

Foothiller Museum and Alumni News

August 2020

100th Anniversary Celebration Postponed



Since there is a recommended limit of 10 people for gatherings in San Diego County, it is impossible to plan a fall gathering to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. All fall sports are delayed until December and learning will be online indefinitely. The celebration planned for October 16th and 17th has been postponed until 2021 and until it is safe for the Foothiller community to gather.

Perhaps, we can plan something in spring 2021, but the celebration may even be held in the fall of 2021. As we all know, this pandemic has “thrown us all off track”. However, we look forward to seeing you at the 100th Anniversary Celebration, whenever it is held! Our plans will remain the same as in the previous newsletter for the events held on campus during those days.

We still hope to play the Sweetwater HS vs GHS Football game to celebrate a historic rivalry with the “Sweeties”, a 41 year consecutive game rivalry from 1920-1961. In 1920, GHS’s first football game was against Sweetwater HS. Football coach Tom Karlo, Class of 1992, recently shared with us, “Right now football will just shift to January 8th as our 1st game, which would be Sweetwater.” Let’s keep the thought, right?

A Historic 2020 Graduation



**Masked Gus Created by Carolyn Jungman,
GHS Photography Teacher, Class of 2010**

At the beginning of the video graduation ceremony, Principal Dan Barnes reflected on this historic moment: “Grossmont perseverance has been around for 99 years since the Spanish Influenza first hit our country. Our alumni have fought and died in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and more recently wars in the Middle East. Fifteen of our students and one teacher were sent to Japanese Internment Camps during WWII. Many survived the Great Depression.

Later in the ceremony Dan shared, “Certainly this has been one of the most challenging years in a long time for our nation, our school, our community, and this senior class, one that will never be forgotten by us. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” You, the Class of 2020, will go on, you and your families have all faced disappointments, especially this spring, but we will soon see...that it was a finite moment that does not define who you are as an individual or as a class. Never give up that infinite hope. Continue to seek opportunities to change for the better, grow in knowledge and skill, and create a society that we can all be proud of...and then...let that, define who you are.”

These are words we all can take to heart in these troubling times. To learn more about this year’s graduation and the many efforts of the staff to celebrate this year’s seniors, read our “Foothiller Footsteps” column at

www.foothillermuseum.com/museum-news/379-july-2020-a-historic-graduation-ceremony

Passing of Beloved GHS Staff

Passing of Biology Teacher “Jerry” Sanders, Sr.

El Capitan HS 1959-1960

GHS 1960-1968

Jerry taught English, Math, and Social Studies at El Capitan in 59-60 for its opening year. Then Superintendent John Warburton and Principal Walter Barnett hired him in 1960 to teach Biology at Grossmont High School.

Jerry left Grossmont in 1968 to teach at SDSU 1968-1975. (Funny aside from Jerry’s daughter Cheryl: they had to bring him in as an Associate Professor so that they could meet the salary he had at GHS!) During those years, Jerry authored major college textbooks with Scott Foresman Publishers and mentored future biology teachers.

He also taught Biology and Environmental Science at Grossmont College 1976-1991 as an adjunct teacher while he continued working on textbooks and taught one semester in 1971 for San Diego City College Minority Education Biology.

www.legacy.com/obituaries/sandiegouniontribune/obituary.aspx?n=gerald-paul-sanders&pid=196371453

Bobbye King, Girls PE Attendant, est. 1980-1999

Bobbye died quite suddenly in July 2020. Her daughter shared with us “how much Bobbye loved her job at GHS and the people and the students she worked with.”

A Look Back to the 1920’s

Fans of the 2019-2020 amazing San Diego State Men’s Basketball team may have noticed during a spring TV broadcast a startling detail about the undefeated 1926-1927 Non-Conference Aztec Men’s Basketball Season. “SDS was looking for teams to play.” The Grossmont Union High School Alumni team was one of the 4 teams the Aztecs played.

Foothillers were, and are, everywhere. Here is a photo of the 1925-1926 team playing basketball on dirt courts with a car in the background. Until the 1937 Old Gym was built, basketball games were held on what is now the upper quad with bleachers beside the court.



Foothillers in the News

Guitar Program

GHS Guitar teacher Jeremy Cooke, Class of 1995, needs our help in his quest to “get Foothillers strumming their guitars”. Having only one class set of guitars, Jeremy reached out to the San Diego community this summer for donations of guitars for students to use at home. He has received more than 80 guitars so far, but welcomes donations of used guitars or financial donations to purchase new guitars or needed supplies.

Please take few minutes to read about Jeremy’s quest!

www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/story/2020-07-29/local-high-school-music-teacher-seeking-guitars-for-students

Needs: Strings \$700; Tuners \$1200; Battery \$50; String Winders/Cutters \$400
Total of \$2350.

Contact Jeremy Cooke at jcooke@guhds.net for information.



Some of the Donated Guitars

Jim Nichols Reel to Reel Audio Tapes CD's Available Now

We have begun transferring some of the tapes to cd's. 6 are now available.
Order information is on the attached flyer.

March 4, 1966 Poway Concert Band
March 25, 1966 Fontana Festival Grossmont High Band
1968 Miami Orange Bowl Grossmont Stadium Pick-up
April 19, 1969 Grossmont High
1970 Spring Concert Side II Stage Band
1972 Christmas Pageant Orchestra Rehearsal

GHS Historic Campus

Three of our most recent *La Mesa Courier* newspaper columns discussed the historic features on campus which celebrate our history and the staff who are lovingly remembered for their contributions. All of our “Foothiller Footsteps” columns for the past 8 years are found on our GHS Museum and Alumni website (foothillermuseum.com), but here are the links to these specific columns. We thank all of you who made donations, large and small, to create or to restore these historic features of our history.

Historic Outdoor Plaques and Symbols on Campus

foothillermuseum.com/museum-news/375-may-2020-historic-plaques-and-symbols-on-campus

Historic 1922 Clock and Indoor Plaques

foothillermuseum.com/museum-news/376-june-2020-historic-clock-and-indoor-plaques

Memorable Teachers Plaques

foothillermuseum.com/museum-news/383-august-2020-memorable-teacher-plaques



**Thank you to Bill Woolman, Class of 1962
for our wonderful new sign, installed on August 5th!**

New GHS Museum

Last week, 27 new showcases were delivered to the new museum site. We are grateful for those of you who have supported our efforts to create this amazing space to celebrate the experiences and the values Foothillers treasure.

We continue to plan the museum layout as well as the design of cabinets and shelving on the east wall. This week we're moving furniture into the museum which has been stored elsewhere on campus or at our home. Eventually, the display cases in the current museum will be moved as well, once they are empty. The original 1922 iconic entry doors to the “Castle” will be displayed in the museum as well as other artifacts we saved when the district office was renovated.

Within a few weeks, we will begin to move our displays, one decade at a time. This will take us several months to complete.

Final Thoughts

As some of you know, our wonderful Alumni Director, Paul Miller, Class of 1966, and his wife Donna Miller, Class of 1970, are relocating to North Carolina. For those of you who have been with us on our journey for the past 13 years, you will remember that Paul was responsible for creating our first alumni website and spent hundreds of hours entering alumni email addresses and then hundreds of "Alumni in Memoriam" names. Without Paul, we would not have more than 3000 alumni with whom we share our news via email. We will miss Paul and Donna, but know we now have a "Foothiller outpost" on the East Coast, where Paul will continue as our GHS Alumni Director. Contact Paul at FoothillerAlumni@gmail.com or via the alumni pages on our website at www.foothillermuseum.com/alumni-home.

In these uncertain times, we know that it's important to focus on positive experiences each day. We are grateful for the continued support and caring we receive from our Foothiller community, alumni, retired staff, and students.

Take care of yourselves,
Connie and Lynn and Paul

