

# Generally Speaking...

## Alumni Association News

U.S. Grant High School of Portland, Oregon Alumni Association

P.O. Box 13291, Portland, Oregon 97213-0291

Grantalumni@aol.com

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

All Grant Alumni Event Details on page 5 & 8

Meetings held first Tuesday of the month. Email Assn for location

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## RACHEL SEEMAN CROWNED QUEEN OF ROSARIA

Not since 1966 with the crowning of Julia Ann West has Grant High been honored with the coronation of our princess/ambassador! Rachel Seeman was crowned Queen of Rosaria on Saturday, June 6.

Rachel is an energetic young woman participating on the swim team and cross-country team. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has served as class president her sophomore and junior years. Rachel is very proud

of her Japanese heritage. She has travelled to Japan twice and is involved with studying her Japanese culture as well as others. Her grandfather has taught Rachel “how it’s important to forgive, not to forget, but just to forgive”. Volunteering at Providence Hospital has cemented her desire to pursue a medical career after GHS, although that is over a year away as Rachel is only a junior! The Rose Festival Assn., for the first time this year, allowed jun-

iors as well as seniors with at least a 3.0 GPA to participate in the princess/ambassador program. Rachel will return to Grant in the fall as a senior as well as student body president! We wish her the best!



## From Our Alumni President

The US Grant High School of Portland, Oregon Alumni Association, commonly called the Grant Alumni Assn., is making progress in reaching our alumni. To reach the many thousands of alums is an arduous task requiring class membership lists for e-mail and direct mail.

The membership lists are for the exclusive use of the Alumni Assn. Board of Directors and will not be sold or released.

To make the association more active, we welcome all alumni to attend our meetings and the 2nd Annual Alumni Event. Read this issue’s article ([Page 5](#))

for more information about the event which will be held on September 11, 2009. I hope to see you there.

You can reach us at [grantalumni@aol.com](mailto:grantalumni@aol.com). Let’s keep the Grant spirit alive!

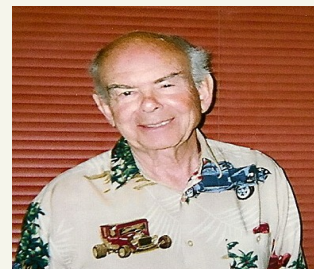
John D (Bud) Leonard  
Class of ‘47

## A Founding Member and First President

Rodger Eddy, class of 1947, answered a notice about the formation of a Grant High Alumni Association in the summer of 2005. He was soon elected President of the newly formed US Grant High School of Portland, Oregon Alumni Assn. and through patience and perseverance was instrumen-

tal in acquiring the non-taxable (501(c) 3) charitable status with the Internal Revenue Service. Under his leadership the board adopted bylaws for incorporation with the State of Oregon, developed the mission statement of the organization and published an alumni newsletter.

At the December 2008 meeting, Rodger decided to step down and become Vice President. During his three-year tenure, Rodger accumulated a four-inch thick file of letters, certified documents, minutes of 33 board meetings and bylaws for the newly formed alumni association.



Many thanks to Rodger for the effective and diligent leadership he provided from 2005-2008!

## Sports Hall of Fame

Glorious Grant athletic achievements will be recognized and preserved for history thanks to the efforts of several alums that have been meeting to establish a Grant High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

The idea developed from the PIL (Portland Interscholastic League) Hall of Fame that was estab-

lished several years ago and annually inducts former greats from all member high schools. Several high schools - led by Commerce Cleveland - set up their own athletic honor groups. The Grant committee members of the PIL Hall of Fame decided Grant should establish one to honor the many fine participants in

addition to the 52 who are already PIL honorees. An additional six athletes will be named to the first annual group to be selected from among all athletes who have been graduated for four years. Pete Charleston and John Keller initiated the idea and Bill Wallin, Wilson Walker and Rodger Eddy have joined their commit-

tee.

The first six inductees, along with PIL Hall of Fame members will be honored Monday, October 19 with a program at the school. The goals include honoring the Grant tradition of excellence and to enhance school spirit and pride.

## Searching for a Memoirs

Last summer Mary Toye Mitchell ('41) and her husband Don contacted the Alumni Assn. to purchase a 1941 Memoirs for Mary to reminisce about her school days. Although extra copies of many years are available for sale, early 1940's yearbooks are single 'master' copies and kept under lock and key. To fulfill Mary's request, GHS Alum. Assn. member Christi Rollwage Knutson ('64) copied the entire

yearbook. Not only did Don call to thank Christi and report that Mary was thrilled to peruse the pages and return to her youth, an extraordinary thank you of kind words, gift certificates and a \$100 check followed. A speechless Christi signed the check over to the Alumni Assn.'s scholarship fund. Don is one of eleven Commerce Cleveland's Ironmen, a name acquired from defeating Grant in

1939! In 1996, Don suggested to fellow Ironman, Walt Cooney, that he form a scholarship committee to benefit Cleveland students. Don donated \$5000 seed money. Mr. Cooney and others planned the first all class (1915-1948) Commerce reunion. The reunion was a success and the response to the scholarship program was so overwhelming that it is now handled by the Cleveland alumni assn. which was

formed in 2001 and gives four \$2000 scholarships annually. We are certain that the Grant Alumni Association will do as well in the near future. Christi feels fortunate to have received the Mitchell's message which allowed her to connect with a very special couple. Christi and the Alumni Assn. hope to see Don and Mary Mitchell some day at a GHS Alumni event.

## Scholarship Awarded to Ryan Hunt

Intelligent, responsible and musical are a few of the adjectives used to describe Ryan Hunt, the recipient of the 2009 Grant High School Alumni Assn. Scholarship. President John "Bud" Leonard ('47) presented Ryan the award which was given this year in honor of Ann Brownell, during an assembly May 29.

Deeply involved with mu-

sic, Ryan is an accomplished musician of several instruments and a member of the Grant Band. In addition to music and playing golf, he has been an Outdoor School leader of ten and twelve year old boys five different times. The rewards and challenges have convinced Ryan to be a teacher with some emphasis on science,

concentrating on hydrology, geology and biology. Ryan's hope is to teach children about the environment and how important it is that we take care of it.

Ryan's college career will begin at Clackamas Community College with plans to transfer to Oregon State University.

The Alumni Assn. must thank a special group of

people who gave in honor of and in memory of our unique board member Ann Brownell who passed away last October. Ann was gifted and we miss her expertise. Because of their generosity, we were able to award Ryan a \$1500 scholarship in 2009. The list of donations made in honor of Ann Brownell ('72) are listed on page six.

## Drew Wong's First Year at Dartmouth

Year one: Check. It took a while and a lot of work but my freshman year is over and now I have an opportunity to reflect on that year. I was ecstatic to head off to school especially since Dartmouth started late and most of my close friends had already departed. My first month at school was incredible and showed me that there were many adventurous, intelligent, independent teenagers excited to leave the nest. My first term, I never fell asleep before midnight, partied more than I should have, and learned from everything. The first thing I learned was that I was no longer spectacular. I wasn't accepted by any a cappella group, was too slow to compete on the cross-country team, and was

rejected from every leadership position I applied for. This was hard because it meant everything was different from high school: no family, no close friends, no running, no music, no Grant community. I was really alone. However, we learn to adapt with change. I joined the Dartmouth crew team and found how beautiful still water and autumn leaves were early in the morning. I attended Christian Impact meetings and found a close-knit group of guys and girls willing to support me and eager to join me in praising God. And I joined Dartmouth's Humanitarian Engineering Leadership Projects: a group of students from a variety of disciplines joining together to improve the

health of people and the environment in less-developed countries. With HELP, I am joining a group of six—including Grant '05 alum Natalie Todd-Zebell—for an eight-week trip to Tanzania. In a village called Mwongongo on the west side of the country, we hope to introduce latrine and stove technologies that are culturally acceptable, economically viable, environmentally friendly, and will decrease cases of water-borne and respiratory diseases respectively.

So college is not exactly as I had originally planned it to be. I am still an Environmental Engineering Major, International Studies Minor who loves life. But now I also row, go to church, make

my own bed, don't drink, cook, and do my best to improve the quality of life for other people. A word to the students reading this: get involved with things you are passionate about, and through those groups find some friends to encourage, challenge, and most importantly, learn from. Those friendships and activities will make your college experience the best time of your life. As for me, once I return from Africa, year two starts.

To learn more about Drew's Tanzania experience, visit:

Tanzania Blog:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/helpworldwidetanzania/summerblog>

## GRANT HIGH SCHOOL BAND LEADER REMEMBERED

Eugene Kaza, a former Oregon Symphony violinist and music teacher at Grant High School died at the age of 84 on July 1, 2008. He taught at Grant High School from 1959-1970. Mr. Kaza influenced Portland's young musicians, not only as a high school teacher, but also as a conductor (Little Orchestra of Portland) and a mentor to the Portland Youth Philharmonic players. Mr. Kaza chose the violin

early on and enrolled at Oberlin's prestigious Conservatory of Music in Ohio. World War II interrupted his studies, but after serving as an entertainment specialist in the Army where he received good conduct and victory medals, he returned to Oberlin to earn his bachelor of music degree in 1948. He received a Master of Arts from the University of Buffalo in 1957. That year, a recommendation from the



renowned violinist Joseph Gingold won Kaza membership in the Oregon Symphony where he played until 1978. Mr. Kaza also toured the country with Henry

Mancini and other entertainers. He was married to Mary Ann and is survived by his six children and 11 grandchildren

## John Damis

June 16, 1940 ~ June 10, 2009

John Damis, valedictorian and president of the Class of '58, died June 10, 2009. While at Grant John earned eight varsity letters in three sports, named outstanding running back in the 1958 Shrine All-Star game and was inducted into the PIL



Hall of Fame in 2007. He entered Harvard College in 1958 where he excelled academically and athletically. He was named to the All-Ivy League freshman team and played varsity football for three years, as well as rugby and basketball. He graduated magna cum laude in history in 1962 then earned a Master of Arts in Diplomacy, a Ph.D. in International Relations and three Fulbright awards to study in Morocco. His career in the political science department began at Port-

land State University in 1972. From 1975 to 1977 he served as a U.S. State Dept. policy analyst for the Middle East. Considered one of the world's foremost experts on North Africa politics, John authored four books and over 100 scholarly articles. King Mohammed VI of Morocco decorated John with the Medal of Honor and appointed him Commander of the Alawite Order, the Kingdom's highest honor. John was a lover of travel, opera, sports and Moroccan cuisine. His greatest



pleasure was spending time with his family: wife Maria Wulff, children Gregory and Alexa Damis-Wulff, brother James Damis, sister Virginia Demos and nine nieces and nephews. His sister Irene Papan predeceased him. The memorial service was held June 22, 2009

## 2009 SCHEDULE OF FALL EVENTS

- 11 Sep 09** All Alumni Event  
1:00-3:30 pm Social Hour @ Amalfi's  
4703 NE Fremont Street  
4:00 pm Westview vs Grant in GHS Bowl
- 15-17 Oct 09** One Act Performances
- 18 Oct 09** PIL Sports Hall of Fame—Induction of new members @ Rose Garden
- 19 Oct 09** GHS Sports Hall of Fame Induction of members during school assembly—7:00 pm Reception
- 22-24 Oct 09** One Act Performances
- 28 Oct 09** Fall Instrumental Concert  
7:00 pm Auditorium
- 4 Nov 09** Fall Sports Dessert  
6:30-7:00 pm Ice Cream Social in New Gym  
All team sports awards follow
- 5 Nov 09** Fall Choir Concert  
7:30 pm Auditorium
- 11 Nov 09** Veteran's Day Parade  
GHS Band Marching
- 10 Dec 09** Fall Blood Drive  
8:00-1:00 pm in Old Gym
- 17 Dec 09** Winter Concert -6:30 pm Auditorium

## GRANTONIANS: 2ND ANNUAL ALL ALUMNI EVENT

Please join us for some fun! There will be food, a no host bar, perhaps some story telling and an exciting football game! We will begin at Amalfi's and end cheering our team on at the only home game of the year. Questions:  
e-mail: [grantalumni@aol.com](mailto:grantalumni@aol.com)

**Amalfi's Italian Restaurant**  
4703 NE Fremont Street  
September 11, 2009  
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**Grant High Bowl**  
GHS vs Westview High  
September 11, 2009  
4:00 PM



Karyl (Loback) Whelan ('61)    Christi (Rollwage) Knutson ('64)    Janet (Godey) Eddy ('54)



Nancy (Chamberlin) Goode ('47)

### 2008 All Alumni Event

A  
Good  
Time  
Was  
Had  
By  
All!



Be the first to name this couple and receive one year free Alumni membership. Email your answer to [GrantAlumni@aol.com](mailto:GrantAlumni@aol.com)



Derek Akerson ('49) and Spouse



Bud Leonard ('47)    Rich Dale ('47)

## H o l l y w o o d   H i s t o r y

Grant High School was built in 1924 in what at the time was the Portland neighborhood originally called Hollywood (not a misprint). The bowl was the kiln of an old brickyard that was built at the turn of the 20th century and was one of the first businesses in the area. The building now displaying a Budweiser sign was originally the Stiegerwald Dairy bottling plant and was a large milk bottle until the 50's when it became a 7 Up bottle.

Two of the most prominent businesses in the Hollywood district were the Hollywood Theater and Yaw's Restaurant. W.P. Yaw, Sr. opened the first Yaw's in 1926 on NE 41st and moved in 1936 to 41st and Hancock. Fresh baked pies were a big selling item and soon the hamburgers and breakfasts made it even more popular. In the 50's the restaurant moved to NE 39th and Tillamook where it became a destination for

teen-agers not only from Grant, but all of Portland and even out of town kids. They spent hours and gallons of gas as they drove around the block before getting in line for a tootsie roll from Bob the Tootsie Roll cop and a prized parking spot in the drive-in section to order fries and gravy, toasted buns and a green river. The Hollywood Theater opened in 1926 as an anchor landmark for the neighborhood. Originally a silent movie house, it

became a theater where many first run movies were shown. Wealthy theatergoers could have their servants wait on them while viewing the movie from private boxes in the back of the theater. Uniformed ushers were employed until the 60's. Today the theater has non-profit status, shows many independent films and is one of the five oldest theaters on the east side of town.

## G r e e t i n g s   f r o m   G r a n t   H i g h   P r i n c i p a l

My first year at Grant High School has been a challenging and rewarding experience. I appreciate the sense of pride in success demonstrated by Grant students. It is the tradition of those that have come before that

promotes the continued expectation of excellence. The success that GHS students have accomplished this year is truly amazing both in academics and extracurricular activities. I am proud to continue to be a

part of this supportive community. I look forward to the continued success of all our students in the next school year.

Joseph Malone  
Principal  
503.916.5160



### 2 0 0 9 B o a r d   o f   D i r e c t o r s

- President: John Leonard ('47)
- Vice President: Rodger Eddy ('47)
- Secretary: Karyl (Loback) Whelan ('61)
- Treasurer: Christi (Rollwage) Knutson ('64)
- Newsletter: Eugene Melvin ('67)
- Historian: Dale Olson ('72)
- Registered Agent: Doug Neville ('72)
- Janet (Godey) Eddy ('54)

### S c h o l a r s h i p   D o n o r s I n   H o n o r   a n d   M e m o r y   o f A n n   B r o w n e l l   ( G H S ' 7 2 )

- |                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Henry L. Bauer                  | Christi Knutson   |
| Audrey & James Britsch          | Tim Kopet         |
| Ann Kendellen & Jonathan Harker | John Leonard      |
| Georgene Inaba                  | Mary & Don Potter |
|                                 | Barbara J. Taitz  |
- Bridger Elementary School Social Committee  
Bridger Elementary School Staff  
Grant High School PTA  
Richmond Elementary School Staff

# U . S . Grant High School of Portland , Oregon Alumni Association

The U. S. Grant High School of Portland, Oregon 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 85 years of school newspapers and other historical documents on CD. We are also looking for donations of scrapbooks and other Grant memorabilia.

To contact alumni association sent 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.

C u t h e r e

## Membership and Contributions

Membership Renewals are due effective January 1 of each year.

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 High School of Portland, Oregon Alumni Association \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed  
PO Box 13291, Portland, OR 97213-0291

**NO HOST PRE-GAME PARTY**  
Almalfi's Restaurant  
4703 NE Fremont  
September 11, 2009  
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

**2nd ANNUAL ALL GRANT  
ALUMNI EVENT**  
Watch the mighty Generals  
take on Westview in a pre-  
season home game!


Grant vs. Westview  
Grant Bowl  
September 11, 2009  
4:00 PM



U . S . G R A N T  
H I G H S C H O O L  
O F P O R T L A N D ,  
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