

2023 Harrington Alumni Association Newsletter

Hello Harrington Alumni,

It is a great privilege and honor to write to you on behalf of the Harrington Alumni Association. In conversation with graduates of Harrington High School, I am struck by the shared sense of experience and warmth we have for the community and the school that shaped us into who we are today. As an association, we hope to learn more about you—whether you are living in Harrington and farming on land that has been passed down from generations, wrapping up your second semester of college, living in a different state or country, retired in Arizona....the possibilities are endless. We want to feature the stories of our alumni through social media and in future iterations of this newsletter to highlight the life updates and great things graduates of our community are up to. Visit <https://forms.gle/Zz3azXoQPHe3D9XFA> or visit through the QR code below to share with us—we want to hear from you!:



We also want to encourage you to attend our virtual alumni meetings. We hold 4 to 5 each year, and greatly enjoy hearing new voices and perspectives. They usually run just under two hours, and start at 7:00 PM PST. Visit the form above or email us at harringtonwaalum@gmail.com, and we will be sure to include you in the next meeting invitation. You can also stay engaged through Facebook and Instagram.

It was a real treat to visit Harrington for my 20 year class reunion, and I encourage you to visit the town—you may be surprised what has, and has not, changed since you were last there.

Wishing you all my best,

Nathan Fitzpatrick'02
Alumni President



Alumni Thank You

To the left is the Buddy Bench donated in memory of Kathi Meyer Thompson by the alumni and her family. The bench is located in the new elementary playground in front of the Harrington elementary. Pictured L to R are: Kade Roller, Vicki Knapp, Brody Hendrickson and Jim Knapp. Thank you to all that contributed to the bench in memory of Kathi.



Class of 1953

Clockwise, Upper L to R: Darrel Vanier, Raymond Whiteside, Janet McDonald, Greg Knapp, Janet McCormick, Larry Bailey, Mildred Layton and Norman Sieverson

For all the latest information about the 2023 Fall Festival or all the new businesses in town, please check out the Harrington Chamber of Commerce at: <https://harringtonbiz.com> or follow them on Facebook or Instagram.



Class of 1963

Clockwise, Upper L to R: Betty Aldridge, Susan Edmundson, William Parr, Janis Schultz, Janet Loeffelbein, Brudeanna Watson, Ray Timm, Howard Manke, Lavonne Rodenbough, Larry Kloster, Diane Hardy and Karen Kaputa.

Class of 1973

Top Row, L to R: Marlis Houck, Jon Stafford, Jeff Zicha, Debby Zundel, Alan Thiemens and Tim Sewall. Second Row, L to R: Rita Schultz, Judy McCartney, Renee Heimbigner and Doug Mielke. Bottom Row, L to R: Terry Anderson, Richard Cox, Dewey Jarrett, Mike Christianson, Dale Maurer, Bill Becker and Greg Bowman.



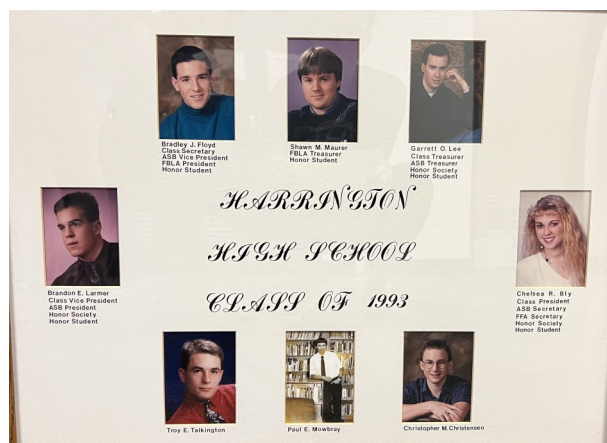
Class of 1983

Top Row, L to R: John Tyrrell, Tom Sanders, Colleen Porter, Kristina Fandry, Conrad Harder and Mike Herron. Second Row, L to R: Craig Sweet, Carolyn Cameron, Melissa Novotney and Eric Gilliland. Third Row, L to R: Mark Gossett, Lori Hoffman, Sandy Richardson, Jolene Anderson and Craig Matthews.



Class of 1993

Clockwise, Upper L to R: Brad Floyd, Shawn Maurer, Garrett Lee, Chelsea Bly, Chris Christensen, Paul Mowbray, Troy Talkington and Brandon Larmer.



HHS Alumni who passed in 2022-2023

May they rest in peace

(*previously not reported in newsletter)

44 Walt Saurer*
 46 Donna Turner Carpy
 49 Louise Kubota Oda*
 51 Francis Zundel Elam
 60 Donald Bischoff
 66 Kathi Meyer Thompson*
 Teacher Gary Tollefsen



Class of 2003

Clockwise, Upper L to R: Amanda Timm, Jerod Warner, Cameron Caroline Teel, Christopher Bailey, Michelle WagnerPutney, Lindsay Simon, Sarah Oestreich, Jordan Wagner and Jacob Adams.

Harrington Elementary students getting cooled off by volunteer firefighters, Jordan Wagner '03 and Lance Wagner '02 at their school field day on June 9, 2023. The students loved it!



Alumni Spotlight on Edward Benzel, HHS Class off 1967

EDWARD C. BENZEL graduated from Harrington High School in 1967. He obtained a Chemical Engineering degree from WSU in 1971 and then attended the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) where he began a surgery internship in 1975, a neurosurgery residency and subsequent spine fellowship.

In the fall of 1981, Dr. Benzel moved his family to Shreveport, Louisiana, to assume an academic position at Louisiana State University where he became Chief of the Division of Neurosurgery. After eight years of substantial clinical activity, as well as clinical and laboratory research activity at LSU, he and his family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he took the position of Chief of the Division of Neurosurgery at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. During his tenure at UNM, he initiated a highly successful spine fellowship (1991). A neurosurgery training program at UNM followed, which was accredited in 1993 - all under his direction. After 10 years at the helm of the Division of Neurosurgery at UNM, Dr Benzel relocated to Cleveland, Ohio. There, he assumed the position of Director of Spinal Disorders at Cleveland Clinic, heading a multidisciplinary spine care and research team. Soon thereafter, he became the neurosurgery program director. In September 2007, he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Cleveland Clinic. He has moved on to become Emeritus Chairman and Director of Career Development for the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute, assisting the Institute and neurosurgery chairs in their ongoing quest for excellence in all domains (clinical, education, and research). In these capacities, he has assumed an overarching mentorship and guidance role, while maintaining a busy clinical practice that focuses on complex cervical spine pathologies and spine and spinal cord tumors.

Dr. Benzel's major clinical and research interests have embraced many aspects of neurosurgery but have focused on spinal disorders. He has published nearly 400 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 400 book chapters, and edited 28 books. Dr. Benzel single-authored the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd editions of the textbook entitled "Biomechanics of Spine Stabilization". In addition, four Editions of Benzel's "Spine Surgery: Techniques, Complications, Avoidance and Management" are highlights of his publication endeavors.

He has received numerous awards in recognition of his work in Spinal Surgery including the Honoree of the 13th Brazilian Congress of Spine Surgery for "Outstanding Contribution to Medical Science Worldwide" Sao Paulo Brazil, February 2013.

Dr Benzel and his wife Mary have been married for 46 years and have 4 boys who are now grown. They have 6 grandchildren. Their hope for the "retirement" years are continued Neurosurgery teaching, research, and mentoring, traveling, and having lots of time for family get-togethers



Class of 2013

Clockwise top L to R: Lexie Hirst, Jake Tanke, Stetson Sanford, Bo Gunning, Ashley Baarstad, Melissa Sue Bragg, Allycia Erickson, Gabe Henneman and Ricky Hedreen.



Above are a couple of candid photos from our social media pages. **Please check out our Harrington Alumni page on Facebook and Instagram for the latest information on Fall Festival and alumni events.** Top left, alumni Joe Cronrath '12 teaching Mr. Larmer's 5th/6th graders about his job with the Kalispell tribe. Top right, elementary students learning at the Mobius Discovery Center STEM camp this summer at the school.

Reminder, if you are part of an honored class (1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003 and 2013) you will be honored during the Fall Festival parade. The parade begins at 11:00 and also at the gathering area on the SW corner of the Harrington city park after the parade. Email harringtonwaalum@gmail.com with any questions.

Class of 2023

The Harrington Class of 2023 held their graduation commencement on Friday, June 2nd. Those graduating from L to R are: Alaina Parker, Allie Crawford, Annika Walters, Karter Brown, Ethan Graving and Taleaha Quesada. Karter was awarded a \$1500 alumni scholarship. She will be headed to Gonzaga University in the fall. Congratulations Class of 2023!



2023 Continuing Education Scholarship Recipients

Caroline Slack '22 - Caroline just finished her first year at Gonzaga University. Caroline loved her first year at Gonzaga. **What has been something that surprised you about college?** She was pleasantly surprised that during her first year there was enough time in the day to get everything done. After all of her class work, Caroline still had time to herself. **She was also asked if she thought high school prepared her for Gonzaga?** She said "YES! Even if I don't use $y=mx+B$ daily, I felt that I was well prepared for college after graduation." Have a great sophomore year Caroline!

Kate Bouchard '11— Kate has just completed her first year of veterinary school at WSU. **What made you want to go into veterinary medicine?** My lifelong love for *all* animals, along with my desire to work in unexpected situations and under pressure, ultimately propelled me into my wildlife rehabilitation career following my undergraduate schooling at UW. After years of practicing medicine as a state licensed wildlife rehabilitator, I decided to pursue veterinary school so that I could better serve native wildlife and the good samaritans who come across these animals on a day to day basis. I ultimately want to position my career in such a way that I can be an advocate for underrepresented species here in the Pacific Northwest.

How does this scholarship help you? I am very thankful to be receiving this scholarship and will be using some of these funds to purchase a new tablet for schoolwork/notetaking and the rest will be going towards tuition. At this point in time, I plan to apply for a veterinary internship the year following graduation with the hopes of then entering into a residency program to eventually become a board certified emergency veterinarian. These funds will ease my overall debt going into these post-schooling specialty programs which then will contribute to the overall execution of my professional career path.