

GHSAA Newsletter

Volume – I Edition – 2 May 2005



The “Kenny Classic” Gang

A Golf Tournament played each July, organized by Chris and Tim Kenny to raise money for the *Clara Barton Camp for Girls with Diabetes* in honor of their father. Check out our website for more info on this great fundraiser.

www.greenwavealumni.org

Folks in the photo are as follows - Standing, l to r:

Karen (Caouette) Conley '83, Ruth (Thomas) Kellogg '83, Bob Wolanske (I think he's a grad, but not sure of year), Carol (Simondiski - married to Mike Skorulski '79) Skorulski '83, John Merrigan '81, Jim Merrigan '82, Dave Marquis, Jeff Newton '81, Judy Kenny (mom), Tim Hanley (Deerfield '83), Rick Wilcox '81, Dan Organ '80, Dan Akey '82, Vin Melendez '81, Mike Johnson '85, John Organ '83, Mike Duclos '84 and Andy Fotopulos '81. Sitting, l to r: Andy Hamilton '81, Pat (Kenny) Gagnon '84, Chris Kenny '80, Mike Rawson '82, and Tim Kenny '81. Missing at the time of the pic was Joe Kais '81 and Kerry Kenny '83



SEEKING HELP FROM REUNION COMMITTEES

This time of year, thoughts turn to the hope of new life called “SPRING”. Folks start to plan for home improvement projects, new gardens and vacations. But in a few homes, we find some brave souls sitting around kitchen tables, daring to look back at old pictures of younger friends and trying to plan a party to bring them all together. We call these fine, hard working, fun loving people, the “Reunion Committees”. Every five years they put all other plans on hold in order to find the right location, plan the perfect meal, track down lost classmates and tend to the countless other details involved in organizing this event. Whether this is your fifth or fifty-fifth class reunions, the planning and worry is still the same. Having said that, the Alumni Association would like to ask a favor you before you send out those invitations. Would you consider helping the GHSAA in any way you can. Maybe sending a GHSAA membership form to your invitation. In most cases, adding one more piece of paper to your invitation won't cost any more to mail.

When we began this association, it was our hope that we would be able to reach out to the alumni through their reunions. For many, this is the only time they return to the area and we thought this would be a good way to keep people in touch with GHS. The Alumni Association would like to be a part of your celebration by, perhaps, giving out a GHSAA registration form and/or having a silent auction and maybe a raffle during your event. The Class of 1977 raised \$2000.00 at their 25th and started a little friendly competition with the Class of 1978 who donated \$2001.00 from their reunion the following year. 50/50 raffles, silent auctions and simple requests for donations added to the fun of the celebrations. Would you please consider donating a class gift to the GHSAA? We know how much time and effort all this takes, but please consider this very worthwhile fund raiser. After all, GHS is the reason for the party. We would be glad to provide you with a supply of forms and any other help we can.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

The Greenfield High School Alumni Association is now able to offer memorial cards to friends and family members of those who have passed away. We believe this is a wonderful way to remember those special people who have made a difference in our lives. Your donation will honor their memory and help the Alumni Association in its efforts to provide support for programs at Greenfield High School. Please contact Linda Smith at (413) 773-5759 for more information.

GHSAA Accomplishments

The GHSAA was created in October 2002 and has obtained its Non-profit and Federal Tax –exempt status. Our EIN# is 14-1871138. We have increased membership to over 100 Alumni and friends, received over \$7500 in donations from individuals and families, and created our own website: greenwavealumni.org

We have staffed information booths at local events such as the Mayoral and town council elections, Thanksgiving Day football game, Classic Day at the Energy Park, had information available at several recent Class Reunions and should complete our second Newsletter by our May meeting.

We have purchased technological equipment for the News class taught by Tom Bevacqua and we are supporting the effort to create a “wall of success” in the front corridor of the High School. This is a (student) class project coordinated by Barry McColgan, a teacher at GHS. This wall will help to create an environment that cherishes the history of GHS students. Many have accomplished their dreams and achieved goals that were founded by their educational experience at Greenfield High School. Many young students today will benefit by recognizing the success of so many alumni.

The GHSAA has purchased \$400 worth of paperbacks English texts for the English Department and \$450 for textbooks to complete a classroom set for the Biology classes. This is a small contribution in an effort to improve the Academic resources needed at Greenfield High School.

We believe we can build appreciation for the programs offered at Greenfield High School by acknowledging the achievements of the alumni from over the decades. So, we will foster those ideas by helping students involved in a class project that entails the history of Greenfield High School students. Betty Nee has written a Nomination letter to facilitate this process. (See the Academic section of our website) Just one of the many and varied accomplishments that Betty continues to achieve.

Linda Smith has created a Memorial Card for individuals and families to honor the memory of a loved one by donating to the Greenfield High School through the GHSAA. Cards may be mailed to you or picked up at local funeral homes.

John Spencer, Linda Smith and Cindi Bompastore are working to extend, maintain and improve our database and web-site. The students at GHS have a courses in Web Design for which they receive academic credits and they have links to our web sites. They are developing useful skills for future employment.

Deb Deskavich and Joe Lemay continue to find time to coordinate our information from meetings and tasks to general accounting of donations and expenses. Expenses which we vow to keep simple, clear, and to the penny; we will make choices that obtain the best value for every dollar spent.

GHSAA PRESENT PROJECTS AND GOALS

We are also evaluating creating a Solar Technology unit in the present Science courses. Teachers Stuart Elliott, Amy Palmer and Christine Perham are interested in promoting this project. We have already received a \$1000 donation from a local citizen toward the funding of this project. We will use that money to purchase the needed library supplies for initial and continued research in Solar Technology and other Renewable Energy Resources. Any further donations would help to make this dream a reality. Anyone who would like to share their knowledge concerning Solar Technology or wanting to make a donation directly for this project may contact GHSAA President Steve Lepore at (413) 774-2894 or by email via our website.

We are evaluating the possibility of obtaining solar panels on some type for use with the High School Greenhouse. The panels are to be installed by the students so they can get first hand knowledge of the value of using solar technology. Currently the Greenhouse uses electric heat. Cost saving has stopped the use of the Greenhouse in cold weather. This would allow more use of the Greenhouse while saving energy. If anyone would like to share their knowledge concerning project or wanting to make a donation directly for this project please contact the GHSAA

Bill Smith, Peter Conway, Steve Shattuck, Tom Murphy, Debbie and Steve Lepore have formed a sub committee to evaluate the need and the possibility of upgrading the athletic facilities behind GHS. Specifically, an all weather track with an artificial field surface placed inside the oval with adjacent field space for soccer, field hockey, gym classes, Recreation Dept programs and other local groups (lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee) who have need for such a facility. We already have a top-notch football/baseball/softball complex with lights for night games for all sports, and a rink providing ice time for all levels of skating activities.

We want this facility to be more than an athletic complex. We want to remember those we admire and cherish for the way they lived their lives and helped each of us better our own. We want this track project to be a labor of respect, a way to honor, and as a Memorial, to thank those family members, friends, teachers and neighbors who have given so much to our own lives and this community.



A Memorial Wish...Dream...Goal!!!

We believe you will help us raise the funds to accomplish this project. Envision a place you can visit, like Ellis Island, with a wall of stone etched with the names of the people we wish to cherish for years to come; which has multiple uses yet still honors those we wish to thank.

Many of us remember running around a grass oval for training or competition and to improve our general health. Over thirty years later, the students attending GHS and the citizens of Greenfield are still trying to improve their fitness and enhance their athletic prowess by running around a grass oval adjacent to Shattuck Park.

Now, a graphic design from 1988 has been captured through the artistic skill of local county resident Al Dray. The GHSAA presents the vision of a Sports Complex to be built behind GHS, thus enhancing our local community through fitness, cooperation and by investing in our citizens and students.

Previous efforts to build a track behind GHS were not achieved due to budget constraints. It seems the choice between investing in our community or maintaining what we have continues to challenge us. We have another opportunity to create a better situation for all of us right now. We can make a considerable statement to our young people about how community cooperation is a catalyst for economic growth; more importantly, we can give back to our hometown, cultivate a wealth of good will and simply create a place to cherish our memories of others who made a difference in our lives.

A “Broken Back” design will be used; it is broader and has one straightaway instead of two, so a 220 yard (200 meter) sprint would be around a curve. Most schools use this design to provide better field space for activities such as Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Ultimate Frisbee, football and soccer. A field of 120yards by 70yds can be placed inside. This field will be synthetic, allowing for multiple uses in most kinds of weather; this field can be used more often with far less maintenance required. That aspect alone will improve recreational opportunities, enhance scholastic athletics and improve physical education classes.

The East to West alignment utilizes the space behind GHS to its fullest extent, creating two other utility fields between the track and Shattuck Park, and maintaining the softball diamond for gym classes and adult teams. The plans include a two tier announcer’s booth, storage facility, some stands and public bathrooms. We will also utilize solar technology to provide some electricity for safety lighting and a concession stand.

The fencing used to protect the facility will also allow for plaques to be attached; each plaque will have names inscribed of those who have donated and/or the name of a person who we wish to cherish and honor. We may also use a brick walkway to offer more space to honor those who believed in us when we needed it and to those who wish to help achieve a healthier community spirit.

Whether it’s up and down a synthetic turf-field or all around the textured “all-weather” oval of a “broken Back” track, you will have the opportunity to honor someone you admire or memorialize a loved one who has passed.

We want this project to be a labor of honor, love and spirit. We can accomplish this challenge through the spirit of cooperation and a belief that we can create our own solutions to financial issues. Relying on our personal discipline, this project can be funded by saving a dollar a day, six days a week, for just one year. If 8000 citizens and alumni make this pledge, we can create a sports complex that really is a memorial to all those we have admired, loved and wish to cherish for our own lifetimes. We can create a facility that enhances our present health (and wealth) for years to come.

This project should be and can be separate from any other plans associated with GHS, yet will enhance our school system immediately. We can and should start this venture right now. This is a community project reaching out to GHS alumni and citizens, students, parents, faculty, administrators, town officials, and anyone that wants to enrich Greenfield right now and far into the future.

Greenfield’s Mayor Forgey has expressed her support, especially since this project will only use about a third of the space behind GHS, not require town budget funds yet would benefit all of Greenfield, and certainly help to decrease the loss of funds from school choice.

The GHSAA would like to hear from you all concerning the Sports Complex project as soon as possible. We are motivated now to pursue this goal. The worst that could happen is that alumni and Greenfield citizens don't financially support this project. At least we would have attempted to achieve something very valuable right now. Plan B is always there, waiting for state money, for the long term plan including the future of the present GHS building.

We are presenting this design and our plans to local government officials before making a more public announcement. For further information and questions please contact the GHSAA by using our website: www.greenwavealumni.org. Or leave your name and phone number with Betty Nee at GHS: (413) 772-1350 extension 111

There is much to do to achieve any and all of our goals. We ask if any of you have a little time to write an article for our Newsletter or email some information about the success of a fellow alumnus. Hopefully you find some way to support our alma mater.

If you have another idea for a project that you believe would improve the status of GHS, we have an open mind and wish to hear from you. We are trying to offer alumni and citizens who support public education various ways to be involved, locally and from a distance.

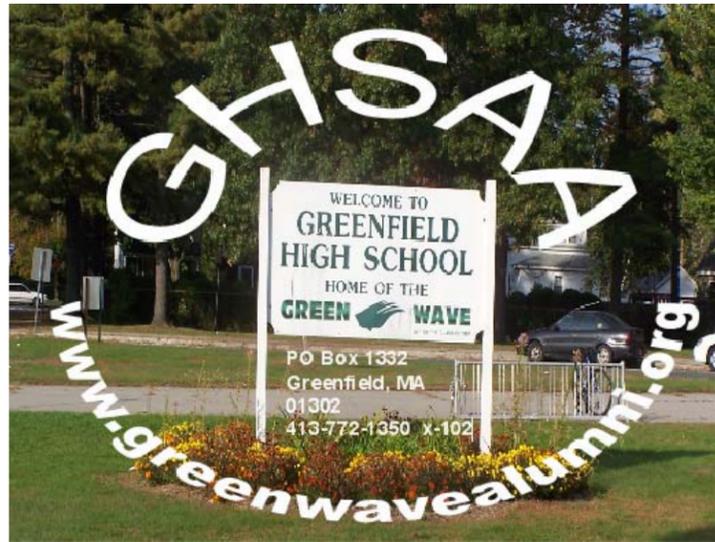
BIG Y Education Express points

Thanks to parents, neighbors and friends shopping at the Big Y, the Greenfield School system has accumulated over 2,500,000 Education Express points. These POINTS can be spent on technology supplies and equipment for GHS. Recently, two 27” televisions, TV cart, three overhead projectors, a projection screen and six safety goggles for science labs were purchased. So, if you haven’t joined the cause yet, please sign-up at the Big Y customer service desk and you can contact Sue Ross – GHS librarian, (413) 772-1350 extension 114, for more details. Sue stated that “TARGET”, a retail store at the Hadley Mall also has a points program to benefit the Greenfield School System.

A note from the President

We have decided to re-arrange and increase our Membership fees. You can check at the end of this news letter or on our website under *members*. We are a volunteer association; no one is paid for their efforts or time. We are working to improve our community through our connection to GHS. We ask that you understand the costs related to such an undertaking, and feel free to contact me to discuss any ideas you have that would benefit the GHSAA and GHS. We created two ways to make the fee structure available for new graduates and those on a fixed income. If you do not fit into those categories, please contact me and we will work something

out. We are here to promote education, good will to the younger generations, make a contribution to our alma mater and public education in general. We want you to continue your alliance with the GHSAA, and hope you are able to give as you desire. Funds, time, effort and information are the four areas we need the most help with. Thank you for your contributions and membership.



Reuniting with our past, investing in the future

The last few years has seen the development of a very competitive educational environment in Western Massachusetts due to “school choice” and budgetary problems. Our community needs your support building our high school educational system. We have over 150 members that have donated over \$7,500. This has been an excellent beginning for GHSAA, and the spirit of generous Alumni and Friends of Greenfield High School will grow with every new membership. We want to be advocates for the community of Greenfield through our common belief of providing the best possible public education. The professionals of our educational system are under tremendous pressure to do more with less each year. Our members share the vision of supporting these dedicated professionals in three chosen areas:

1. *Technology*
2. *Academics*
3. *Athletics*

The dreams of a better tomorrow becoming reality are dependent on the acts of goodwill today.

We also have pens, decals, and magnets imprinted with our name, email address and the GHS logo available for purchase. Check them out at www.greenwavealumni.org.

Current Events at GHS

Science Fair

The GHS annual Science Fair was held on February 16th in the Science wing. This year’s fair featured 57 projects, most of them by 2–student teams, with judges who followed the same criteria used at the Massachusetts State Science Fair.

Sophomore Conor MacCaffrey was the overall winner with a project titled “Fermentation and Distillation: Exploring Alternative Fuel Sources.” His interest in alternative fuels was sparked by the war in Iraq and his father’s complaint about the rising cost of fuel. “I was trying to think of something that was relevant to the world today,” MacCaffrey said. Intrigued that corn is a good source of bio-fuel, he wanted to determine if a vegetable’s starch content affects how long it will burn as fuel. He shredded up broccoli, carrots, onions, spinach and potatoes, and added each vegetable to a mixture of sugar, warm water and yeast. After four days, he distilled each one using a homemade still he created by using PVC pipe, glue and tape. He discovered that all the vegetables produced fuel that burned for roughly the same length of time. For future testing he will concentrate on sugar, “Corn has a lot of sugar maybe that is what makes it such a good bio-fuel. I’d like to work with fruit to see what happens.” he said.

Sophomores Amanda Rollins and Samantha Kestyn’s project titled “Fright Factor” won second place. They wanted to analyze whether experience affects fear. Using wolf spiders in glass jars, they placed the tilted jars near their test subjects. The spiders would run a little toward the opening and toward the students, who were the test subjects. They would do this once, wait 10 seconds and then repeat the motion. During this time they would measure the students’ pulse rates. Even though their project was “the talk of the school” and perhaps kept people who are really afraid of spiders away, they were able to involve 20 boys and 20 girls. As it turned out the girls were more likely to be honest about being afraid of spiders and their fear was less the second time they were tested. The percentage of boys whose pulse quickened the second time, “were being tough guys the first time,” Rollins said. They girls both feel that their experiment proves that fear do diminish with experience. “We were scared of spiders at first, but now we’re less afraid of them,” said Kestyn.

The first place winners will be attending the regional competition scheduled for March 11th in North Adams. The following students were first place winners:

Greenfield High School First Place Winners were:

*Chelsea Bednardski and Brittanie Mimitz - “Nitrogen Pollution”
Jennifer Poirier and Bethany Shippee - “The Efficacy of Hand Sanitizers”
Jonathan Hillman and Christa Calcari - Is MTBE Worth Using in Today’s Gasoline?
Conor MacCaffley - “Fermentation & Distillation: Exploring Alternative Fuel Sources”
Jackie Peloquin and Kara LaPage - “Effluence of Washing Machine Detergent in Sewer Drains”
Mary Dean - Whose Mouth is Cleaner: a human’s or a dog’s?
Chris Curtis- Effect of Heat Tempering on the Hardnesses of Steel
Kayla Bak and Megan Mckenzie - Effectiveness of Tea Tree Oil on Common Household Bacteria
Danielle Marquis and Sarah Malek - “The Effect of Caffeine on Blood Pressure”
Jill Campbell and Julia Dillon - The Effect of Penicillin and Tetracycline on Bacteria
Samantha Sweeney and Lindsey Payette -

On March 11th, fifteen participants from GHS took part in the Western Regional Science Fair at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams and the following were winners:

2nd Place Winners:

- * Chelsea Bednarski and Brittanie Mimitz - Nitrogen Pollution and Aquatic Plants
- * Jennifer Poirier and Bethany Shippee - The Effect of Hand Sanitizer

3rd Place Winner:

Jonathan Hillman and Christa Calcari - Is MTBE Worth Using in Today's Gasoline?

Honorable Mention:

- Conor MacCaffrey - Fuel Alternative through Fermentation & Distillation
- Jackie Peloquin and Kara LaPage - Washing Detergent in Drains
- Jill Campbell and Julia Dillon - The Effect of Penicillin and Tetracycline on Bacteria
- Mary Dean - Whose Mouth is Cleaner: a human's or a dog's?
- Chris Curtis - Effect of Heat Tempering on the Hardnesses of Steel
- Kayla Bak and Megan McKenzie - Effectiveness of Tea Tree Oil on Common Household Bacteria

*These winners will represent GHS at the State Science Fair at MIT in Cambridge on May 6th & 7th

Congratulations to the Science Fair winners and **Thank You** to all the students and teachers who have worked so hard to make the Science Fairs a success.

Article source, GHS Newsletter and The Recorder

National Football Foundation

Senior Caleb Dean has been named the winner of the Archie Roberts Award presented by the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the National Football Foundation and the Hall of Fame. The award honors the region's top high school student athlete. Dean is the first winner from Greenfield since the award was first given in 1962. The 6 foot, 180 pound senior was an All-Scholastic choice at linebacker. Academically, Dean is ranked in the top five his class, and has a combined SAT score of 1410, including a 780 on the math portion.

Sean Killeen has been selected by the Fay-Wright League to receive the 2005 Sportsmanship Alliance of Massachusetts Interscholastic Massachusetts (SAM) Hockey Award. This award is given annually by the Boston Bruins and the Athletic Association (MIAA) to one individual from every league in the state who best exemplifies what fair play and sportsmanship in high school ice hockey is all about.

The athletic departments schedule can now be viewed on line at www.highschoolsport.net. You can also register to receive an email every time the sport you are interested in has been cancelled and /or postponed.

Weight Room Update

The weight room continues to evolve at GHS. During the February vacation, room 95 was painted, a new rubberized floor was installed, and weight equipment was moved into the room. Coach Kuchieski, Coach Moore, Coach Ryan Suchanek, Coach Gaffigan, and Coach Lovett were assisted by the following students— Jenna Carne, Monica Freeland, Jill Andrews, Richard Vincent, Mark Cadran, Steve Billiel, Casey Dyer, and James Zdanowicz.

A fundraiser, to help build a weight room at GHS, was held on March 16th at 3pm. The double-elimination dodge ball tournament included teams from area towns. Former Red Sox pitcher Bill "Spaceman" Lee made an

appearance to sign autographs and copies of his new book, "Have Glove, will Travel: Adventures of a Baseball Vagabond." If you are interested in donating for this specific project, please contact Mike Kuchieski at the school at (413) 772-1350 extension 127.

TEAM UNITY



The Recorder/Paul Franz is the author of the picture.

Greenfield High School catcher Sean Killeen has his head shaved by Jaime Potter of Chris & Co. Wednesday in Greenfield as his baseball teammates watch and wait their turn. All members of the high-powered Green Wave team have decided to sacrifice their hair in an act of solidarity prior to the Hampshire League wars.

GHS NEWS WAVE TV

By Tom Bevacqua, GHS Teacher

It is a typical morning when I stop at the local gas station for my morning cup of coffee but more importantly, for the morning newspapers. For it is here, among the pages of local news that the wheels start to turn concerning GHS News. The most basic questions are always what stories should we cover and who should be sent to report the story.

In GHS News, we essentially have four groups of students who cover the news. Frequently, the group with the most gas in their car reports on the story that is the farthest away from our home base. However, my ATM card has been used on many occasions to help out a bit. One group in particular is very ambitious and most willing to tackle any story. In fact, quite recently, this group traveled to Whately to cover an alpaca farm then found out that a llama farm existed in Shelburne and off they went to uncover the mysteries of this type of farming.

Must stories are real news items such as covering the fire at Mill House Apartments and the big fire that destroyed a mansion in Ashfield. We have also covered bank robberies, the awful rise in the price of gasoline and fuel oil, and store and restaurant openings. In fact, most recently, GHS News covered the Grand Opening of the new Blue Heron Restaurant in Sunderland and interviewed the owner of Hermes in regard to the implications of bringing more restaurants into Greenfield.

Perhaps the biggest accomplishment to date was reporting on Red Sox Day in Springfield after they won the World Series.

All of this has been made easier through the donations of the Greenfield Alumni Association which allowed us to gear up with three new digital cameras.

So, if you have a Channel One television set in your classroom you can see us live a couple of times per week, that's right live, thanks to Mike Andrews who figured out how to do it.

GHS Radio Club

The GHS Amateur Radio Club is back. Recent repairs to the school's roof and the condition of the old antennas caused the Radio Club to be inactive for the past few years. Now, with the expert guidance of Walt Congdon (W1ZPB) and Bill Boutwell (N1EWK) of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, seven GHS students are studying for the FCC Technician License exam. During the February vacation, FCARC volunteers and GHS Club members, assisted by the Greenfield Fire Department, installed a new HF dipole antenna and a 2-Meter antenna to replace the old antennas that were damaged by roof repair. All components of both antennas were assembled from common components available at local hardware stores. Club members have been testing the radio equipment for several weeks and expect to be transmitting on the 2-Meter Band within the next month. For more information look on the club's web site at www.fcarc.org

Alumni News

PETER CONWAY

Peter Conway (GHS-51) has been coaching at Greenfield High School since 1964. In his first year (1964) of coaching, which was cross-country Running, the team went undefeated, won the Western Mass title and went on to win the State title. During the past 40+ years of coaching, he also coached boys soccer, girls basketball, and track. Over all, his teams set many high school records, have won 10 Western Mass titles and one State title. He is still at it because he enjoys watching athletes, boys and girls, participate, improve and enjoy their sport.

TV Producer

Essie Chambers, Class of 1993, is in charge of the production of "Miracle's Boys", a program on the Noggin channel. The program is based on a novel about three brothers, in Harlem, whose parents have died and their struggle to stay together. Noggin is a commercial-free educational channel dedicated to preschoolers. It is available on digital cable or through satellite. Essie lives in Brooklyn and works in Manhattan. Her mother, Molly Chambers still lives in Greenfield and her father, John, is living in Connecticut. Article source, "Just Plain Neighbors" by Irmarie Jones, The Recorder

Restaurateur

Famous Bill's Restaurant, a downtown landmark, has been purchased by an alumni. Terry Gexler, Class of 1982, and his wife Heidi, have been renovating during the last few weeks. They have added new Tiffany lights, removed the '70's carpet from the walls and installed a plasma TV in the bar. Gexler, said most things would remain, like the layout, the staff and most of the menu. Favorites like the slow-cooked prime rib and the lobster pie, which was featured in a 1974 Ford Times Cookbook, will definitely stay. He has reopened for lunch and has added breakfast and a buffet on the weekends. Bob Auclair's decision to sell the business will end 63 years of Auclair ownership. Bob's father, Joseph "Romeo" Auclair, purchased the business from the original owner, George Goulet. Gexler's father, Michael, worked for Bill's for 42 years in a number of positions including bartender and for many years as maitre d'. Terry started washing dishes when he was 14, then after other jobs returned as a short order cook, busboy and waiter. "This is almost like keeping it in the family", said Auclair. This statement couldn't be more truthful since Terry's son, Zach, a senior at GHS, and his nephew are among the 30-plus employees.

Article source, The Recorder

Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award: GRINSPOON AWARD

Ms. Tara Phelps Cloutier, GHS Graduate-Class of 1988 and Spanish teacher at GHS, was chosen to receive the GRINSPOON AWARD for tremendous impact on children and their community. It is the sponsors' belief that teachers are very important in shaping the lives of children in our society and the community in which we live.. The award dinner will be held at the Log Cabin on May 3 at which time Ms. Cloutier will be presented with a plaque from the Governor's office, \$100 for classroom use, \$500 for personal use, a YMCA membership and a bag of other gifts.

Friends of the Greenfield High School Library

Ann Carr, GHS parent and School Council member organized a Used Book and Bake Sale to benefit the GHS Library that was held in conjunction with the Pottery Seconds sale sponsored by the Arts Council. The money raised will go into the Friends of the Greenfield High School Library fund for purchasing new books and magazine subscriptions. Donations to this fund can be made at any time by making a check payable to Greenfield High School - c/o Susan Ross, Librarian. Special thanks to those who baked and to those who worked.

Book donations to the Greenfield High School library are always welcome. We are especially happy to receive recent paperbacks that are appropriate for teenagers to read or recent non-fiction that can be used for research. If you have questions, call (413) 772-1350 extension 114 or email the librarian, Susan Ross, at sross@gpsk12.org.

Coach Tom Suchanek

by Kyle Belanger

When he sets up shop this spring, Tom Suchanek will be preparing for season No. 33 in the Greenfield High School dugout. And although the way he conducts business at the helm of the Green Wave baseball program may not have changed much in all that time, there will be one major difference on his already-stellar resume: Tom Suchanek will be a Hall of Framer.

With a 431-228 record to his name (that's a .654 winning percentage, if you're keeping score at home), Suchanek is scheduled to be inducted into the Massachusetts High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Feb. 5 at the Sheraton Hyannis Resort on Cape Cod.

The induction is the end result of a process that was jumpstarted in November by Tom Moore, who not only played for Suchanek, but also returned to coach the Greenfield junior varsity team under his former coach for more than a dozen years beginning in the late '70s. "He's about as humble as it gets," Moore said of Suchanek. "But nobody deserves this more than him."

Statistically, Suchanek's year-by-year coaching record reads like a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical -- a whole lotta ups and not too many downs -- with only three losing seasons since he took the reins from Lou Bush in 1973. In fact, before the 2001 Green Wave team went 7-11, Shoo's teams had posted 21 consecutive years over .500 (1980-2000).

His best season came in 1990, when the Wave rolled to a 21-1 mark for a .955 winning percentage. That season was brought to an unsightly conclusion in the Western Mass. Division II finals, when Greenfield's arch-nemesis Drury High School dismissed the Wave, 12-6. The game lasted 3 hours and 3 minutes, but was decided early as the Blue Devils scored eight runs in the second inning.

Of course, few people have taken the lessons taught by Suchanek to a higher level than current Chicago Cubs hopeful and class of 1996 alum Peter Bergeron.

"The one thing I'll always remember is how he never got too high or too low when coaching," Bergeron offered. "You could never tell if we were winning by 10 runs or losing by 10. He acted in a professional manner all the time."

And Bergeron's experience was not an uncommon one under the guidance of Suchanek.

"Quite frankly, not much has changed with Tom all these years," added Doug Welenc, who started playing for Suchanek in 1974 -- Shoo's second year and Welenc's sophomore season. "It doesn't make for good writing, but it's true. What you see has always been what you get with him."

So, when Welenc was cut at the beginning of his third season in the Houston Astros' organization, the choice was clear about who he'd call first.

"After I was released, Tom was the first guy I talked to. I just wasn't ready to hang 'em up yet, and he told me to stick with it. As it turned out, I had some of my best success after that," added Welenc, who then pitched in the Toronto Blue Jays' and Cubs' organizations.

A former Astros' farmhand himself, Suchanek has not only put some of his proteges into the professional ranks, but has also seen more than his share of former players return to coach against him.

Current Frontier skipper Aaron Campbell played under Suchanek from 1990 to 1992, and former Mohawk coach John Hickey ('82-'84) each took the field under Shoo's tutelage, only to eventually don the caps of the opposition in other Hampshire League dugouts.

"Coaching against him is still a thrill, except that I can't beat him,"

Campbell laughed. "Hopefully I can get to him once before he retires, but he runs an A-1 program."

"Those years that I played for him, those were some of the best years of my life," the Hawks chief continued. "We weren't just playing for ourselves and for our school. We were playing for our coach, because we loved to play for him."

As for Hickey, there were certain lessons he learned from Suchanek that he brought to his own Mohawk teams before he hung up his cleats after the 2003 season.

"The one thing I'll never forget is how, when we were down by any amount of runs, we always had to take a strike -- nobody was allowed to swing until the pitcher came to us," the Mohawk AD said.

And so when Hickey brought such a mandate to the Mohawk teams he coached, some of his players were puzzled by the strategy.

"But the thing with Suchanek is that his strategies work. You can come in as prepared as possible to play Tom's teams, but chances are good that they're going to be more prepared," Hickey continued. "That's just the way it is."

"Heck, half of the things I still say to my athletes, I can still hear them coming straight from Suchanek's mouth," he finished. Only one difference now: That's a Hall of Fame mouth.

Tickets for the induction ceremony are \$25 and available by calling Moore at 413-773-7745. And, heck, if you're planning to make a night out of it, Moore says the Sheraton is offering a discount to those attending. Kyle Belanger is a Recorder sportswriter. He can be reached at kbelanger@recorder.com.

Article source, Kyle Belanger/The Recorder

Surprise Visitor

On Monday, April 11, Nancy Walsh, a 1983 graduate of Greenfield High School, visited Barry McColgan's Senior English AP class. The purpose of her visit to GHS was to turn in her "Wall of Honor" information and when asked by Betty Nee if she would visit Barry's class she was delighted. She talked briefly with students about her career as a professional actress, which was started and nurtured at GHS. Ms. Walsh told of attending college on a music scholarship, and how the theater became more important (she "didn't want to sit alone in a room with a metronome for hours"). She told of the hard work and pleasure of being a founder and producer of The New York International Fringe Festival, from 1992-2001. She made us all envious of the travel involved with her acting. She's leaving soon for the United Kingdom for five weeks. And suggested to students that they follow their dreams and go after what they really love to do. She was accompanied by her husband and partner, John Clancy, who talked about life in NYC and their vision of what theater in meant to ne and do. The class enjoyed the visit and I think they heard that real success is gained by persistence and determination, as well as talent and skill. It was a pleasure to meet this wonderfully accomplished graduate of Greenfield High School.

Greenfield High School Alumni Association

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