



GREENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Semi-Annual Newsletter – fall 2006

Greenfield High School Alumni Association Mission Statement

The GHSAA was organized in October of 2001 to find ways to enhance the educational experience offered at Greenfield High School and to create a family of GHS alumni and friends of public education. We will work to increase awareness of the achievements and activities of alumni and present GHS students. We will maintain an association of graduates and create connections to our local community to develop financial support. We accept donations, gifts, endowments and bequests so we may foster improvements in the programs offered in three areas: technology, academics and athletics. We are volunteers dedicated to enhancing the education offered at GHS.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The GHSAA celebrates over five years of service to public education in Greenfield. We have helped organize reunions, increase awareness of the various achievements of alumni and GHS students, purchased athletic equipment, books, research materials, digital cameras, received donations such as library furniture and are beginning to receive matching donations from corporations. We continue to build our database of pictures, stories, and friends of GHS.

It is a great feeling to know that so many cherish the time they had at GHS, even though our high school experience had its challenges, we certainly had opportunity to learn, make friends and obtain skills we would need in later endeavors.

Certainly, each student needs to prepare and make their own way, yet if we want young people to follow our lead, then we must show that adults find solutions, create better opportunities, take action to resolve complicated problems and make difficult issues simpler to understand. We can be proud of our efforts to improve the future for the present students.

As an organization we try to help find ways to enhance the quality of the education offered at GHS, and maintain the appreciation for the good memories many of us shared. For instance, before the county technical school opened its doors, vocational technology was taught daily at GHS. The "learning as one was doing" method was quite successful in helping students take on the challenges of academia.

So, we are working on completing projects such as the installation of a remote controlled electric scoreboard at the Veterans Memorial Field softball diamond. **Generous donations from the class of 2005 and Dillon Chevrolet have made this possible.**

The Greenfield DPW will complete the dig safe process and then dig the hole for the foundation. GHS Industrial Arts teacher – Mark Leonard has been coordinating and instructing his students to help complete the pouring of the cement, stabilizing the two girders, and then attaching the scoreboard to the girders. The GHSAA hopes to complete the permit process soon and be able to use the backside of the scoreboard (facing Barr Avenue) for advertising space, as a way to raise funds for GHS athletics.

This project is an example of several town departments working together to create a learning opportunity for GHS students. That is what the GHSAA is all about, getting things done by doing the groundwork behind the scenes.

Regards,
Steven H Lepore, GHSAA - President

GHS GIFT FUND PURCHASES

The GHSAA has made the following purchases for the high school:

3/30/05	Books for the English Department	\$ 850.00
5/27/05	Materials on Alternative Energy for Library and Science	1,000.00
6/23/05	Weight Equipment for New Weight Room	850.00
10/24/05	Technology/Tools for New Carpentry and CAD Program	2,400.00
1/31/06	Donation to Music Department from a Class Reunion	1,000.00
1/31/06	Scientific Calculators for the Science Department	1,000.00
1/31/06	Library Books – Donation from Class of 1955	469.00
10/17/06	Camcorder for GHS News	359.00
10/17/06	Clay for Art/Pottery Classes	<u>250.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 8,178.00

Two of our graduates have contributed funds that have been matched by their employers.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

There is a new Tax Free Charitable Contributions from IRA's that was signed into law on August 17, 2006 by the President for charitable gifts from donors who are 70 ½ years of age or older. These donors can make lifetime gifts using funds from an IRA without adverse tax consequences. This means you can contribute funds to charitable organizations such as the GHS Alumni Association from your IRA tax free if:

- You are 70 ½ or older
- Funds are transferred directly from an IRA
- The gift is \$100,000 or LESS per year
- You make the gift on or before 12/31/07

Before this legislation, all donations from an IRA were taxed as ordinary income when withdrawn from the IRA and limited as a charitable deduction of 50% of adjusted gross income. If you qualify under the new law, no taxes are assessed on the IRA transfer and donations of up to \$100,000 per year may be made. The legislation is in effect for two years so a donation for \$100,000 may be made in 2006 and 2007. The legislation was introduced for a trial period and may be extended prior to expiration. When making any charitable contributions, it is a good idea to consult your tax advisor. To make the contribution, contact the GHS Alumni Association for wire instructions and then contact your IRA Custodian to make the direct transfer. You should note that in order to qualify, funds must be transferred directly from an IRA to a charitable organization. For any clarification of the above material, e-mail questions to Deb Deskavich@aol.com.

GHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The GHSAA held its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 14 in the Faculty Lounge at the high school at 6:30 p.m. All GHS Graduates were welcome to attend. Re-election of officers took place. The listing of officers is: Steven Lepore, President; Cindi Bompastore; Vice-President, Joe Lemay, Treasurer; Deb Deskavach, Secretary; Dic Fournier, Douglas Mahon, Paul McDonald, Betty Nee, John W. Spencer, Bill Smith and Linda Smith are Members of the Board of Directors. John W. Spencer is also Website Manger. We are in need of additional members for the Board of Directors. If you are interested, please let us know. Monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Teen Center Building on Sanderson Street, Greenfield. We try hard not to run the meeting beyond 8 p.m.

If you would like to join the GHSAA, membership dues are \$20 annually from November to November. Five-Year Membership is \$80, Ten-Year Membership is \$150 and Lifetime Membership is \$200. The above memberships are discounted 50% for senior citizens (60+) and graduates attending schools of high learning. Call Betty at 413-772-1350 Ext. 111 for a membership form.

GHSAA Wall of Honor

The next time you are in the high school check out the 19 pictures of graduates that are hanging in the corridor between the Main Office and the Library. They are:

John Bednarski	1945	Architect/Designer of the present Greenfield High School
Robert Bitzer	1945	Post Office worker for 44 years
John P. Nee, Sr.	1949	Elementary School Custodian
Betty Spencer Nee	1952	HS Principal's Secretary and Full-time Volunteer
Paul McDonald	1958	Chief Probation Officer
Rose-Marie Alex Bassett	1959	HS Paraprofessional
William F. Bassett, Jr.	1959	HS Art Teacher, HS Assistant Principal and HS Principal
Edward "Skip" Hammond	1959	Founder of GBI Marketing
Cheryl Harvey Misch	1966	HS History Teacher
Dean Tatro	1969	Business Owner/New Zealand
Christian Jacobs	1972	HS History Teacher
Donna Woodcock	1976	HS Athletic Director and Acting Assistant Principal
Lisa Facey Moore	1981	HS Phys.Ed./Health Teacher, Key Club Advisor
Michael Kuchieski	1984	HS Phys. Ed. Teacher, Varsity Football Coach
Tara Phelps Cloutier	1988	HS Spanish Teacher, Yearbook Advisor, Advisor-Class of 2010
Timothy Farrell	1989	F.W.Farrell Insurance Agency, City Council Chair
Patrick Garland	1989	HS English Teacher, Advisor to Exponent
Kenneth Fortin	1990	HS Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Principal
Angela DeSanty Mass	1995	HS Math Teacher, Co-Advisor to Student Council

Mr. Barry McColgan contributed much time to this program from the beginning. Since he plans to retire in the near future, he requested that someone else take it over. Mr. Garland came forward. He has completed six picture frames and says he has a number of candidates he hopes to have up on the walls by Thanksgiving. If you know a graduate who has been out of high school ten or more years and who would like to be part of this program, pick up an application form from Betty at the high school office or call her at 413-772-1350 Ext. 111 and she will be glad to mail the form.

CARL "UMP" NICHOLS GOLF CLASSIC

The Carl "Ump" Nichols Golf Classic was held October 14th. 52 golfers participated and I'm sure a good time was had by all. The winners of the tournament were Tim Farrell, Brodie Conant, Scot Cote, and Tom Bresciano; all alumni. The "Spaceman" Bill Lee from the Boston Red Sox was on hand to sign autographs and told some great stories from his playing days. The "real" winners are the student-athletes. \$2,500 was raised from the tournament of which \$500 will go into a scholarship in "Ump's" name for a graduating football player going on to play football in college. The other \$2,000 is going towards new uniforms. This amount is a little less than half-way there to paying for the uniforms. We are hoping to wear new uniforms on Thanksgiving Day. If anyone would like to make a donation towards the uniform drive, please make your check out to GHS Football and send it to GHS, 1 Lenox Ave., Greenfield, MA 01301 in care of Mike Kuchieski – mickuc1@gpsk12.org.

ATHLETIC NEWS

The Athletic Department's Schedule can now be viewed on line at www.highschoolsport.net. You can also register to receive an e-mail every time the sport you are interested in has been cancelled and/or postponed.

All winter sports started on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27.**

SUPERINTENDENT ELECTS STAR STUDENT

Superintendent of Schools, Joseph Ruscio III's choice for this year's award is Rachel Darling who currently ranked first of 116 students in the Class of 2007. Rachel would like to major in mathematics or engineering. She has made the honor roll all years, is a member of the National Honor Society and is this year's president. Her extra-curricular activities include girls track and cross-country teams,

marching band and concert band. On Friday, November 3rd, she was one of 10 members of the high school concert band chosen to play a song with the US Army Field Band at their concert at GHS. Her parents are Roy (class of 1972) and Sarah Darling.

WAVE TV AT GCTV

It was a great field trip that started off at Denny's on Bernardston Road in Greenfield. The GHS News teams felt that breakfast would be a terrific start to what would turn out to be a long but totally worthwhile trip to GCTV on Main Street. So, with a full stomach, we were ready to head south to the studio. The class was divided up into groups for the sole purpose of learning how to use their equipment so that GHS News can broadcast newscasts across Franklin County. Director, Terri Capucci arranged the day so that each student would learn how to use studio cameras, light the set, work the control room and put together a telecast. Three of our students, Austin Ordoyno, Laura Burt and Mark Dore took control and performed as the Director of the newscast. They learned real fast how hard it is to get everyone's attention and get down to business. The anchors included Brandie Simmonds, Tim Dore, Teresa Canuel, Chris Lemay, Jess Paulin and Joe Hudson. Each student was given a news story to read as it was being taped for critique purposes. The Greenfield Recorder stopped by to do a story on the class and interviewed several students about their expectations later in the year and after graduation. If everything goes on schedule, GHS News could be on the air on GCTV by Thanksgiving. Of course, this means broadcasting across Franklin County. We would like to give THANKS to the Greenfield High School Alumni Association for their past gifts of cameras and technology and the just purchased DVD Camcorder with a 26x Optical Zoom lens to supplement this class. The Instructor is Tom Bevacqua; tombev1@gpsk12.org

GHS ART DEPARTMENT

The GHS Art Department is putting out a call for supplies to help with many projects they have planned for this school year. If you have magazines such as National Geographic, Sports Illustrated, Outdoors and Hunting and Teen magazines, fabric scraps, buttons, yarn, cord, string, beads, felt, paper, masking tape, gel pens, glitter pens, metallic pens, etc. If you have brushes, clay, glazes, or just about any type of art materials hanging around that you no longer have need for, we would love to take them off your hands and put them to good use. You can simply drop them off in the Main Office marked for "ART DEPARTMENT". Remember, one person's garbage is another person's treasure!

Thanks, Deborah Prondecki, debpro1@gpsk12.org.

NEWS ABOUT AND/OR FROM GRADUATES

The following graduates may be planning Class Reunions in 2007.

5 years = Class of 2002	30 years = Class of 1977	55 years = Class of 1952
10 years = Class of 1997	35 years = Class of 1972	60 years = Class of 1947
15 years = Class of 1992	40 years = Class of 1967	65 years = Class of 1942
20 years = Class of 1987	45 years = Class of 1962	70 years = Class of 1937
25 years = Class of 1982	50 years = Class of 1957	75 years = Class of 1932

If the Reunion Committees for any of the above classes would like to put their information on file at the high school, we would be very glad to pass it on to anyone who may call concerning a "get-together".

Reunion Planned for Class of 1993. The Class of 1993 would like to make contact with its classmates to see if they would like to have a 15th Reunion in 2008. Information and present addresses should be passed on to Bethany Cole Funari at bfunari@comcast.net.

Reunion Planned for Class of 1977. The class of 1977 will celebrate its thirtieth reunion in 2007. Plans are still under discussion. A recent survey of classmates determined that there is much interest in a summertime picnic-type event, with hopes that the GHS Alumni Association can assist in pulling it together. If you are a member of the class of 1977 and have not already received an e-mail asking about your reunion preferences, please get in touch with the organizers. The e-mail address to use is gfld1977@yahoo.com.

Robin Bitters, Class of 1977 writes - - Hello to all classmates. I'm still living in Vermont, working as the Assistant Dean for Operations at SIT Study Abroad. This keeps me more than challenged. I've been married for the past 16 years. My husband has just finished a master's degree at UVM and is now at UMass Amherst pursuing a Ph.D. I don't make it to Greenfield much but I'm always happy to hear from classmates at rebitters@yahoo.com.

Mariette Roy Izold, Class of 1958, would also like to hear from classmates and friends. Her e-mail address is FLOMARIZ@peoplepc.com.

Chris Kingsley, Class of 1985, has been named the head trainer of the Los Angeles Kings hockey team. Chris says that this was something he always dreamed about. There are only 30 jobs available at this level and he plans to make the most of this opportunity. Congratulations to Chris.

Todd McDonald, Class of 1992, was recently named Director of Athletic Marketing at the University of Massachusetts. The former GHS hockey goalie previously worked for the Connecticut Sun of the WNBA. Prior to that, he worked in premium ticket sales for the Red Sox. We hear he is happy to be back in the program he grew up with. He will be responsible for increasing attendance and awareness of the school's 23 interscholastic athletic teams.

Travis LeDoyt, Class of 1995, touted as the world's best young Elvis, returned to GHS on December 1st and 2nd to headline two benefit concerts. Proceeds from these concerts will benefit the GHS Music Department. The show titled, "Jingle House Rock" was a recreation of a classic Christmas variety show from the "50's". On Sunday, December 3rd, Travis performed his "Peace in the Valley" gospel concert at the Second Congregational Church. All three performances were very well attended.

Lost Yearbooks

Two classmates have lost their yearbooks. If you should have or find an extra copy of the GHS 1961 and/or 1964 books, please call Betty Nee at GHS (413-772-1350 Ext. 111).

BonusBucks

The Stop & Shop BonusBucks program is your chance to help local schools give our kids the best possible start in life – just by using your Stop & Shop card. Play your part and together we can make a difference.

Designate your schools: Simply go to the Customer Service Desk at any Stop & Shop store or go to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to designate up to three schools.



2006 GREEN WAVE

Thank You for
Your Support

Personal Profile: Rachel Colby - 2005 Graduate

Rachel is one of the rare student-athletes today, three sports in high school and now plays two sports in college while pursuing a degree in nursing. She lettered in basketball (2 yrs), track (3yrs) and soccer (4yrs); she won Western Massachusetts titles in track - javelin and as a member of the 4x100 relay team. Rachel is now excelling in soccer at Holyoke Community College (HCC), leading the team in scoring in 2005 from her attacking center midfielder (ACM) position, 12 goals and 7 assists for 31 points. She was named to the All New England team, and nominated for All-American. Her team lost in the New England regional finals to Springfield Technical Community College - which went on to win the National title for Division III NJCAA schools. Her coach, Rob Galazka, describes Rachel as the premier type player, speed, skills, great attitude, total team player, and very humble about her performance and achievements.



She has increased her scoring in 2006, setting four records at HCC:

1. single season points: 17 goals, 19 assists for 53 points (2006)
2. All time points: 29 goals, 26 assists for 84 points, (Previous record was 62 pts)
- 3.. Most assists in a season (19) and in a career (26).

For her efforts in 2006 she was named the NJCAA Div III Women's soccer player of the week. A national award. For a local player; she finished 12th in scoring (nationally) and HCC won the New England regional title for the first time ever. Her career ended when Oxford Community College from Georgia defeated HCC 2-0 in the National tournament. Rachel credits her success to her parents and their motto: "Do the best you can, we care about you no matter what". Their unconditional support went beyond words, as they traveled to many games in her career at HCC. For all those young soccer enthusiasts she recommends her favorite skill exercise: two players, one tosses the ball underhand to the 2nd player - who volleys (kicks) the ball out of the air back to their teammate, the player tossing the ball varies the height and angles of the tosses. The player kicking the ball uses the instep (laces area of their cleat), the inside of the foot and the outside of the foot and sometimes juggles the ball a few times before passing back. Rachel says, "It's a great way to get ready ..." Rachel's other favorites include: dark green, #7, any song by Shania Twain, cheese pizza and most kinds of ice cream. No time for this scholar athlete to rest, as she catches up on her studies, basketball practice has already started and she hopes to play one more season of college sports. A long career in soccer that started with local youth clinics, Pioneer Valley/Maple league teams, a few UMass camps, GHS Varsity and that now is complete with a record setting year at HCC. Congratulations Rachel on all your accomplishments.



Greenfield reigns in Division II WAVE: Seniors are super

By **MIKE BOGEN** mbogen@repub.com
The Republican 11 November 2006

WESTFIELD - Give credit where credit is due - to The Republican?

"None of our players were in the top seven (Super 7) in The Republican before the season, and that was motivation for every one of our games," said Greenfield High School coach Erin Thayer, whose team last night won the Western Massachusetts Division II field hockey championship, 2-0 over Smith Academy, at Westfield State College's Alumni Field.

"I thought we had several great candidates (for the Super 7) ... Shannon Brady, Brandie Simmonds, Becca Festinger, and others," said Thayer, a veteran of the Greenfield program, but the Green Wave's first year varsity coach. "If I didn't bring it up every game, they (the players) did - especially before our bigger games."

Indeed, this was one of Greenfield's bigger games, and the Green Wave had more motivation than just a newspaper graphic. They also had 14 seniors, 13 of whom had been on varsity through a penalty stroke, three-overtime loss to Smith Academy in the- 2003 semifinals, and losses to Frontier Regional in the 2004 and 2005 championship games.

Last night, all that motivation translated to a fast start, culminating in a goal by Emily Widdison seven minutes into the game, and Greenfield captured its first sectional crown since it garnered back-to-back titles in 2001 and 2002.

Widdison's goal came off the game's first penalty' Corner, when the sophomore blasted a shot from seven yards out that skipped past Smith Academy goalkeeper Meg Moriarty, who had come out, but was unable to react quickly enough to her right.

It was Widdison's 11th goal of the season, tops on the Green Wave.

The rest of the half, the play tended to be between the 30 yard lines, with Smith getting the game's next comer 10 minutes later, and doing little with it.

Greenfield had two more corners in the half, and on one, with 3: 13 left, Moriarty was outstanding. The 'senior kicked away a rocket by Brady, and then turned away the shot by Widdison on the rebound.

Brady scored the goal that made the Falcons' task almost impossible with 6:02 left in the game, on a gorgeous penalty comer play. Simmonds took the comer and passed to Kara Widdison, who brought the ball to a dead stop for Brady. The senior beat Moriarty to the short side of the goal.

"Our defense and passing game were our strengths, and they're things we've been talking about all week," Thayer said. "All 11 of them played as a team."

"Shannon has been my rock all season and Becca, on defense. They both played exceptional games tonight," she said. "I also thought my forwards' passing game was outstanding.

"I really don't think we could have played much better, Smith Coach Sherry Webb said "We had chances in the circle, they had chances in the circle, and they finished and we didn't."I'm not sad because we played poorly,

I'm sad because this is over. This group really has refreshed my love of coaching."



The Republican Staff photo by MARLA Pinsky

The Greenfield High School field hockey team celebrates its Western Massachusetts Division II championship last night at Westfield State College. The Green Wave topped Smith Academy 2-0 to win their first title since 2002

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