

REFLECTIONS

ALUMNI | SCHOOL | COMMUNITY

SCSAA CAREER DAY RETURNS

The Sidney Central School District held its Career Day for grades seven through 12 on Tuesday, Nov. 21, sponsored by the Sidney Alumni Association.

More than 25 people, representing more than 20 professional fields and companies, presented. Most presenters were Sidney CSD graduates.

Three different sessions were held – one each for grades 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. During each session, students had the opportunity to visit with multiple people discussing career paths in which they are interested.

The keynote speaker, who opened each session as well as gave closing remarks, was Dr. Mark Montgomery, interim provost and chief diversity officer at SUNY Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Montgomery discussed growing up in poverty, overcoming life struggles and following dreams. Dreaming, he said, is an important part of life and growth.

Following Dr. Montgomery's opening speech, students broke off into group sessions. Based on assessments done before Career Day, students selected career paths of interest to them and discussions with professionals were tailored accordingly. That way, students had the chance to speak with representatives from their chosen careers. Those who spoke with students, and their careers, included:

Brian Dionne (Architect), Class of 2005

Lexi Ellis (SFCU), Class of 2006

Alix Sheldon (Hospitality)

Jamie Roberts and Cody Lambrecht (Highway maintenance), Classes of 1980 and 2012

Mackenzie Gravelin and Jenna McDonald (Teacher/coach), Classes of 2016 and 2017

Shane Eaton (Attorney), Class of 1998

Sue Crawford (Cosmetology), Class of 1983

Craig DuMond (Sheriff), Class of 1984

Bobbi Jo Cogshall (Crawford Cosmetology), Class of 1993

Kyle McMillan (Pharmacist), Class of 2015

Sheri Youngs (Amphenol), Class of 1991

Helen Harris (Physician assistant), Class of 1987

Cheryl Insinga (Attorney/NYS Supreme Court), Class of 1992

Doug Barnard (Military), Class of 1977

Matt Vogel (State trooper), Class of 2011

Mary Sullivan and Hilde Savino (STEM), Classes of 2003 and 2019

Hunter Sowersby (Coach/personal trainer), Class of 2013

Kevin Greene (Sales manager)

Chelsea Rose (Nursing), Class of 2009

Corbin Curley (Financial advisor), Class of 2011

Amber Fogarty (Raymond), Class of 1993

Dr. Mark Montgomery (Motivation/decision making)

Omar Siddiqi (Attorney/law professor)

A special thank-you to everybody who took part in this wonderful day for answering all questions from our students.



Keynote speaker Dr. Mark Montgomery is pictured with Career Day organizer and SCSAA Director Teri Schunk.

Inside this edition:

- SABA Game Announced
- Sports Hall of Fame 20th Induction
- SCSD Announces New Nickname
- And more!



ALUMNI + SCHOOL + COMMUNITY



Sports Hall of Fame Celebrates 20th Induction

The McMullen family: Becky, Steve and Jarod



Laughter, tears, balloons and plenty of sports memories were on display during the 20th Alumni Sports Hall of Fame induction dinner and ceremony, held at the Elks Lodge Oct. 14.

It was the main highlight of another successful Induction Weekend, which began with halftime recognition during the Sidney homecoming football game the night before.

This year's event featured three sets of honorees: the Class of 2023 inductees, the Legacy Team and the special Legends category.

The Sports HOF committee did a banner job in all aspects of the evening. A distinctive touch was the addition of a maroon-and-white balloon arch, donated by Stacy Tuttle (Balloons by Stacy), the aunt of

Aniellle McEwan-Lomnicki, known to all as AK. The arch served as the backdrop for this year's photos, taken by committee member Alana Grays Bailey, '80.

Family ties made for common ground as the Legends were honored first. Next-generation relatives gave eloquent acceptance speeches during the segment. Doug Barnard, '77, led off the succession of speakers, representing his father, Ralph Barnard, '47. He was followed by Tim Doyle, '79, speaking on behalf of his dad, Don Doyle, '52.

Next, Diane Ray-Dewey spoke for her father, Bill Ray, '54. Bill's other daughter, Kelly Ray Barr, '84, made a generous \$100 donation to SCSAA in honor of Bill's longtime commitment to youth sports. Then came 2023 inductee Josh DuMond, '02, who did double duty by accepting for his grandfather, Andy DuMond Sr., '55.

The final Legends member, Jim Axtell, '59, was unable to attend. Current Sidney Athletic Coordinator, Jim Karl, '87, accepted for Jim.

Next came three of five members of the Class of 2023. Former baseball star Steve McMullen was introduced by his son, Jarod, who used the metaphor of "Dad always throwing strikes" as a life lesson.

Sister love was evident when Shane Eaton Armstrong, '98, introduced Liz Eaton-Ferenzi, '00. Liz had a huge list of names – coaches, teachers and others – whose influence she called paramount to her development.

Josh DuMond returned to accept his plaque from former basketball coach and HOF, '21 member Mike Brazee, '76 and his speech was very entertaining.

The Legacy Team, comprising the 1983-'84-



Greg Davie with Shirley and Josh DuMond, representing Legend Andy DuMond Sr.

Story continued on next page

'85 golf teams, was next in line. Coach Bob Finnegan (HOF, '13) accepted the honor and shared several great stories. No one enjoyed the weekend like this group of golfers 40 years after playing for Sidney. Once again, the commemorative Legacy trophies were generously donated by Mike, '63, and Linda Gallup.

The evening wrapped with two more inductees. The youngest inductee, Ashley Mahlmeister, '09, was introduced by her former track coach, Bill Munro. Bill described his multiple state champion as a real hard worker who appreciated her opportunities.

The final honoree was Don Pierce, '84, after a touching introductory by his sister, Shirley, '79 (HOF, '09). Donnie provided a terrific ending to a most memorable evening.

Co-founder/chairman of the Sports HOF and emcee Greg Davie, '76, (HOF, '13) made the announcement that he will be stepping down after leading the Sports Hall of Fame Committee for all 20 years of its existence.

Another great response from local businesses allowed the committee to realize a healthy profit, highlighted by the \$750 SHOF scholarship commitment.

A big thank-you goes out to Shupperd's Print Shop for providing all awards, latte mugs, keepsake grippers and the 20th anniversary logo. As always, an equally big thank-you goes to the Sidney Elks Lodge 2175 for playing host to the event and preparing a fabulous buffet dinner.

The 20th Alumni Sports Hall of Fame event was a true classic!



Clockwise: Pierce family celebration; Tim and Arlene Doyle (representing Don Doyle), with Greg Davie; Shane Eaton Armstrong and Liz Eaton-Ferenzi

More SHOF photos on page 5





Legacy team members at the induction ceremony.



Ashley Mahlmeister and Bill Munro



Don and Shirley Pierce



Doug Barnard (representing his dad Ralph) with Greg Davie



Jim Karl representing Legend James Axtell, with Greg Davie

32nd Alumni Basketball Night Set for Dec. 23

When Greg Davie, '76, developed the idea for the Sidney Alumni Basketball Association (SABA), he sent letters to dozens of former varsity ballplayers, hoping to elicit enough responses to format two games and raise \$300 for a scholarship. That was in 1992.

Now, Greg uses Facebook and texting to reach male and female alumni, takes payments through Venmo, and continues raising scholarship money – upped through Dollars for Scholars to \$500.

On Dec. 23, SABA will host its 32nd Alumni Basketball Night at the high school gym. The doubleheader will start with the always fun co-ed game, involving women and old-timers at 6:15, followed by the young guns game at 7:30. Admission is free.

This year's young guns game is dedicated to a member of the 2006-'07 NY State Champions, Darrin Martindale, who unexpectedly passed away in mid-October. To honor the blue-collar style of his play, a special award (the "Milt/Idiothead") will go to the player most resembling Martindale's hard-nosed way on the court. Thanks to Sean LaRose, '94, who is donating the trophy.

Also, a \$500 donation covering the entire SABA scholarship will be made during the opening co-ed game, with the benefactor revealed at that time.

This will be Greg Davie's final time spearheading the almost annual event. Nearly 200 alumni have played in at least one game since graduating, with close to \$10,000 awarded since 1992. The good news is there is interest to keep this tradition going strong.

Meanwhile, a huge thank-you to Greg for his devoted work in the endeavor. SABA will live on!

Sidney Alumni



Basketball Game

In Memoriam

William Walker, Class of 1950
Sandra Wagner Frank, Class of 1954
Lewis Bartholf, Class of 1955 (d. 12/20/2022)
Richard Lisieski, Class of 1955 (d. 2/15/2018)
Gloria 'DeBevois' Mabie, Class of 1955 (d. 6/04/2022)
Frances Manzer, Class of 1955 (d. 5/13/2011)
Wilbur Spreutels, Class of 1955 (d. 8/13/2023)
Amy 'Lamoree' Toner, Class of 1955 (d. 3/15/2020)
Helen Schmidt West, Class of 1957
James Moore, Class of 1957
James Colwell Washburn, Class of 1957 (d. 10/24/2023)
Nancy Terebo, Class of 1957

Richard Forsythe, Class of 1957
Gary N. Gray, Class of 1959
Carol 'Weaver' Wessels, Class of 1962
Mary 'Gilbert' Lemieszek, Class of 1963
Richard A. Strignano, Class of 1963 (d. 10/25/2023)
Linda Hazard Sandri Class of 1964
Kathleen Ihrle Parsons, Class of 1965
Steven Ruff, Class of 1967
David Sowersby, Class of 1975
Peter MacDonald, Class of 1976
Noel St. John, Class of 1996
Darrin Martindale, Class of 2007
Cameron K. Chabot, Class of 2020 (d. 11/14/2023)

Got NEWS?

Please send class or personal news to
chris.ossont23@gmail.com.

We love to see Sidney alum pictures!

Got DUES?

We appreciate your dues. Please check your membership status and update your dues to show support. Check the website, sidneyalumni.org, and find "Membership" for the "Paid Members List." We need more proud SCSAA members!

Sidney Students Unveil New District Nickname



Sidney students are becoming Sabers.

In a November Sidney Central School Board of Education meeting, a group of students unrolled string backpacks, revealing the new nickname and replacement for “Warriors” to the BOE and those in attendance.

“Sidney Sabers” was selected out of three finalists, including the Lions and Rough Riders.

Why was this needed?

Sidney CSD was one of about 60 New York State public school districts that used a nickname or mascot connected to Native Americans. A New York State Supreme Court ruling in June 2022 established that public school districts are prohibited from utilizing such nicknames and mascots.

Selecting a new name

Sidney’s process heavily focused on student input. To begin, community and student stakeholder groups met to discuss what should be included in a new nickname and what Sidney embodies. A second meeting developed a list of choices for nicknames, which initial surveys within the community and student body then whittled down to the three finalists.

The process included connecting nicknames to Sidney CSD through history and what the school and its student represent. Words used by the groups for the names included strong, fierce, brave, proud and resilient.

The final vote was by the Sidney CSD student body in grades K-12. Of the 827 students who voted, nearly 50% chose Sabers. The Lions came in second, with almost 31% of the vote, and the Rough Riders was third, with 20%. The final numbers were as follows:

Sabers (49%): 406

Lions (31%): 255

Rough Riders (20%): 166

Total votes: 827

“I want to thank the members of all of our groups who worked hard to make sure Sidney’s new nickname was one that embodied all of the key characteristics they had originally identified,” Sidney CSD Superintendent Eben Bullock said. “I’m very proud of our students who understood the magnitude of this process and strived to make sure our new nickname would be a lasting legacy for years to come.”

Sidney Central School Alumni Association
PO Box 2186
Sidney, NY 13838

**Your Membership Expiration Date is
on the Mailing Label Below.
Support YOUR Alumni Association .
Join or Renew Today!**

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Sidney, NY
Permit No. 33

Sidney Alumni Association
Central School