

News from the Grant High School Alumni Association

June, 2008

U. S. Grant High School Alumni Association

P. O. Box 13291, Portland, Oregon 97213

First GHS Alumni Association Scholarship Awarded

The first ever Grant High School Alumni Association Scholarship was presented to 2008 graduate Drew Wong by Vice President John "Bud" Leonard ('47) and scholarship chair Ann Brownell ('72) at the May 29th Senior Awards Program. The scholarship is intended for a student whose participation in activities at Grant has enhanced the success of those programs, and whose commitment, initiative, and spirit encourages other students to participate and succeed.

Drew is a 2008 Valedictorian with a 4.00 grade average, and has been designated the outstanding male math student of the year by Grant's mathematics faculty. He plays the French horn in Grant's Wind Ensemble, which won the PII band performance and sight reading competition this spring. For his dedication, talent, and leadership, Drew received the Grant Band Music Director's Award. He is also a member of Grant's renowned chamber choir, the Royal Blues, and was awarded the 2008 Music and Scholarship Award for high grades and choral excellence. A long distance runner, Drew is on the Grant cross country team and competes in the distance races for the track team. At the close of the track season this year his teammates selected him as Team Captain. Drew will use his scholarship to attend Tufts University in Boston where he will study engineering.



The Alumni Association wishes to thank everyone who has donated to our scholarship fund. In order to keep offering scholarships, we hope everyone will consider donating to this program so that we can offer another scholarship next year and can begin building a fund to draw on for more scholarships.

Other Association News

Join Us for a Pre-Game Get Together

All Grant High School alumni are invited to come to a social event to precede the Grant-Barlow football game on September 12, 2008. This no host affair will be held at the Sexton Tavern at 4035 N.E. Marine Drive from 1:30 to 4 p.m. We intend to leave in time to attend the football game, which will be held in the Grant Bowl, beginning at 4:30. Drop in for a short time, or stay for a couple hours. Everyone is welcome.

Check us out -

Currently the Alumni Association has a link at the GHS website:

<http://grant.pps.k12.or.us/proto>. You can see our past newsletters there.

Class of '47 Scholarship

Each year the Class of 1947 presents a scholarship to a student who has shown academic improvement over four years. This year's scholarship was awarded to Taylor O'Neil. She will be attending the University of Washington next year.

Second Cotton Era Ends with PIL Track Championship

On April 25, at the Cotton Invitational track meet, students, alumni, and colleagues celebrated Greg Cotton's last year at Grant High School. Greg is retiring at the end of this school year after 18 years of teaching math and coaching track and cross country. He came to Grant in 1990 from Marshall High School, just after his father, legendary Grant track coach Mark Cotton, retired from teaching and coaching. Greg started out as assistant coach, moving up to head cross country coach in 1992 and to head track coach in 1998.

Many alumni who remember Mark Cotton's tenure as teacher and coach, will also remember his son Greg as a student at Grant, graduating in 1974. While at Grant, Greg was a student body officer, athletic representative, and an excellent student, receiving the Fletcher Award for being the top student in his class. He participated in athletics all four years, finishing first in the PIL pole vault competition and first in the state in the decathlon.

In an interview with Cheryl Ellis ('72) and Dale Olson ('72) of the Alumni Association, Greg spoke about how much he loved math and physics in high school. His favorite teacher was physics instructor Lloyd Ingraham. "He made physics so exciting. He was a mad physics teacher. He was Einstein. He had white hair that was always shaggy...a mad scientist with a New York accent." Greg later majored in both math and physics at Linfield College.

The early 1970s were a time of particular angst for high school boys, who realized that they could be drafted for the Vietnam War. "My class was the last class to register for the draft," Greg recalled, explaining that national events were more prominent in the lives of students then, as there was no competition from cable television. "When I was in school, we had ABC, CBS, and NBC. When something happened nationally, that is what you would watch. Like when Martin Luther King was killed or when President Kennedy was assassinated. Or a space flight."

Over the years fashion trends have come and gone, but the 70s styles make Greg cringe. "I'm ashamed of what I wore as a junior in high school. It was big bell bottoms with cuffs, and the guys wore two-inch platform heels and big lapels. It was funny. I also wore jeans and a button down shirt. Miniskirts were fashionable. Girls wore short skirts and go-go boots." Some of these fashions have come back, he said, but "you don't see long straggly hair like you used to see."

And the neighborhood has changed. Greg remembers being able to stop at Yaws for pie after a basketball game, or going to Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor where someone was always having a birthday. For lunch, sometimes he went to Boc's or Little King. And there were always friends to hang out with at Dairy Queen or Polar Bear on Broadway. All are gone now. "Where do you go for pie now in this neighborhood?" he asked.

Today, as a teacher, Greg says that he cannot assume that all students are motivated like he was, and that a big part of teaching is understanding and working with students whose lives have hit a rough patch. "I like to think of Grant as a small town, a small town of 2,000 people. But also a town of people with all kinds of problems, every social problem of the world. Grant has it all. What happens in school is a lot more than teaching – math was just a small part of my job."

Greg particularly wants to be remembered as part of the Cotton track legacy. "I was growing up around this track. It's what I did and I put my life into it." Above all, he is proud that every student was welcome in track and cross country. There were some super star athletes, but everyone was encouraged to participate and have fun. It is fitting in the last event of the last official track meet of his career, the 2008 Oregon State 6A competition, the Grant boys' 4x400-meter relay team took first place with a new record time for the school, the fifth best ever in the state. An exceptional finish for an exceptional career.

Former GHS Cook and Oldest Oregonian Dies

Helen Johnson, Oregon's oldest person at 111 years, passed away April 17, 2008 at her southwest Portland residence. Born Helena Martha Wilhelmina Minx in Berlin on July 20, 1896, Helen came to America when she was four, living first in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and

then moving to Portland when she was six. She married Carl Dahlstrom at 18 and had a daughter and a son. While the children were of school age, in the 1930s, she worked as a cook in the Grant High School cafeteria. After Carl died, she married Soren Johnson. She lived in the Laurelhurst neighborhood until the 1990s when she moved to a retirement home.

Continued GHS Success in Academics and the Arts

Seventeen Grant art students were recognized at the **2008 Scholastic Art Awards** reception, fifteen receiving gold and silver keys in drawing, ceramics, photography, sculpture, mixed media and jewelry design. Three students received honorable mention in photography, design, and computer art. Senior Samantha Ryan received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Grant High School's **Constitution Team** once again placed first in the state and third at the national competition, just 8 points shy of first place. Students apply for the team at the end of junior year. Those accepted begin to study over the summer and then take a year long class. The students are grouped into teams with volunteer coaches to focus on detailed knowledge of different aspects of the U. S. Constitution.

Grant's Acapella Choir traveled to the state choir festival and competition after placing first in their division at the PIL choral festival. At the state festival they were adjudicated not only in performance, but also in sight reading.

The **Grant Wind Ensemble** were the PIL champions in performance and sight reading this year and went to the state band competition in May at OSU.

Speech and Debate took third place in city competition.

Grant's 2008 Rose Princess



Meet Taylor Allen, current and future leader, and this year's Rose Festival Princess from Grant High School. A 4.00 student, Taylor is a Valedictorian, senior class president, member of the Grant High Constitution Team, a mentor to freshman students, and recipient of the Leonard Whitlow Spirit Award for her service. She says that one of the most significant events in her high school career was the trip she took with classmates to Alabama to walk the route of Martin Luther King's march to Selma. It helped her to fully appreciate the sacrifices people made in the 1950s and 60s to obtain civil rights. She plans to attend Spelman College in Atlanta and hopes to use her government and leadership experience to make a difference in the world.

Winter and Spring Sports Send Grant Athletes to State Competitions

Basketball – the Grant boys' surprised everyone but themselves by winning the 2008 6A Oregon state championship game over an extremely talented Oregon City team, 63-56. Oregon City had been rated number one all season, but the Generals led them throughout the game, bringing the trophy not only back to Grant, but back to the PIL. In addition, both the Jefferson HS boys' and girls' basketball teams are 2008 state champions in the 5A division, giving the PIL even more to crow about.

The Grant girls' basketball team had a 9-3 league record to claim second place in the PIL. They ended up being defeated by Westview HS in the first round of the 6A state championship series. Their overall record was 16-9.

Wrestling – ten Grant wrestlers qualified for the state meet this year, three taking first place awards, two second place, and five third place. The team placed second in PIL competition.

Swimming – the Grant boys took first place in the PIL and qualified for the state meet in eight events. At state they finished seventh, with the 400 meter relay team placing third. The girls' team finished second in the PIL and qualified for the state meet in three events.

Golf – Grant girls finished first in the PIL, while the boys placed second.

Tennis – Grant girls finished 5-2; the boys finished 4-4.

Softball – the Generals won the PIL championship with a 12-0 league record and an overall record of 16-8. They made it to the second round of the state finals where they lost to South Salem.

Baseball – the baseball team finished 7-8 in league play, 10-13 overall. They lost to Tigard in the first round of the state playoffs.

Track and Field – the Grant boys were undefeated dual meet champions, PIL district champions, and tied for 14th at state meet. The 1600 (4x400) meter relay team took first place at the state meet with two new school records and the fifth best time Oregon high school track history.

The Grant girls' track and field team finished second at districts and tenth at the state meet, scoring points in the high jump, the long jump, the 400 meter individual race, and both the 400 meter and 1600 meter relays.

Dance and Drill – The Gendrills took first place in the PIL division this year.

Grant Sports

To find out where and when games and meets will take place go to:
www.pilathletics.com/scheduleresults.asp.

News from *The Grantonian* can be viewed at www.grantonian.com.

The Grant High School Alumni Association

The Grant High School Alumni Association, founded in 2005 is an Oregon non-profit corporation with IRS 501©(3) status, making dues and contributions tax deductible. Our mission is to serve our graduates and to develop alumni interest and support for Grant. Grant High School continues to be an outstanding Portland school. We want to help continue this tradition.

The Alumni Association operates entirely on membership dues and donations. Our major goals and activities include:

- Providing opportunities for alumni to keep up with other Grant graduates and with current events at the school. A newsletter publicizing class reunions and all-alumni activities, current events at Grant, and historical highlights will be sent to members.
- Donating to GHS. We want to provide scholarships, to help with facility improvements and student programs, and to organize alumni service projects at the school.
- Developing and maintaining Grant's history collection. We are interviewing former students and faculty, and we plan to preserve 82 years of school newspapers and other historical documents on CD. We are also looking for donations of scrapbooks and other Grant memorabilia.
- Constructing and maintaining an address list of Grant graduates in order to help with class reunions and other alumni functions.
- Providing telephone and email contacts for alumni: call 503-281-9994 or email to Grantalumni@aol.com.

Please join us in helping to maintain Grant's proud tradition. Fill in the information below and send it in. Become part of the "Grant Experience." Thank you.

Membership and Contributions

The U. S. Grant High School of Portland, Oregon, Alumni Association is an Oregon non-profit corporation with IRS 501©(3) status, making dues and contributions tax deductible.

Name (present) _____

Name at Grant _____ Class _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is:

- My \$20 annual dues
- My donation to the Grant Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
- Other donation in the amount of _____

Mail to: U. S. Grant Alumni Association, P. O. Box 13291, Portland, Oregon 97213