

# Sands of Time

## Siuslaw Alumni Association Newsletter

June 2021

Volume 16 • Issue 1

**Siuslaw  
Alumni Association  
Board Meeting and All-  
School Reunion Banquet**

**September 11, 2021**

**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**.

## All-school reunion banquet postponed again, fundraising continues year-round

### *President's message*

It looks like another year of no Siuslaw Alumni Association All-School Reunion Banquet. It's not that we don't want to have one, we just do not have a place that we can assemble and prepare the food. Even gathering items for our fundraiser is a problem...who has touched those items, who has a place to store them?

Money for the scholarships can always be sent to Siuslaw Alumni Association, PO Box 1924, Florence, Oregon, 97439. Your board of directors has a large responsibility not only for keeping the association running but to keep all of us safe.

As I look into the future, 25 years from now, I wonder what the class reunions will be like. Will the alumni who are graduating now still have that camaraderie that has hailed Siuslaw for so many years? Let's hope so.

We are looking for a few more dedicated Siuslaw alumni to join the board. We normally meet three times a year, discussing the past banquet and planning the next one. Please contact one of the board members and ask what you could do.

Life is Good.

*Mike Bones, Class of '66*

# 2021 Scholarship Recipients

Siuslaw Alumni Association scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors 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 all-school reunion banquet raffle. For the year of 2021, we are pleased to announce three scholarships in the amount of **\$3,500** each.



## **Kya Blake, vocational scholarship recipient**

Kya has attended Siuslaw schools since the fourth grade. She plays volleyball and softball. She will be going to Lane Community College in Eugene, where she will enter the welding program. Kya has a passion for all things mechanical and metal and wants to specialize in aluminum welding and fabrication.

## **Brea Blankenship, university scholarship recipient**

Brea has attended Siuslaw schools since kindergarten. She is the valedictorian of her class. She has run cross country and track and played basketball all four years. She has been involved in leadership and many other clubs. Brea plans to attend Southern Oregon University in Ashland, where she will pursue a pre-med degree and run for the Raiders cross country and track teams.



## **Brooklyn Cahoon, continuing education scholarship recipient**

Brooklyn '20 is continuing her education at Bushnell University in Eugene, where she is majoring in psychology and double minoring in criminal justice and worship ministry. She was a four-year varsity athlete in basketball, track and field, and cheerleading. She also lettered as a football manager. Brooklyn continues to be involved in the community through her church, school, and area clubs, and Rotary Interact Club. She was a 2020 Rhododendron Court princess.



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 the SAA scholarships are taken year-round. Visit our website for a complete list of past recipients.

### Where Are They Now?

## Trade school + four-year college = a good job in the city

Randall Holton, Class of 2008, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and reapplied the next year for another \$1,000.

He says, "I went to Portland Community College to attend the General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program (GM ASE) and had about one good year there before the program got

shut down due to the recession back in 2008-09.

I continued on with my prerequisites and decided to wait to pick a major until I figured out what I really wanted to do.

I eventually ended up at Oregon State University in the forestry program. I graduated with a bachelor of science degree

in natural resource management. My focus was on wildland fire ecology and recreational resource management.

I currently work for the City of Florence Public Works."



## SAA vice president passes

Siuslaw Alumni Association board vice president **Kathy Phillips Grimes '71** lost her fight with cancer on October 11, 2020.

Kathy started on the board in 2016 while she was planning her 50-year reunion. Her talent and enthusiasm were noticed by the members and she was elected as VP, which is the position that plans the annual banquet. "She always thought ahead and followed through, covering every detail. We will deeply miss her," said president Mike Bones.

**Jan Peterson Sully '71** was one of her great friends. They lived about a block and half away from each other, grew up together and felt like family. Jan said Kathy "was the class glue for just about all of us. She organized the class reunions and got everyone on board even those who weren't sure if they wanted to come to the reunions. Kathy never spoke bad about others and her faith in God and Jesus was so strong. She had a life of being the caregiver, always looking after her husband and mom. Both needed her support and constant caregiving, and she didn't complain."

Kathy was born on November 21, 1952. She had a wonderful singing voice and that gave her joy. Her brothers were in many local bands, one of whom played at the last reunion as The Intruders.

## Celebrating milestone anniversaries

**Rob Stonelake '61** and **Toni Winther Stonelake '65** are celebrating their 55th anniversary. They were married in 1966. Toni said, "We have two children and four grandchildren. We have lived in Eugene for 29 years and living a wonderful retired life!"

**Ron '57** and **Beverly Plaep Estep '64** celebrated 50 years on May 1.

**Dick Hoberg '68** and **Debra Eckroth Hoberg '70** were married at St. Mary's in Florence on March 20, 1971, and are celebrating their 50th anniversary. "We have lived in Florence and raised our family here except for the four years in the military," Debra said.

**Tony '79** and **Melissa Goodrich Phillips '78** are celebrating their 40th anniversary. Their wedding was September 26, 1981.

## *In Memoriam*

**Wayne Amack**, Class of 1955

**Orville Bales**, Class of 1966

**Lyle Bosket**, Class of 1988

**Susan Richardson Browne**, Class of 1960

**Margaret Wampler Buss**, Class of 1941

**Lois Akerley Casto**, Class of 1964

**Christina Severy Colling**, Class of 1969

**Jerry Fitzpatrick**, Class of 1954

**Jerry Gnau**, Class of 1953

**Linda Fox Graves**, Class of 1960

**Kathy Phillips Grimes**, Class of 1971

**Bob Grover**, Class of 1963

**James Kinney**, Class of 1954

**Oldie "Doodie" Morris Letts**, Class of 1937

**Harold McClellan**, Class of 1958

**LaRita "Kris" Lidstrom McKay**, Class of 1967

**Bob Merz**, Class of 1944

**Randy Middleton**, Class of 1960

**Patricia Beal Newhard**, Class of 1979

**Ronald Newhard**, Class of 1980

**Dave Pearman**, Class of 1967

**Ruby Prater Pace**, Class of 1962

**Joanne Troxell Putney**, Class of 1959

**Matt Ridings**, Class of 1982

**Richard Russell**, Class of 1954

**Erma Nute Sargent**, Class of 1951

**Jack Smith**, Class of 1961

**Zoe Anne Bridges Silbernagel**, Class of 1965

**Hazel Danene Spear**, Class of 1978

**Elaine VanCurler Tahsili**, Class of 1970

**Justin Antonio Tomac**, Class of 1989

**Tim Varner**, Class of 1976

**Delores Elliott Watts**, Class of 1970

**Siuslaw School System Educators & Staff**

Jay Scanlan

Maisie Scanlan Mankenberg

*requiescat in pace*

please send any graduation date changes or obituaries to editor

## An open love letter to Siuslaw High School

In the summer of 1985, I distinctly remember looking up from the sports section of *The Register-Guard* to hear my dad say, “We just bought a house; this is where we’re going to live when I retire next year.” I was in our friend’s house near Heceta Beach and was stunned into silence. I had no idea that moving to Florence was even an option. I certainly did not know how to pronounce Siltcoos Lake, which was where the house was located, and I felt real apprehension about coming in new to attend high school. I feel blessed to have attended Siuslaw High School and to be part of such a wonderful community even if it did not feel that way at that moment...

My brother, **David ’91**, and I had been adopted as infants by Tom and Lydia Brackney in Saigon, Vietnam, in the early 70s. In service of my dad’s career, we settled in Bangladesh for my K-9 years at the American International School of Dhaka. This impending transition from a small international school in the Indian subcontinent to the hallowed halls of SHS would indeed be significant!

The three years I spent at SHS impacted the trajectory of my life and shaped many of the values I hold dear today. In life there are tributaries and rivers that help sand out the edges of one’s character and persona. SHS provided both for me.

I spent a lot of time involved in athletics—football, basketball, and ran track. Sports provided an entrée for me into a high school society that had largely grown up together. In fact, completing the crucible that is summer JV football two-a-days tends to bind a cohort together, and

in the summer of 1986, I felt as if I had survived initiation. Sports helped me find my tribe. Affinito, Little, Weston, Galbraith, Giddens, Gray, Becker, Nivens, Varner, Daniels, and numerous other



Tim Brackney, then and now

coaches taught me about sport and life and helped with that treacherous transition from high school to real life.

Head Football Coach Len Lutero impacted so many lives, including mine. I learned about leadership and invoke many of his lessons even today. Coach Lutero was an incredible coach but his real gift was insatiable curiosity and a desire for discourse. Many of our best conversations had nothing to do with football and were rooted in the world-at-large.

Ironically, it was another Lutero who jolted me to take the road less traveled. Sitting with Mrs. Lutero in a counseling session about college, she dared me – in fact, she challenged me – to dream big. I decided to apply to the University of Notre Dame and then lo and behold, I got in! Going away to school opened so many opportunities to learn and connect with people and gave me a college experience that is very foundational to who I am today.

SHS faculty have their fingerprints all over the underpinnings of my career and life. At Notre Dame, I

maored in accounting and when I got my first job at Price Waterhouse, in my head I could hear Mr. Vavich loudly telling us in an accounting class that the job market for CPAs was “red hot”. When I applied to graduate schools, I leaned on lessons taught by Mr. Danielson and Mrs. May, who preached connection with the audience. I got my MBA from Stanford and at graduation I remembered early mornings in the computer lab with Mr. Wilcox as he was introducing me to the concept of computer programming and using a PC to solve problems.

When I look through the kaleidoscope of my life, I see the many shapes and colors that have formed my being. These experiences have given me perspective and context, they ground me in a world that is hyper-connected and desires to move faster by the second. I’m filled with optimism and gratitude because my parents gave me a chance to live a life filled with love, joy, and discovery. I’m able to understand the difficulties that many in other countries traverse, as I saw abject poverty and despair firsthand in a decade of life in the Third World. The blue and gold of SHS push me to be competitive and to dream big but root me in a desire to be make positive connections with people and solve problems.

Thank you, Siuslaw, for all you have done for me, I will always be grateful. Hail, Siuslaw, hail.

By **Tim Brackney, Class of 1989**, President and Chief Operating Officer of Resources Global Professionals, a consulting firm.

## Class Notes

Editor **Ned Hickson '84** is retiring after 23 years at *The Siuslaw News*.

The Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced that University of Louisville women's basketball associate head coach **Stephanie Osburn Norman '84** was named the 2021 Division I Assistant Coach of the Year. She has aided in nine Sweet 16, five Elite Eight, and three Final Four appearances, including a pair of national championships.

Lifelong Los Angeles Rams fan and amateur writer **Richard (Rick) Harriman '86** saw a request from *DownTown Rams* on Twitter seeking writers. He wrote for the team last year, mostly providing a weekly analysis previewing a matchup. The work is done remotely but the team does encourage live interviews if possible, which was difficult during the pandemic. He has been asked to return for next season.

Wondering who runs that beautiful flower farm, Calapooia Gardens, in Brownsville? It's **Sherri Gindhart Lemhouse '86**. Pick up a posy.

**Thomas Jennings '87** ran for a seat on the Lane Community College Board of Education.

**Vanessa Shelton Buss '89** ran for a board position with Western Lane Ambulance District. She is the second of three generations of SHS graduates. The election in May was after press time.

**Ariel A. Rosinbaum '18** is graduating from the University of Oregon with a degree in general education and criminal justice.

## Connect With Your Class

*This year's milestone reunions*

**If you are in one of the classes scheduled to meet at the now-canceled Sept. 11 all-class reunion/banquet, please contact your reunion organizer for updated plans.**

### **Class of 1961 60-year gathering**

September 11

Saturday gathering in Husum, WA.

Contact: Ray Miller, 509-493-4090

### **Class of 1966 55-year reunion**

September 10

Friday, 6 p.m., food and visiting at Mike and Kathy Bones' house.

Contact: Kathryn Thrall, kathrynthrall@hotmail.com

### **Class of '76 45th reunion**

September 10-12

Activities are in the works.

Contacts: Cindy Merz Forsythe, cindy@clforsythe.com, Joyce Murrell Johnson, sonsunmyson@gmail.com, or Lisa Woodworth Hostick, lisa@goldmaninc.com.

Updates posted on Facebook group Siuslaw High School 1976.

### **Class of 1970 50th/51st class reunion**

September 10-11

Friday evening, 6-9 p.m., meet and greet at Abby's Pizza.

Saturday, TBA.

Contacts: Debbie Gray Peterson, 541-999-0034, deb52\_3@yahoo.com, or

Brenda Daugherty Allen, 541-521-1533, gmaballen@gmail.com  
Information on Facebook Group 1970 or Classmates.com.

### **Class of 1971 50th class reunion**

September 10-11

Saturday, TBA.

Contact: Don Hunt

### **Class of 1986 35-year class reunion**

July 30-August 1

Friday: Abby's Pizza

Saturday: East Woahink Picnic Area

Contact: Jennifer Archer, 503-459-3241, archerjenn@yahoo.com

### **Class of 1996 25-year class reunion**

Postponed until possibly 2022.

Contact: Melissa Vermilyea Long

Events subjects to change.

Check [www.SiuslawAlumni.org](http://www.SiuslawAlumni.org) for updates.

## Past and present grads celebrate on Bay Street



The classes of '49, '61, '65, '67, '70, and '73 were on hand to cheer on the Class of 2020 during the grad parade that took place when COVID-19 canceled major celebrations. (back) Penny Ringenberg, Suzi Bennett, Jan Petersen McKnight, Debra Hoberg, Mary Stone Carlisle, (front) Sharon Stanton, Donna Petersen.

## The end of phase one: Faylene closes shop

After more than 50 years of haircuts, perms, shampoo sets, colorings, excellent service, good conversation, and so much more, **Faylene Bunch Fleming '64** closed the doors of Phase1 for the last time in December 2020.

A life-long Florence resident and proud Siuslaw High School alumni, Faylene Fleming raised her three children—**Daphne '88**, **Jerry '88**, and **Shawn '92**—while also establishing herself as a strong business-woman in Florence. Faylene has fond memories of her time at Siuslaw High School. She spoke of her admiration of learning from Mr. Whitmore and Ms. Jones.

“I’m so proud of my mother’s accomplishments over the past 50 years,” said Faylene’s daughter, Daphne Fleming-Hoerner. “I have incredibly fond memories of spending time at her beauty shop as a child. During my teenage years, I used my mother’s shop to act as an amateur beautician to my close friends. Sadly, I did not inherit my mother’s ability to perm someone’s

hair without turning it green.”

Before opening Phase1 in 1984, Faylene worked at various beauty shops in Florence and Eugene. During the early part of her career, she worked hard to establish herself as a competent and excellent beautician. Faylene credits Dorie Miles and Wilma Tone for helping her start her career and gain experience. Faye’s dedication to her craft, strong work ethic, and excellent customer service remained with her throughout her career. When it came time to name her new shop, Faylene’s daughter, Daphne, and SHS art teacher, Mr. Ransom, came up with the concept of Phase1.

A beloved mother and grandmother, the walls of Faylene’s shop served as a mini-shrine to her treasured children and grandchildren (as her oldest grandchild, this author can personally attest to the impressive reach of this wall. I can’t even count the number of times I was recognized as one of “Faye’s grandkids” because of photos at her shop).

When asked about what she’ll



miss most about her business, Faylene stated, “I’ll miss the people. I’ve worked with so many sweet people. I’m grateful to all of my loyal customers.” The extended Fleming family looks forward to watching our mother and grandmother enjoy her retirement. After decades of hard work and sacrifice, we’re excited for our family matriarch to spend more time with her family, enjoy her hobbies, including gardening, puzzles, and reading, and also spend time with her great-grandchildren.

By **Megan Connor, Class of 2011.**

**Siuslaw Alumni Association  
Board Members 2020-21**

**Officers:**

**President**

Mike Bones '66

**Vice President & Reunion Chair**

vacant

**Secretary**

Rita Boyce Snyder '55

**Treasurer**

Phyllis Bennett Wells '52

Melissa Goodrich Phillips '78

**Bylaws Advisor**

Tim Dodson '82

**Past President**

Lou Anne Wood Fore '54

**Directors:**

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Jim Himmel '69

Judy WorthyLake McClellan '61

Karla Large McFadden '79

Beth Meadows Sandberg '64

Shannon Anderson Sheets '89

Mickie Boyer Stephens '62

Merne Entgelmeier Wilson '68

Allyn Wilson '69

**Editor/Publisher**

Jennifer Archer

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Find us on the internet:

Like **Siuslaw Alums  
(Beth Meadows)** on  
Facebook.

Visit us online

**www.siuslawalumni.org**

## Top reasons to be an SAA member

### *Viking Pride*

Membership in the SAA is the best way to show your Viking pride.

### *Your Viking Network*

Engage with SHS alumni on Facebook and at the All-School Reunion. It can lead to friendships, new business ventures, and general good feelings.

### *In the Know*

Whether you live in Florence, across the country, or around the world, the SAA will keep you informed about interesting alumni, events, opportunities, and more.

### *Giving Back*

Whether you want to get involved

with the board or support student scholarships, we welcome your participation. The board is all-volunteer and the membership dues pay for publishing/ mailing the newsletter, website expenses, postal box rent, annual corporation fee, stationary and postage, and other administrative and banquet expenses.

Annual dues are \$10 for individuals or an alumni household, payable every October. The board has three meetings per year that are open to the SAA membership.

Please fill out the enclosed form and mail to the SAA.

## 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 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 (in person during non-pandemic times). Many 50-year class reunion organizers participate on the board during the year leading up to their milestone reunion.

Open positions include vice president, who serves as reunion chair planning the banquet and is next in line for the presidency, a historian, and other members-at-large.

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

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