

AHS '71 In touch Spring 2025

A once-in-a-blue-moon check-in. Any news to share?

We asked for a website rescuer and got one

Putting out an appeal via email can be like sending a message in a bottle. You never know who will respond or if anyone will. Fortunately, our previous *In Touch* found the inbox of '71 classmate Terry Moore. After the passing of website keeper Ken Horn, we needed someone to continue that. Moore, retired from a career in computer systems as a Unix administrator after a stint in the Air Force, offered to do it. Key to the transition was the help of Ken's widow, Roseanne, who did what GoDaddy needed to transfer control. That wasn't easy. Thanks, Roseanne! Terry has made some useful changes to alameda1971.com. Check it out!



What are you up to? Share contact information

We need everyone to help keep as many in the loop as possible. Please send an email to ahsreunion7@gmail.com

Share information about your life and career. Also very importantly, share emails you might have for classmates so they can get updates and share as well.

What's your news? In these connected times, no reason to lose touch.

Valdez honored for contributions to HS wrestling



In May 2019, classmate Steve Valdez was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame for his "lifetime service to wrestling."

Recipients must have dedicated a minimum of 20 years to the sport. Steve has had a 42-year career coaching and training wrestlers.

Ask Steve what drives his success in wrestling, and he will tell you two things: a passion for the sport and the quest for equality.

Beginning as an 8-year-old in Manzanola, Colo., he first discovered wrestling after completing his chores on the family farm. Over the

years, whether his family lived in Southern Colorado or Denver, his passion for the sport continued to grow through youth wrestling.

When he entered AHS, he was eager to wrestle as a Pirate. Unfortunately, he said, his competitive drive met an obstacle he suspected but couldn't substantiate until years later.

Back then he couldn't label ethnic bias as a factor affecting his high school wrestling career. He said the realization came years later as a coach.

Thinking back to his childhood, he vividly remembers a local gas station with a sign: "No dogs or Mexicans allowed," that prohibited him from using the bathroom and drinking fountain.

Although he recalls the pain of being judged on his last name and skin color, he says now it added to his drive to succeed as a coach.

Wrestling was not the only activity that kept him busy at AHS. Vocal music director Louis Wetzel, a customer on Steve's paper route, one day invited him into his home — to sing musical scales! After this impromptu audition, the teacher asked, "Why don't you join choir?" Steve participated in his junior and senior years.

After high school, Steve joined the military and wrestled for the Army while stationed in Germany. After military service, he attended Metropolitan State, took sports medicine classes and earned a degree in education. He taught social studies in Jefferson County junior and senior high schools for 27 years.

Throughout, he coached wrestling. What began as "something fun," turned into something essential, he said. It not only brought personal satisfaction, it also became a way to help students fulfill their own potential. He said, "It's just such a special sport. Once you get on that mat, it's you against the other guy. It's just like life: Your mistakes are your mistakes. Your wins are your wins. Those are lessons that you carry with you the rest of your life. When you see a kid win his first match ever, you can see the joy. There's nothing like it."

Although Steve retired from teaching in 2006, he is closely involved in the state wrestling tournament, a role he has performed since 2003.

Steve also serves as treasurer on the board of the Colorado Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

A banner commemorating his induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame hangs in the small gym at AHS.

Steve said he has been told more than once that he's "one of the good ones." He reads it as an awkward response from someone uncomfortable with his heritage. Without reservation, classmates will concur: Steve is one of the good ones.



Until next year: AHS '71 alums at their year-end breakfast. L-R: Steve Bostwick, Larry Waldner, Robert Stokvis, (unidentified), Rick Warner, Monte Schurr, Scott Malloy, Jerry Donner, Bill Goodale, Ralph Swain, Ken Charles, Dennis Waldner, Ron Stanislaw, Bob Hall, Bob Hicks.

Schlueters and N.C. neighbors endure nature's wrath

Tucked away in a hilly North Carolina paradise for nearly 30 years, '71 grads Pam and Brent Schlueter have been blessed with nature's best.

In recent years, however, painful realities have been flung their way by a changing climate.

In November 2023, wildfire decimated too-dry hillsides, roaring up to within mere yards of their Hendersonville, N.C. home. Only a firebreak bulldozed by firefighters spared the residence.

With winds uncertain, firefighters "would be at our house all night standing guard," writes Brent. The fire took three weeks to extinguish.

Horrible, yes. Nothing, however, could prepare for what came a year later: Hurricane Helene, which destroyed much of nearby Asheville, N.C.



The Schlueter's home was spared, but not much of the green cover that drew them there: over 50 trees down, some over 100-feet tall.

"Miraculously, none hit our house," he writes, but five of the fallen trees prevented them from getting out of their house. Their road was "all but washed out," he writes.

On the morning after, "We could not reach our neighbor by text or by foot." Eventually the neighbor made his way over. "We just held each other and cried," writes Brent.

Electricity didn't return for 17 days. Fortunately, neighbors came and cut away the trees blocking the Schlueters' driveway.

The crippling one-two punch left the Schlueters, Brent writes, "with the strong belief that no one will escape the impact of climate change."

On the bright side, he writes, the actions of neighbors, churches, businesses and government made amazing contributions, "giving aid, hope and faith in mankind."



Pat Lanyon has been up to some good works

In high school, Pat Lanyon admits, he was the receding type. He says it took something big to shed his shell -- something big as all creation.

He says his Christian faith led him there: to help start a church, to start a business, and, oh, yes, raise a family.

Pat said he cast about for his life's purpose several years after graduating from Alameda. He studied electrical engineering at the University of Colorado and then pondered a teaching career while attending Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C.

Pat had professed his faith, he said, but was just "playing church. It wasn't me. I was just me parroting."

The big transformation came when he enrolled at Temple Baptist Theological Seminary in Chattanooga, Tenn., from which he graduated in 1983. Along the way he met fellow seminarian Bim Rowley, who was starting a church in Connecticut. Pat moved to East Hartford, Conn., and joined in on Rowley's leap of faith as part of a small group that knocked on doors to get the word out. Today, what they started, Truth Baptist of South Windsor, is a thriving congregation with Rowley its pastor. In a more personal way, Pat's faith supplied a life-changing connection. A long-distance relationship with Christina Eva Wise grew from pen pal status -- in which he

shared a prayerbook/journal he'd maintained since 1977. The friendship led to matrimony in 1988. They were married 35 years until her passing in 2023.

Another leap of faith involved using church connections to start a carpet cleaning business: Glory Cleaning Service. Today, two sons, Joseph and Patrick, are central to its operation.

Pat's brother Gary, who graduated from AHS in 1969, still lives in Lakewood.

Pirates who will be missed

Julie (Webb) Greene

Julie (Webb) Greene made many and varied contributions in the workforce, but would admit her proudest ones were as wife, mom and grandmother. Julie, of Seminole, Fla., passed away Aug. 30, 2024. Survivors include husband Mike, three sons and five grandchildren.

Among career achievements, she was HR manager for Fireman Fund Insurance in Cincinnati and executive secretary for the regional manager of Harley Hotels.

"Julie navigated life with her giant heart," read her obituary, "and her greatest enjoyments was being around her family. She was her sons' biggest fan and never missed a game or event when they were growing up."



Tom Maxfield

Classmates remember Tom Maxfield as a key figure on the AHS golf team. Friend and classmate Dennis Waldner says Tom's passion for the links did not abate. "A scratch golfer," Waldner said, and a regular at Foothills course in Lakewood, were Tom lived.

Tom died Sept. 27, 2024. He was preceded in death by his wife, Julie Markham, herself an AHS graduate from a later class.

Tom was employed by Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad most of his working life.

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