



Woodrow Wilson High School Alumni Update - February 2008

FORMER BASEBALL COACH TO BE INDUCTED INTO AMERICAN HALL OF FAME - BUT FIRST HE PUBLISHES A BOOK!

Former Woodrow Wilson High School and Portland State baseball coach **Jack Dunn** will be inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame next January 2009. "But at the moment he's more excited about getting into print another way," writes Steve Brandon, Portland Tribune, February 1, 2008. Jack Dunn has written a book geared to coaches, "From the Third Base Coach's Box." It will be available soon at lulu.com. The book features a foreword by **Dale Murphy '74**, the former star outfielder for the Atlanta Braves who played for Dunn at Wilson. Dunn was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 1999. Wilson's baseball coaches include: **Robert Webster** 1957-1963; **Bob McFarlane** 1964-1969; **Jack Dunn** 1969-1974; **Walt Looney** 1975-1982; and **Mike Clopton** 1983-Present. Jack has three sons who graduated from Wilson, **John '73, Jeff '74 & Jim '76**. All three played professional baseball after college. This really is a family affair! John Dunn '73 married **Barb Roth '75** and their oldest child, **Evan Dunn '05** attends the University of Redlands and plays baseball for the school. **Rebecca Dunn '07** is a freshman at University of Oregon, and **Rachel Dunn '11** is a freshman at WWHS. John's two brothers-in-law played baseball at Wilson, **Joel Roth '72** and **Steve Roth '78**. Our very own Baseball Coach Mike Clopton was a student-athlete for Jack Dunn when Jack was a baseball coach at Cleveland HS. "Coach Dunn is a brilliant baseball mind. He is constantly analyzing the game to improve it. I have been fortunate to be mentored by him," adds Mike. To read more about Jack and his career, go to: http://www.portlandtribune.com/sports/story.php?story_id=120181533273159700. Congratulations, Coach Dunn!

GRAD NOMINATED FOR "BEST MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR"

Wilson's very own **Joe Powers '96** was just nominated for a 2008 "Best Male Artist of the Year" Portland Music Award by Portland's Spectator Magazine! Fellow nominees are Josh Hodges, Ohmega Watts, Renato Caranto and Curtis Salgado. Joe is one of the few harmonica players who specializes in blending jazz, Tango, Blues, and chamber music. Joe started playing the harmonica when he was two years old. He received formal training at the University of Oregon's School of Music and has represented the United States at numerous festivals throughout the U.S., Europe, Canada and Japan. He represented the United States at the 2005 World Harmonica Festival in Germany, placing fourth in the world in the jazz diatonic category. In February 2007, Joe traveled to Buenos Aires to record his debut solo Album, "Amor de Tango" with some of the country's finest Tango musicians. When asked about the nomination Joe responds, "When I think of the all incredible talent that we have here in our beloved city I was honored to receive the recognition and be listed among other musicians who I admire and respect such as Curtis Salgado, and Renato Caranto". In high school Joe sang in the Wilson choir and "Ensemble". He got a leading role in his first play at Wilson in *Ten Little Indians* by Agatha Christie and performed in *Rumors* by Neil Simon. **Julie Accuardi**, retired drama teacher, remembers Joe as "a wonderful actor." "He starred in my production of *Ten Little Indians*, and although he was new to acting at Wilson, he was first rate from the very start. Also, he was absolutely hilarious in *Rumors*. Congratulations to Joe!" states Julie. Joe also started a pop/rock cover band with friends called *Red Point*. They played at the 1995 Wilson Prom and other school functions and won a Rose Festival talent contest. He formed another band called *Seizure Salad* and they won the first annual Portland high-school Battle of the Bands at PCC. Joe has fond memories of his time at Wilson, particularly time spent in the WWHS Cosgrove Auditorium. "A school auditorium is more than just a big room with seats and a stage, it's a place where magic happens, where words come to life, where music fills the senses, and where young musicians, actors, performers, and public speakers can build self confidence and hone their craft. More than that it's a place where the entire student body can be united and celebrate that unity," states Joe. "Some of my earliest performance memories were there on the Cosgrove Auditorium stage, whether it was acting in a play, singing in the choir, or performing with my Rock band, those moments helped form the foundation for my life long pursuit. I feel it is important to preserve and enhance that special place so that all students may continue to have the kind of opportunities that I am grateful to have had." Congratulations to Joe! Well deserved recognition for one of our own! To learn more about Joe go to: <http://www.joepowers.com/>.

1960 GRAD JOINS JAZZ VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Clay Carter '60 sang in the Wilson High Sr. Choir under the direction of Cliff Matousek and pianist Sonja Haugen. Though Clay is retired now, he had the opportunity to audition with the Westside Singers (A Jazz Vocal Ensemble) and was accepted to sing with them about two years ago. The Westside Singers have been performing and entertaining audiences for over 60 years. They specialize in performing jazz standards from the 1940s and 1950s, along with popular show tunes. Check out Clay's new artistic endeavor at www.westsidesingers.com. If you get the chance, check him out and come see one of their performances.

GRAD APPEARS ON NATIONAL TELEVISION PBS GREAT PERFORMANCES WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Kelly Grant (Hedtke) '88 debuted on Broadway in the cast of Stephen Sondheim's musical *Company* which also took home the 2007 Tony for Best Revival of a Musical! This week *Company* with Kelly will be on television on PBS Great Performances Wednesday night, February 20 at 9:00PM, Channel 10. The 14 member multi-instrument playing cast functions as the show's orchestra, as well as acting and singing the various roles. Kelly plays the role of "Kathy" along with playing the flute and saxophone [and is the actress in the middle of the photo in the following link.] To learn more about the PBS Great Performances of *Company* go to: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf/shows/company/index.html>. For info on Kelly's career, visit her online at www.kellygrant.com. Congratulations to Kelly and her parents, Jim and Sandy Hedtke!

GEORGE PERRY (1919-2007) A FEW MEMORIES

George Perry passed away on August 22, 2007. George taught Shop and Math at Wilson from 1956 to 1979. One of George's students, **Gary Severson '61**, has vivid memories of George and thought his students might enjoy reading some of his memories from his days in class with Mr. Perry. According to Gary, George "used to tell his classes about his harrowing experience of being shot down as a B-17 pilot in WWII on the anniversary of that flight. (He stopped this in 1961 or 1962 when there were no more war brats at WWHS.) Sometime in 1943 he was returning from a bomb run on the oil facilities in Ploesti, Romania when he had to ditch his damaged plane in the Adriatic Sea. He was badly hurt and spent a couple of years in a German stalag. I last saw George just after a huge fiftieth anniversary celebration of the B-17 (sometime in the mid-1980's) in Seattle (Boeing was one of the manufacturers). Several hundred Army Air Corp flight crews convened in downtown Seattle hotels for the big reunion. One of George's most poignant experiences there was when the rear gunner from the B-17 in front of his found him and tearfully recalled how he'd seen George's plane ditch. The gunner had wondered for over 45 years whether George and others from his crew had survived. Even more remarkably, another B-17 from George's squadron had been shot down on the same raid, and that pilot was also located at the Seattle reunion. "I thought some of George's students might enjoy hearing 'the rest of the story', reflects Gary.

ALUM FOLLOWS HIS HEART

Eric Starker '94 is an actor and singer in New York City. After high school, he attended Whitman College and then spent five years based in Seattle and three in San Francisco. He has been in New York for the past two years. Eric has done a variety of things through the years, including some arts administration/management as well as working as a vocal coach and music director, but "performing is my passion and my career," states Eric. He is a member of Actor's Equity and SAG and has done a variety of regional theatre, commercials, independent film projects, industrials, improv, and other performing. At Wilson Eric directed the senior play, the male version of *The Odd Couple*, was assistant director for *The Tavern* and *Voice of the Prairie*. He was Biondello in *Taming of the Shrew*, Scanlon in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and appeared in *South Pacific* and *Anything Goes*. To find out more about Eric and to see/hear some examples of his work go to his website at www.ericstarker.com.

IN MEMORY OF ERNEST MARUSKA '62

Ernie Maruska '62 passed away suddenly on October 25, 2007. Ernie was born on January 14, 1944 and was 63 years old. His sister **Jo Ann Ausmus (Maruska) '64** states that, "Ernie was an active member of the Thespians in the WWHS Drama Department. He was also involved in modern dance at school." Our thoughts are with his family.

FIFTY PLUS YEARS OF WILSON DRAMA

Check out this compilation of "Fifty Plus Years of Wilson Drama" created with historical files and photos at <http://fifty.wilsonhs.com/drama/>. Enjoy this tribute to students, teachers, staff, parents, and community who support Wilson. If you have photos or stories to share from your time at Wilson or you have news on what drama alumni have been up to since graduating from Wilson, please contact to Linda Doyle at lsdoyle@earthlink.net.

REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1968 ... 40 YEAR REUNION

40-Year Reunion - Wilson High School , Class of 1968 is scheduled for Friday, September 19, 2008 at the Embassy Suites - Downtown, 319 SW Pine St, Portland at 7:00 PM - 12:00 AM. Attire: Dressy Casual. Contact: 503-626-3669 or 1-800-474-3669 or email them at wilson1968@classic-reunions.com.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO REPORT?

Send the details to Linda Doyle at lsdoyle@earthlink.net, including your name, class year and quote about your time spent at WWHS.

50TH ANNIVERSARY APPARAL

Interested in purchasing 50th Anniversary t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps? To place an order, contact Jack Bertell '58 at jrbertell@comcast.net.

WWHS ALUMNI MAILING LIST

If you know of someone that would like to get on the WWHS alumni mailing list, please have them go to the 50th website and complete the simple online form at <http://fifty.wilsonhs.com/>.