



Alumni

Nuggets

Emily Reid, Sam Lewis Prepare to Study Theater Arts, Film with \$2,500 Alumni Scholarships

The Clear Creek High School Alumni Association has announced the recipients of its annual scholarship competition. Congratulations to Emily Reid and Sam Lewis.

Reid attended Evergreen High School as a freshman, but “decided that Clear Creek was a better fit after my mom started working there.”

Clear Creek High was a good fit. She will finish her senior year ranked in the top ten of her class with a 4.1 grade point average.

‘Passionate about Theater’

The school also provided opportunities for her to perform: acting, singing, dancing, and choreographing. In addition to performing at CCHS, she participated in programs through the Denver Center of Performing Arts Teen Company.

“I’ve been performing for



Emily Reid and Sam Lewis

14 years,” she admitted. “I’m passionate about theater.”

Thus, her decision to study theater arts at the University of Northern Colorado should come as no surprise.

Nor should anyone be surprised she also wants to have an emphasis in K-12 education, which will help her nurture interests in the performing arts in future

generations.

“I would like to teach at a rural high school where theater isn’t prominent,” she said, “and push the program onto its feet.”

As a sophomore, she took online courses through Brigham Young University in addition to a full course load at CCHS. That coursework

Cont’d on page 3

Join Us: Your Annual Dues Pay for Scholarships, This Newsletter and Reunion Opportunities

The Clear Creek High School Alumni Association (CCHSAA) is a vehicle for supporting one another and our families in good times and in bad times. The easiest way to participate is to join.

For only \$15 each year, members provide funding for the CCHSAA's annual scholarship fund.

Those scholarships (read about this year's winners on page 1) are the primary reason this association exists, but they're not the only reason.

Annual dues also fund our new web page and annual

summer reunion and annual meeting, which is always on the last Saturday of July in Idaho Springs. This summer it's July 25.

Finally, those dues pay for the printing and mailing of the newsletter, but we're trying to eliminate those costs by switching to an electronic format.

As we collect more email addresses, we can save money on printing (especially with this **color** format) and stamps, which provides more funds for scholarships. Printing and mailing the newsletter cost

approximately \$1,200, yet we understand that not everyone has or likes to use email.

If you want to receive this newsletter electronically, send your email address to jensenonfire@gmail.com.

Our high school has generated over 2,500 alumni yet our membership is less than 300. We can do better.

Although there is a form for paying your dues on the back page of this newsletter, members also may utilize PayPal on the CCHSAA website: www.clearcreekhsalumni.org.

In Memoriam...

The following classmates died since the last newsletter or were omitted from previous editions. You are welcome to post obituaries and announcements on the Facebook pages.

Duane Thoennes, '57

Rudy Dingman, '63

Amanda Capper, '98



Current Students Benefit from Dedicated Alumni

Cont'd from page 1

included both Honors and Advanced Placement courses as well as two years of French.

Comfortable with a Camera

Sam Lewis started attending some classes at Warren Tech as a junior and found his calling in television and video production.

"I have a little rough past," he said, "but each year I grow more and more as a person."

That self-assessment was echoed by a trio of educators who submitted letters of

recommendation on his behalf.

"He grasps concepts very quickly, often needing little intervention," according to Math Teacher Calvin Berg. "He typically prefers to work alone yet has no issue teaming up with other students and helping them with any struggles."

Frances Johnson, a teacher at Warren Tech, noted that Lewis has found a place behind a camera.

Lewis recalled his first experience behind a camera, filming a play at Dakota

Ridge High School. The final video didn't measure up to his standards, he said, "but I learned that I should have taken more time with setting everything up."

One of the ideas he wants to develop is film a battle with a 360-degree camera to provide an immersive experience to viewers.

"It would be a cooler, more engaging way of telling history to students."

Eventually, Lewis anticipates a career in the film industry.

Schuessler Named 2A Athletic Director of the Year

David Schuessler '83, Clear Creek High School's athletic director, was selected as the 2A Athletic Director of the Year by the Colorado Athletic Directors Association (CADA).

"I see it as a community award," he said.

Schuessler has served at Clear Creek's athletic director for 14 years and he credits his success to his team.

"There's a lot of support staff at Clear Creek that make things run well," he said. "We make a good team and together we do a good job of supporting high school athletics."

He taught mathematics at CCHS for several years and coached a trio of varsity sports before finding an opportunity

to use his Master's degree. He earned a Master's in Sports Administration from Springfield College (MA) in 1989.

Schuessler said he strives to get out of his office and interact with students.

"As an AD you need to find a way to get that interaction," he said.

Schuessler created the school's Athletic Council to address that goal. Every two weeks he meets with students leaders during lunch to address leadership and build grit, much as his teaching mentors at CCHS did for him.

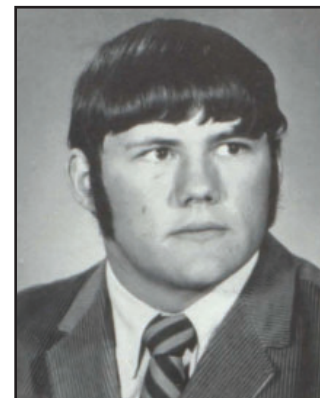
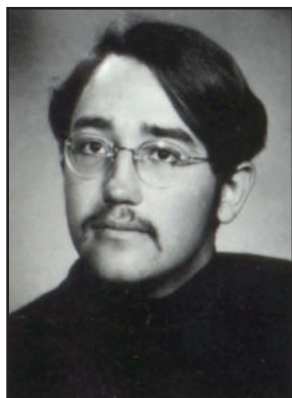


David Schuessler, top, poses with his supportive family: wife Sandi, and sons Seattle and Zephyr.

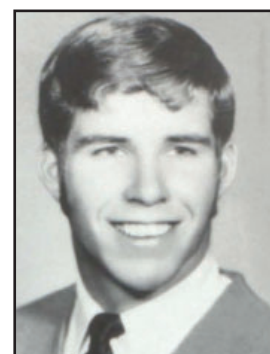
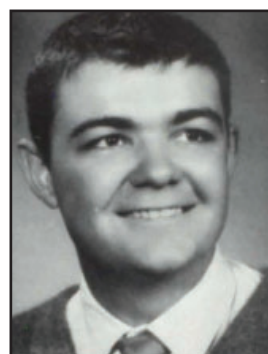
Thirty Members of CCSS Class of 1970 Ready to Celebrate its 50-Year Reunion

Our annual summer reunion is a time for members of all Clear Creek High classes to come together. This year is a special reunion for the Clear Creek Secondary School Class of 1970: it's number 50.

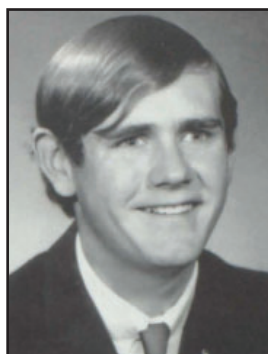
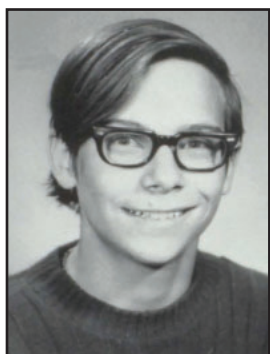
Here's how they appeared for their senior photos 50 years ago.



Left to right: Andy Hinojos, Betty Brozek, Bob Melton



Left to right: Carol Bullard, Charlie Pitts, Cheryl Gordon, Chuck Keagle, Dallas Thames



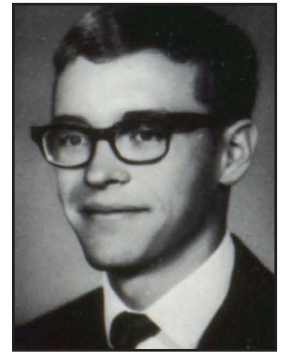
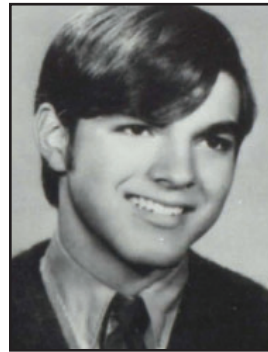
Left to right: Dave Patterson, Debra Nicodemus, Diana Ball, Don Bristol, Ed Quine



Left to right: Gary Higgins, Glen Adams, Jeanette Haskins, Jim Mappin, Joyce Hruska



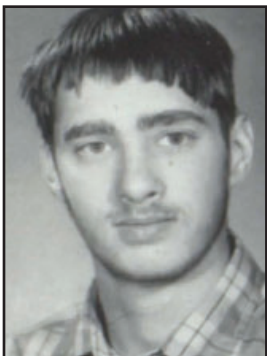
Left to right: Karen Trout, Karl Shafer, Kathy Taylor, Kirk Easley, Leslie Richardson



Left to right: Linda McKenzie, Mark Pretz, Mike Harvey, Mike Keim, Mike Kyler



Left to right: Mike Mathiesen, Mike McCoy, Nona Geisler, Pat Gilchrist, Peggy Erwin



Left to right: Randy Parrott, Randy Snider, Rex Bloesser

Susie (Mappin) Foley is the contact for the Class of 1970's reunion. Contact her at susyfoley@hotmail.com.



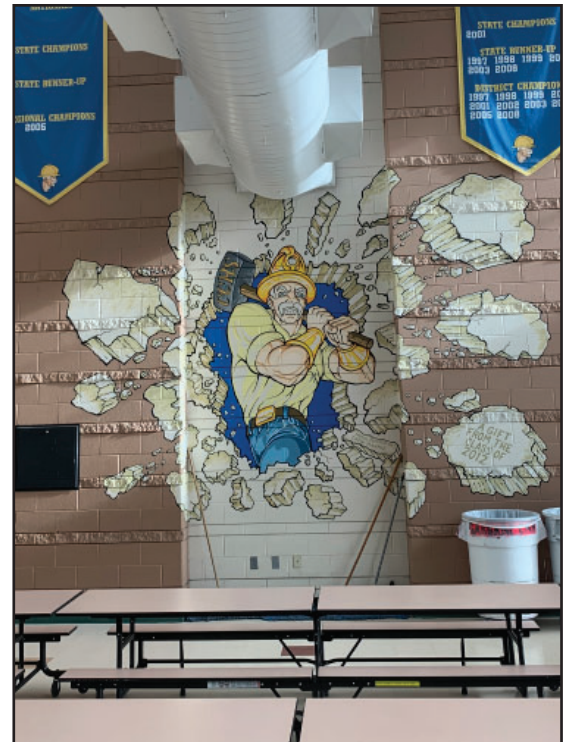
More of Our Classmates from 1970



Left to right: Rickee Carelli, Robin Nicodemus, Robin Reichwein, Ronda Haskins

Clear Creek High Decor Honors Our Traditions

After we celebrated our football field last fall, the editor decided to photograph the “new” Clear Creek High, which is now 18 years old, and share the new building with alumni. Impressively, the building’s decor celebrates Clear Creek’s history as well as its present.



GIRLS			BOYS		
SAMMY NAGY	12.86	1967	DANIEL DE LA CORTE	11.06	2001
KELLY KOOPMAN	27.24	2002	DANIEL DE LA CORTE	22.99	2001
LYNNE FFT	67.4	1993	PAUL SAGE	50.9	1999
GINNY MCLIVAN	2:21.3	1995	CHAZ BURRELL	2:02.21	2007
GINNY MCLIVAN	5:36.8	1995	CHRIS JACQUIN	4:39.0	1993
HEATHER GILBERT	11:57.9	1992	GREG COFFIN	10:08.4	1994
HORI LIESVELD	16.39	2002	SEAN DONAHUE	15.99	2000
JESSIE WATSON	47.25	1984	JACK TERRY	41.2	1986
J. CASS / K. LIESVELD	53.39		B. GRIFFIN / L. GERDING	46.10	2010
M. SCHVETZ / P. WILLIAMSON	2004		B. PENNELL / M. BURCH	2010	
K. HUGGENVIK / K. TAYLOR	1:49.41		B. GRIFFIN / L. GERDING	132.40	2010
J. TSCHETTER / B. WARMACK	2002		B. PENNELL / M. BURCH	2010	
A. DELVE / K. HUGGENVIK	1:31.09				
J. TSCHETTER / B. WARMACK	2002				
L. FFT / C. MCLIVAN	4:05.8		B. ACKERMAN / D. DE LA CORTE	3:35.4	
G. MCLIVAN / J. WATSON	1994		L. FOLEY / P. SAGE	1999	
A. DARRELL / M. DALPES	16:03.8		J. BURCHARD / G. COFFIN	8:21.8	
L. FFT / G. MCLIVAN	1995		C. JACQUIN / B. SIMONDS	1993	
MADLYN FAHLINE	11:19	2017	HUNTER HOLMES	144.4	2010
KAITLYN HYSER	5'5	2002	MATT MILLER	6'2"	1989
LINDA BROZEK	14.5	1983	DANIEL DE LA CORTE	22.25	2001
SARAH MORRIS	7.6	2001	JOSH MORMAN	13'3	1993
BIRNKA MARLIN	36.9	1995	JOE PRETZ	44.1	1984
KRISTA HUGGENVIK	33'16.5	2002	RYAN WASILAWSKI	43.25	2007
K. HYSER / J. KIRSCHKE	96.23		S. DONAHUE / T. TOTH	54.29	
A. SMALL	2592		J. HUNNICUTT	2008	



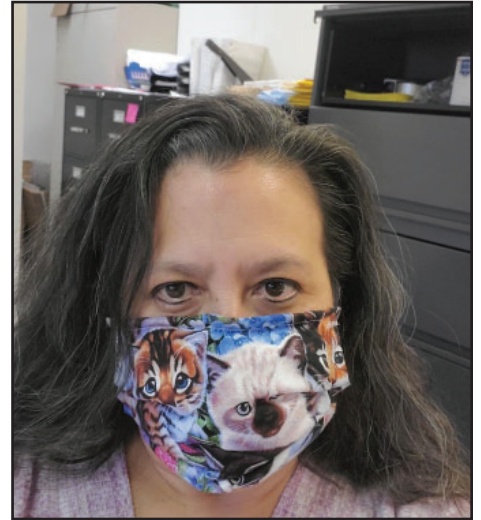
These Golddiggers Masked-Up for COVID-19



Karalee Baker, '87



Maria (Dickerson) Chevalier, '92



Katherine Inman, '88



Steve Ator, '91



Megan Wilson, '09



Georgianne Preskar, '69



Beth (MacConnell) McNaughton, '92



Miles Lant, Sarah (Elliott) Lant, '91, and Lauren Lant



Neil and Jean (Anderson) O'Brien, '89

Wattenberg Enjoys Working on his Railroad

While many residents of Idaho Springs remember him as the friendliest and most helpful employee at Safeway, Gary Wattenberg '74 also should be known for creating a world in his garage.

“My hobby is model railroading,” he said.

Wattenberg, who lives in Blue Valley Acres, has created a logging and mining train layout in HOn3 narrow gauge.

HO Gauge is 1:86 or 1:87 of the real standard gauge rolling stock, equipment, buildings, and other accessories. HOn3 represents the same scaling, but for narrow gauge systems.

Within HOn3, Wattenberg has focused on the steam era of the 1930s and 1940s.



Below, Gary Wattenberg stands within his garage model-railroading layout. The layout includes local properties such as the Argo Mine and Mill above.

“It is so neat to have all the history right here in Clear Creek County and Gilpin County,” he said. “I have

many of the local mines on my layout.”

He started his model-railroading pursuits with

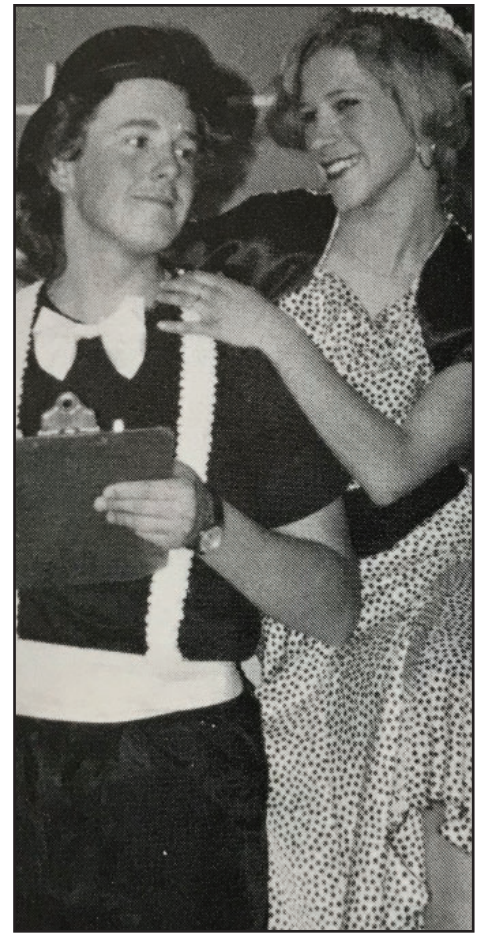
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Class of 1990 Celebrates 30th Reunion in 2020

Where are they now? It's been 30 years in the real world and it's time to check in with the Class of 1990.

Jim Ruhoff is the contact for the Class. For details about the reunion, email him at jruhoff@yahoo.com.



'This has always been my dream'

Cont'd from page 8

an O-scale (1:48) project in his living room. In 2002 he converted his single-car garage into the current HO_n3 layout.

He does spend time outside his garage, too.

"I love the mountains for all they have to offer. I love hiking, camping, and four-wheeling."

He has spent much of his pandemic time working on his railroad.

"This has always been my dream and I am very fortunate to be able to fulfill it."



In Her Own Words: Holly (Frank) Ables '94

First of all, “My” story is a “We” story, since I married my high school sweetheart, **Travis Ables '93**, the year I graduated from Clear creek High School and I’ve never been by myself since!

We moved to Washington state for less than a year, then headed down to the swamp of Baton Rouge for four long, hot, humid years to a cultish Bible College (true and painful story).

Then to the Chicago-land area for seven years where Travis earned his MDiv and I earned my Bachelor’s of Arts in English from Loyola University.

This is where we started to become who we are today: cocktail and food-lovers,



Travis and Holly Ables with their daughters Charlotte and Claire.

amateur chefs, hobbyist photographer (me), and a historical theology scholar (Travis).

We moved to Nashville where Travis earned his PhD in 2010 and I started my career in medical education. I was a medicine course coordinator and later an education specialist at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

We had our two daughters in Nashville and I learned to hula hoop. I hooped a half marathon for breast cancer fundraising while there. :)

We moved to St Louis while Trav was a visiting professor at a seminary and

At left, Travis and Holly take a break in Zermatt, Switzerland, during a European vacation in 2019.

then we moved back home to Colorado!

Since 2013 I have worked at CU Anschutz (education manager in neurology for two years and then cardiology for three years) and recently left to explore the world of toxicology at the Rocky Mountain Poison Center with Denver Health. I manage the Medical Toxicology Fellowship Program and am responsible for the Pediatric Environmental Health & Safety Unit grant reporting for six states and for reporting the effectiveness of the Poison Center for four states.

Oh, and I received my Master’s of Arts in Instructional Design from CU-Denver in December 2018.

News from Our #GolddiggerNation

COVID-19, the disease that can result from infection by a coronavirus caused a global pandemic this year. CCHS Alumni weathered the pandemic in diverse ways including working in essential jobs and careers, working from home, and hoping the quarantines would end so they could return to work.

Several of our fellow alumni shared what they did during the pandemic.

Congratulations to **Sophie (Kruger) Egan '94** for finishing her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Portland Concordia University, formerly of Portland, Oregon. She had an emphasis in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) and plans to teach that subject at Carlson Elementary School this fall.

Teri (Heffner) Whiting '11 and her husband Garrett are expecting their first child, according to proud mom **Wendy (Albers) Heffner '83**. She said her new granddaughter is due in August.

Cassi Clark Ward-Hunt '96 wrote about her battle against COVID-19 for the

Colorado Sun. You can read her tale of joking about COVID and then “living the terrifying punchline” at coloradosun.com/2020/05/01/write-on-colorado-cassi-clark-ward-hunt.

Amy (Shepherd) Gates '88 and her family started a new tradition of themed dinners. The theme of this dinner was holidays. Her



family covered Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day and New Years while she handled Halloween.

“My sewing room is a disaster,” said **Georgianne (Preskar) Rollman '69**. She reports that she made a quilt and over 100 masks for an organization working with St. Luke's Hospital.

According to Cake Masters

Magazine, **Heather Sherman '89** was a Top Ten USA 2019 Cake Artist. Congratulations for earning such recognition!

It's time for a Correction! The previous edition of the *Alumni Nugget* claimed a school song started in the 1970s when, in fact, graduates from the 1950s knew the song as well. As editor, I appreciate the feedback from Stephanie Heller Durr, **Robert Heller '54**, **Robert Twig Lindsey '56**, and **Reed Malleck '69**.

Malcolm Himschoot '95 and his wife have moved to “the fantastic ecumenical community” of Orono, Maine, to continue his calling in ministry.

Please visit www.clearcreekhsalumni.org to see what **Danny Tomlinson '63** did with his time at home. “I spent the necessary time to redo our website,” he said, including uploading senior portraits from a majority of yearbooks. “They are now online and available for folks to view and enjoy.”

Please email the editor at jensenonfire@gmail.com with news, tips, photos and updates from the #GolddiggerNation.

Alumni Profile: Michele Blicharz, Lifelong Protector, Loves Motherhood, Baking Cakes

Her enjoyment of baking and decorating cakes all started when she was in the single digits and hanging around her grandparents Eleanor Delrosa, and Helen and George Blicharz.

“After school I’d go to my grandma’s and she’d have all the ingredients set out,” said **Michele Blicharz ‘86**. “I’ve always enjoyed baking, but I can’t cook worth a hoot.”

Blicharz, who now lives in Arvada, battled meningitis as a child. As a five-year-old, she endured daily spinal taps at Children’s Hospital and missed so much school that she was held back one year.

The meningitis also had physical consequences; it impacted her memory enough that she needed extra help in school.

She struggled to overcome such judgement from teachers and peers, but hid her perceived shortcomings with a strong personality, serving as Dusty the Golddigger in middle school, and cheerleading throughout high school.

She also went out of her way to be friends with other students unfairly judged by others.

“I stood up for those kids



Michele Blicharz

like me,” she said. “I raised my kids to accept everyone. I think God used me to be a protector.”

She needed her own protector when she slammed her orange VW bug into a soda machine at the Standard Gas Station in Idaho Springs. Her riders and classmates thought the crash, which resulted from an oily shoe sole sliding off the brake pedal, was hilarious. She was mortified, she recalled.

After graduating from CCSS, she married **Blake Evans ‘86**. He joined the Air Force and they moved to Mississippi where they welcomed son Zach. They moved to Utah and welcomed

son Dustin. They welcomed daughter Tanya after returning to Colorado.

“All I wanted to do was to be a mother,” she said. “It was the best job ever.”

Now divorced, Blicharz is enjoying life as a mother, grandmother, and entrepreneur. And she has renewed her interest in crafting cakes.

Ultimately, returning to this pursuit was only a matter of time for the woman who earned her only A+ in an art class taught by Virginia Unsel.

“She was my favorite teacher. I loved my art.”

Blicharz owns and operates Cakes by ME, a company whose name reflects her married name: Michele Evans. Although she had several clients in Texas when she lived there, she’s had a harder time developing clients in the Denver area since returning to Colorado in 2019.

Blicharz appreciates the roots she shares with all of us.

“It was a true blessing going to Clear Creek.”

More Masked Alumni Doing Their Part



Danny Tomlinson, '63



Amy (Youngblood) Barrero, '93



Einar Jensen, '91



Amy (Cameron) Swonger, '92



Becky (Wilson) Wilkins, '07



Brian Inman, '86



Beth (Hurst) Wolfe, '97, and son Weston



JC (Nicholes) Wing, '89



Holly (Frank) Ables, '94, with daughters Charlotte and Claire

A Semester Studying in Uganda Changed the Career Path for Halley (Goymerac) Jones

When my community, state, nation, or (in this case) planet is in crisis, I recall the advice from Fred Rogers (of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood) to "look for the helpers."

Halley (Goymerac) Jones '04 is such a helper.

After graduating from high school, she enrolled at Colorado State University and started earning her degree in International Studies. During her final semester, she studied abroad in Uganda.

"I planned on doing international aid work," she said, "and I thought my dream job would be to work with the United Nations."

When she was in Uganda, she discovered that funds from most non-profits or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) didn't seem to benefit the people in greatest need or efficiently.

"The projects by local people seemed much more effective than those of outsiders coming in to make a difference, and I didn't see how I could fit in to that world."

She decided to volunteer at a refugee camp with the Red Cross.

"I really enjoyed how the Red Cross worked to provide



Halley Jones

relief during a crisis. That made sense to me."

In the last semester of her undergraduate career, she did some soul-searching and changed plans.

"Some of the most important things to me were traveling, helping others, and I loved working with and being around people with disabilities. So, I started nursing school!"

She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Regis University.

Inspired by Her Patients

She lives in Baltimore, Maryland, and works in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

"I like that I get to help

people in some of the hardest times of their lives," she said. "In my unit, I'm part of a team giving babies a chance at life they wouldn't have outside of the hospital. I like the challenges (sometimes), and I like that my work matters."

She said her patients inspire her to be the best because their lives literally depend on her best.

She would like nurses to have a greater voice in healthcare because "at times, and by different people, we are underrated or undervalued."

She also believes higher wages and hazard pay during pandemics and other critical times would improve the field and, as a result, patient outcomes.

"It's a great career if you have compassion for others, and you want to work hard at a job that matters."

For others interested in nursing, she recommends shadowing a nurse and investigating the multiple fields in which nurses work.

"At times, it can be the hardest job you'll ever have. It can also be incredibly rewarding."

Ever-changing Computer Technology, Aging Fords Capture the Interest of Bud Orr '61

After graduating from Idaho Springs High School in 1961, **Bud Orr** attended the University of Colorado in Boulder and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business.

He emerged from college into a nation starting to dabble in computers.

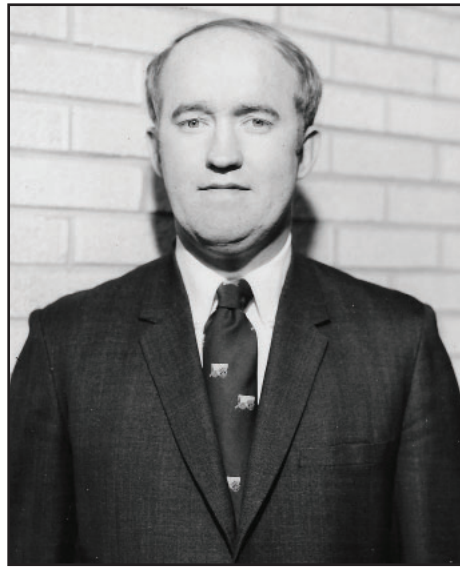
“The computer software and application field in 1966 was a ground floor opportunity,” he said. “I was fortunate to start working in the profession.”

At the time, taking a job in that nascent field was a risk, but that’s the advice he offers to future alumni: “Don’t hesitate to take risks.”

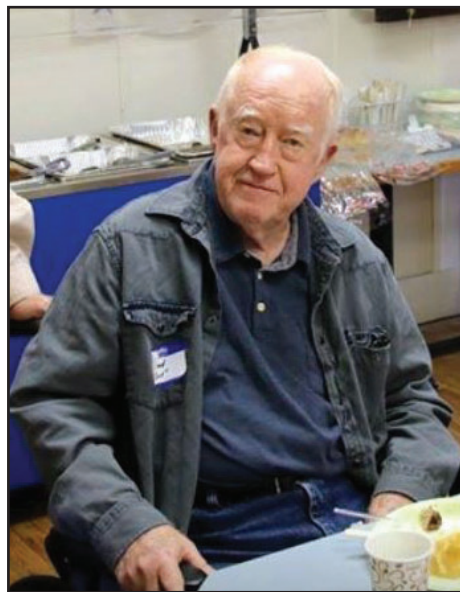
Ultimately, he worked in Information Technology in both analyst and manager roles for 40 years. He retired in 2006.

His first job was in California, but he returned to Colorado as soon as he could. He said the field was exciting because the technology changed so rapidly and because he was constantly learning. He also traveled across the nation and had responsibility for a computer installation project in Germany.

He credits his parents for



Bud Orr, then and now



much of his success.

“My mom and dad set high expectations for me,” he said. “They gave me a wonderful upbringing.”

As for people who currently inspire him, Orr said Barack Obama and Bill Gates are among his heroes now.

Orr, who was a long-time board member of the CCHS

Alumni Association, has been spending time with his family since retiring. He now lives in Elizabeth, Colorado.

“I also restore old Ford cars,” he said, “a teenage passion that I’ve never outgrown.”

As for his time with the CCHS Alumni Association, Orr said, “It was the best voluntary organization I have ever been part of. The old and new friendships I have had are extremely important to me. The scholarship program was my favorite activity.”

Reunion Planning is Underway

The CCHSAA can help you plan your upcoming Class Reunion. Simply contact us via the website or Facebook.

Recruited by her brother, **Susie (Mappin) Foley** is the contact for the Class of 1970. Contact her at susyfoley@hotmail.com.

Luke Foley is a contact for the Class of 2000: lukefoleyvt@gmail.com.

The classes of 1970 and 1990 are integrating their reunions with the all-class annual picnic scheduled for July 25, 2020, at the Elks Lodge in Idaho Springs. Other events also are planned.

We hope to see you there!

Clear Creek High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 2061

Idaho Springs, CO 80452-2061

www.clearcreekhsalumni.org

**Clear Creek High School Alumni Association
Membership Form**

Annual membership dues are \$15.

Additional donations go directly into the scholarship fund.

NAME: _____ CLASS YEAR: _____

SPOUSE/PARTNER: _____ CLASS YEAR: _____

SPOUSE ALUMNUS/A: YES or NO

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

**Please send us your email address so we can save money by sending this
newsletter to you electronically.**

PAY BY CHECK: Send this form and your check to CCHS Alumni Association,
Box 2061, Idaho Springs, CO 80452.

PAYPAL: Visit www.ClearCreekHSAlumni.org and pay your dues online.