

Generally Speaking...

NEWS FROM THE GRANT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2021

U.S. GRANT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
www.grantalumni.org

P.O. BOX 13291, PORTLAND OR 97213-0291
grantalumni@aol.com

MURAL DONORS - WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

You were so quick to respond with your generous mural donation, but now we need you to tell us what to do with it. We need to hear from those of you who have yet to reply to requests to tell us what you want us to do with your donation. Again, the choices are (1) Full refund, (2) Alumni dues, (3) Scholarship fund, (4) Music Education fund, (5) General fund. You may split your donation between these five options. A deadline of October 1, 2021 has been set to hear from you about your donation. As Alumni volunteers, we need to move on from this project. If we do not hear from you by the deadline, we will allocate the remaining unclaimed donations to the General Fund.

A form can be found on the Grant Alumni website where donors can select how they wish their donation to be applied: <https://www.grantalumni.org/information-for-mural-donors.html> You can also email the Alumni Association with your choice grantalumni@aol.com. Donors without access to a computer, may mail the Alumni Association their options to: Grant High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 13291, Portland OR 97213. Those requesting refunds must include their current mailing address.

A complete list of all mural restoration donors can be found on the association's website:
https://www.grantalumni.org/uploads/5/1/0/3/51038529/mural_donations.pdf

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL FIELD

When plans were made for the Grant modernization project, a men's baseball field and a women's softball field were included. Until the modernization project the women's softball team had used the Wilshire Park field a mile or so away from Grant. The Wilshire field was minimally adequate and necessitated extra logistics effort to haul equipment to and from as well as having only rudimentary restrooms and no electrical service. The men's baseball field was located on the Grant campus next to the PE building.

The modernization plan placed the new softball field in the field north of the school and the new baseball field was located between the school building and the football field in the bowl. During the design process the softball field project was removed as the site was deemed unsuitable. The new baseball field was built complete with artificial turf, fences, bull pens, pitching machines and sanitary bathrooms for players and fans.

The longtime softball coach **Deborah Englestad '82** and three students launched a discrimination lawsuit in federal court against the school, alleging a Title IX violation – failing to treat female student athletes comparably with male student athletes.

As a result, PPS approved a plan in Feb 2020 to construct a new softball field that shares space with the existing baseball field. The softball field will have duplicate dugout and backstop screens to match the baseball facilities. The city land use hearings officer approved the plans re lighting and sound system usage on June 17. Construction should begin by Oct 2021 with Spring 2022 softball to be on the new field.

PETE MOORE SCHOLARSHIP

Probably all U.S. Grant classes think theirs is the best, but the class of 1959 can be especially proud. Not only did they have the usual 10,20,30...60 year reunions, but honored one of their class members and student body President, **Pete Moore** with the annual Pete Moore Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament beginning in 2009. The tournament drew fellow alumni from across the United States. **Gerry F. Spencer '59**, initiated the golf tournament and scholarship committee and continued to chair both events until his passing. Gerry was supported by fellow classmates, U.S. Grant staff and especially his wife, Rebecca.

Since that first tournament and fundraising effort, over \$170,000 has been awarded to outstanding Grant seniors who went on to 19 different institutions of higher education. The 11th and final PMMS Golf Tournament was held July 15, 2020 at Eastmoreland Golf Course.

The final round of scholarships will be awarded in 2022.

FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Bob Stayton '61

Hopefully we are nearing the end of the WORST of the COVID pandemic. As with AIDS, Ebola, Legionnaires, SARRS and other viral threats, these diseases will remain with us in our environment. However, we now have medical and behavioral remedies to combat these diseases for those who choose and are able to use them which says a lot for our ability to identify disease threats, develop and apply remedies and survive as a species. If you haven't yet, GET VACCINATED.

We chose not to have an Alumni Picnic in 2021. The plan is to resume this tradition on the fourth Sunday in July 2022.

Principal McGee has asked for some alumni help in returning historic photos to the walls in the halls at Grant. These were removed for the remodel. Principal McGee wants to get them back up so that current students will see some of the legacy of Grantonians who walked the halls before them. We couldn't agree more.

Huge Thank You to those of you who contributed to the Mural project and the Mural committee; **Karyl Whelan '61**, **Bob Erickson '62**, **John Hamnett '63**, **Geneva Fraser '77**, and **Sue Boos '77**. You did a very thorough job and were fully committed over three years including research, reaching out locally and nationally to relevant sources, and putting together position documents which were supplied to key people and ignored by some. You collectively proved the significance of the Grant Alumni Community even though the outcome was not what we wanted. As President of the Assn, I am proud of what you accomplished and can assure you people noticed. I am committed to being accountable for the funds contributed and can assure all donors that funds left in our care will be responsibly managed.

The mural project is behind us. The murals have been removed although we were told there was not yet a home for them. Regarding the funds raised by your Alum. Assn, we have contacted donors to begin the return of donations. The Leo Lester Browne Charitable Fund graciously allowed us to keep \$10,000 to be used for the music education department but the remaining \$90,000 has been returned. Thank you to all of you who elected to channel your donation to the Scholarship Fund, General Fund, your annual dues, or to Music Education.

Time to take a breath and get ready for a more socially active second half of the year.

HISTORICAL HALLWAY PHOTOS

Principal James McGee has asked the Alumni Association to help return the hallway photos to the walls of Grant High. As McGee said, "It is important for students to know who came before them." Alums couldn't agree more! No timeline has been set for the return, but the hope is they will be displayed and ready for the first day of school.

GRANT ALUMNI ACTORS SALLY STRUTHERS '65 AND TED ROONEY '79

Most of you know **Sally Struthers '65** from *All in the Family* fame, is a Grant alum. But did you know that another Grant alum, **Ted Rooney '79** is also an actor? He appeared in such films as, *Celtic Pride*, *Legally Blond*, *Big Fat Liar*, and at least 25 other films. On television, he played Dr. Tabash on *ER*, he also had roles on *Seinfeld*, *Chicago Hope*, *Star Trek: Voyager*, *Grimm*, *Portlandia*, and many other shows.

The show, *Gilmore Girls* is special. On *Gilmore Girls*, Rooney played the husband of a mismatched couple, Morey Dell, and Struthers played Babette Dell. The show ran from 2000 to 2007.

Rooney was vacationing in Mexico when he decided to check his answering machine. There were several messages from his agent asking him to call, each one more frantic. He called his agent and was told to get back to Los Angeles for an audition on *Gilmore Girls*. Asked how he got the part, he said "I walked into the trailer on the Warner Brothers lot and they laughed. I did nothing!" The producers were looking for someone totally opposite of the Sally Struthers' character. Struthers plays a loud gossiping next-door neighbor of the *Gilmore Girls* whereas Morey is a tall, quiet nice guy.

When Rooney first met Struthers on the *Gilmore* set, he mentioned Portland Oregon. Her immediate response was, "Are you Ed Rooney's son?" She told him that his dad was one of her favorite teachers. They still keep in touch with each other and remain close friends.



THE ALUM WEBSITE NEEDS YOU!

We need an alum to volunteer to redesign the website; preferably familiar with Weebly. Please let us know if you are interested in working with our web administrator to create a refreshed website by contacting GrantAlumni@aol.com. All Grant alums are eligible to volunteer.

2021 HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT



ARTHUR JACKSON '42 was born in Cleveland OH and moved to Portland as a fifteen year old. At Grant, he earned letters in baseball, football and track. He enlisted in the Marine Corp as an infantryman and distinguished himself during the Pacific's New Britain campaign. Pres. Truman awarded Jackson the Medal of Honor for his role in a fierce battle lasting two months on the island of Peleliu. He received a two Purple hearts - one for injuries sustained on Peleliu and later in Okinawa. Four years later Jackson joined the Army as a commissioned officer, but a decade later returned to the Marines. As a company commander at Guantanamo Bay in 1961 he killed a pro-communist Cuban apparently in self-defense and buried the body in a shallow grave with the help of other Marines. The Defense Department launched an investigation, but it never gained traction. He was denied a court-martial to clear his name and quietly left the military. For

the first time publicly, Jackson said in a 2013 interview that he was ashamed of the killing but understood the treaty between the US and Cuba could have resulted in his detention in a notorious Cuban prison. Jackson is one of only three men in Oregon to have received the Medal of Honor and the only Grantonian! He died in Boise June 14, 2017 at 92 years of age.



JACOB TANZER '52 received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Oregon School of Law, and in the same year passed the Oregon bar. He also attended Stanford University and Reed College. In 1959, following graduation, Jake and fellow colleague Frank Granata established a small law practice in Portland, Oregon, Granata & Tanzer, and practiced law there for three years. In 1963, he joined the US Department of Justice, where he served as a Trial Attorney in the Organized Crime and Racketeering Division of Robert Kennedy's Justice Department. In 1964, he was sent to Mississippi as a member of the Civil Rights Division that was investigating the deaths of three civil rights activists: Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner. This case, which would later become known as the Mississippi Burning case, was instrumental in the shaping of the Civil Rights movement, with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited racial segregation and extended full voting rights to all US citizens of voting age. The

following year, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was also passed which further outlawed discriminatory voting practices. Also of note, the case became a symbol of Jewish American involvement and support of the Civil Rights movement, as both Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were Jewish. Jake was a Deputy District Attorney for Multnomah County. In 1969, he was appointed by Governor Tom McCall as the first Solicitor General for the Oregon Department of Justice. In 1971, he became the first director of the Oregon Department of Human Services. He served as an appeals court judge for the Oregon Court of Appeals. From 1980 until 1982, he served as the 81st judge for the Oregon Supreme Court. He and his wife, Elaine Rhine started Elephant's Deli in 1979. Jake died in 2018.



MICHAEL "CHAPPIE" GRICE '66 was a drummer in the pep band, a class officer, a Boys' League officer and a member of varsity rally. Michael graduated from Cornell College of Iowa and earned his Masters from Reed College. His extensive 40 year career includes being an educator, administrator, mentor, arts advocate, documentary filmmaker and gifted speaker. His numerous awards and commendations include the Educator of the Year in 2010 by the National Education Association and the Human Rights award from the Oregon Education Association in 2008. He is a member of the NAACP, the Urban League of Portland and the National Council on Educating Black Children. Nothing But Quality, his official website, offers professional development services to schools and learning institutions in urban areas. In addition to assisting with teaching strategies and learning concepts, the staff also offers educational consulting services. Michael currently resides in NE Portland.



MIKE HASSON '72 played on the state championship baseball team and was a member of the wrestling team. After graduating from the UofO, Mike began his real estate career in 1977. In 1983 he and two friends started their own company but in 1991 Mike broke away to start the Hasson Company Realtors with 12 agents. Mike was a self made salesman and a visionary whose company in 2020 had 2.2 billion in sales among 165 agents in 8 offices. A friend said that while Mike was a titan in the industry, he didn't act like it and wanted everyone to find success. Mike fought mesothelioma for ten years before dying in 2020.

BEATRIZ SANTIAGO-PEREZ 2021 ROSE FESTIVAL PRINCESS

Beatriz Santiago-Perez was selected to represent Grant on the 2021 Rose Festival court. Born in Oaxaca, Mexico she plans on attending a four-year school to become a social worker so she can help others. She is the first in her family to attend high school. While at Grant, she received awards recognizing her GPA, and was named Student of the Month for October 2018.

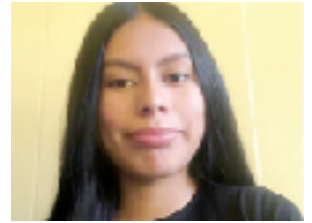
On July 4th, Beatriz and her family lost everything in an apartment fire that also killed two men.

We all have an opportunity to help Beatriz and a current student (Malik). These young Grantonians, with their families, have experienced horrible losses as a result of the fire that destroyed two apartment buildings on 22nd and Weidler. Please consider donating to the needs of the families by going to the Go Fund Me sites show below. Beatriz is an honors graduate and hopes to attend Portland State University this fall. Funds for tuition are also needed.

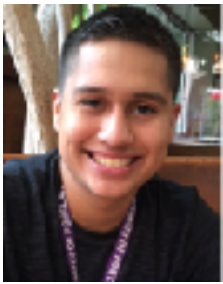
For Beatriz: https://www.gofundme.com/f/helping-the-beatriz-santiago-and-family-rebuild?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer

For Malik: https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-edna-and-family-start-over-after-2alarm-fire?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer

Please help these youngsters if you can.



SANTIAGO FRANCO 2021 WILLIAM T. FLETCHER AWARD



The William T. Fletcher Award, the most prestigious honor given to a graduating senior, was awarded this year to **Santiago Franco**. The award is named for Grant's first principal who, although serving for only four years before an early death, Fletcher was so beloved that students spearheaded a campaign to raise funds for the murals that had flanked the auditorium stage.

What would Fletcher have looked for in a student to receive this award?

Class leader? Check! Santiago was co-president Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan and was often the student to "rev" the student body during assemblies.

Superior academics? Check! Santiago will attend University of Portland as a Presidential Scholar in the fall.

Friendly? Check! When introduced as the award recipient, Principal McGee recalled how Santiago could be seen and heard in the halls humming Sinatra tunes with a smile for all.

Extracurricular activities? Check! Santiago is a nationally recognized boxer.

Basketball was Santiago's introduction to youth sports before trying football; but neither resonated with him like boxing. He joined the Knott Street Community Center boxing team when he was nine and trained there until his father, James, opened Rip City Boxing. Santiago has won many state and regional championships and participated this past summer in the Pan American games. His team of thirteen all qualified for the national championship to take place November 2021.

Santiago feels Grant prepared him for college although Covid was a hindrance. His most challenging class was AP English taught by Ms. McFaul Amadoro who "always pushed us to be our best and to be confident with our knowledge". His advice to seniors is to be aware that Senioritis is very real.

How does he accomplish all of this? He strives for excellence in the ring, school, and in life with his personal motto "hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

William Fletcher would be delighted with the latest recipient of the award named in his honor.

MIMI LE 2021 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Mimi Le will continue her education at Reed College this fall. Her dream job was always science related and she has decided to pursue a career in medicine as a pediatrician. She was happy with the science class options offered at Grant and said that AP chemistry was her favorite class. Because the class was challenging it helped her to manage her time and to expand her good study habits. Always a focused student, Mimi found learning was fun but she still enjoys spending time with her friends. Mimi is the 14th recipient of the alumni scholarship which is an award of \$3000.

A special thank you to **Bob Thompson '76** and the Goudy-Powell Family Fund for their continued support of the Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund!



THE CONSTITUTION TEAM AND COVID

Grant High School has had a national caliber Constitution Team since 2000. The team is 30 plus senior students of all genders. Those students divide into 6 units and study the Constitution, prepare 4 minute oral responses to questions provided by the Center for Civic Education. The questions would be a challenge for most law students. Unit members also prepare for 6 or more minutes of questions from judges, questions the students have not heard before. The questions test whether the students have only a surface understanding or have truly grappled with the difficult issues of history, law and politics.

The success of the students is the product of intensive reading, writing (several drafts and corrections) and repeated practice on oral presentation. The team works with a teacher (currently Angela Di Pasquale) and as many as 10 to 12 volunteer coaches, many of whom are lawyers or judges in Portland. In recent years several young professionals who were past members of the team have also joined the coaching staff. Before the pandemic, the team would meet at least two times a week, with one meeting being a small group meeting of the unit members at a home of a coach or student. Students would also meet on their own or more often as the state or national competitions approached.

All of this preparation, prior to the pandemic, was done in person and face to face with students and coaches. Team members learned a life lesson - success at the state level led to even more work and preparation on a whole new set of questions for the national competition. That competition occurs in Washington D.C. Parents and friends learn that success in Oregon means raising \$80,000 to pay for the costs of the 4 day trip to the nation's capital.

In the last two years, the pandemic changed many things, but did not cause the program to end. Instead, consistent with new rules, in person meetings of students and coaches and the competition itself could not be in person. Preparation and competition occurred on Zoom, with everyone – competitors, coaches and judges appearing on Zoom. Sadly, this also meant that the fun and excitement of a trip to Washington D.C. for the Oregon winner did not occur.

However, in the past two years the Grant team has gone to “Nationals” both years. This year the team placed second in the nation. The team is proud of representing Oregon so well in a national competition and maintaining the tradition of top three finishes. Every member of the team benefited from the intense learning and skill sharpening. Past team members have consistently testified that this preparation prepares them for success in college and beyond – one student even thanking a coach for how that training helped prepare her for the successful defense of her PhD thesis. That thesis was in geology. Many of the team members go on to study and work in areas not directly related to law and the Constitution. However, they are all better prepared to be citizens.

The pandemic meant personal contact (including home - made cookies at the homes of some coaches) was lost. But for many it meant that self - motivation skills had to be sharpened. Also, techniques for sharing time in the answering of questions (a key scoring point) had to be altered as physical proximity was changed to only screen appearances. Full team and unit camaraderie was not as easy to create, but Zoom camaraderie was produced. A real benefit was that guest presentations to the team were easier to arrange and student travel time was replaced with learning time. Finally, the cost of national competition was eliminated. Everyone hopes that burden will return. The pandemic also did not interrupt the fact that the teamwork is among all genders. That is not possible for many Grant team activities. It has led, in at least one instance, to the marriage of two Constitution Team members.

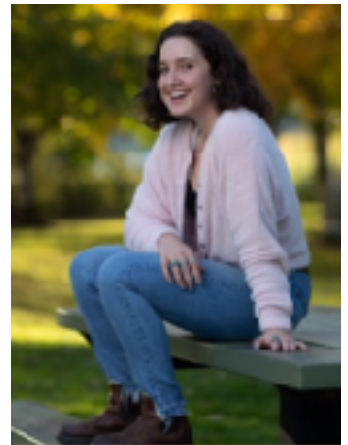
A hallmark of the Grant program in the past has been the presence and support at the competition from many family members, former members and others. This was not possible in the last two years but will hopefully return this coming year. That support is part of broad support in the Grant community for the Constitution Team. Repeated success over the last 20 plus years has led to the entire neighborhood offering support. Grade school students hear about the program from teachers, family members and neighborhood team members.

All Grant alumni can be justifiably proud of the teachers, administration and students at Grant who are associated with the Constitution Team.

The foregoing is based on interviews with 1) Shelly Larkins, a co-founder of the program, a 20 year volunteer coach with the team and the baker of those cookies; 2) **Ava Phillips '2021**, a team member who just graduated and will be attending Arizona State University to study Criminology and Criminal Justice; 3) **MJ Sasse '2021** a team member who just graduated and will be attending the University of Rochester to study Political Science and American Sign Language. **Henry Breithaupt '66**, one of the authors of this article, was a volunteer coach on the team from 2004 to 2019.

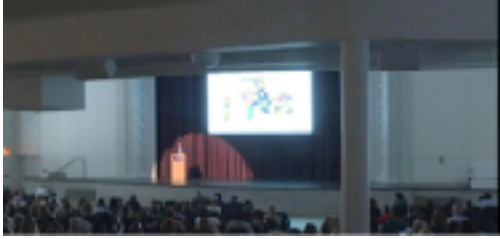


Ava Phillips '21



MJ Sasse '21

WHERE ARE THE MURALS?



Many of you have inquired about the final destination of the Fletcher Murals. At last report The Oregon Historical Society declined to accept the mural, as did all other organizations contacted by the school district. They are currently in storage at the PPS central office.

The historical society said they are concerned about space at their facilities; one person involved in the process thinks they may not want to encourage/invite other institutions to remove artwork and give it to OHS.

The photo shows the bare walls behind Supt. Guerrero speaking to district

employees in August in the Grant auditorium.

All viable suggestions for a destination will be passed on to Portland Public Schools district.

MESSAGE FROM JAMES MCGEE, GRANT PRINCIPAL



The Grant Staff is looking forward to welcoming students back to full time in-person instruction for the 2021/22 school year on September 1st. Members of our administrative team have been diligently working throughout the summer to ensure we're ready for the return of students. I recognize that this past year was incredibly challenging for many of our families. Our school counselors, social worker, and engagement coach will be ready to provide the necessary support for students. We are committed to providing students with robust learning opportunities and engaging extracurricular activities. I'm very proud of the commitment our staff demonstrated this past school year in meeting the needs of our students.

ROYAL ROSARIANS KNIGHT JOE SIMPSON

Congratulations to **Joe Simpson '68** who was made an honorary knight of the Royal Rosarians in recognition and honor of his dedication to education. As a Grant student, Joe was on '67 and '68 State champion track team, sang in the choir, and boxed at Knott Street Community Center. After receiving his BS at Linfield, MAT at Lewis and Clark, and Certification in Education Administration from PSU, he returned to Grant where he was an assistant football and track coach. His career at Grant spanned thirty years as an administrator and Vice Principal. An honor well-deserved for this loyal General!

Watch the ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk-M3dMkTO0>



BECOME A PAID 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 www.grantalumni.org at the dues and donations page. We are a recognized 501(c) 3 charitable organization. The association also offers a Lifetime Membership for \$250.00. Please fill out and enclose the form below with your annual dues and mail to: US Grant Alumni Assn. PO Box 13291 Portland OR 97213-0291

Name(s) _____ Maiden name _____ Grad Year _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone(s) _____

Enclosed Dues: \$20 Annual dues _____ \$30 per couple annual dues _____ \$250 Lifetime Membership _____

Enclosed Donation: Scholarship Fund _____ General Fund _____ Newsletter _____

I can help: Picnic _____ Newsletter _____ Website _____

UPCOMING EVENTS**CLASS OF 1960 – 61st REUNION****CLASS OF 1961 – 60th REUNION****Covid permitting**

Class of '60 celebrating their 61st with the Class of '61 celebrating their 60th

Thursday, September 23, 2021

4:00-8:00 NoHo's Hawaiian Café 4627 NE Fremont

\$50 per person/Food & Drink

1960 contact: Gary and Suzanne Lindberg Nelson nelsuza@gmail.com

1961 contact: usgrant61@msn.com

Facebook: Grant Class of 1961

CLASS OF 1963 - 60th REUNION

Planning stage for 2023 - Are you willing to help?

See grant1963.com for contact information

CLASS OF 1966 – 55th REUNION**Rescheduled**

Saturday, September 24, **2022** McMenamin's Kennedy School

Contact: Randi Carlson Black randiblack37@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1970 – 50th REUNION**Rescheduled**

Saturday, August 20, **2022**

Contact: Joe Stilwell stilwelljoe@comcast.net

Facebook: GrantHighSchoolClassof1970 Reunion

CLASS OF 1971 - 50th REUNION**Postponed**

Contact: Sharon Bushby Henifin sharonhenifin@gmail.com for more details

CLASS OF 1975 – 45th REUNION

No plans underway for a 45th but ALL Grantonians are invited to Rogue Eastside Brewery
928 SE 9th Ave any first Saturday of the month (7:00 p.m.) for ALL Grant Alumni

Contact: Sara Wiedmaier Gonzalez gonzalez.sara90@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1980 – 40th REUNION**Postponed****CLASS OF 1991 – 30th REUNION****Postponed****CLASS OF 2000 – 20th REUNION****Postponed****CLASS OF 2001 – 20th REUNION****Postponed****ANNUAL ALL- ALUMNI PICNIC**

Sunday, July 24, 2022