



# CRATER FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



## ★ REMEMBERING DAN SPEASL ★

### CRATER FOUNDATION LOSES CO-FOUNDER, DAN SPEASL

The Crater community was greatly saddened when, on July 27, the iconic and much-loved Crater High School teacher and coach and one of four founders of the Crater Foundation lost his battle with cancer. While only 70 years old at his passing, he left a rich legacy to inspire us all. After graduating from Lebanon High School where he was an outstanding athlete, especially on the wrestling mat, Dan spent a year at Oregon State University before transferring to Southern Oregon State University (SOU). As a wrestler, he became SOU's first three-time All American Athlete in any sport. His love for wrestling was to continue his entire life. Graduating from SOU in 1974, Mr. Speasl was hired as a teacher and coach at Crater High School. He remained at Crater, filling several positions, until his retirement in 2004. (Continued on page 2).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow Crater Foundation supporters, my name is Rob Hernandez, and I am the newly elected President of the Crater Foundation, what an honor to follow Harvey Tonn and Candy Manary. I am a 1972 graduate of Crater High School and have been on the Board of Directors for the Crater Foundation since 1994. My wife Toni (1974), our son Jeff (1998), our son Dan (2000), and our daughter Rachel (2000) are also all graduates of Crater High School.

My message today is about OPPORTUNITY. In 1973 I was given an opportunity to begin working at Boise Cascade in the Medford plywood plant. Six nights a week on the graveyard shift, starting out with a pair of gloves and a broom. In a few years I was given another opportunity to begin working for the Purchasing Department in the parts warehouse on swing shift. I worked at Boise Cascade for 22 years, spending the last 10 years as the Western Oregon Area Purchasing Manager.

In 1995 I was given an opportunity to become a partner in S&B James Construction Company. It was a substantial financial investment in a more cyclical and less secure industry for our young family, but an amazing opportunity. I had a lot to learn about the construction industry and being a business owner. Sixty-hour work weeks were not uncommon and signing personal guarantees for a loan at the bank was more than stressful. I retired in 2017 and we have sold the company to some energetic and capable gentlemen that now have their own opportunity to attain new levels of success.

In 2008, Toni and I were given the opportunity to join our son Jeff and four others to become co-founders of Black Rock Coffee Bar. Today there are 120 Black Rock Coffee locations in seven states with over 1700 employees. It has been my experience that opportunity plus diligent effort can equal success. I have been involved with the Crater Foundation for the past 30 years because of the opportunity that it presents to the students at School District 6.

### Inside Features

- Dan Speasl Continued
- Where Are They Now?
- Scholarships Awarded
- Setting Student up for Success

## DAN SPEASL CONTINUED

While Dan liked to say he was “a young and inexperienced pup with hair,” he still was picked to be the head wrestling coach and in a few years was able to revive the struggling Crater wrestling program and build it into a state contender. His coaching philosophy was aligned around intense hard work, being in better shape than the opponents and competing at the highest level possible. He liked to say, “You gain a lot more experience and confidence losing to a top-notch wrestler than pinning a weak wrestler in ten seconds.”

In addition to his physical education teaching duties and his wrestling coaching, young Speasl was an assistant coach in football and baseball and at one time coached the girls’ and boys’ cross-country teams. In 1990 Dan left the gym and became the Crater Career Counselor. During his tenure as Career Counselor, he developed and implemented the rating system for scholarships that is still used by the Crater Scholarship Committee. Of even more importance, he was instrumental in helping initiate and start the Crater Foundation in 1992 and, as a co-founder, remained on the Crater Foundation Board and an avid supporter of the organization until his death.

In 1997 Dan became the Crater Athletic Director, assuming one of the most demanding jobs in the school system and, true to form, his boundless energy carried over into the Athletic Director position. As Athletic Director, besides the long daily lists of “things to do”, he took the lead in developing the soccer fields and junior varsity baseball fields on Upton Road. Dan retired from Crater in 2004 after 30 years of service to School District 6. Still, in his retirement he found time to serve as the Interim Athletic Director at SOU for one year as he saw retirement as not easing up but looking for new adventures. One such adventure was he



and Sandy found time for international travel, camping, snowmobiling and spending time with friends and family. Dan was the consummate host. Outside of Crater, Dan was proud to be a 28-year member of the Central Point Rotary Club, serving as President in 2007-2008. A fellow Rotarian relates “Dan was the only past President we know who said he would like to serve as President again.” He thrived on and embodied the Rotary motto, “Service Above Self”.

Dan was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, the most recent being inducted in March into the Crater High School Achievement Hall of Fame and, while he would probably be uncomfortable with the honor, the December 2 Crater Foundation Dinner and Auction, an event he helped start, will be presented in his honor. In addition, a scholarship account has been established in his name and can be accessed through the Crater Foundation website.

So, yes, Dan Speasl did leave a rich legacy and not the least is that he is remembered with fondness and love that goes beyond words. Rest in peace Dan.



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### 1952 – 59

**JAY DILLON (55)** – lives in Cottage Grove and has three grown children, has five grandchildren and one great grandchild. After spending time in the US Navy, Jay worked at Weyerhaeuser Company and was a Millwright for Weyco retiring in 1995. He enjoys handyman work has a stamp collection and just likes old stuff and waterfalls.

**SHARON GRIFFITTS LINDLEY (59)** – lives in Aumsville, Oregon with her husband Dwayne. They have four children and six grandchildren. Spends time with children and grandchildren.

### 1960 – 69

**VICKI MISNER (61)** - has lived in Albany, Oregon since July 2022. She moved from Montana with her daughter, Kimberly Misner Johnson. Vicki retired about 20 years after working for District 6 as a SPED Assistant Teacher at Hanby, CPE, and Scenic. Kimberly graduated from Crater and from OSU with her teaching credentials. They moved to Albany as Kimberly accepted a Coordinator position with Corvallis Middle Schools.

**SUE LYNN HIGINBOTHAM JOLLY (61)** – lives in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania with her husband of fifty plus years. Attended SOU then Seattle Pacific College and receive a BS degree in nursing from the University of Washington. Has lived in Philadelphia, Seattle, Olympia, Eugene and Moscow, Idaho. They have five boys. They lived in Hong Kong for several years where her husband taught accounting and computer information systems at City University. Now both retired they enjoy boating and water sports, golf and hiking.

### 1970 – 79

**DAVID TIGHE (70)** – lives in Trinity, Alabama with his wife, Dianne. They have two grown sons and three grandchildren. David spends his days working in the yard of fishing.

**SUE BONNEY FOLKERTS (75)** – lives in Snohomish, Washington now retired as a software engineer. She now is teaching kids to code as her retirement occupation. She enjoys sewing taking pictures of flowers from her garden and loves hiking.

### 1980 – 89

**JESSE GRABOWSKI (80) & DENA HACKWORTH GRABOWSKI (83)** – live in Central Point and have four grown children all Crater High graduates and they have four grandchildren. Jesse is a United States Navy veteran and served 3 tours in the Persian Gulf and is now retired. Dena works for Jackson County Health & Human Services as a Case Manager. They like the outdoors, hunting, fishing and love camping.

### 1990 – 99

**AMY STONE JOHNSTON (92)** - lives in Marcola, Oregon where she is a Facility Manager. Amy has a 26 year old son, a 35 year old stepdaughter and two grandchildren. She has been married to her wife for almost 23 years. She enjoys concerts, the outdoors, reading true crime and listening to music, specifically the 80s!

**CORDILA SCRIVEN ELSEWHERE (95)** - lives in Portland, Oregon with her partner and has two grown children. After graduation she moved to San Diego and attended college briefly then moved back to Oregon in 2001, where she worked as a recovery technician for and ultimately became the technical program manager of a human tissue transplant organization. She obtained two Associates degrees from PCC, as well as a Bachelors from PSU, and is currently in her final year of a Masters in Criminology and Criminal Justice with a focus on corrections reform. She tells us that she loves Portland and its rich music scene, access to multicultural events, and close-knit communities formed by regional transplants.

### 2000 – 09

**CHELSEA CLARK MCGOFFIN (04)** - lives in Central Point with her husband Kyle. She is a kindergarten teacher at Central Point Elementary School.

**ANYA MARTINEZ SLINDE (09)** - lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband and two children Mara (3) and Asa (5 months). Anya is the Regional Director for Tobii Dynavox (Speech-Language Pathologist). She was recently inducted into the SOU Hall of Fame with several other SOU alumni. You can find her sneaking in runs between meetings & attempting to complete house projects after bedtime.

### 2010-2019

**EMILY MEDINA DUARTE (10)** - lives in Central Point with her husband and two little girls. Emily is an ELD Teacher at Jewett Elementary School in Central Point.

**KAITY MACUK NELSON (15)** - lives in Medford, Oregon with her Husband. Kaity is a Student Wellness Specialist/SPED Teacher at Crater High School. Her hobbies are quilting, sewing, crocheting, embroidering and doing cross stitch. She has a club at school to teach students these things in hopes to reduce stress and anxiety throughout the day. She tells us she has a wonderful husband that supports her with all that she does. Together they love to play disc golf, pickle ball and lots of board games!





## OVER \$6.1 MILLION AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS

October is Crater Foundation Awareness Month! It's a special time dedicated to spreading awareness about the incredible work the foundation does to empower students and enrich communities in Central Point. It's a chance for everyone to come together and show their support for education and the future of our community.

The Crater Foundation strives to be a beacon of hope and support for District 6 students and schools. With a mission to establish a self-perpetuating foundation, the Crater Foundation is dedicated to assisting students and schools in various areas, including scholarships, extracurricular activities, capital improvements, and human needs. One of the Crater Foundation's primary focuses is providing scholarship assistance to graduating seniors from Crater High School. Every student who applies for a scholarship receives financial support for their college tuition. Since its inception, the Crater Foundation has awarded over 6.1 million dollars in scholarships, opening doors to countless opportunities for young minds. The foundation also offers scholarship assistance to students continuing their educational journey after completing at least one year of college. By providing financial aid to these dedicated individuals, the foundation encourages their pursuit of academic excellence and helps alleviate the burden of educational expenses. Recognizing that financial challenges can hinder a student's ability to thrive, the Crater Foundation extends its support to students and families in need. Through various initiatives, the foundation offers financial assistance to ensure that students have access to necessary items such as coats, shoes, school supplies, and classroom materials.

Additionally, the Crater Foundation collaborates with the district to fund special building projects and athletic facility improvements. By investing in these areas, the foundation enhances the overall educational experience, providing students with the resources they need to thrive. The Crater Foundation's impact is made possible through the unwavering support of individuals, families, businesses, organizations, alumni, and district employees. Their generous contributions and dedication to the betterment of education in District 6 fuel the foundation's mission and ensure its continued success. Together, we can make a difference!



# SETTING STUDENTS UP FOR SUCCESS

The Crater Foundation is overjoyed to receive heartfelt thanks from the Rogue Primary Kinder Otters, Central Point's newest kindergartners. It's truly heartwarming to witness the appreciation of these young learners for the support we have provided. Through our partnership with the Central Point Rotary, we have ensured that every kindergartner in District 6 receives a bag filled with essential supplies and special Crater Class of 2036 t-shirts. The excitement and gratitude radiating from these young students is truly infectious.

We are immensely grateful for the opportunity to make a positive impact on their educational journey. It is our belief that by equipping these kindergartners with the necessary tools and showing them that their community cares deeply about their success, we are setting a strong foundation for their future growth.

The collaboration between the Crater Foundation and Central Point Rotary has been instrumental in making this initiative a reality. Together, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that every kindergartner feels supported and valued from the very beginning of their educational experience. Seeing the smiles on the faces of these kindergartners as they express their gratitude fills our hearts with joy. We are honored to play a part in their educational journey and are committed to continuing our support for the Class of 2036.

The Crater Foundation extends its deepest appreciation to the Rogue Primary Kinder Otters for their kind words. We are here to empower and uplift our community's youngest learners, and their gratitude fuels our passion to make a difference. As we celebrate the impact of this act of kindness, we hope it inspires others to join us in supporting the education and well-being of our future generations. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

To the Rogue Primary Kinder Otters, we say, "You're welcome!" We are honored to be a part of your educational journey. Keep shining bright and embracing the love and support that surrounds you. We can't wait to see the incredible things you will achieve!



AWAWARENESS MONTH

2023



# DONATE TODAY!

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.



CRATER FOUNDATION  
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## CRATER FOUNDATION INFORMATION

**Website** - [craterfoundation.district6.org](http://craterfoundation.district6.org)

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**Social** - Facebook & Instagram

@craterfoundation

**Telephone** - 541-494-6308

**Mailing address** - Crater Foundation  
P.O. Box 5172  
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# COMETS

## 2023 FALL SPORTS

FOOTBALL • CROSS COUNTRY  
VOLLEYBALL • SOCCER  
CHEER

*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. Scan the QR code to the left for the fall sport schedule.*



CRATERHIGHSCHOOL  
CRATERATHLETICS.DISTRICT6.ORG

# CRATER HIGH SCHOOL