# Generally Speaking...

**Grant High School Alumni Association / Summer 2023** 

# **Constitution Team takes 2nd place**



Grant's Constitution Team in front of the Supreme Court in Washington, DC

The military historian Bruce Catton has devoted several volumes to Ulysses S. Grant, one of which is entitled *Grant Moves South*. This year though, as in many past years, Grant moved east! Grant High School, that is!

The Constitution Team from Grant High School traveled to Washington, DC and returned with a 2nd place finish in a nation-wide competition that is part of the *We the People, the Citizen and the Constitution* program. We have sent teams to the Nationals in 17 of the past 22 years, often finishing in the top 10 and 3 times bringing home the 1st place trophy. This is a tribute not only to the students, but also to the teachers, volunteer coaches, staff and parents in the Grant community. This year a generous contribution to the team by your Alumni Association helped defray the high cost of travel and lodging for the team in Washington, DC.

The students on the team spent at least 10 hours a week preparing for the Oregon State Championships during the first half of the year and the Nationals in the second half of the year. For each final competition that time commitment increased several fold as the contests grew near.

(continued on page 7)



## **Alumni Picnic**

It's almost time for the annual All-Alumni Picnic!

We will gather on Sunday, July 23 at 1:00 PM at our usual place, the Hollyrood Shelter in Grant Park, off 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue. We will provide water, popcorn and cookies for you, too.

Catch up with classmates from long ago (longer for some of us than others!) and just have a fun trip down memory lane.



The Classes of 1963 and 2003 will be in attendance, too, while they celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> and 20th reunions.

Remember, we are always willing to provide extra tables and/or chairs if you also want to hold your reunion at the annual picnic.

We hope to see you on July 23!

## **President's Letter**

Our Alma Mater is approaching a milestone in educational excellence in Portland: Grant High School's 100<sup>th</sup> year will begin in September, 2023. The Grant High School Alumni Association (GHSAA) is part of the group that is creating the celebration events. You can read more about it in this newsletter.



The alumni association has awarded a \$5000 scholarship to senior **Benjamin McDonald**. Thanks to all of those who contribute to the alumni scholarship fund. As the cost of higher education continues to grow, our alumni scholarship is a significant benefit to Grantonians following us. All of our contributions add up to a nice monetary send-off for a deserving Grant senior. If you have contributed, thank you. If you are considering contributing, I hope you choose to do just that, and thank you, too!!

Earlier this spring I attended a rehearsal of the Grant Constitution Team prior to their competition in Washington, DC. It was an impressive display of intelligence, quick thinking, and oratory skills! Several teachers and volunteers did a great job coaching and mentoring the team. The Grant team finished in 2nd place nationally. Your alumni association contributed \$2500 toward their travel expenses. More about the competition on page 1.

Well, inevitably I turned 80 this spring...and I celebrated well! Post-birthday, I decided to make a serious attempt to regain a level of fitness that has eluded me since my hip "adventures" began in Dec 2021. I've retained a trainer and am progressing, but as many of my compatriots already know: my body progresses slower than my imagination.

Thank you for supporting the Grant High School Alumni Association. I hope to see you at the All Alumni Picnic on July 23 and at the upcoming Centennial events.

Bob Stayton, '61



# **Centennial event updates**

Plans are being formalized for Grant's 100th celebration, beginning with several events already on the calendar:

**September 23, 2023:** Our first celebration is Homecoming, complete with a tailgate party and football game in the Bowl.

March 16, 2024: An all-school reunion will be held at Grant, including an open house with a tour of the remodeled building. Plans are being formalized for other events that day.

May 30-31, 2024: A SENSATIONAL CENTURY: Celebrating 100 Years of Performing Arts at Grant High School, directed by Bruce McDonald, will be an extravaganza of 100 years of theater, instrumental, vocal, and dance performances by students and alums.

**September 2024:** A celebration will be held at Grant sometime in September to honor the day the school doors opened 100 years ago! More details to follow.

Check for other events and fundraising opportunities on the alum website / grantalumni.org; Facebook / US Grant Alumni Association; and, Instagram / @ghs\_100thyear Information about restaurant fundraising events will also be announced on these sites, so check in every now and then!

# **2023 Grant Hall of Achievement Recipients**

#### Just what is the Grant Hall of Achievement?

Inspiration for the Hall of Achievement came from our Athletic Hall of Fame and the realization that many Grant graduates have left lasting marks beyond the playing fields. We recognize these alumni and how they embody Grant spirit by doing one's best and always striving for excellence with integrity. Read about previous winners at grantalumni.org/hall-of-achievement

## Mary Fetsch, '75



After graduating from Oregon State with a degree in broadcast media communications, Mary Fetsch's first job was in public affairs at KOIN-TV. After stints as producer of KATU's "Town Hall" program and news producer at KGW, Mary became the

campaign press secretary, and then press secretary, for Elizabeth Furse after she was elected to the US House of Representatives.

With her continued love of public policy issues, Mary worked for 22 years at TriMet as both their Communication Director and Media Relations Officer. Now owner of Fetsch Strategic Communications, she provides expert strategic communications, crisis communications, media training, and guidance for policy/political issues and campaigns.

Mary currently resides in Portland.

## Bob Thompson, '76



Bob Thompson was a member of the Varsity baseball team before graduating from Grant High in 1976. He earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Telecommunications and Film, with an emphasis in Broadcast Management, from the University of Oregon in 1980.

Bob entered the cable television business in 1981 with Storer Cable Communications. Eight years and five relocations later he left Storer and moved to the programming side of the business.

Bob spent 20 years in a variety of executive positions at Liberty Sports and FOX Sports Networks. He was named President of FOX Sports Networks and FOX Sports International in 2000, where he was responsible for oversight of FOX's domestic and international sports networks. Bob received a national Sports Emmy for executive producing the show SportsScience in 2008. He retired from FOX in 2009.

Bob served on the board of directors of the Golf Channel, Big Ten Network, Rogers SportsNet in Canada, FOX Pan American Sports, Mobile TV Group, and the Colorado Rockies Baseball Club.

He remains involved in the sports and television world through his company Thompson Sports Group, but mostly enjoys playing golf at his Scottsdale, Arizona home.

# Help us celebrate Grant's 100th year!

Calling all Generals!! We're certain a lot has changed for you since high school, so please fill out this Alumni and Community Contact Form to make sure your information is up to date: <a href="GHS Alumni and Community">GHS Alumni and Community</a> Contact Form. If you have questions about the Centennial Celebration, contact **Breanna Jackson** ('04), GHS Centennial Celebration Chair (breannapc@gmail.com)



### Class of 1961 - 80th Birthday Celebration!

- Saturday September 23, 2023
- Meet at Moon and Sixpence / 2014 NE 42nd Ave, following Homecoming game
- Look for an email later this summer with the details

#### Class of 1963 – 60th Reunion

- Sunday, July 23, 2023
- 1:00 4:00 PM at the All-Alumni Picnic, Grant Park Hollyrood Shelter off 36th Ave
- Questions: Colleen White Scholz / colleenscholz@gmail.com

### Class of 1964 - 60th Reunion <- Planning ahead!

- Saturday, July 27, 2024
- 4:00 8:00 PM at Colwood Golf Center, 7313
   NE Columbia Blvd
- Questions: Christi Knutson / granthigh1964@aol.com

#### Class of 1973 - 50th Reunion

- Saturday, July 22, 2023
- 4:00 7:00 PM at NoHo's Hawaiian Café, 4627
   NE Fremont. \$60 at door (cash or card; includes all food, drink, gratuity). To RSVP, visit this link.
- Questions: Kirk Soule / <u>kirsoule81@gmail.com</u>
   / For more information, <u>click here.</u>

#### Class of 1975

- First Saturday of the month, 7:00 PM, **ALL** Grantonians are invited!
- Rogue Eastside Brewery, 928 SE 9th Ave
- Questions: Sara Wiedmaier Gonzalez / gonzalez.sara90@gmail.com

#### Class of 1988-35th Reunion

- Saturday, July 15, 2023
  - 12:00-3:00 PM: Tours of the remodeled school for classmates and families
  - 7:00-Midnight: Cocktail party. Contact
     GrantHS1988ClassReunion@gmail.com for location and questions
- Questions: Lara Bull Lassila / 206.390.9027 and Jana Throckmorton / 503.522.2492
- Facebook: Grant High School Alumni Class of 1988

#### Class of 2000 - 23th Reunion

- Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 3:30-8:30
   PM: an adults only event with a paid ticket required. Details coming.
- Sunday, September 10, 2023 starting at 1:00 PM: Family-friendly picnic at Wilshire Park; bring your own picnic.
- If you are able to share <u>contact information</u> for classmates for whom we don't have an email address, please email us at <u>grantclass</u> of2000@gmail.com.
- Questions: grantclassof2000@gmail.com / Facebook: Grant High School Class of 2000
- Join the mailing list to receive updates: <u>tinyletter.com/grantclassof2000</u>

#### Class of 2003 - 20th Reunion

- Saturday, July 15, 2023 from 1:00-4:00 PM
- Grant Park Hollyrood Shelter off 36th Ave
- Details to follow.

#### Class of 2013 - 10th Reunion

Planning underway! Details to follow.

#### 12th Annual All Alumni Picnic

- Sunday, July 23, 2023 from 1:00 4:00 PM
- Grant Park Hollyrood Shelter off 36th Ave
- Water, popcorn and cookies provided
- More information on page 1!

# Meet our 2023 GHSAA Scholarship recipient, Ben McDonald

With the help of counselor **Megan Schlicker** ('92), the GHSAA Scholarship Committee interviewed a group of outstanding young men and women who will be continuing their education at an Oregon school of higher learning.

We are always disappointed that there is not money to honor each applicant, but available funds allowed us to present just one. This year, **Benjamin McDonald** was selected as the alumni association's scholarship recipient. We will deposit \$5,000 in his account when he starts his freshman year at Willamette University this fall.

Ben is a Salish Indian from the Flathead reservation of NW Montana, and the first person in his immediate family to graduate from high school. He felt like "a brown speck on a canvas of white" as he entered Grant, but in time became more comfortable with himself and his surroundings. Ben played soccer at Grant and is looking forward to playing for Willamette, where he will be one of the first Native American college soccer players in the US. His friendly personality and stellar grades (only two Bs in a sea of As) will propel him to earning a degree in business and exercise science.



Ben McDonald with Scholarship Chair Christi (Rollwage) Knutson, '64.

We wish Ben the very best!

## **2023 Rose Festival Princess**



Princess M'Ryah
Kelley, a senior, represented Grant High
School this year. She
was born in Las
Vegas, Nevada and
plans to major in biology or kinesiology
with a goal of becoming a physical therapist or athletic trainer.

Photo credit: Naim Hasan and Patrick Smith

M'Ryah is an honor

roll student and involved with the National Honor Society. She's also a member of the varsity volleyball team (2nd team all-league volleyball!), and Grant dance collective. She's active in her school's Black Student Union and holds an internship with Tappin' Roots. M'Ryah loves anything and everything involving music, in addition to movie watching with her sister.



# 2023 graduation stats

Here are survey results of Grant High School seniors, taken from a June survey by **Grant Magazine**:

- 97% will be attending a college or university
- 5% are going to an international college or university
- 28% are going to college or university in Oregon
- 61% believe Grant has prepared them for life after high school
- 75% know what they will be studying in college or university

Some statistics taken from the graduation program: Of the 512 graduates, over 40% have a 3.5 GPA or better, and 58 have a 4.0 (or better) GPA!

## Gen. Grant gets promoted



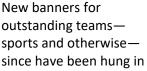
In the winter newsletter, we wrote about General Ulysses S. Grant's pending posthumous promotion to General of the Armies of the US. You can read that article here.

That article was published on Dec. 5 and on Dec. 23 the bill was signed into law, promoting Grant to General of the Armies of

the United States! You can read more about it in this CBS news story: Ulysses S. Grant promoted to general of the armies in new defense spending bill.

# **Second chance for trophies**

Before Grant's 2017 remodel, many of the trophies on display were headed for a dumpster. The Alumni Association saved them from that fate by offering them for sale at our 2016 picnic.



the gym, and Principal McGee has asked for our help in recovering the missing trophies. If you purchased one as a memento, would you be willing to return it to the school to display in the new trophy cases? You can let us know by contacting grantalumni@aol.com.

The school, and other alums, would greatly appreciate your donation.

# Historic hallway photos

The school has ordered 1000 frames and is working on getting the tracking system that will be mounted on walls to hold the pictures. The goal is to have the pictures up by the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Want to help?!? Volunteers will be needed in August to put the photos into frames. If you're interested, contact Christi at grantalumni@aol.com

# **2023 GHSAA** contributions review



"Your tax dollars at work" is a familiar statement. Along that same line, we would like to share that your alumni dues dollars have been doing good work as well!

The Alumni Association contributed money to the Constitution Team, as well as to this year's Seniors' All Night Party.

The Constitution Team is the always exceptional team of seniors who competed for the state title and then, after winning, moved on to compete in the national competition in Washington, DC. The expense to send 30 students on such a trip is considerable, and we were happy to help out.

The All Night Party is a tradition going back to the 80s where graduates to spend one last time together as a class. Seniors are bused to secret locations for casino games, swimming, eating, visiting, and prizes, including a Mac-Book Air, plane tickets, and gift cards! After a night of festivities, the exhausted and exhilarated students are bused back to school just before dawn. Definitely an event worthy of our financial support.

## Constitution Team continued from page 2

That time commitment was needed to address multiple questions on the history of the document, Constitutional questions that have arisen from ancient Greece and Rome to the present day, and for future challenges to our Constitutional system.

Having returned from the academic competition and extra activities at the museums (and basketball courts!) of Washington, this year's team members, like the team members before them, look forward to the future at many colleges around the country. Their studies have been, and will be, by no means limited to history and law. Students from the past have pursued careers in medicine, education, science, economics,



David Eaton, Anjali Weerasinghe and Sadie Wallsmith accept the 2023 We the People State Championship award. They're headed to Nationals!

law, engineering, psychology, and many other subjects. No matter what fields they follow, however, they are all better prepared to be responsible citizens in our country.

Students in this year's team include:

- Unit 1 (Historical Foundations of the American Political System): Sam Blacker, George Crittenden, Owen Casey, Caiden Searcy, and Jackson Snider
- Unit 2 (How Did the Framers Create the Constitution?): Veronica Bianco, David Eaton, Violet Holah, Benicio Lumbreras and Beck McLaughlin
- Unit 3 (How Has the Constitution Been Changed to Further the Ideals Contained in the Declaration of Independence?): Dylan Jacobs, Ava Madalinski, Kai Markle, Elijah Martin-Collier, and Alice Parker
- Unit 4 (How Have the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shaped American Institutions and Practices?): Paige Axness, Eva Pitzer, Oliver Siemens, and Aidan Vogt
- Unit 5 (What Rights Does the Bill of Rights Protect?): Scarlett Anderson, Finley Carpenter, Isaac Friedman, Naima Smith, and Sadie Wallsmith
- Unit 6 (What Challenges Might Face American Constitutional Democracy in the Twenty-First Century?): Tait Butterfield, Max Robben, Paige Suckling, Anjali Weerasinghe, and Athena Wooters

Angela DiPasquale is the faculty member responsible for the whole program. The coaches are alumni Jaydon Dirk, Megan Gleason, and Eamon McMahon, as well as community members Adriene Anderson and Jenny Marston. Parents of current or past students also donated their time, and include Alan Galloway, Brad Grenham, Shelley Larkins, Al Karpinski, Linda Jean Larkin, Harrison Latto, Christopher McCracken, John Stephens, Tim Volpert, and Jim Westwood.

The team thanks the Alumni Association for its part in making this possible. Go Grant!

# **Grant High sports**

## **Coach Debbie Engelstad retires**

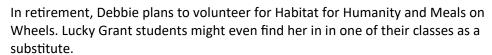


**Debbie Engelstad,** Grant alum ('82), Grant teacher, Grant coach, and champion of Grant softball, retired at the end of this school year.

After graduating from PSU on a softball scholarship, Debbie was hired as a teacher and coach at Grant. Not only did she coach softball, but she also took on the roles of soccer and basketball coach, plus being in charge of the open gym on the weekends. She eventually left her soccer and basketball duties to concentrate on teaching PE/Health and coaching softball.

When the recent modernization of Grant did not include a softball field, Debbie worked tirelessly with

Legal Assistance and the Grant community to ensure the district would build a soft-ball field. Just in time for this year's season, the field was completed with bathrooms, lights, dugouts, sound system, and a trainer facility. No longer do the players need to leave class early and trek to Wilshire Park.



To watch KPTV's tribute to Debbie, click here.



# Two Grant students win the Denny Sullivan Scholarship

A scholarship fund has been established to honor **Denny Sullivan**, Grant's head track and field coach from 1953-62. His teams won seven PIL championships, plus the 1961 state championship. Additionally, his cross country teams won three state championships (1957, 1958 and 1963), and he was Grant's first wrestling coach.

The scholarships are awarded to the top graduating PIL male and female track and field / cross country athletes as nominated by their schools, and two Grant seniors were winners of this year's scholarships. **Noah Zucker** ('23), who will attend Colorado State, was awarded the boys first place \$10,000 scholarship, and **Scarlett Anderson** ('23), who will attend Fordham, won the girls \$4,000 scholarship. Our congratulations to Noah and Scarlett!

# This KGW-TV story goes clear back to kindergarten



Click here to watch this touching story.

# **Annual Mel Krause Memorial PIL Hall of Fame Golf Tourney**

The annual Mel Krause Memorial Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, September 11, 2023 at Langdon Farms; 1:30 pm shotgun start. Proceeds from this golf tournament, the various sponsors, raffle, and silent auction support the work of the PIL Hall of Fame.

For more details, visit the PIL Hall of Fame.



To see results of the 2022 tournament, visit <a href="PILHAIIOfFame.org/events/golf">PILHAIIOfFame.org/events/golf</a>

## **MacMillan Jones Golf Tourney**

The 32nd Annual MacMillan Jones Golf Tourney takes place on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at Pumpkin Ridge Ghost Creek Golf Club in North Plains. 1:30 Shotgun start.

Proceeds from the event support the **Kevin Mac-Millan** & **Tom Jones** Scholarships at Grant High. **Details can be found on our website.** 

# **Grant Student Athletes Commit to colleges**

**Veronca Bianco:** Soccer, Colorado College **Elliot Brown:** Baseball, Lane Community College

Milan Clark: Football, Oregon State

Olivia Lukrofka: Soccer, University of San Francisco

Michaela McCollum: Soccer, Gonzaga Megan McDevitt: Lacrosse, San Diego State Jayden Moses: Football, Portland State

## **Sports updates**

- Swimming: Grant Boys Swim Team won the PIL Championship and qualified the following swimmers at the OSAA State Tournament at Tualatin Hills Rec Center
  - 200 Medley Relay: Wilem Dolan, Ivan Palmer, Jake Myers, Frankie Sanger
  - 200 IM: Frankie Sanger
  - 50 Freestyle: Wilem Dolan
  - 100 Backstroke: Frankie Sanger
  - 400 Freestyle Relay: Wilem Dolan, Parker Beard, Jake Myers, Frankie Sanger
- Wrestling: the Generals sent four participants from the PIL Championships to the State Championships February 24-25 at Memorial Coliseum:
  - Olin Waxler 113lb Runner-Up
  - Trey Wasson 126lb
  - Kai Tsugawa 145lb City Champion
  - Benson Deibele 285lb City Champion
- Volleyball: Student athletes Rachel Peterson and Michaela McCollum were awarded Most Valuable Teammate from the OSAA! Rachel is captain of the varsity volleyball team and was nominated by their coach, Erin Cole, for their ability to excel in the classroom and on the court. Michaela McCollum is a varsity soccer player and was nominated by Coach Manolis Tjuanakis for returning to varsity from the 2021 State Championship team and taking on a leadership role within the team.
- Girls Lacrosse: The team had a winning season, losing only one game in the State semifinals which went into a sudden death overtime. Megan McDevitt was named a USA Lacrosse All-American and the Oregon Girls Lacrosse Association's Player of the Year. Megan and Kate Ratanaproeksa were named to the 1st Team, and Annika Byelick and Erin McDevitt to the 2nd Team.

## Four alums to be inducted into PIL Hall of Fame

### Terry Brown, Class of 1960

Earned nine varsity letters at Grant in football, wrestling and track:

- Football: All-City lineman in football his senior year, captain of the football team junior and senior years, starting lineman in 1960 Shrine game.
- Wrestling: 1960 PIL heavyweight wrestling champion.
- Track: Second in PIL track championships in the shot-put throw his senior year.

Additional: Terry was a PIL academic all-star and a National Merit Scholar. He played freshman football at Stanford and coached soccer in the 1970s for the Reynolds Soccer Club. Currently, Terry has retired as a Vice-President for Columbia Sportswear in 2001. He lives in Redmond, WA.

### **Bob Weaver, Class of 1961**

Bob has six varsity letters:

- Football: He was All-PIL twice, and All-State once, in football. Bob was Shriner game captain in 1961.
- Wrestling: He was also All-PIL and All-State honoree in wrestling.

Additional: An OSU grad, Bob was an industrial relations manager for Hyster and co-owner of an executive recruiting company. He was also an enthusiastic youth sports coach, as well as being active in disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts in Haiti.

### John Bakkensen, Class of 1961

John has three varsity letters:

• Track and Field: John won three varsity letters at Grant for throwing the discus. He won the PIL City meet in 1960, setting a new PIL meet discus throw record. John won the Oregon High School AAU championship meet in 1960 with the longest high school discus throw in Oregon history, then won the City and State discus championship in 1961 and repeated as AAU champion.

Additional: He graduated from Harvard, where he was the Ivy League champ in 1963, '64 and '65, and won the Penn relays in 1963. John graduated from Stanford Law School. He has worked as a volunteer track coach and competed as an amateur athlete. In 1997, he was inducted into the Harvard Varsity Club Hall of Fame. He is a practicing attorney who lives in Portland.

## John Percich, Class of 1969

John has two varsity letters:

- Football: John was a member of Grant's PIL championship team which lost to David Douglas in the state quarter finals.
- Baseball: Grant had decisive wins throughout the season. A game against Madison would decide which team would go onto the state playoffs. The game lasted 11 innings with a 4-3 win for Madison.

Additional: He was also a member of Royal G, the fire squad, and the senior choir. John played football at PSU on a full scholarship. In 1995, John created the Tualatin Valley Youth Football League, which is the second largest league in the country with more than 7000 players in grades 3 through 8. He had a career in food service selling healthy foods for students.



## U.S. Grant High School Alumni Association

PO Box 13291 Portland OR 97213-0291 Editor: <u>Sue Middleton</u>, '74

grantalumni.org | grantalumni@aol.com

Next issue: Winter 2024

Newsletters are emailed to all alumni for whom we have a current email address.

Paid members receive a physical copy by USPS.

## Peace out, Seniors!



Remember what it was like to be a senior and about to "leave the nest?" <u>Watch this fun video</u> created by the students at *Grant Magazine* as they sum up their time at Grant.



## Become a member of your Alumni Association

Your Board of Directors meets monthly devoting volunteer time to keep the association moving. PLEASE SUPPORT US by sending your \$20 dues by mail or online at <a href="mailto:grantalumni.org/dues-and-donations">grantalumni.org/dues-and-donations</a>. We are a recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization. The association also offers a Lifetime Membership.

Annual Individual Dues: \$20/year

• Annual Couple Dues: \$30/year (when both are Grant alums)

• Lifetime Memberships: \$250

Use this link to send your dues: <a href="mailto:grantalumni.org/dues-and-donations">grantalumni.org/dues-and-donations</a> or fill out the form below and mail to: Grant Alumni Association / P.O. Box 13291 / Portland OR 97213-0291

Please fill out and enclose the form below with your annual dues and mail to:
US Grant Alumni Association / PO Box 13291 / Portland OR 97213-0291

Name(s)		Maiden name	Grad year
Address			
			(s)
Enclosed Dues: \$	320 single dues: \$30 c	couple dues: \$250	Lifetime:
Enclosed Donation	on: Scholarship Fund:	_ Newsletter: Oth	er:
Enlist in Grant's Army by volunteering to help with the following: Centennial Event Picnic:			
Newsletter:	Historic Hallway Photos:	Other interest(s)?	