing; his money was donated to his church, North High School, University of Iowa, among others. North plans to invest the money and create scholarships with the money earned from those investments.

He spent his life as a rug salesman. He

was the vice president of the company Regal Rugs. Friends describe Torrence as an "outgoing; a people person." They called him the "Talking Man" because he always had something to say.

Although Torrence graduated 54 years ago, he is even more important now because he is helping students have the chance of going to college.

The qualifications are still being decided, but three have been confirmed: 1) maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, 2) attend one of the Regent Universities (ISU, University of Iowa, or UNI) and 3) it covers tuition only. Depending on investment profits, these scholarships might be available this year or in the coming years.



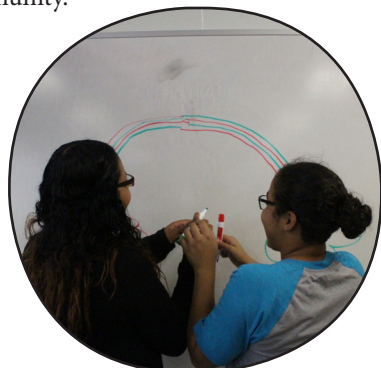
Jerry Torrence, right, showing his North High pride at 40th Reunion 10/12/09. Photo courtesy of Alumni Association.

Royalty for Equality

Same-sex prom king and queen policy

Jasmine Inthabounh, Features Co-Editor
Cheyann Neades, Managing Editor

It's become almost a tradition for a high school to have a dance like homecoming and prom and a court that consists of one boy and one girl nominated by the whole student body to be king and queen but what if it was possible to change that and have two people of the same gender as prom royalty? As we have all seen 2015 has been a year of surprising changes, one of them being equality among LGBT community.



Seniors Dalanie Hawkins & Mikayla (Mickey) Neal draw a rainbow to represent equality. Photo credit: Cheyann Neades

Seniors Dalanie Hawkins and Mikayla (Mickey) Neal have been considering running for prom king and queen this school year. "We wanted to win prom king and queen, we were going to put my name in the queen and her [Mikayla] in the king," Hawkins explained.

Principal Michael Vukovich explained that, it's not a matter of not allowing same-sex couples to run, but the way homecoming and prom courts have systematically been done in the past. He confirmed, that the only way a same-sex couple, male or female, could be able to run, is if both contestants identified as the gender of the king or queen.

"One way you could have two females in that area, and it's not really two females because it wouldn't be, but if there was someone that identified as a male," Vukovich said, regarding Hawkins and Neal.

Vukovich continued to stress the many other opportunities same-sex couples have. Such as the title of "Best Couple" in Senior Superlatives, which are categories that students are chosen for by the senior class that appears in the yearbook.



Dalanie Hawkins and Mikayla (Mickey) Neal have been a couple for more than two years. Photo credit: Cheyann Neades

The problem of the matter deals with the tradition values that has been evoked throughout high school history.

Many students of North High School stand behind Dalanie and Mikayla on same-sex prom court candidates.

Senior, Mayte-Gomez Cruz explains, "Same sex marriage is legal in the United States so I think if the student body agrees with this idea that it should be fine."

"I feel like equality, is one of the things we practice most at North High," Student Body President, Russhaun Johnson states.

The voting processes and dances are coordinated by Polar Bear Senate here at North. Russhaun Johnson, discusses what he can do as the Student Body President, "I feel like there should be a majority vote, stating if Mickey [Mikayla] should be able to run for Prom King and we'll set it up that way, and then it would be fair."

As a result, Polar Bear Senate and North High as a whole are continuing to branch out and discuss more possibilities, to further practice equality and acceptance among staff and students.