

CRATER ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Fall, 2008, Issue No. 39

ALUMNI FEATURE



The **Crater Alumni Newsletter** continues to profile outstanding graduates of Crater High School. This edition we are proud to share with you 1985 graduate Shereen Underwood.

Jack and Kay Underwood (Central Point) are the proud parents of Shereen and her brother Kelly (1988 graduate). Jack taught United States History at Crater from 1967 – 1980 and guided the Comet football program for 2 years as the Head Coach.

Shereen and her husband Brian Paquette have been happily married for 13 years and have a son, Parker (age 3). Brian, a graduate of Michigan State University, works for Henry Ford Health System in Detroit. Brian is a computer analyst for the firm. The trio call Brighton, Michigan (“in the boonies”) home.

Shereen attended Southern Oregon University following her graduation from Crater. Her freshmen year was a time of challenge and growth. Shereen spent most of the year in and out of hospitals due to a rare heart complication that caused endocarditis, a heart infection. The infection was brought on by a life-threatening condition called Patent Ductus Arteriosus. Surgery, prayer and time brought healing to Shereen. “Looking back, I’m glad I faced my mortality early in life because it made me realize what is truly important in life. I am constantly asking myself if I am living a life I will be satisfied with in the end.”

Shereen continued her education at Santa Clara University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Communications. Following graduation, Shereen remained in the Bay Area, where she met Brian while playing on a coed softball team. Shereen spent several years in the Bay Area working with emotionally disturbed children in residential treatment. From there she accepted a job at Children’s Services Division in Eugene, Oregon where she investigated child abuse cases.

Shereen and Brian got married in 1995. They relocated to Michigan where Shereen began her pursuit of a career in medicine. Shereen attended Pre-Med school at Wayne State University (Detroit). From there she matriculated to the school of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University, following in her grandfather’s footsteps. The long journey continued with acceptance into and graduation from the Psychiatry Residency program at M.S.U.

Recently Shereen worked as an Emergency Psychiatrist for Community Mental Health in Lansing. She donned many hats at CMH; a clinical instructor for medical students, a provider of psychiatric care for patients in the methadone program, overseer of an assessment and referral team providing care and direction for uninsured people in crisis. Today Shereen works for a private practice in Lansing doing private practice, teaching, and providing emergency psychiatric services for CMH.

Shereen recalled with fondness her days at Crater. She recalled Don Jaquette (Math), Jim Scott (English) and Connie Bruce (gymnastics) as teachers at Crater “that made a difference”. A teacher at Scenic that had an impact on Shereen was Lou Thompson (English).

“I remember a herd of guys coming at me in the Mud Football Game, because I was too clean. They flattened me!” “Some of my best times were spent the summer after graduation. “Tim Hammock, Kevin Jeskey, Toni Maurer and I spent many days rafting the Rogue”. Shereen recalls a pool party at her house with Rick Britton and Tim on innertubes providing the base for a pyramid of humanity. Shereen served as the “Comet” mascot while her friend Toni was the “funky chicken” as the Comet hoopsters competed. “Crater was an environment that fostered personal as well as academic growth, which as a psychiatrist, I think is important”

Shereen, The Crater Foundation in unison with our graduates living in all 50 states and several foreign countries are proud to call you a “COMET”!

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WHERE *are they* NOW?

1952 - 1959

JOE ALVAREZ (59) – lives in Pensacola, Florida with his wife, Pamela. Joe has three children; Kevin, Bryan and Ty. Joe is retired and lives on the waterfront. He has an offshore boat and spends a great deal of time fishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

MARGARET TAYLOR RAMBO (59) – lives in Central Point with her husband, George. They have two grown children Elizabeth and Steven. They are both semi-retired and like to travel the west coast doing a lot of photography.

1960 - 1969

RICKIE GOWEN MACK (63) – lives in McKinleyville, California with her husband, Hershel (63). They had two children, Doug who is deceased and Julie who is a teacher in Woodland, California.

Rickie worked as a teacher aide and school secretary in McKinleyville and Hershel taught at Humboldt State University.

LINDA TUCKER GUCHES (64) – lives in Medford, Oregon with her husband of 43 years, David. They have two grown children; Kim who is a Middle School teacher and Troy who works for Alumaweld Boats. Linda has just retired from owning a copier business.

LEONA BEZOFF (64) – lives in Central Point with her husband, Terry. They have two grown children both Crater High graduates. Leona has worked in on the 1964 class reunion committee since 1974.

CYNTHIA PLEASANT ANDREW (65) – lives in Beavercreek, Oregon. She has three grown sons, two graduates of Oregon State University and one presently in college. Cynthia retired after 25 years at Clackamas Community College. She recently came out of retirement to work part time as the Interim Dean of the Extended Learning Division at Clackamas. She loves to travel and has been in China, Peru, Spain, Portugal, Costa Rica, Mexico, England, France and Italy.

DEBBIE PURDY HAMILTON (69) – lives in Sutherlin, Oregon and works as the Deputy City Recorder. She has two grown children, Shelley who is a Registered Nurse, and Donivan who is a Police Officer. She has twin grandsons. Debbie enjoys camping, fishing, barbeque with family and friends, watching an ocean sunset or sunrise and just enjoying life.

1970 - 1979

NICKI BENSTON STROO (74) – lives in Ashland, Oregon with her husband, Hans. Nicki volunteers for the Ashland Community Food Bank.

BOB CORCORAN (75) – lives in Central Point with his wife Cheree. They have four children, Tawn, Kylee, Tyson and Kirk. Bob works in highway construction building concrete structures.

TOM SMURZYNSKI (76) – lives in Central Point with his wife, Judy. They have two grown daughters, Monica and Mallory. Tom is a fabricator of research and development for Brammo Motor Sports building track day cars. He is putting together a race car for himself and partners to race in a National Series.

RANDY DANIELS (76) – lives in Wilsonville, Oregon with his wife the former Denise Kirk (78). They have two children Randi 19 and Jordan 14. Randy is a Line Supervisor for Coca Cola Bottling and Denise is an accountant with US Bancorp Equipment Finance.

1980 - 1989

RICHARD HORNOR (82) – lives in Salem, Oregon with his wife Heidi and their two daughters Abby and Madeleine. Richard works at the Salem Hospital as an X Ray technician.

LANE BROWN (87) – lives in Salcha, Alaska where he is currently building a house.

TRACIE COFFMAN WORLEY (88) - lives in Central Point with her 3rd grade daughter, Jillian. Tracy is an elementary teacher at

Jewett Elementary School and is also a professional photographer.
CORD SCHREINER (89) - lives in Gresham, Oregon with his wife, Kellie.

1990 - 1996

BRITT SALMON (90) – lives in Central Point and works for Lad Construction. In his free time he loves to go snowboarding and wakeboarding.

ANDREA SCHWARTZ LONG (91) – lives in Central Point with her husband, Ryan. They have two children ages 10 and 8. Andrea is a stay at home mom and is very active with the Central Point Elementary School PTO. Ryan is an Inventory Manager with Harry & David.

KARA GATES LAWS (94) – lives in Central Point with her husband, Ken and their three children. Kara is an elementary teacher at Richardson Elementary School.

JAMIE LEROY LACEY (94) – lives in Central Point with her husband, Aaron (93) and their four children. Jamie is a stay at home mom and Aaron is in construction, is a Rogue Community College student and is the Richardson Elementary School PTO President.

CHRISTIE WATSON SCHWARTZ (95) – lives in Central Point with her husband, Sherm(90) and their three children ages 13, 11 and 7. Christie is a Pharmacy Tech at Medicine Shop Pharmacy and Sherm is a Grocery Buyer for Food for Less where he's been for over 18 years.

FOUNDATION *A Message From* **PRESIDENT** *Harvey Tonn*

My annual update of the Crater Foundation is extremely positive regarding students we have helped with financial aid, but rather negative regarding our investments. These difficult economic times give the Foundation many challenges while the cost of college and the number of students attending college continue to rise. Because our support community of alumni, employees, businesses, families, civic organizations and individuals has become so strong, we have fortunately been able to meet the needs of Crater graduates. We only hope we can continue to do so.

This year we set records of students we've assisted and the amount given. We awarded scholarship assistance to 211 graduating seniors and 58 former graduates who have successfully completed at least one year of college and are working toward a degree. With assistance from the Morris Family Foundation we awarded in excess of \$335,000 this year.

We know that as the numbers of students continue to increase and college costs continue to escalate it will be a real challenge to meet our goals. We only hope that we can continue to meet the ever-increasing needs of Crater High graduates.

A huge "thank you" to all involved in the community and elsewhere that annually support the Crater Foundation.

We continue to give more scholarships each year as well as to increase the amounts given to each student. As you may remember, we have been giving scholarship to every graduating senior who requests one since the class of 2000. Over the past 9 years, we have given financial assistance to over 1500 students, totaling more than \$1,400,000.

None of us ever dreamed the Crater Foundation would become what it is today. What a wonderful ride we're on and plan to continue on for years to come.

CRATER ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES (C.A.N.S.)

The following is the 2nd in a series of descriptions of the four small schools on the Crater High Campus.

While the campus agriculture science program is housed in CANS, not every student is interested in agriculture or livestock. The school provides instruction in all classes through a natural sciences lens: wildlife, natural resources, local history, environmental stewardship, and science are woven throughout the curriculum. CANS staff adopted project-based learning as the primary method of instruction. This means that in addition to reading and discussing topics in biology or history or social studies, students are also involved in hands-on learning through projects developed by their teachers. Last year, one group of students learned about history, literature, and geography in the Holocaust Project. Other classes of students studied Africa and learned about their cultures, cuisine, geography, and social challenges. Students use a variety of skills when completing their projects, including computer technology, library research, interviewing people in the community, completing projects in the environment, internships, job shadowing, and teamwork.

Students in CANS participate in many campus activities including FFA, National Honor Society, Choir, Drama productions, athletics, cheerleading, band, field trips, and assemblies. In addition to their academic coursework, students learn important social, teamwork, and leadership skills which prepare them for life after high school. CANS students who graduated in 2008 entered four-and two-year universities, the armed forces, and the world of work. Our goal is to give them all the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully reach their goals. Many of our students receive college credit for their high school classes thanks to a partnership with Rogue Community College. This option often opens new doors for students interested in welding, agriculture mechanics, engineering, and other fields of study. We hope to provide a link to education beyond high school and help open doors to students who might otherwise not have the opportunity for formal education once they graduate.

Our students attend classes on the main Crater campus or at our Land Lab facility adjacent to the Expo. The Land Lab program consists of a three-hour block in the morning for juniors and seniors. During this time they study Environmental Chemistry, English, and Contemporary World Issues. In the "Rogue Studies" program students explore and evaluate how Southern Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and the global community relate to science, business, the environment, agriculture, and recreation. The course of study this fall includes the study of fishing, agriculture, logging, and recreation. The final project will be a student debate on these issues. Future issues include studies of Central and South America, Asia, and the Middle East. Rogue Studies students work with local agencies, including ODFW, BLM and the EXPO to provide opportunities for hands-on learning through internships and field research. This environmentally focused program addresses the ideas of land use management, water quality and stream health, cultivating a healthy ecosystem, composting, and recycling. Students take ownership of the land and provide all necessary cleanup and maintenance for the facility as they become stewards of the environment.

The afternoon program at the Land Lab was newly developed this year for freshmen. The LEAPS3 (Linked English and Physical/Science/Social Studies) students are focused on developing and refining writing skills, stimulating critical thinking, and examining literature. We believe active participation in small and large group discussions on history and current issues are absolutely essential in stimulating critical thinking. These students are also learning science inquiry and engineering design by asking focused questions, participating in active investigations developing accurate and relevant data, and then analyzing and interpreting outcomes.

Back on campus, a new TIESS program is in place this year. This Thematic Instruction in English and Social Studies program integrates critical thinking and project development in English and Social Studies. Taught by two teachers in a rotating block, students have the opportunity to work in small groups, participate in whole-class discussions, take field trips, write essays, and develop strong research skills.

The Agriculture Science program took a step forward this year with the addition of a third Ag Science teacher. The comprehensive academic program not only provides interesting and rigorous coursework in Animal Science, Plant Production, Wildlife Management, Floral Design, Welding, and Metal Fabrication, but also supports the many FFA contests in which our students participate and compete. The teams that competed at the state level in Livestock Judging, Horticulture, and Ag Mechanics will be competing in the national competition in Indianapolis in October.

We have noticed a difference in the connections between students, and the connections between teachers and students as this year progresses. Students have been heard to state that since the small schools opened, they have made more friends, are more well-known by their teachers, feel safer, and feel they belong to a strong school community now. Jaime Hartt, a well-known English teacher in CANS said "I get to know all my students so much better. I know them academically, socially, and personally. We are truly a school family." Our goal in CANS is to continue to provide an excellent education and experience for our students, inspire them to reach for the highest goal, and to become true stewards of their community, the environment, and the world.

THE MORRIS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Earl & La Rue Morris Legacy Continues Forever

Many of you will remember the Morris brothers who lived on Blackwell Road and owned the Hidden Valley Ranch. They also built the Gold Gulch town that was located just to the south of Interstate 5. La Rue was a long-time science teacher at Central Point Junior High and Scenic Junior High. He was also the 7th grade football coach for many years. La Rue retired from teaching in 1982 but continued to work on their ranch until he unexpectedly passed away in 1991. His brother Earl, continued to work on their ranch and Gold Gulch until the early 2000s when his health no longer allowed him to do so.

Earl and La Rue believed strongly in education. La Rue had a college degree in diesel engineering and education, while Earl worked for Pratt & Whitney engineering building high performance engines. They both wanted to see kids attend college and to learn a trade that would benefit them and their communities. Earl Morris established the Morris Family Foundation in the late 1990s with the intent of helping graduating students attend college. This Foundation was formed to assist kids for years to come as that was the long-range vision and goal of the Morris.

The Morris Family Foundation currently assists students from Rogue River High School, Crater High School, Eagle Point High School and Butte Falls High School with scholarships to attend Rogue Community College and other select colleges that provide vocational and technical programs for students. This year the Morris Family Foundation provided scholarships for 65 Crater students from the graduating class of 2008.

CRATER HIGH VARSITY FALL SPORTS HOME SCHEDULES

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Dec. 02 Roseburg
 Dec. 12 West Albany
 Dec. 13 Silverton
 Dec. 19 Sutherlin
 Dec. 20 Lebanon
 Jan. 09 Ashland
 Jan. 16 Eagle Point
 Jan. 24 Klamath
 Jan. 30 Mazama
 Feb. 13 Ashland
 Feb. 20 Eagle Point

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Dec. 16 Grants Pass
 Dec. 18 North Medford
 Jan. 06 Klamath
 Jan. 13 Mazama
 Jan. 27 Ashland
 Feb. 03 Eagle Point
 Feb. 10 Klamath
 Feb. 17 Mazama

WRESTLING

Jan. 15 Ashland
 Jan. 16 Culver
 Jan. 17 Crater Classic
 Jan. 29 Klamath



AUCTION/DESSERT NIGHT

Saturday, December 6th, 2008, will mark the fourteenth annual Crater Parent—Community Auction & Dessert. In each of the past few years we have been fortunate to raise in excess of \$40,000. In these difficult times that will be hard to duplicate. Unfortunately the cost of higher education is not declining. It is with confidence in the School District #6 family that we seek to raise \$45,000 this year. All monies generated by the auction will send our graduates to America's Colleges, Universities, Community Colleges and Trade Schools.

A great way you can make a difference is by providing an auction item for the festivities. If you have a vacation home, handmade items, business services, a cash donation, etc. you will be a difference maker. If you would like to attend or make a donation to this years' auction please contact us at craterfoundation@district6.org. (541-494-6308).

REMINDER!!! ALUMNI DUES

Yes it's that time of year that we annually remind alumni to send in your Crater Alumni dues of \$10. Remember, the revenue raised from these dues is used to help defray the costs of the Alumni Newsletter. We now are mailing this Newsletter to nearly 9000 alumni. The annual cost for three publications each year is approximately \$4500 and the dues normally received usually amount to about \$3000. At this time the Crater Foundation picks up the remainder of the expense; however, we're not sure how long we can continue to do so. Our goal is for the dues to pay 100% of the publication and mailing costs but as the mailing list increases so does the expense. Your continued help in meeting these publication and distribution costs is needed. Any additional amount over the \$10 annual dues will be accepted and appreciated.

When paying dues, simply fill out the form on the back page of the newsletter, include your e-mail address, and send it in with a check for your dues.

Also, please send information about yourself (if you haven't already done so); where you live, what work you do and something about your spouse and children. We like to share this information with all Crater alums.

CRATER ALUMNI REGISTRATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

CRATER GRAD: YES NO _____
YEAR

Yearly \$10 alumni dues enclosed _____

Additional Contributions _____

Please make checks payable to Crater Alumni Association and include additional information about yourself

Please return to: Willeen Bittle, Crater Alumni Coordinator
 P.O. Box 5172, Central Point, OR 97502
 (541) 494-6308 • FAX (541) 664-7589

CRATER FOUNDATION
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