



Piner High School Foundation Newsletter

A joint publication of the Piner High School Foundation and Hall of Fame

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2023

MR. KURT KRUGER

Kurt Kruger & the Piner High School SPARQ Center

Written by Joan Fleck



**Teaching at Piner
since 1989**

Remember, back in the day when we were told to reach for the stars, and how we knew our teachers were telling us, figuratively speaking, to set our goals high? Well, times have changed because at Piner High School for the past two-plus decades, reaching for the stars is meant literally.

Piner is the only high school in California, and beyond that has an on-campus Planetarium and research grade Observatory. Piner High School is also the only high school in California, or anywhere else for that matter, that has Kurt

Kruger. The two go hand-in-hand.

Piner's Science and Technology Center officially opened its doors in April 2014, at a time when Piner High School was positioning itself as a Comprehensive High School with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) focus. Kurt Kruger introduced us to Piner's new STEM centerpiece in the August 2013, Alumni Newsletter (Volume 5, Issue 1) where he shared that the facility concept was born from a desire to get students involved and motivated in the sciences, evolving from a single space science course, becoming a reality made possible through grant money.

All true, but there is more to the story.

It really began with a local boy, born and raised in Sebastopol, who was passionate about science, knowing he wanted to be a teacher. Kurt Kruger graduated from Analy High School, attending Santa Rosa Junior College and U.C.

Davis, earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in the Biological Sciences with a minor in Psychology. After receiving his teaching credential from Sonoma State University, he began his teaching career at Piner in 1989.

Kurt teaches science. More importantly, he teaches students how to be scientists on planet earth and in outer space.

As his passion for the sciences expanded to include Astronomy, influenced by his involvement with the Robert Ferguson Observatory in Sugar Loaf State Park, so did Piner High School's curriculum. By the year 2000, Piner was the only high school in Sonoma County offering a Space Science course, which is a University of California accepted science elective.

Fourteen years later, Piner High School became the home of the SPITZ SciDome Planetarium and Sirius Astronomical Observatory, a very rare and innovative classroom

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that started as an idea - Kurt's idea. He wanted to create a place where Piner students could engage with the critical thought process including the collection of data - a place where they could be scientists instead of just hearing or reading about it. In his words, part of the job of educators is to inspire students to pursue STEM fields by connecting authentic experiences with the real world. And what better way to broaden and enrich the learning environment - space science is uniquely the "melting pot" of science, exposing students to Math, Earth Science, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Cultural History, Mythology, Physical Science and Technology.

He turned his idea into action by researching, and initially purchasing a Giant StarLab inflatable planetarium. Over the next ten to twelve years, Piner's Space Science course was a success minus the repetitious and tedious setting up and taking down because (no pun intended) the portable planetarium was located in the multi-purpose building in shared "space." After more research and some traveling, visiting existing observatories and planetariums, assessing how they were designed and constructed, Kurt returned home believing that what he needed was a dedicated structure for his portable planetarium. He floated the idea at the district level where the answer was a hard no.

Given Kurt's passion for the sciences, teaching, and his students, complimented by his patience and determined never-give-up attitude, he persisted. An afternoon discussion with bay area

architect Mark Bartos, who took an interest in the idea proved to be pivotal - after drawing schematics on the proverbial back of the napkin, the influential and convincing architect told him he didn't need a dedicated building for an inflatable planetarium, he needed a real one.

He shifted his focus to financing and project approval, exploring grants, finding they were available if only Piner had a Geospatial Intelligence Systems (GIS) Pathway. So, he and colleague, Kristi Erickson, took classes becoming GIS fluent and by 2006/07, Kurt, and his supportive team of Piner colleagues and administrators, the architect, and district personnel, submitted a grant application for Piner's Specialized Secondary Program (GIS Pathway) and Career Technical Pathway Facilities. It was accepted; they were interviewed; and they were selected to receive a \$2,000,000.00 grant with the caveat that the school district would match it. After multiple presentations before the School Board, this time the answer was yes.

When asked what it felt like when they broke ground, he said "surreal." He never missed a day to watch the physical progress over the next two years of construction. The Observatory was shipped from Australia. As the equipment arrived, the excitement grew.

It has a name - Science Position Astronomy Research & Query Center (SPARQ). It also has a mission -

By Fostering an environment where students and faculty work

collaboratively to broaden knowledge of an interest in science, the Piner High Science Department seeks to provide all students with an engaging and inspiring science curriculum that extends beyond the classroom. In doing so, we seek to meet the academic needs of all students and prepare them for further studies, successful careers, and active participation as citizens in a constantly changing technological world.

Well said. And, since the SPARQ Center's grand opening, job well done.

The SPARQ Center is Piner's Gateway to STEM with a SPITZ SciDome XD Touch System Planetarium; a Computer Lab that supports Piner's GIS and Science Pathways and Space Science program; and a 22' Sirius Observatory. Collectively they are a classroom like no other, uniquely innovative with learning opportunities that are literally out of this world.

The SPARQ Center is also where students can achieve STEM Certification, affording them with college and career advantages. Certification requirements include the completion of STEM Core Curriculum Classes with ongoing

"You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream."

-C.S. Lewis

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Piner High School's 16th Annual Crab Feed Dinner

Saturday: January 27, 2024

Friedman Event Center - 4676 Mayette Avenue

Raffles / Auctions / + Dessert Auction

Reserved seating with purchases of 10 or more tickets.

5:00 p.m. No Host Bar Beer/Wine—Raffle & Silent Auction Bids

7:00 p.m. Dinner - \$65.00 Per Person

Limited seating so buy your tickets early

*Tickets available at any **Oliver's Markets** in Sonoma County,
starting in Mid- December 2023.*

or Mail in your order with payment before January 19th

For information call (707) 571-7420

Crab Feed and Silent Auction Dinner 2024

Menu Items: Appetizers - Salad – Bread – Pasta - Crab – Dessert – Coffee/Tea

Name _____

Please print name

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

Make all checks payable to:

Piner High Hall of Fame

PO Box 12284 Santa Rosa, CA 95406

- ☐ Please reserve _____ tickets, Check enclosed
- ☐ I am unable to attend, but have enclosed a
tax- deductible contribution in support of
Piner High School.

participation in STEM approved items on three levels - Ongoing Personal Involvement (Level 1); Ongoing Community Involvement (Level 2); and the completion of an Original Science or Engineering Inquiry Project (Level 3). Students can select from a list of STEM preapproved items, such as clubs, internships, stewardships, astrophotography and the ever-popular Rocket Group Engineering & Design. Or propose an individualized alternative, consistent with the scientific process of asking and answering questions, reaching fact-based conclusions, a process that can be extended across Piner's many other disciplines including art, music and sports.

Piner's STEM goal is to become a true STEM School (above and beyond having a STEM focus) where there is a collaborative integration of STEM into the school culture where students apply science as a lens to any problem-solving situation across disciplines.

And, the students are doing just that, being STEM scientists across diverse fields of inquiry. While some are completing internships and/or conducting research at hospitals, physical therapy facilities and fitness centers, others are exploring climate change, biological diversity, medical engineering, even tackling social issues such as food scarcity, or ways of dismantling systematic racism and discrimination.

While some Piner students are monitoring the presence and movement of mountain lions at the Bouverie Preserve with the Living with Lions program; others are designing and scratch build-

ing high powered rockets with liftoffs only allowed at Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved launch pads because of their extreme speeds and heights (a joint effort between Piner High School, Sonoma State and NASA). In the observatory, Prospector space scientists are photographing the M74 Galaxy, the Owl Nebula, the EH Libra Star, the binary Delta Scuti star, AW CrB, and measuring the change of light over time for an eclipsing binary star to predict its orbital pathway (photometry).

Students in the STEM Certification Program are supported by adult advisors (Piner Faculty) and mentors of the student's choosing from the broader academic, science, health related and business communities including super mentors Steve Smith, SPARQ Observatory Astronomer and teacher, and Tony Alcocer, Board Member of the Association of Experimental Rocketry of the Pacific (Aero-Pac). Participating students are also coached in public speaking, and presenting, with their projects showcased at the annual STEM Symposium held in May of each year, including a poster board session with Level 3 projects presented before an esteemed panel. An awards and recognition ceremony follows.

Since 2015, 960 Piner students have participated in the certification process. Fifty-eight completed Level 3, with participation numbers on the rise after two years of social distancing.

The SPARQ Center also shares its learning opportunities with Piner High School feeder schools and the broader community as a field

trip destination for primary and middle school classes, introducing younger students to the world of STEM in jaw dropping, awe inspiring ways. Piner Advanced Placement (AP) physics students assist by guiding the "littles" through planned "centers" activities including the planet-walk, which is another SPARQ educational feature beginning in the SPARQ courtyard, going through the building and out past the quad into the main student parking lot, where one-inch equals one-million miles

This time every year Kurt reaches out, and this time every year the field trip slots are rapidly filled.

Since 2015, there have been 5,352+ students visiting the planetarium, with some of those past primary and middle school visitors returning as Piner High School students.

The Observatory, Planetarium, and Digital Theater also opens its doors during the school year for evening full dome shows, and the STEM Café Speaker Series, bringing in scientists, academics and business owners who share their experience and knowledge on a variety of subjects. The presentations are STEM certified events for students, and free to all (with donations graciously accepted).

When asked if he could go back in time and do anything differently, he said he would make the facility larger so more people could attend, although no one has ever been turned away.

When asked if he has a wish list he said, moremore Informational Technology (IT) support, more money, and more time, all seemingly interrelated.

The SPARQ Center operates on a budget through the School District, but with any budget there are limitations especially in a high-tech environment where computers are often in need of repair and/or replacement, and software upgrades are critical. Sadly, many of the SPARQ Center computers are currently on the “injured list.” More money would definitely help, also helping support the annual STEM Symposiums, and cover some of the primary and middle school field trip bussing costs.

With regards to time, Kurt described it as a limiting factor, which ironically is testament to the SPARQ Center’s success – in his words, *there is so much interest, they* (he and his Piner colleagues) *can barely keep up*. He would like to do less, better.

Kurt teaches earth science, space science, GIS 1 and 2, with two periods focused on STEM. He is the SPARQ Center Director and STEM Coordinator, the primary advisor for the STEM Certification Program; he organizes the Planetarium and STEM Café programs; and manages Primary and Middle School field trips. When he has time, he coordinates “Space Camps” where Girl and Boy Scouts can receive merit badges. The SPARQ center is also involved with the Robert Ferguson Observatory’s “Striking Sparks” program where elementary students write letters

to the Robert Ferguson Observatory, sharing why they are interested in STEM. The winners are awarded with a telescope donated by RFO at the awards ceremony held at SPARQ. Kurt is also a RFO board member as his initial inspiration came from his involvement as a docent at RFO.

And, if you are ever on campus during the summer, Kurt Kruger can be found maintaining the landscaping around the SPARQ Center, pulling weeds.

But he doesn’t seem to be slowing down. This school year is Kurt’s 35 th year at Piner where he continues to share his ever-contagious enthusiasm for the scientific process, teaching students to apply it to life in general, doing what he does best – Inspiring, Engaging, Educating and Employing, which is what he calls his IE3 teaching methodology. Kurt wants Piner students to be scientifically literate citizens, explaining that *science is not just a course or a class but rather a process by which a person asks and answers questions in a reliable, repeatable, peer reviewable way to find what is true and what is not. This is critical, with our young adults needing the skills to sift through the mountain of information” presented daily in the news and on social media, and to make well informed decisions based on fact.*

What better way to prepare students for the future.

To learn more about the SPARQ Center’s impressive lineup of

Full-Dome Theatre shows and STEM Café Speaker’s series; how to become a STEM Certification program mentor; and/or how you can help and/or get involved with the SPARQ Center Foundation, go to sparqatpfs.com.

The Foundation was established in 2014 in support of the SPARQ Center through memberships and donations. Members receive preferred seating at SPARQ Center Events along with notifications of upcoming events open to the community. Donations made to the Foundation are used to fund STEM education happening in Piner’s state of the art facility; support cutting edge technology and equipment used in the STEM certificate program as well as outreach to the community through elementary school programs; support the STEM Cafe evening events and Planetarium shows; and maintaining and purchasing equipment.

Nelson Mandella may have said it always seemed impossible until it was done but it was Kurt Kruger, who never thought it was impossible – he knew the stars just needed to be aligned.

PINER HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

You may also do this on line using your credit card at our website pinerhighfoundation.org

Date: _____ Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Name: _____
Please Print First Name, then Last Name

Maiden/Former Name _____

Home Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

I am joining the PHS Foundation for 1 school year at \$20. I am a PHS Graduate. Class of _____

I am associated with PHS as a (parent, supporter, etc.) _____.

I am enclosing an additional TAX DEDUCTIBLE contribution of \$ _____.

You may also do this on line using your credit card at our website pinerhighfoundation.org.

Make checks payable to **PHSF** and send to:

Piner High School Foundation, 1700 Fulton Road, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95403

Our Federal Nonprofit Tax I.D. is #68-0312001.

FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR DECEMBER 2022

Rachelle Merian Albini- 1979

Charles Albright- 1969

Dave Albritton- 1976

Dale Anderson- 1978

Jim Andrade-1972

Sylvia Guiliano Andreis- 1971

Jeff Avery- 1971

Cathy Austin - 1978

Anna Babson- Parent of Alumni

Judy Bagley- Retired Staff

Janet Barbaria - 1979

Lindy Littleton Barbor - 1971

Judith Barcelona- Retired Faculty

John Barone- Friend of Piner

Jeffery Barrett

Marylou Kniffin Beltrami- 1970

Lynn Cook Beniot- 1974

Pat Berry- 1968

Gayle LaForce Berry- 1971

Sam Weston Bertacco- 1970

Cheryl Pedroncelli Bennett- 1971

Mike Biando - 1978

Sally Bimrose- Retired Principal

Mitch Bonar- 1969

Doug Bowman - 1976

Valerie Lane Burgoyne- 1971

Michelle Patterson Brittain- 1988

Charlie Buff- Retired Faculty

Alicia Bunce- Parent of Alumni

Jackie Stevens Callaghan 1973

Bill Campbell- 1976

Rosemarie Cartier - Parent

Betty Castino- Retired Faculty

Nancy Michaelson Celms- 1968

Betty Furia Clark- 1971

Kristin Bowman- Clayton - 2000

Leslie Jenkins Conant- 1970

Jerry Corbet- 1968

Laurie Cameron Cornelssen- 1972

Rhonda Comalli-Friend of Piner

Karen Coster - Faculty

Bill Coset -1972

Diane Cupples – 1979

Mary Dale

Mike Daniels- Friend of Piner

Rachel Watrous Daniel- 1989

Allison Arreola Delaney 1995

Chris DeMello

Izzy Derkos – Retired Coach

Judy Dillon- Retired Faculty

Matt Dillon- 1995

Francine Boschetti Espiniera- 1971

Jake Fitzpatrick- Retired Faculty

Joan Fleck- 1971

Ken Foote – Retired Faculty

Lorna Nelson Fox- 1973

Jane Frost

Edna Gaddie- Wife of Retired Coach

Cindy Gaddie- Coach's Daughter

Chris Garcia- 1970

Scott Garcia- 1973

Karen Gunderson & Family

Abby Hanes- Piner Staff

Marnie M. Hanson

Tanya Harlin- Parent of Alumni

Sherman Harris- 1970

Vincent Harrison

Jack Hayes- Retired Principal

David Hayne- 1972

Casey Hillman- 2001

Keith Hinton

Nicki Obritsch Hinch- 1968

Arne Hoel - 1979

Dave Hover-1976

Jim Hurt- 1971

John & Magdalena Hurt- 1970/1971

Marilyn Jackson- Retired Staff

Joel Jacobsen 1969

Tiffany Jahnke- Faculty

Ursula Juricich—Wife of Charles

Vince Klein- 1970

Jani Logsdon Krambs - 1977

Steve Kramer - 1991

Doug Krikac- 1969

Ron Kristof- Retired Faculty

Jim & Lisa Lanz- 1976

Maureen Latimer- Richard's wife

Frank Lawler- 1968

Daniel Le Roy – 1983

Rubi Hernandez Lopez

Bob & Wendy Maccario – 1972

Richard Mahacek -1969

Nicholas Mancillas- Faculty

David Marshall - 1970

Lindsay Schlich Malik- 1972

Mark McCarthy

Dennis McCarty- Retired Coach

Deena McConnell- 1979

Jill McCormick -Retired Coach

Pete McCormick – Parent

Randy Merian- 1977

Martha Bastoni Messana- 1970

Tom Michaelson- 1971

Patty Michiels - Retired Faculty

Linda Burke Miller -1969

Steve Mizera-District Office

Mary Montague - Friend of Piner

John Morris -1971

Tina Murray - 1974

Allen Nelson - 1970

Margaret Hayne Nelson – 1971

Ann Bodle Nash - 1969

April Wycoff Nichols- 1974

Paul Nikol - Retired Coach

Tom Nix- 1968

Randy Nunes - 1971

Cyndi Ogle- 1970

Larry Olenberger- 1968

Gary Palmer- 1970

Randy Palmer- 1971

Terrie Hays Palmieri- 1970

Dorothy Gong Parker -1971

Erin Parr -1997

Rich Pedroncelli -1973

Karen Mejia Pennrich -1971

Kathy Perez-Penrose-Retired Faculty

Gail Laughlin Pippi -1969

Virginia Pitts - Alumni Parent

Julie Buchanan Poirier -1979

Coleen Pugh - 1978

Wayne Rasmussen- 1968

Kathy Denner Reese -1969

Denise Rehe- 1979

Marilyn Graff Reiss - 1969

Lee Ann Cameron Reuter- 1979

Ruth Richmond- Retired Staff

Marcia Thompson Richter- 1968

Doug Robbins - 1969

Bianca Rosario- Faculty

Ann Rossman--Alumni Parent

Randi Rossman- 1977

Paul Rudd

Sam Salmon - 1968

Pat Sampson - Retired Faculty

Michelle Scarboro- Faculty

Lisa Wittke Schaffner -1987

Bill Schlich- 1979

Cindy Misner Schlich- 1983

Kasey Schlich- 2010

Larry Schlich- 1974

Joe Schlich- 1971

Nancy Schell- Retired Faculty

Carol Cake Sherwood- 1971

Joyce Walburn Sieg - 1968

Sue Sion- Retired Vice-Principal

Cathy Slack- 1978

Todd Snider -Friend of Piner

Don & Patty Soekland '72 & '74

Dale Solheim- 1971

Pamela Rippin Sorensen - Retired Faculty

Diana Valentino Spritzer - 1971

Jennifer Stenger-1988

Jason Stephenson -1989

Sue Woods Stone - 1970

Karen Scott Suiter- 1979

Ed & Claire Taan - 1971&1970

Steve Templeman - 1968

Jill Smith Thach- 1973

Craig Thompson - Retired Faculty

Mary Gowan Thomsen - 1970

Lee & Marj Torliatt - Retired Faculty

Ilene Traverso - Retired Faculty

Kathy Trenchard - Retired Faculty

Jim & Carol Underhill - Retired Coach

Stephen & Maria Vella -

Judy Vesper-1968

Larry Waite - 1968

Pam Jenkins Wallace - 1968

Tony Walls - Friend of Piner

Julie Seymour Watson

Pauline Scinto Whitchurch - 1971

Donna Starr White – 1968

Debra Schoop-Wilson - 1976

Jeanette Babson Wilson – 1986

Patti Yoshimura Wilson - 1971

Cliff Woodruff - 1975

Craig Wycoff - 1978

Chris Zeek- SRHS Class of 1968

Bob & Dolores Zeni- Retired

Vice-Principal

THOSE NAMES IN BOLD PRINT HAVE RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

THE SPARQ CENTER AT PINER HIGH SCHOOL

SCIENCE POSITION ASTRONOMY RESEARCH QUERY

Google (SPARQatphs.com) to confirm event details

Presentations are free to the public, but donations are appreciated.



Oct. 12, 2023, 7 p.m. The Great Redwood Trail with Louisa Morris: Project Manager -

The Great Redwood Trail is a 320-mile world-class, multi-use rail-to-trail project connecting California's San Francisco and Humboldt Bays. Established in 2021, about 75 miles of this trail have already been built. Project Manager Louisa Morris will share information about this exciting legacy trail that travels through some of the wildest and most scenic landscapes right in our own backyard!

Oct. 26, 2023, 7 p.m. The SPARQ Planetarium News and Views (30 min) Natural Selection (Full Dome Film) (60 min) -Natural

Selection: We will join Darwin on his voyage with the HMS Beagle to the Galapagos Islands where he was inspired to develop his later theory of transmutation by natural selection. Darwin himself will explain the mechanism of natural selection to the audience and support it by showing many beautiful

examples in nature.

Nov. 9, 2023, 7p.m. STEM Café; SMART Train with Bill Gamlen- Chief Engineer -

SMART Train Chief engineer Bill Gamlen will join us for an evening of everything SMART train. From its technology, design, engineering and especially SMART trains future plans. See how SMART Train is being used to support UN Goal #11 making Marin and Sonoma County more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. See how SMART Train and last month's STEM café topic (Great Redwood Trail) are integrated.

Nov. 30, 2023, 7 p.m. The SPARQ Planetarium News and Views (30 min) Incoming! (Full Dome Film) (30 min) -Incoming!

Audiences will discover how asteroids and comets have collided with our planet throughout history, changing the course of life on Earth and shaping the world we



know today.

Dec. 14, 2023, 7 p.m. A SPARQ Special Presentation (60 min) Full Dome Double Feature in Spanish only -Dynamic Earth:

Dynamic Earth explores the inner workings of Earth's great life support system: the global climate, and Solar Superstorms: A fury is building on the surface of the Sun. What's driving these strange phenomena? How will they affect planet Earth? Find the answers as we venture into the seething interior of our star.

Jan 11, 2024, 7 p.m. SPARQ Digital Theater ~ Whale Cinematography – Owen Bis-

sell will present Cinematography of Biology and Whales.

Jan. 25, 202, 7 p.m. The SPARQ Planetarium News and Views (15 min) The Secrets of Whales: Orca Dynasty (45 min) -The Secrets of Whales: Orcas across the globe use unique strategies to stay on top of the food chain. Witness five powerful orca matriarchs pass down their family hunting traditions to the next generation, preserving their way of life before the customs are lost forever.

February 8, 2024 - STEM Café: To be Announced.

Feb 22, 2024, 7 p.m. A SPARQ Planetarium News and Views (30 min) Super Volcanoes (Full Dome) (25 min)- Super Volcanoes. An immersive planetarium show, that looks back at rare classes of eruptions that have marshaled the energy that lurks, like a sleeping dragon, beneath the surface of planet Earth.

March 7, 2024, 7 p.m. STEM Café: Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology - Piner graduate, Lindsey Dawson with Texas A & M University will present veterinary physiology and pharmacology.

March 28, 2024, 7 p.m. The SPARQ Planetarium News and Views (30 min) Black Holes- Other side of Infinity: (Full Dome) (30 min) -Black Holes: The formation of the early universe, star birth and death, the collision of giant galaxies, and a simulated flight to a super-massive black hole lurking at the center of our own Milky Way Galaxy.

April 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m. STEM Café: Political Science – David McCuan, Political Scientist at Sonoma State University will be the presenter.

April 25, 2024, 7 p.m. A SPARQ Planetarium Special Presentation IMAX Coral Reef Adventure (Extreme Screen 50 min) -Take a once in a lifetime journey across the South Pacific for a spectacular IMAX adventure. Joy, ecstasy, a spiritual high: these words describe the exhilaration of diving a pristine coral reef as ocean explorers Howard and Michele Hall bring their love of the ocean into action.

Piner Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner

On April 29, 2023, the Piner High School Athletic Hall of Fame reconvened its annual awards banquet after a three-year hiatus due to the covid pandemic. The event was held at the Fairview Foxtail Golf & Country Club in Rohnert Park, starting with a no host bar and appetizers, followed by dinner, dessert and the much-anticipated program. Cathy Slack, Piner graduate class of 1978, was Master of Ceremonies.

The Piner High School, Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2020, inducted in 2023 includes:

- Michelle Fergusson, 1987 – 1990, soccer, cross country and track. Michelle was introduced by Hall of Fame Committee Member, Todd Grames.
- Faith Baggett, 1994 – 1998, volleyball. Faith was introduced by Piner volleyball Coach Rob Shimetz.
- Derek Shaffer, 2000 – 2004, soccer (goalie/defense). Derek was introduced by Hall of Fame Committee Member, Joan Fleck and Piner soccer coach Don Shaffer.
- Moises Medrano, 2000 – 2004, soccer (offense). Moises was also introduced by Joan Fleck and Don Shaffer.
- Greg Alexander, 2001-2005, football and basketball. Greg was introduced by Hall of Fame Committee Member and Piner basketball Coach Mike Erickson.
- The 1985 Boys Baseball Team was introduced by Piner Coach Chuck Raznikov. Baseball team members include Pete Castro, Jeff Schulz, Todd Putterbaugh, Mike Roundtree, Larry Manhart, Danny Miller, Darren Ladd, Toby Vaughn, Sal Perez, Derek Schaffer, Darvin Beaman, Dave Leonard, Tom Kemper, Derek Scott and Joe Lickey.

The introductions were robust with impressive, Hall of Fame deserving statistics, honors and championships. The acceptance speeches were inspiring, gracious, and deeply personal. The event was well attended by supportive family members and friends; Piner alumni; coaches and teachers; representatives of the Piner High Boosters; and long-time Piner supporters, G&G Market family members. Albert Lau, of Albert Lau Photography, photographed the memorable evening.



Piner High Foundation

If you have not already done so, please consider renewing your annual Piner High School Foundation membership. The money, along with revenue generated from our annual crab feed fundraiser is critical in supporting our Piner High School instructors through Robert Zeni Teacher Grants. The PHS Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit so donations are tax deductible. Membership renewals of \$20.00 per year can be mailed to P.O. Box 12284, Santa Rosa, CA 95406. Donations are also gladly accepted.

Memorial Donations

Cindy Gaddie, Edna Gaddie, and Bob Zeni all made donations to the PHS Foundation in memory of Dolores Seymour, Piner's first and longtime Business Secretary. Dolores passed away last year on December 16th. Bob Zeni also made a donation in memory of Ron Washburn who taught Learning Skills. Ron passed away last November. An anonymous donation was also made in memory of Sandi Lacey, who taught History & Government for 27 years at Piner. Sandi passed away on July 19th of this year.

Crab Feed



After a two-year hiatus because of the covid pandemic, the 2023 annual crab feed was a huge success. Our guests enjoyed over 1,100 pounds of crab, along with appetizers, salad, pasta and dessert, prepared and served by the amazing Piner Culinary students. The popular dessert auction also provided additional delectables for those who wanted something unique and home-made-- many prepared by the Piner culinary arts students. In addition to the delicious food, there were the vast raffle and auction items coordinated for the 10th year, by super volunteer, Judy Poulson and her team of supporters, including husband, Andre, and Booster alumni parents. *A big thank you goes to Oliver's Market for again, assisting us by selling our crab feed tickets at their stores.* Thank you to everyone who supported another successful event!! See you again in January, 2024!!



Piner High School
Athletic Hall of Fame
P.O. Box 12284
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

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**Piner High School
Foundation.....**

Dedicated to offering grants to Piner teachers for classroom improvements and projects

**Piner High School
Athletic Hall of Fame...**

Dedicated to honoring graduates of Piner who excelled in athletics during their high school years

Piner High School
Event Calendar~ 2023/2024

16th Annual Piner High Crab Feed
January 27, 2024

Benefits Piner Foundation and Piner
Hall of Fame

All you can eat ~ \$65
Appetizers – Salad – Pasta – Crab – Dessert
Raffles – Silent Auction – Dessert Auction

For additional information visit our websites

Piner High School Athletic Hall of Fame, Inc	Joan Fleck	President
www.pinerhalloffame.org		
Piner High Piner High Foundation	Randy Nunes	President
www.pinerhighfoundation.org		