



# CRATER FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



## ★ DONOR FEATURE ★

HARD WORK AND  
PHILANTHROPY ARE THE  
DRIVING FORCES FOR DALTON  
STRAUS

This issue of the Crater Foundation Newsletter takes a different approach for its feature article. Rather than focusing on an outstanding Crater graduate, we are honoring 92-year-old Dalton Straus, a legend in the Southern Oregon and state agriculture world who believes in giving of his time and his resources. Dalton has Jackson County pioneer ancestors on both his mother's and father's side. His great-grandfather, James McDonough, settled in Jackson County in 1852 and in 1854 filed a land claim in the Willow Springs area north of Jacksonville. (Continued on page 2).

## CRATER HIGH 2023 VALEDICTORIANS

The Crater Foundation Newsletter is proud to introduce you to the 2023 Crater High School Valedictorians. We appreciate their accomplishments and look forward to seeing their dreams becoming reality.

The Crater Academy of Health & Public Service is represented by Valedictorians Phoebe Knight and Alyssa Kilbane. Phoebe is the daughter of Chasta and Brandon Knight. She carries a weighted 4.23 GPA and will enroll at Southern Oregon University. She plans on majoring in biology and will pursue an enrollment in a medical school. Alyssa is the daughter of Michael and Michelle Kilbane. She carries a weighted 4.23 GPA and will enroll at Western Oregon University. She plans to study secondary education with a focus on English.



Left to right: Phoebe Knight, Alyssa Kilbane, Neve McGuire, and Clara Bennett

The Crater Renaissance Academy is represented by Valedictorian Neve McGuire. Neve is the daughter of Melissa McGuire and Michael McGuire. Neve carries a 4.09-weighted GPA and will enroll at Southern Oregon University Honors College with plans on majoring in biology and minoring in Spanish.

The School of Business, Innovation and Sciences is represented by Valedictorian Clara Bennett. Clara is the daughter of Kim and Todd Bennett. Clara carries a 4.25 weighted GPA and plans to enroll at the University of Chicago. She plans to major in Theatre and participate on the track team.

### Inside Features

- **Donor Feature Continued**
- **100% Celebration**
- **Alumni Highlight**
- **Crater Athletics Results**

## DONOR FEATURE CONTINUED

Dalton's great, great, great grandfather, Jacob Kahler, in 1852 handed his Ohio farm over to his two eldest sons and with six of the other children headed west, arriving in Jacksonville in October of 1852. Deidrich Straus, Dalton's grandfather, moved the family from Iowa to Oregon in 1916 to settle on a Sams Valley farm which was to become an Oregon Heritage Farm. Jumping ahead a generation, the two families were blended when Donna McDonough married Albert Straus in 1928 and, subsequently, became the parents of Dalton and his sister, Doreen.

Dalton remembers that his dad was the second graduate of Sams Valley High School in 1924. His education was an eclectic one, starting at Sams Valley Elementary School where his fifth-grade teacher was his uncle, Art Straus, who later was to become the principal of Crater High School. Dalton's freshman year was spent at Hanby High School but, because of room shortage at Hanby, he ended up at Medford High School, graduating in 1948. Currently, Dalton has great-grandchildren attending Sams Valley Elementary School, representing five generations of the Straus family to attend school there.

Dalton admits to being a shy child but credits Grange dances for helping him overcome this shyness. "When I was young, I would hide during much of the dance, but, as I got older, I would watch the grown-ups. When I was about 14, my mom took me upstairs, by myself, during the intermission, and she put on a record. She taught me how to dance. It was a good thing as it helped me to be more social." While Mr. Straus has many wonderful memories of his parents, two lessons from them would be instilled in him and would guide his long and productive life. The hard-work ethic was central to his parents' lives. He remembers his father going out at 4:00 AM to milk the cows, followed by breakfast at 7:00, and then the workday continued. At five years old, young Dalton tried to emulate his dad's work ethic and has never stopped. The other important modeling from his parents was instilling the importance of giving back to your community and, while Dalton was reluctant to follow this lead in his adult life, he did so with great aplomb.

Upon high school graduation, Dalton spent one term at Oregon State University, but money was tight, so he was not able to continue. He did, however, establish an allegiance to OSU that will show up in his later volunteer life. As the draft was looming with the Korean War unfolding, young Straus enlisted in the Army where early on his innate leadership skills were recognized which led him to Officer Candidate School and promotion to second lieutenant. Subsequently, he was sent to Fort Hood, Texas where he met Ruth Hennersdorf, "the most beautiful woman in the whole area, and the best thing that ever happened to me." They were married in 1953. Dalton and Ruth raised two children in Sams Valley, Teresa (1954) and James (1960). Upon marriage, Dalton and Ruth decided to return to the Sams Valley farm where his help was much needed. Dalton opted to join the Army Reserves where he was to stay for 28 years, retiring as a Colonel.

## DONOR FEATURE CONTINUED

The Reserves afforded him the opportunity to further his education, specifically in the Engineer School, allowing him eventually to get his college degree.

When Dalton and Ruth arrived at the family farm in 1954, Dalton became a partner with his father but with stipulations: "I do not want to be a dairyman. I want to be a cowboy." While they ran up to 75 cows with their dairy cows, the Straus ranch life was launched when a neighbor offered them the first chance to buy the "Meadows Place." For Dalton, "This was a dream come true. The Federal Land Bank helped us make this purchase which included 125 pairs of cows and calves and three or four bulls. The land was 1,760 acres. We were also able to purchase part of the mountain range allotments. Now we were really into ranching."

While as a youngster Dalton's main goal was to be like his dad, he drew the line on community involvement. "I swore I would never be on all those boards and go to all those meetings. This was one of "swores" that didn't work out." While Dalton lost his shining star, Ruth, in 2021, together they built a legacy of civic and industry activities. Dalton's long list of contributions to his community is impressive. He served for ten years on the School District #6 School Board, including a term as Chairman, was on the Jackson County Education Service District Board, was the Chairman of the Jackson County Board of Health, on the Oregon State Board of Agriculture, the Oregon Beef Council, the National Cattleman's Beef Association, and the Roseburg Federal Land Bank Board. Collectively, Ruth and Dalton received numerous awards and recognitions. These include the Jackson County Stockman Cattleman of the Year Award, the Top Hand Award from both the Jackson County and Oregon Farm Bureau and the 2016 Heritage Ranch Family recognition. Dalton is most proud of being inducted into the Oregon State University Hall of Fame in large part due to him being instrumental in bringing the Veterinary School to OSU.

While Ruth and Dalton had a long history of supporting 4-H and FFA projects and kids, they thought it was their duty to step forward to support other causes as well, including the Asante Foundation and the Crater Foundation. When they sold their "Rusty Gate Farm" off Upton Road, Dalton reflects, "Well we had a kind of a windfall with that sale, and Ruth and I had always lived simply, so we decided to share at least part of this money with causes we believed in. We had read about an Oregon mill owner who set up a scholarship program for all students, not just the top ones. We liked that idea, and then we learned that the Crater Foundation did just that." Dalton Straus once said of his father, "The moral values that he set and the work ethic that he lived by have established a standard that is difficult to surpass. We have been blessed to have had him as a role model." The Crater Foundation is blessed to have Dalton and Ruth Straus as role models.

# 100% CELEBRATION

## 2023



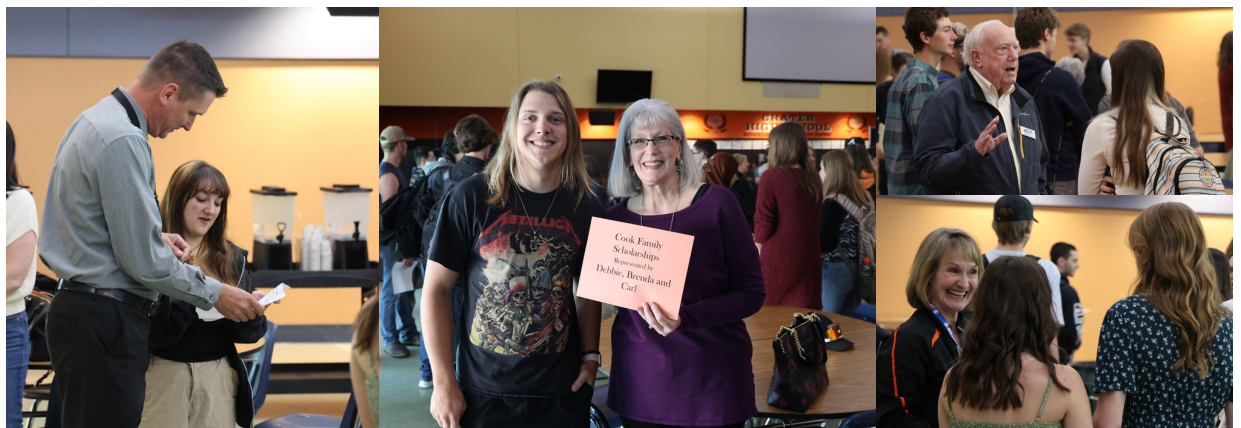
## \$365,350 AWARDED TO CRATER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023

On May 9, 2023, the Crater Foundation hosted our annual 100% Celebration. This event is an opportunity for graduating seniors to connect with the sponsor of their scholarship. The Crater Foundation is proud to announce awards totaling \$365,350 to 171 Crater High School graduating seniors attending the 2023-2024 school year! It's inspiring to see the generosity of donors who believe in investing in the future of our young people.

The class of 2023 has so much to be proud of. They have worked hard to reach this point in their education, and it's wonderful to see them being celebrated for their achievements. Events like this give students the motivation to continue striving toward their goals and dreams.

It's also important to recognize the impact that scholarships can have on a student's life. Financial barriers can often prevent students from pursuing higher education, but scholarships can make it possible for them to achieve their dreams. The Crater Foundation is committed to providing scholarships and making a difference in the lives of our students.

Thank you to all the donors who have made this celebration possible. Your generosity is helping to build a brighter future for our communities. Congratulations to the class of 2023 on their achievements, and best of luck to them as they continue their educational journeys.



## 2020 CRATER ALUMNI, CHLOE FIVEASH SPEAKS AT 100% CELEBRATION

Chloe Fiveash is a published author, advocate, mentor, and student pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. She graduated from Crater High School in 2020 and completed her minor in Biology this year at Southern Oregon University. Chloe shared her story with the graduating seniors at the 100% Celebration held in May. Through her speech, Chloe encouraged the soon-to-be graduates to be brave enough to figure themselves out, even if it is unconventional for those around them. She believes that it is essential to discover who you are when no one is in the room and to change it if you don't like the person you are.

Chloe's life was not always successful, and she faced many hardships. When she was a junior in high school, she had to make a tough choice between following her mother around in her endless search for a home or staying and building a life that she could call home. She chose to stay with hopes of bettering her life, but she had no idea that she would be facing homelessness and early adulthood on her own. Despite these challenges, Chloe didn't give up, and she continued to pursue her dreams.

Chloe's research on insecticides has been published, and she wrote a bill that has passed the House committee and is on its way to the Senate. She is also an advocate and a mentor, and she believes that everyone has the potential to achieve their goals. Chloe's message is that it is crucial to figure out who you are and to pursue your dreams, even if it means taking an unconventional path.

In conclusion, Chloe Fiveash's story is an inspiring one. She faced many hardships, but she didn't give up, and she continued to pursue her dreams. Chloe believes that it is essential to figure out who you are and to pursue your goals, even if it means taking an unconventional path. Her message is one of hope and perseverance, and it is a message that everyone can benefit from hearing.



ALUMNI SPEAKER HIGHLIGHT

2023



**5A-3 MIDWESTERN LEAGUE**

**#CRATERNATION**

*Crater is now playing in the 5A-3 Midwestern League. The league is comprised of Ashland, Churchill, Crater, Eagle Point, North Eugene, Springfield and Thurston.*

# **SPRING SPORTS SUMMARY**

## BASEBALL

Crater ended the regular season with an 11 – 16 record. They failed to qualify for the state playoffs.

## SOFTBALL

The Crater girls' softball team finished the regular season with a 21 – 6 record and 18 – 0 as league champions. They hosted a first-round state playoff game against Centennial and defeated them 7 - 3. Unfortunately, their season came to an end when second-ranked Bend defeated the Lady Comets 7 – 0. The Comet girl's season record was 22 – 7.

## BOYS TRACK

The boys' track team placed 1st in the District Track and Field meet. They had 9 first place winners; Reese Tiffiee in the 100, Nicholas Kube in the 200, Aidan Chenoweth in the 400, Caleb Doddington in the 800, Tyrone Gorze in the 1500 and 3000, the 4X400 relay team, and Scott Price in the triple jump and the high jump. They ended their season finishing 2nd at the State Track & Field meet. Senior Tyrone Gorze won the state meet in the 3000-meter run and placed second in the 1500-meter run. Scott Price finished 2nd in the long jump, 2nd in the triple jump, and 3rd in the high jump.

## GIRLS TRACK

The girls' track team placed 2nd in the District Track and Field meet and had 3 first-place finishers: Lindsay Siebert in the 800 and 1500 and Clara Bennett in the high jump. At the State Track & Field meet the Lady Comets finished 6th with Lindsey Siebert placing 1st in the 800-meter run and Clara Bennett finishing 3rd and Clair Davenport finishing 4th in the high jump.

## BOYS AND GIRLS GOLF

Both teams qualified for the state tourney but did not place.

# CRATER HIGH FALL VARSITY SPORTS HOME SCHEDULES

## BOYS SOCCER

Aug. 26 Roseburg  
 Sept. 5 Mazama  
 Sept. 6 North Medford  
 Sept. 23 Eagle Point  
 Sept. 30 Marshfield  
 Oct. 7 Churchill  
 Oct. 14 North Eugene  
 Oct. 21 Springfield

## GIRLS SOCCER

Aug. 30 Wilsonville  
 Sept. 14 Hidden Valley  
 Sept. 16 Phoenix  
 Sept. 26 Grants Pass  
 Oct. 5 North Medford  
 Oct. 7 Churchill  
 Oct. 14 North Eugene  
 Oct. 21 Springfield

## FOOTBALL

Aug. 31 North Bend  
 Sept. 15 Springfield  
 Sept. 22 Thurston  
 Oct. 6 Willamette  
 Oct. 20 Churchill

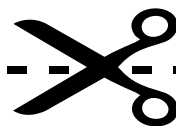
## CROSS COUNTRY

Oct. TBD Max King

## VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 30 Roseburg  
 Sept. 7 Marshfield  
 Sept. 21 Churchill  
 Oct. 5 Ashland  
 Oct. 10 North Eugene  
 Oct. 19 Eagle Point  
 Oct. Thurston/Springfield

**PRINT, CUT, SAVE!**



## DONATIONS ARE EASY!

The Crater Foundation has a new and improved way to donate online!  
 Scan the QR Code to the right with your smart phone for the new  
 donations platform where you can set up a recurring or one time donation.  
 Keep an eye out for a whole new website design coming soon.



## ★ CLASS REUNIONS ★

**1973 - 50th Class Reunion**  
 September 9, 2023  
 Sam's Creek Cellars

Contact: Mitch Ford 541-218-8585

## CRATER FOUNDATION INFORMATION

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