

Sands of Time

Siuslaw Alumni Association Newsletter

June 2023

Volume 18 • Issue 1

Siuslaw Alumni Association Scholarship Fundraiser and Reunion Banquet

September 16, 2023

Florence Events Center
715 Quince Street
Florence, Oregon

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Address Changed?

Please let the SAA know of any changes as we mail our newsletter out as second class and it may not be forwarded to you. You can also choose to get the emailed PDF only. Please send your new mailing and email addresses to **Beth Meadows Sandberg** siuslawalumniassn@gmail.com or call **541-733-4377**.

Dinner and dancing on the menu

The Siuslaw Alumni Association Scholarship Fundraiser has some surprises in store this year. The annual all-class banquet takes place on Saturday, September 16, at the Florence Events Center. Social hour kicks off at 4:00 p.m. with a dinner buffet served at 6:00 p.m. A DJ will spin dance hits from all the classes represented at the reunion. Reservations are required and the RSVP form in this newsletter is due by September 1.

Alumni and guests can pick up their name tags, which are sorted alphabetically by last name and include a dinner ticket, at the front tables.

Two bars will be open, accepting cash and credit cards. New this year are two colorful signature cocktails: *Valiant Viking* and *Siuslaw Sensation*.

Raffle tickets are sold cash only (1 for \$1, 6 for \$5, 14 for \$10, 30 for \$20). Choose from an amazing array of prizes that have been donated by generous alumni and community members. Watch the Facebook page this summer for descriptions of the prizes. All the money raised goes into the scholarship fund.

Need a fresh new Viking shirt or fleece jacket? Stop by the merchandise booth to make your selection.

The board will have a short meeting and take a vote on new members. All paid members in attendance can vote.

The SAA scholarship recipients and their families will be introduced. President Mike Bones will also recognize classes by year with extra cheers for those celebrating milestone reunions.

Bring extra cash, your generous and competitive spirit, and maybe your running shoes, because we've got a delicious Dessert Dash on the docket! This is a lively event that will raise even more scholarship funds for our deserving students. We're taking dessert donations (contact Karla at 503-931-1860 or lvnlarge4u2@q.com).

Raffle tickets will be drawn with the winning numbers displayed on the big screen. Winners can claim their prizes with the assistance of our helpful volunteers.

At 9:00 p.m. everyone who is able can help clear the dance floor. Does the 60s have the best music? Or is it the 90s? Bring your whole Siuslaw family (ages 18+) and dance it out.

If you're in town on Friday, join us for the league football game with Vikings vs. LaPine Hawks at (new) Hans Petersen Field on 27th Street.

Hail to thee, our alma mater. Hail Siuslaw, hail!

2023 Scholarship Recipients

Siuslaw Alumni Association scholarships are awarded to graduating students who plan to attend or continue at a college and/or trade school. These scholarships are solely supported by donations to the scholarship fund and by all proceeds from the scholarship fundraiser banquet raffle. For the year of 2023, we are pleased to announce three scholarships in the amount of **\$3,500** each.



Megan Davis

Megan has planned to become a pharmacist within agriculture since she was in eighth grade. She will start on that goal at Linn-Benton Community College. During her time at SHS, she took advanced and college classes. Megan grew up raising horses and was active in 4-H showing swine, cattle, and goats while winning multiple awards along the way. She joined the Lane County leadership team and advocated for 4-H and FFA kids around the state of Oregon.

Hailee Outlaw

Hailee also took advanced and college classes at SHS. She will start school at Lane Community College and transfer to the Linn-Benton Community College radiology program to become an X-ray technician. She attended all the levels of Siuslaw schools and has played volleyball since she was eight years old. She was on the Viking team that placed fifth in the state tournament.



Hunter Petterson

Hunter will attend Midland University in Nebraska to study teaching and manufacturing. He competed in football and wrestling during all four of his high school years. He participated in several service clubs including Key Club and as an officer in Interact. Hunter was an active volunteer in the community, helping in a first grade classroom and at a football camp.

We thank everyone for their continued support that makes the scholarships possible. We can all be very proud that our alumni scholarships are one of the largest to be awarded at Siuslaw High School. Donations for SAA scholarships are taken year-round. Visit our website for a complete list of past recipients.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

SHS graduate finds her home on the range in Texas

Jessica Dodson Larsen, class of 2008, used her SAA scholarship to attend Oregon State University, where she graduated with a degree in early childhood education.

In 2012, she met her husband, Kerry, who is from North Bend. They were married up the North Fork in Florence. They have two boys, Weston, 9, and Hank, 7. The family lives in Waxahachie, Texas.

Jessica works at Lucchese Bookmaker in Dallas as a senior manager

of marketing/brand operations. She has been at the 140-year-old brand since January 2022. Prior to moving to Texas, she worked at Nike in Oregon as a product line manager/merchandise on the collaboration apparel team for five years. Before that she worked as an early childhood teacher, also at Nike.

Her sister, Alexandra, was a scholarship recipient in 2013. Their dad, Tim, who retired as the football coach, and their mom, Mary, are also



Siuslaw graduates.

Siuslaw celebrations

Anniversaries

Loni Flatley '83 and **Paul Schofield '75** are celebrating 40 years.

Lisa Bursaw '85 and **Craig Chapman '89** said cheers to 30 years of marriage on March 13.

Graduations

Michele Nordahl '82 reports that her great nephew **Justin Allen '23** is the fourth generation of her family to graduate from Siuslaw High.

Renee Remley Younger '89 will complete a master of arts in teaching in December at George Fox University.

Trisha Anne Vacura Holden '92 completed a master of arts in teaching from Pacific in May and currently teaches algebra at SHS. Her classmate **Ian Jarman** is district school nurse and **Tammy Moore McKenzie** is at the elementary school.

Paige Williams Gillespie '16 graduated in December from OIT/OHSU with a degree in medical laboratory science.

Kudos

Amy Reed Johnson '96 was honored as the 2023 Realtor of the Year by the Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors.



On Earth Day, April 22, 40 friends of SAA grabbed a trash bag and cleaned up the beach at Washburne State Park day use area and beyond. Pictured are board members John, Jennifer, and Bob (and Winnie!).

In Memoriam

- Stewart "Bill" Applebury, Class of 1957
 Deanna Badgley, Class of 1987
 Bob Bond, Class of 1967
 Jess Bray, Class of 1976
 Wesley Buss, Class of 1971
 Craig Coffindaffer, Class of 1991
 Darrell Cooper, Class of 1960
 John Curry, Class of 1976
 Dale Esgate Sr., Class of 1961
 Patricia Reavis Fender, Class of 1955
 Carol Fithian Fletcher, Class of 1955
 Bill Forsell, Class of 1952
 Royal Frambes, Class of 1959
 Raymond Funke, Class of 1948
 Art German, Class of 1955
 Gary Gibbens, Class of 1984
 Tom Gray, Class of 1980
 William "Jack" Hall, Class of 1963
 Ardith "Ardie" Rhinevault Hammon, Class of 1954
 Lyle "Ozzie" Hartzell, Class of 1951
 John Hayes, Class of 1972
 Leslie Woodworth Hendrickson, Class of 1972
 Darrell Hinderlie, Class of 1956
 Randall "Rand" Hoberg, Class of 1969
 Jane Stephenson Ioski, Class of 1957
 Larry Jones, Class of 1967
 Ron Keyes, Class of 1962
 James Koester, Class of 1978
 Mark Lane, Class of 1975
 Donald Larsen, Class of 1954
 Melba Jensen Larson, Class of 1955
 Leland Lokey, Class of 1995
 Rodney Mansker, Class of 1963
 Deane Prindel Nordahl, Class of 1946
 Andrew "Andy" Nordahl, Class of 1946
 Richard Nordahl, Class of 1954
 Carol Jacobson-Reece, Class of 1968
 Darlene Strahm Rinard, Class of 1950
 Ron Shelton, Class of 1964
 Billy Smith, Class of 1982
 Kaye Bray Smith, Class of 1975
 LaVella Buss Thirlwell, Class of 1969
 Gory Thompson, Class of 1969
 Merle Tipler, Class of 1953
 Doug Trotter, Class of 1980
 Alta Braley Vasbinder, Class of 1950
 Sally Smith Venard, Class of 1963
 Joey Waite, Class of 1963
 Patricia Walton, Class of 1970
 Annette Campbell Wilson, Class of 1965
 Leslie Yvonne Woodworth, Class of 1972

Siuslaw School System Educators and Staff
Lanny Nivens

please send any graduation date changes or obituaries to editor

Well-read Vikings excel with the ‘write stuff’

Many people dream of writing the Great American Novel. Here are a few Vikings who parlayed their love of the written word in various careers in publishing, libraries, and media.

Forrest Lewis '88 has been working in public libraries since 1996, making his way up to director in 2013 of the North Las Vegas Library District in North Las Vegas, NV.



“I learned work ethic and competitive drive from my football and wrestling coaches but I would have to credit Mr. Wilcox for my chosen career,” Forrest said. “I was struggling in one of my math classes my sophomore year and ended up dropping the class. The next year I retook the class with Mr. Wilcox as my teacher and he was able to teach the subject matter to me in a kind and knowledgeable way that gave me the confidence to succeed in his class. I have never forgotten how he empowered me to be a better student, and I chose a profession where I could support others in a similar manner.”

Forrest received his bachelor of science degree in English from Southern Oregon University and a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

His wife, Allison, and three children Spencer, 22; Olivia, 19; and Tanner, 16; make up his family.

Further east, **Paul Baumeister '90** is living in New York, NY, and working as a marketing research di-

rector for Hearst Magazines. He also worked with *BusinessWeek*, *Forbes*, and Rodale Publishing. He graduated from Portland State University with a BS in business administration/finance.

“As I reflect on my career path, I can’t help but think about the influential role my high school teachers played in shaping my future,” Paul said.

Like many SHS students of a certain era, he credits biology teacher Miss Bailey on his career choice. He says, “She was a brilliant educator who was passionate about science and made the subject come alive in the classroom. Her teaching style was engaging and interactive (*first name last comma last name first class hour circled*), and she always went the extra mile to ensure her students understood the material. Through the many experiments we conducted I learned organization skills that I still use over my busy workday.”

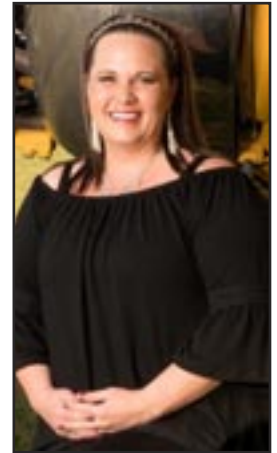
Naturally, people in the media are usually influenced by their English teachers. “Another teacher who had a profound impact on my career path was Mr. Danielson,” Paul said. “He instilled in me a love for literature and writing that I carry with me to this day. He challenged me to think critically and creatively, and his feedback on my writing helped me develop my skills as a writer that I need as I create profiles of those who read Hearst’s 22 magazines and visit our 26 websites.”

He continues, “There was also Mr. Affinito, Mrs. Hoaks, Mr. Little, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Miles, Miss Scanlan, Mr. Vavich, Mr. Wilcox, and of course, our principal Mr.

Whitmore. They all gave this small-town kid the confidence to go out and explore the world. I now live and thrive in one of the largest cities in the world!”

Melody Beecher '94 now makes a living as author Melody Anne. First published in 2011, she’s written over 70

books and has made the *New York Times* best-seller list several times. She writes romance, women’s fiction and is getting into thrillers, which she is really excited about. *The Billionaire Bachelors*, *Unexpected Heroes*, and *Phoenix* are just a few of the series.



She said her favorite classes in school were art and cooking. “I loved the art class. I still have things I made from that, though I was terrible at it,” she laughs. After SHS she earned a bachelor’s degree in business.

Melody Anne is married to **Mike Jones '90**. He runs their publishing company but spent 20 years as a lineman.

Her walking partner at graduation was **Eric Ridgley '94**, who is married to **Stephanie Prien '94**. He is also a writer who first published as a co-writer with Melody Anne in 2020. He has his own publishing company called Tip of the Spear Publications.

Photo of Forrest by Wade Vandervort, Las Vegas Sun. Photo of Melody Anne courtesy MelodyAnne.com.

Past Siuslaw graduates now on display at the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum

Do you remember the large display of senior pictures that lined the halls of SHS? Well, many of them are now in a new exhibit at the museum on Maple Street in Old Town. The years on display include: 1937, 1947, 1953, 1954, 1958, 1959, and 1960 through 1966. So, stop by sometime and admire or laugh at your smiling face or those of your relatives and friends.

~by John Barnes

SAA, back in the day

The current Siuslaw Alumni Association was started by the Class of 1950 in the year 2000. We recently became aware of a previous incarnation of the same name in a letter dated March 15, 1966.

They gave two student loans for a total amount of \$550. Dues were \$3! The letter said, "Three dollars will pay for one day of college, so each dues-paying alum is responsible for keeping these worthy students in school one more day."

Officers in 1966 were president Don Bowman, vice president Goodren Gallo, secretary Joy Smith, treasurer Dorothy Martin, with the other board members being Opal Pitney, Ellen Zimmerman, Letha Carlson, Ole Fosback, and Frank Suniga.

The association met at Woahink Lake at Honeyman State Park in July for their annual get-together and highlighted that a member of the Class of 1915 attended the potluck picnic.

Connect With Your Class

This year's milestone reunions

Class of '63 60th Reunion

September 15

Woahink Lake Meeting Hall, Honeyman State Park

Contact: Monty Hughes

503-556-2820 or Monty_Hughes@hotmail.com

Class of 1964 Dinner

September 15

5:30 p.m. at Abby's Pizza

Contact: Beth Meadows Sandberg, sandbergbw@gmail.com

or 541-733-4377

Class of 1973 50th Reunion

August 12

5-9 p.m., Ocean Dunes Golf Links Clubhouse

Pre-gathering Friday, August 11, 5 p.m. to whenever

at the Bay Street Grille

Contacts: Jan Petersen McKnight

Debbie Shirley Flores

Class of 1978 45-year Reunion

September 16

Florence Events Center

Contacts: Melissa Goodrich Phillips, 541-999-1049

Patty Banks Thompson, 541-912-3315

Class of 1983 40th Year Reunion

Contact: Jerry Jensen

541-991-7934

Class of 1998 25-year Reunion

July 29-30

Saturday evening adults-only event and a

Sunday afternoon family potluck

Contact: Phoebe Ebright

503-560-1111 or phoebeebright@gmail.com

Events subject to change.

Check www.siuslawalumni.org for updates.

Mike Bones, Rhody King



Nearly every Florence kid has memories of the Rhododendron Festival Grand Floral Parade, from playing in the marching band, decorating floats, or doing the princess wave. But it is all about the flower, *rhododendron macrophyllum* to be precise. Who better to be the grand marshal than SAA president and international rhody royalty **Mike Bones '66**? He has been growing rhododendrons for over 60 years, runs Bones' Rhododendron Nursery, and is a member of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Raffle donations sought

SAA scholarships are funded through raffle prize and monetary donations.

If you or your business would like to supply a gift card, gift basket, item, or service, please contact committee member Shannon Anderson Sheets, 541-999-6867, SAA.Shannon@gmail.com.

Class reunion photo gallery from 2022



Class of 1954



Class of 1972



Class of 2000

You can still submit your 2023 class reunion information and we will post on SiuslawAlumni.org and the Siuslaw Alums Facebook page. Email siuslawalumniassn@gmail.com.



Class of 1982

Siuslaw Alumni Association Board Members 2023-24

Officers:

President

Mike Bones '66

Vice President & Reunion Chair

Karla Large McFadden '79

Secretary

Rita Boyce Snyder '55

Treasurer

Melissa Goodrich Phillips '78

Bylaws Advisor

Tim Dodson '82

Past President

Lou Anne Wood Fore '54

Directors:

Jennifer Archer '86

John Barnes '69

Mary Stone Carlisle '61

Cindy Dunaven Engstrom '66

Jim Himmel '69

Judy Worthylake McClellan '61

Beth Meadows Sandberg '64

Shannon Anderson Sheets '89

Bob Sneddon '75

Debbie Fender Sneddon '79

Phyllis Bennett Wells '52

Merne Entgelmeier Wilson '68

Allyn Wilson '69

Editor/Publisher

Jennifer Archer

siuslawalumniassn@gmail.com

Find us on the internet:

Like **Siuslaw Alums**

(**Beth Meadows**) on Facebook.

Visit us online

www.siuslawalumni.org

Siuslaw Alumni Association is a domestic nonprofit 501(c)(7) corporation in Oregon (registry 780807-86) designated by the IRS as Social and Recreational Clubs. Effective April 2022, we are in the process of changing our designation to 501(c)(3) that, once approved, will allow SAA donations to be tax deductible.

Fundraising facts and fiscal transparency

The Siuslaw Alumni Association is comprised of a sixteen-member board that volunteers their time throughout the year to plan the scholarship fundraiser banquet, interview scholarship candidates, and disperse the funds.

Annual membership dues, payable each October, are \$10 for individuals or an alumni household. These dues pay for administrative costs such as our post office box, website hosting and domain name, newsletter printing and mailing,

At the scholarship fundraiser, the dinner ticket covers the cost of food, event staff, and venue rental. There

is no profit made on this portion.

Everything donated during the banquet, whether it be by raffle tickets purchased or cash donated, goes directly into the scholarship bank account. During the year, these funds gain interest before being sent to college financial aid offices.

Alumni websites

Please note our website and Facebook page are the official sources for alumni news. If you pay money to other sites such as Classmates it does not benefit SAA and the local community.

Join the Siuslaw Alumni Association board

- Are you true to your school?
- Do you love to wear blue and gold?
- Looking for a way to give back to your alma mater and community?
- Have a few open Saturdays or Sundays per year for meetings?
- Do you have enthusiasm, interests, and skills in fundraising, finances, event planning, local outreach, or education?

SAA board members are unpaid volunteers who meet three times per year in Florence. Many 50-year class reunion organizers participate on the board during the year leading up to their milestone reunion.

We are recruiting for board members to learn the positions from current members so the transition is seamless when they choose to retire. We are also seeking other members-at-large.

Contact Secretary Rita Snyder for a position description, 541-752-6457, or by email rm.62sny@outlook.com, or chat with any board member.

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