

REFLECTIONS

ALUMNI | SCHOOL | COMMUNITY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Alumni Association held its annual meeting Jan. 17, re-electing directors Brian Rothenberg, '02, Bryan Innes, '01, Jeff Bagley, '89, Doug Barnhard, '77, Ryan Erbe, '99, Larry Halbert, '75, Megan Lewis, '24 and Mary Todd, '95, and welcoming Justin Poss, '06.

The full board returned its seven officers to another one-year term: Sheldon, '59, Rothenberg, Innes, Robin Goodrich, '84, Dennis Porter, '66, Sean Fogarty, '93, Anne Mott, '83, and Erica Brazee Granger, '00.

Our Leadership Fellows program has led to increased interaction with the school, with two seniors, two juniors and two freshmen, with interviews for two more slated for March. I am particularly happy that Megan Lewis, '24, a sophomore at SUNY Binghamton, has entered her second year on the board, making her the first graduating senior to join us. And, Cooper Harvey, '26, is revitalizing the board's social media presence on Facebook and Instagram and will spearhead SCSAA's website update.

Brian Rothenberg reported that SCSAA had a successful year financially. Highlights included a successful and well-attended, 10-event reunion, with many of those events offered at a reduced cost, but with increased income and a highly praised Wall of Fame luncheon and reception for the 25th and 50th reunion classes. And the fall Sports Hall of Fame dinner continued a tradition of a full house.

Anne Mott reported that an anonymous alumnus is donating \$10,000 to provide 10 successive merit-based scholarships, awarded to a scholar in the arts, education, technology or community service.

Anne reported increased membership, but pointed out that the association runs an annual deficit, and that we need to continue emphasizing member enrollment and donations. The deficit comes from association activities that give back to the school or community, such as our 11 scholarships, our support of SADD-Teen Institute and the FFA National Conference and civic projects. Also, website and database updates and leasing the Alumni Room and office at the former hospital.

All of this continues to fulfill our mission: '. . . to serve alumni, school and community.'

Doug Sheldon, SCSAA President, '59

What's inside:

Wall of Fame Inductees
Alumni News & Basketball
Veterans' Corner

Alumni Weekend Schedule
In Memoriam
Memorial Chair Needed

Membership Form

WALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Patti Weed Bennett, '86

Dedicated Corporate Leadership and Service



Patti Weed Bennett is a dedicated leader with a distinguished 25-year career at Walmart, defined by continuous growth and enterprise-level impact across technology, human resources, operations and transformation.

She began in the Information Systems Division (ISD), where she partnered with programmers to ensure critical systems operated seamlessly. Her technical expertise and natural leadership earned her a promotion managing programming teams, where she oversaw system performance, delivery and talent development. Seeking to bridge the gap between technology and people, Patti transitioned into ISD recruiting, where she designed and implemented programs to attract top-tier technical talent, traveling nationally with Walmart's Chief Information Officer to strengthen early-career pipelines on college campuses. This success led her into a long-term tenure within human resources, where she spent 18 years supporting Walmart Health & Wellness. She provided HR leadership for pharmacies and vision centers, managed large geographic regions and served as a strategic partner to leaders ranging from field managers to senior executives.

Patti's scope eventually expanded into Health & Wellness Manufacturing, where she led transformation initiatives for Central Fill Pharmacies and Walmart's optical labs. A highlight of this period was her leadership during a major merger and acquisition in the optical space, where she guided the integration and organizational changes necessary for success.

Today, she serves as HR director for Walmart Facility Services. In this capacity, she leads HR strategy for maintenance technicians across the enterprise, playing a pivotal role in workforce transformation and operational excellence.

Throughout her tenure, Patti has been recognized for her positive impact on associates and business outcomes. She has received multiple "Making a Difference" awards and was honored with the Walmart Global People's Strategic Partner Award. Her commitment to service extends beyond the corporate office; earlier in her career, she received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for her work with the Helen Walton Children's Learning Center.

Deeply committed to her community, Patti has held leadership roles such as PTO treasurer and Band Booster treasurer. Patti prioritizes family, friendship and meaningful connections in her life.

Mary Dingman House, '76

Excellence in Legal Government Affairs and Children's Advocacy



Mary Dingman House, '76, was part of a family very involved in school, work and community in Sidney. During high school, she was selected as a Rotary Exchange student to Sydney, Australia. She joined Rotary as an adult, becoming president of the West Winfield Rotary Club in 1993.

Mary graduated from Herkimer County Community College with a degree in Paralegal Studies. She worked at the New York State Education Department Counsel's Office as a legal assistant and graduated from Albany Law School in 1984. Mary then worked for the Otsego County Department of Social Services, handling child abuse, neglect, permanent neglect, PINS and juvenile delinquency proceedings for the county. She worked for 10 years as the law clerk to the late Hon. George S. Kepner, Jr., who presided over Surrogates Court, Family Court and County Court in Otsego County. Mary also worked as a part-time assistant county attorney for Herkimer County, handling administrative matters for the county, annual tax foreclosure proceedings, personnel matters and contractual issues.

In 1996, Mary became an assistant attorney general in the NYS Attorney General's Office, working in the Civil Recoveries Bureau and handling mental hygiene cases, including Article 81 Guardianships. She was promoted to deputy bureau chief and then bureau chief of the Civil Recoveries Bureau, overseeing a staff of 165 people in nine units across six locations around the state. During her tenure, she worked for four Attorneys General and the bureau returned more than a billion dollars to the state.

In 2005, Mary was honored by the Herkimer County Community College Alumni Association as the Alumnus of the Year for demonstrating the highest level of excellence in her field. Mary handled some pro bono matters for her church and served as volunteer manager of the NYS Youth Orchestra's Wind Ensemble for two years. After retiring from state government, Mary volunteered as a HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) counselor for Madison County, where she was able to use her knowledge of government healthcare programs to advise and guide to Medicare recipients regarding their coverage options.

Mary relocated to Pennsylvania and is a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for CASA for Kids, a national organization which has volunteers acting as court appointed special advocates for abused and neglected children in foster care. Through knowledge and professional experience, Mary contributed to the quality of life for many people and organizations.

Dr. Janine L. Fogarty, '81
***Exemplary Service in Medicine, Elder Care and Community
Service***



Dr. Janine L. Fogarty, '81, exemplifies the values of academic excellence, professional leadership, community service and philanthropy. Her life and career reflect a deep sustained commitment to serving others through medicine, ethical leadership and civic engagement.

Dr. Fogarty's record of achievement began at Sidney Central School and continued through an accomplished academic and medical career. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, magna cum laude, from Ithaca College, followed by a Doctor of Medicine degree from SUNY Upstate Medical Center. Janine completed residency training in diagnostic radiology at Rochester General Hospital, later demonstrating exceptional intellectual curiosity and resilience by pursuing a fellowship in hospice and palliative care medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center. She achieved board certification in diagnostic radiology and hospice and palliative medicine, reflecting a lifelong commitment to learning and excellence.

Professionally, Janine has shown outstanding leadership across multiple domains of medicine. She spent nearly two decades as a partner and diagnostic radiologist at Borg Imaging/Borg & Ide Imaging, and served as chief of radiology for Lifetime Health. Following a personal health challenge, she courageously redefined her professional path, transitioning into hospice and palliative care - a field requiring profound compassion, ethical judgment and collaborative leadership. She served as division chief of hospice and palliative care and chair of ethics at Unity Health System and serves as medical director of Webster Comfort Care Home, where her leadership has a direct and meaningful impact on patients and families facing serious illness and end-of-life care.

Dr. Fogarty's prestigious honors include Rochester Academy of Medicine's Distinguished Service team award, as well as an award for her individual contributions to medicine, ethics and community service. Janine has been a leader in organized medicine, serving for the Medical Society of the State of New York and the Monroe County Medical Society, including as president, 2024-25, and as an AMA alternate delegate advocating at state and national levels.

Her dedication to service extends into her community through civic and nonprofit involvement, public health leadership and board service. Through mentorship, governance, advocacy and compassionate care, Janine has made an enduring impact.

Joe Mirabito, '76

Distinguished Business and Community Leadership



Joseph P. Mirabito, Class of 1976, is the Executive Chair of Mirabito Energy Products, a fourth-generation, family-owned energy distribution company serving customers across nine states. He previously served as CEO for 38 years, guiding the company through growth and diversification, including expansion into more than 100 convenience stores, as well as natural gas marketing ventures. A graduate of LeMoyne College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business, Joe began his career as a young boy working part time in the family business in Sidney. This early start paved the way for Joe to learn the innerworkings and strong ethics of the business by following the example set by his family. As one individual aptly stated, “Joe exemplifies the values of a bygone era.” In describing Joe, others have used words such as honor, unwavering integrity, generosity and concern for the welfare of others above himself.

As the business grew and moved headquarters to Binghamton, Joe’s philanthropy and civic dedication expanded, too. Joe served on numerous boards, including the Agency of Broome County, United Health Services, Corning Natural Gas, LeMoyne College and Binghamton University Foundation. He is a past president of the Empire State Energy Association, past chairman of the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce and was a leader with the Sidney and Otsego County chambers of commerce.

Philanthropy has always been a trademark of the Mirabito businesses, beginning in Sidney when they supported numerous organizations with sponsorships of everything from new football helmets and modern scoreboards to contributing to scholarships and leadership awards. As the business grew, so did the giving.

Under Joe’s direction, the Mirabito Golf Classic has raised millions of dollars for charities across the region. In addition, Mirabito Cares, the company’s philanthropic program, continues to support families, veterans, first responders, healthcare initiatives and more through financial contribution, while always encouraging employee volunteerism.

Joe’s impact was honored with the LeMoyne College “Business Leader of the Year” award, the NYACS award for his “low-profile, high impact” leadership and the Broome County Distinguished Citizen Award. One person offered, “Joe is a person who lives life with an infectious joy and is dedicated to spreading that joy as far and as wide as possible.”

Family has been Joe’s greatest source of pride. He instills in them traditions and values that have guided and will guide the Mirabito family for years.

Jon White, '66

Multi-talented Entrepreneur and Business Coach



Jon White graduated from Oneonta State with a degree in Speech and Theater Education. For six years, he taught speech and directed the theater program at Glens Falls High School. During that time, Jon directed and performed in more than 30 productions for community theater and the Towers Hall Summer Stock Playhouse in Lake George. This included many leading roles, such as Thomas Jefferson in 1776 for the bicentennial celebrations. Jon also wrote a children's musical, Hurdy Gurdy Man, that was produced by several organizations, including Pfeiffer College in North Carolina.

A new opportunity arose when Jon and his bride, Hope, bought a failed travel agency. When the business became quickly profitable, they bought a second agency. In three years, they sold both for more than 10 times their investment.

Jon then joined the medical device industry. After stints in human resources and production management, he was asked to move to California to integrate an acquisition. Other integrations followed. Jon named employees' satisfaction in having better working conditions and an FDA-issues clean bill of health among the most rewarding aspects of this time.

Jon's career centered on bringing people together to meet challenging goals. In 1997, he opened a private consulting practice to help leaders learn how to do just this. For 27 years, Jon has privately coached senior executives and led group training sessions for emerging leaders. His work has impacted companies throughout North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Some major firms with which he has worked include BIC, Black & Decker, Broadcom, Daimler-Chrysler, Disney, Experian, Hughes Research Labs, Ingram Micro, Jenny Craig, Kinder Morgan, Pacific Life, Qualcomm, Quest Diagnostics, Quiksilver, Rainbird and Subaru.

Interested in the behaviors needed to provide exemplary leadership, Jon co-authored a book highlighting fundamental skills therein, but especially listening. *What You Don't Know About Listening (Could Fill a Book)*, has been in print since 2014.

Jon has composed music throughout his career, and was thrilled to conduct an orchestra that performed his works. He and Hope wrote and produced a musical about their relationship, *Don't Kiss Me*, which premiered on their 40th anniversary to an audience of 200. All proceeds were given to charity. Jon also composed the string quartet, *Speranza*, available on YouTube and Spotify. The piece is based on Jon's composition, "Growing Up Upstate." Namely, in Sidney.

Veterans' Corner

Greetings. I'd like to let you all know that last year the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps celebrated their 250th birthdays. Which leads to the nation's 250th birthday, happening July 4. Happy Birthday, America! The Sidney Veterans Memorial Park will be celebrating its 10th anniversary Saturday, May 23. We hope to see you there. SVMP will also be hosting its annual golf tournament on June 6 at the Sidney Golf & Country Club, to raise funds for park maintenance.

Visit SVMPA.org for details as well as applications for plaques and/or nameplates for your veterans. Note, veterans do not have to be from or have graduated from Sidney; the requirement is simply to be an honorably discharged United States military veteran.

-Doug Barnard, SCSAA Veteran Liaison



Memorial Service Chair Needed

The cofounder of the Sidney Alumni Memorial Service is looking to step down after Alumni Weekend. Are you interested in taking it over?

Greg Davie, '76, together with Sheri Emerson Kinsella, '76, organized the inaugural memorial event held at the high school flagpole area in 2002. Through the years, it has evolved into a touching tribute to deceased classmates, with music performed by alumni and a salute to the military.

Greg and Sheri turned the service over to the Alumni Association and, from 2003-'11, the program was led by Karen Cycon, '63.

Many will remember the Doyle men, covering three generations of Sidney graduates, providing traditional four-part harmony to church hymns. Or when Dave Hollister, '65, played spiritual music on his saxophone.

Since 2012, Greg has introduced a new look and sound to the annual event, along with alumni who have helped create the template with their instruments or voices. Thanks, too, goes to continuing sponsor, C.H. Landers, for their support.

Locations have also changed. From the high school, the service moved to Keith Clark Park and is now held at the Sidney Veterans Memorial Park or, in inclement weather, at Landers Funeral Chapel.

Greg is planning this summer's memorial service, featuring a patriotic medley to honor our nation's 250th birthday. But this one, Greg said, will be his finale. It has become a vital part of Alumni Weekend and could use a fresh perspective.

If anyone is looking to take over this event, Greg would like to hear from you. Contact Greg at 607-643-5728 or sportsradio32@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

Class of 1959, Erwin "Herm" Jackle

Class of 1964, Craig Carlson, d. Feb. 7, 2026

Class of 1966, Muriel DeFilippo Johnson

Class of 1968, Cheryl DeFilippo

Class of 1976, Sue Hadelor Ford Rogers, d. Jan. 1, 2026

Alumni Basketball Game

The 34th annual Sidney Alumni Basketball Association game was held Saturday, Dec. 20. Justin Jedik, '03, took over as commissioner, after SABA founder Greg Davie, '76, stepped down. The evening saw just one game, with 15 former players participating. For the first time in the game's 34-year history, all ballers graduated in this millennium. Jedik said he hopes to see more "old-timers" return next year.

Longtime coaches Brazee and Finnegan returned to their SABA coaching duties, with Coach Brazee's team winning, 100-60. The night's MVP was Dawson Backus, '17, who set a new SABA record for three-point field goals; he made 10, and finished with 32 points. The Idiothead Award, in honor of Darrin Martindale, '07, went to Devon Chabot, '20. Chabot's 34 points led scorers from both teams, and he was an unofficial rebound leader, as well. First-time SABA player Nick Burpoe, '10, led Coach Finnegan's team with 17 points. The annual basketball game raises money for the Sidney Alumni Basketball Association scholarship, totaling \$500, given annually to a graduating senior, boy or girl, who played varsity basketball.



ALUMNI + SCHOOL + COMMUNITY



Clockwise from top right: White jersey players, with Coach Brazee, were the winners. Winner Devon Chabot stands with Commissioner Justin Jedik at the SCSAA Alumni Basketball game. Dawson Backus stands with Commissioner Justin Jedik. Coaches Brazee and Finnegan pictured with all players.

Alumni Weekend Schedule

Friday, July 17

7:30 AM — 5:30 PM

Golf Tournament, Sidney Golf & Country Club, \$260 per team

6:00 PM — 8:00 PM

Wall of Fame Reception, Club 55

Casual attire, complimentary hors d'oeuvres buffet

25th & 50th reunion classes, Wall of Fame members & honorees, SCSAA directors, all class representatives
Register at reservations@sidneyalumni.org and include your name, class year, phone number and table group:

WOF honorees, class representatives, SCSAA board members, 25th reunion class or 50th reunion class.

8:00 PM — midnight

Friday Night Social, VFW, DJ: Noel Goodspeed, \$5 per person

Saturday, July 18

9:00 AM — 11:00 AM

Pancake Breakfast, Sidney Community Cultural Center, hosted by the D'Imperio Family
\$10 per person

11:00 AM — 11:15 AM

Line up for March of the Classes on Main Street

Sidney Community Cultural Center, corner of Main & Bridge streets

11:15 AM — noon

March of the Classes on Main Street, led by 2026 Wall of Fame inductees & current members

1:00 PM — 4:00 PM

Cornhole Tournament

Location: TBD, \$25 per team / \$20 early registration

8:00 PM — midnight

Saturday Night Social, Moose Lodge, DJ: Noel Goodspeed, \$5 per person

Sunday, July 19

10:00 AM — 10:45 AM

Alumni Memorial Service, Veterans Memorial Park

In case of rain: Landers Funeral Home, 21 Main St.

11 AM — 12 PM

Wall of Fame Luncheon Buffet & Social Hour, Club 55

\$15 per person. To register, email reservations@sidneyalumni.org and include your name and phone number, and, if you belong to one of these groups: Class of 1966, Class of 1976, Class of 1981, Class of 1986.

12 PM — 2:00 PM

Wall of Fame Award Program, Club 55

Sidney Alumni

Central School Association

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Today's Date: _____

Your SCS Class Year: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Addr.: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

May we place your contact information on your class list on the
SCSAA website, www.sidneyalumni.org?

() YES () NO

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please send your tax-deductible membership
contribution of:

- \$20 Regular Annual
 \$90 Regular for 5 years
 \$15 Over age 65 Annual
 \$70 Over age 65 for 5 years

Membership year is Aug. 1 - July 31. Your
membership expiration date is on the mailing label on
your copy of *Reflections* newsletter. Your invoice will
be sent to you by e-mail unless you check otherwise:

Receive Invoice by () Post Card () Email

Receive *Reflections* by () Mail () Email

Please mail a check or money order, payable to:

SCS Alumni Association

Mail to:

SCSAA, PO Box 2186, Sidney, NY 13838

SCSAA is a 501(c)(3) Organization

Would you like to help out or serve on a committee?

If yes, what area(s) interest you?

_____ Community Relations _____ School Relations
_____ Reunion Weekend _____ Membership
_____ Sports Hall of Fame _____ *Reflections*
_____ Wall of Fame Other: _____

Your Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Maiden name (if applicable): _____

Spouse's/Partner's Name: _____

Spouse/Partner's SCS Class Year: _____

Are you (or were you) a SCS faculty member?

If yes, which subject(s)/grade(s)? _____

Did you coach any sports teams? If yes, which sports,
the level, and the year(?) _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Vocation: _____

Retired? If yes, what year? _____

Hobbies: _____

Volunteer Activities: _____

Recent Vacations: _____

Children's First Names (& SCS graduation yr.)

Number of Grandchildren: _____

Number of Great Grandchildren: _____

Your Personal Statement: _____

Alumni Abroad



Charlotte Axtell, '66, and brother David Johnson, '62, traveled to Denmark and Sweden last May. Axtell writes:

We landed in Copenhagen, where we spent three days with Fleming Larsen, '64, (the exchange student who lived with our family). Fleming and his gracious wife hosted our visit with a wonderful tour of Copenhagen, including a tour of the Roskilde Cathedral and the Royal Palace.

From there, Dave and I traveled across Sweden to Kalmar, where we met up with a second cousin on our grandfather's side. Edvin and Elisabeth hosted us for a night and took us to the church where our grandfathers had lived and worked. A precious memory, for sure.

We also visited a robotic farm (of course) that used the technology that Dave's sons expect to implement on their own farm on Covered Bridge Road in Unadilla. Really amazing!

On our way to Stockholm, Dave and I found the church in Fagelfors,

where our grandmother used to go. It was beautiful and just like a picture on a jewelry box grandma had given me when I was young.

We then traveled on to stay with another second cousin on our grandmother's side. They hosted us for an exciting evening with a boat ride to Stockholm harbor, with a great view of Old Stockholm and the Royal Palace. The next day they took us to the Vasa Museum, where there is a Viking ship which had been in the harbor for 333 years. Look it up; just amazing! We walked the streets of Old Stockholm and went to a fabric store (of course) and met up with yet another cousin, Lotta (nickname for Charlotte).

Dave and I then took the train back to Copenhagen for a last evening with Fleming before taking off for home. A trip to remember!



SOUTHERN TIER
MUSIC FEST

Matt Vroman
Jesse Kay Band
Rylee Lum Band
The Bennett Hall Band
The Matt Beadle Experience
Jackson Dean
With fireworks to follow!

Tickets available at southerntiermusicfest.com

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

Membership expiration date information is on
the below mailing label.
Support YOUR Alumni Association and join or
renew today!

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Sidney, NY
Permit. No. 33

Sidney Alumni
Central School Association