



SahuarO Cougar Foundation  
PO Box 18181  
Tucson, AZ 85731

# *Cougar Tracks Newsletter*

January 2019 Edition



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## Challenge for the New Year: How Can We Give Back?

*The Cougar Foundation needs your help - and it costs nothing but your time.*



**Jeffrey Gardner (2002)**

President, Board of Directors  
jeff@sahuarocougars.org

Now that the New Year is underway, many Americans take the time to formulate resolutions that they will attempt to follow in order to better themselves in the year to come. According to StatisticBrain, these resolutions typically involve saving money, losing weight, reading or traveling more.

But there's one resolution that is notably missing, and it's one that doesn't cost any money: to be more grateful for that which we have, and to pay it forward.

I'll tell you something that makes me feel grateful: the fact that, 20 years ago (gulp), I was fortunate to enroll at Sahuaro High School – an institution not too far from my home where I felt safe, established lifelong friendships, met my (future) wife, learned valuable life skills, and participated in extracurriculars.

Perhaps most valuable in the long run was the opportunity I had to study under and work for teachers who expected much of me. Teachers who, despite not earning a tremendous income, still came to work day after day and taught kids who were in many cases not as appreciative as we should have been.

I am grateful for teachers like **Bill Thompson**, who taught me how to critically read the news and suss out bias in writing. **Chuck Adams** indirectly inspired me to study Political Science in college (but I won't hold that against him). **Jan Boyd** seemed to have a permanently positive attitude and was nothing but encouraging to me. **Dave Kruszewski** consistently challenged me and eventually gave me my first experience as a soccer coach – and brought me down a couple of pegs when I needed it, too. **David Herring** tasked me with more school work than I had ever seen – or have ever seen since. The fantastic teachers I had the pleasure of studying under at Sahuaro are too numerous to be listed here.

My point is this – Sahuaro isn't just a campus that we all once went to daily. It's a source of stability and growth for the thousands of students who have walked its hallways, and I know I owe a lot to the experiences I had there – and so do many of you.

So how do we pay it forward? I'm not a wealthy man, so I can't make a large donation. But what I am able to do is help work towards helping Sahuaro thrive – and I do so by working with the Cougar Foundation to help continue its goals.

Last year, the Foundation awarded over \$25,000 in scholarships and financial aid to deserving students and teachers and I am proud to be a part of that, even though I gave only time.

And that's where you come in! Whether you're an alumnus, a parent, teacher, or something else, we all can contribute something to a school that contributed so much to us and continues to contribute to the community and future leaders of America. Please consider joining our board, making a donation, or simply spreading the word. Remember what you got out of it and work to put at least that much back in.

It's not just a feel-good, naïve proposal. Let's face it: the country, by and large, has a very negative feeling right now. Our lack of political discourse has sharpened opinions and negatively affected relationships near and far. But how many of us take the time to realize exactly how fortunate we all are? Yes, things can improve. In fact, some of them need to improve a lot! But let's help where we can.

*If you're interested in joining the Foundation Board, please reach out to Jeffrey Gardner at [jeff@sahuarocougars.org](mailto:jeff@sahuarocougars.org)*

### Sahuaro Cougar Foundation Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT:** Jeffrey Gardner  
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Fred Knapp  
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Steve Weinstein

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Harry Johnson  
Dr. David Ashcraft





## Founder's Corner - Notes from Dr. David Ashcraft Many Sahuaro Grads Drawn to the Bright Lights of Broadway



**Dr. David Ashcraft (1970)**  
Co-Founder and Founding  
President of Cougar Foundation

Revisiting the Founder's Corner article from the Summer 2018 issue of *Cougar Tracks* where Sahuaro grad and Cougar Hall of Fame member Ben Crawford ('00) was mentioned, a host of Sahuaro folks have sojourned east to catch the acclaimed singer/actor in his role as the Phantom at the Majestic Theatre in NYC.

Dave Ashcraft ('70) and his wife Joan, along with their son Tim ('03) caught the show on October 5th, enjoying a backstage tour and time with Ben in his dressing room afterward. Chris and Amy Ashcraft (both Class of '98) soon followed suit. Other recent travelers to the Big Apple to see Ben's amazing performance have included Cougar Foundation Hall of Fame and Board members Sandy Novak and Jan Boyd, and Sahuaro's Athletic and Activities Director Steve Botkin ('86), his wife Laura ('89), and their daughter Alyssa ('19). Rounding out the fall delegation to Broadway, Sahuaro Boys Volleyball Coach and Ben's classmate Chris Wharam ('00) and his wife Alyssa ('03), as well as former SHS parents Mike and Marcia Notheis each enjoyed stunning performances.

...a host of Sahuaro folks have sojourned east to catch the acclaimed singer/actor Ben Crawford ('00) in his role as the Phantom of the Opera at the Majestic Theatre in New York City.

This brings to mind another Sahuaro grad who made her claim to fame under the lights on stage. Danyelle Boussardet ('91) was a drama student under Lela Freiman's direction who played Lucy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and Reno Sweeny in *Anything Goes* at Sahuaro. Danyelle earned her BFA in Musical Theatre from the U of A and like Ben went on to follow her dream. Perhaps her crowning achievement was her ongoing role as Belle in the National Touring Cast of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. After "retiring" from the rigors of travelling and performing, Danyelle (now Dunavold) is married and currently teaches theatre arts classes at Northwood High School in the Irvine, CA School District.

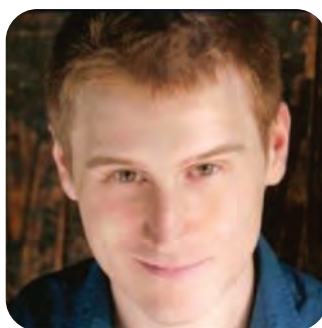
Other Sahuaro performers/playwrights/directors/producers that come to mind include Cougar Foundation Hall of Famers Scott Carter ('70), Helen Gregory ('73), Peter Van Slyke ('74), and James Gooden ('74). Paul Whitthorne ('88) played the role of Tony in Sahuaro's *West Side Story* in May of 1988. He was a child actor in TV and on national commercials before moving to the big screen in adulthood. He also performed *Shakespeare* with Patrick Stewart in NYC and appeared in *The Tempest* on Broadway. Paul is now teaching acting in New York City. Finally, J.P. Pierson ('00), son of former Sahuaro teachers Tom and Donna Pierson, has found success in Chicago, appearing on stage, in a television movie, and receiving the 2016 Joseph Jefferson (Non-Equity) Award for Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play. J.P. was a classmate of Ben Crawford and actually shared the role of Tevye with him in Sahuaro's November 1999 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. What a fabulous array of stars who claim Sahuaro as their alma mater!



Alyssa Botkin ('19), Laura Botkin ('89) and Athletic/Activities Director Steve Botkin ('86) with Ben Crawford ('00) after his performance



Tim Ashcraft ('03), Joan Ashcraft and Dave Ashcraft ('70) also visited with Ben Crawford after a performance of *Phantom of the Opera*



J.P. Pierson ('00)



Danyelle Bossardet Dunavold ('91)



Paul Whitthorne ('88)

On the subject of Sahuaro traditions. The school's *Fight Song Across the Field* was borrowed from Ohio State with words penned by Sahuaro's first band director, Carlyle Webb. It remains the only extant piece of the three original school melodies.

Sahuaro's School Song, *We Are the Cougars*, greeted every touchdown scored in the late 60's and throughout the 70's and was sung robustly by the large student body. Composed by U of A Band Director Jack Lee, the words were also written by Carlyle Webb.

The second song lost to history is the school's *Alma Mater*. The lyrics were composed by Alfonso Nilo, uncle of Nancy Nilo (SHS '72) utilizing the Cornell University Alma Mater tune *Far Above Cayuga's Waters*.

The words of the latter two songs are included for your perusal. Ask anyone from the classes of '70-'80 to sing them for you!

[To read the lyrics referenced above, see **FIGHT SONGS** on page 5].



Saharo High School Cougar Foundation

# Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday April 27, 2019

Forty Niner Country Club

**Join us for 18 holes of golf at the  
world-class Forty Niner Country Club!**

Win cash at the **money hole!** Enjoy a **delicious lunch!**

Win some fabulous **raffle** or **silent auction** prizes!



**Cindy Rarick**  
Saharo Class of 1978  
Former LPGA Pro  
Honorary Tournament Chair

## » Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **YES**, I would like to donate a raffle prize!  
a Foundation representative will contact you. Donations are tax-deductible, ID 86-0720942.

☐ **YES**, I would like to join the Cougar Foundation (add \$15)

## » Player Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

## » [A] Golf and Lunch Selections

Golf and Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ x \$80 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Fdn Membership \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Lunch Only \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Mulligans \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Donations \_\_\_\_\_  
**[A] Subtotal** \_\_\_\_\_

## » [B] Sponsorships and Raffles

Title ☐ \$5000 Red ☐ \$2500  
Blue ☐ \$1000 Plat. ☐ \$400  
Tee ☐ \$125 Green ☐ \$75  
\_\_\_\_ x ☐ \$5 group of 5 raffle tickets  
\_\_\_\_ x ☐ \$20 arm lengths of tickets  
**[B] Subtotal** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total owed: (total of sections [A] and [B])** \_\_\_\_\_

## Event Information

Registration 6:30am

Start Time 7:30am

### Contact Information:

Jeffrey Gardner 520-990-1190  
Debbie Glasser 520-360-3788  
Fred Knapp 520-609-6392  
Fran Johnson 520-247-0336  
Ed Rothlisberger 520-465-9048

Find out more at [saharocougars.org](http://saharocougars.org)

## Sponsor the event!

Sponsors are incredibly important to the results of the tournament - and it's a great way to have your business seen by local, well-qualified residents.

We assure you that your sponsorship will be of tremendous value to your company and that the Cougar Foundation will work hard to promote and support those who have helped us support the Saharo community.

To find out about all the sponsorship opportunities available for this years' event, please see the next page!

Please mail this form to the Saharo Cougar Foundation - PO Box 18181, Tucson, AZ 85731

Checks should be made out to Saharo Cougar Foundation. If you prefer to use credit card, enter information below or visit [saharocougars.org](http://saharocougars.org)



Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
CSC/CVV: \_\_\_\_\_





Saharo High School Cougar Foundation

# Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday April 27, 2019

Forty Niner Country Club

Last year the Saharo High School Cougar Foundation distributed **over \$25,000 in scholarships** to graduating seniors towards their college education. These scholarships are paid for by our only annual fundraiser – our charity golf tournament.

Based at the beautiful Forty Niner Country Club on Tucson's northeast side, the tournament has attracted hundreds of golfers, local businesses, and the Saharo community at large. Golfers, by and large, tend to be affluent and businesspeople. Guests enjoy 18 holes of golf, a delicious catered lunch, prizes and so much more.

We assure you that your sponsorship will be of tremendous value to your company and that the Cougar Foundation will work hard to promote and support those who have helped us support the Saharo community. Whether you support the Cougar Foundation's efforts with a Title Sponsorship, one of our subsidiary sponsorships, a raffle prize or other form of support, please accept our sincere gratitude!

## Title Sponsorship (limit 1) - \$5000

- Exclusive position as the ONLY Title Sponsor
- Tournament foursome with preferred seating at Lunch
- Additional lunches provided for up to 2 lunch guests
- Strong association with the Saharo Community
- Opportunity to insert prizes into golfer's goodie bags
- Opportunity to insert literature into golfer's goodie bags
- Opportunity to speak to event attendees at the lunch
- Visibility for your company name/logo
- Tournament literature
- On-course signage (includes 1 tee sponsorship)
- Golf Cart signage
- Cougar Foundation Website and social media
- Thank-you letters to participants

## Other sponsorship opportunities

### Saharo "Red" Sponsorship (limit 3) - \$2500

- Tournament foursome with preferred seating at Lunch + 2 lunch guests
- Visibility for your company name/logo
  - Tournament literature
  - On-course signage (includes 1 tee sponsorship)
  - Cougar Foundation Website and social media platforms
  - Thank-you letters to participants
- Strong association with the Saharo Community
  - Opportunity to insert literature in golfer's goodie bags
  - Special recognition during lunch

### Saharo "Blue" Sponsorship (limit 5) - \$1000

- Tournament foursome + 2 lunch guests
- Visibility for your company name/logo
  - Tournament literature
  - On-course signage (includes 1 tee sponsorship)
  - Cougar Foundation social media platforms
  - Thank-you letters to participants
- Strong association with the Saharo Community
  - Opportunity to insert literature in golfer's goodie bags
  - Special recognition during lunch

### Platinum Sponsorship - \$400

- Tournament foursome + admission for up to 2 additional lunch guests
- Visibility for your company name/logo
  - On-course signage (includes 1 tee sponsorship)
- Strong association with the Saharo Community
  - Special recognition during lunch

### Tee Sponsorship - \$125

- Tee sign and opportunity to have representative at the sponsored tee box

### Green Sponsorship - \$75

- Signage at the event, to be seen by all participants and volunteer staff

**If you'd like to sponsor the event, please contact Fran Johnson at 520-247-0336**



# Alumni Boys' Volleyball Tournament Continues

*Alumni celebrate the 8th annual tournament to fundraise for the program*



**Sandy Novak**

Hall of Fame Inductee and  
Assistant Treasurer/Secretary



For the past several years, Sahuaro has hosted an Alumni Men's Volleyball Tournament. The event began 8 years ago as a project by Coach Sandy Novak to raise funds for Sahuaro's boys' volleyball program and to gather friends together for fun and camaraderie.

The Sahuaro boys' volleyball program is the only program in Southern Arizona that has qualified for the State Tournament every year since 1998.



Each tournament participant pays twenty dollars to play. These funds specifically go towards paying entry fees for competitions. In fact, proceeds from the tournament has helped pay for one competition each year for the team. This is extremely helpful because the volleyball program needs to raise tax credit funds to pay for a coach each year. Without these additional fundraisers and credits, the program would not be able to afford the much-needed additional staffing.

That additional coaching has come with some significant benefits, as the Sahuaro program is consistently competitive. In fact, it is the only program in TUSD that has consistently had three competition levels of volleyball since the second year of competition in 1998. Further, it is also the only program in Southern Arizona that has qualified for the State Tournament every year since 1998.

"It is exciting to see what each young man has accomplished in his life and fun to see the men bring their wives, children, and parents back to watch them play volleyball again," says Coach Novak. "I look forward to this tournament each year and I hope it grows bigger".

The tradition continues this year under the guidance of Coach Chris Wharam, who has taken over the program from Coach Novak. He hopes to continue with this tradition for many years to come, and grow it into an even larger event for fundraising and team-building. Go Cougars!



## FIGHT SONGS, continued from page 2

*We Are the Cougars* greeted every touchdown scored in the late 60's and throughout the 70's and was sung robustly by the large student body. It was composed by U of A Band Director Jack Lee and the words were written by Sahuaro's first band director, Carlyle Webb.

### **We Are the Cougars**

*We are the Cougars, the mighty Cougars,  
we have a spirit that is true*

*We are the Cougars, the mighty Cougars,  
and we'll defend our red and blue*

*We are the Cougars, the mighty Cougars,  
we have the strength of loyalty*

*We are the Cougars, we're from Sahuaro,  
and we will fight for victory!*

*Alma Mater* is another song lost to history. The lyrics were composed by Alfonso Nilo, uncle of Nancy Nilo (SHS '72) utilizing the Cornell University *Alma Mater* tune *Far Above Cayuga's Waters*.

### **Alma Mater**

*'Neath the purple rugged mountains on the desert plain  
Stands Sahuaro Alma Mater in the sunset flame  
Pioneers have trod before, a better world their aim  
Sahuaro sends their sons and daughters to the Hall of Fame  
Forge the anvil, raise the banner, lift our spirits high  
Hail to thee dear Alma Mater, hail Sahuaro High!*

## Scholarships & Assistance

**Going to college? See the below scholarship opportunities**

At the Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation, we realize that for many students, education does not end at graduation. To that end, the Cougar Foundation works hard to administer over \$25,000 in scholarships and aid to deserving students and staff who wish to better themselves and the school by their efforts. Below are this year's available awards and scholarships. To learn more, visit [sahuarocougars.org](http://sahuarocougars.org)

**Red and Blue Scholarship (3.5+ GPA)**

**The Russell Public Scholarship**

**Senior Scholarship (2.5 – 3.49 GPA)**

**David Ashcraft Artist-Scholar Award**

**The Dr. & Mrs. Mark R. Cavanaugh  
\$5000 Pre-med Athlete Scholarship**

**Cougar Foundation Faculty/Staff  
Scholarship for Continuing Education**

**The Dr. & Mrs. Mark R. Cavanaugh  
Academic Achievement Scholarship**

**Mini-Grant Application**

**Ann Grose Memorial Scholarship**

**Cougar Pride \$5000 Scholarship**

**To apply for or learn more about  
these awards and scholarships,  
visit [sahuarocougars.org](http://sahuarocougars.org)**



SAHUARO  
COUGAR  
FOUNDATION

# Membership Form

*In 1992, the Sahuaro Cougar Foundation was established as a non-profit organization that raised funds to benefit the students, faculty, and alumni of Sahuaro High School. This organization was started by a group of dedicated and loyal individuals who cared about the mission and existence of Sahuaro High School.*

Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in supporting the Foundation and its work. Your membership provides very valuable support to the Sahuaro Community.

The mission and purpose for the Foundation are:

- To perpetuate the history, traditions, and spirit of Sahuaro High School.
- To support the activities of its students and staff.
- To provide services to the Alumni.
- To invoke a system of honors and awards that recognizes the achievements of the students, staff and alumni.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First Maiden (if applicable)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street, City, State, Zip*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Home Work Cell*

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues** *Note: Member year runs from January 1 – December 31.*

- ☐ \$25 Family Membership  
☐ \$15 Individual Membership

**Donations are gratefully accepted.**

- ☐ \$1000  
☐ \$500  
☐ \$250  
☐ \$100  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts of \$1,000+ will receive a **lifetime foundation membership** and their name on the donor plaque in the Cougar Hall of Fame.  
Gifts of \$500 & \$250 will have their name on the donor plaque in the Cougar Hall of Fame.

*Make checks payable to "Sahuaro High Cougar Foundation". Donations and membership dues are tax deductible.  
We also proudly accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover Card*

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ CSC # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

*Sahuaro High Cougar Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) organization and your donations may be tax-deductible. Please consult your tax preparer for information specific to your filing circumstances. The Foundation's Taxpayer Identification Number is: 86-0720942.*

**Sahuaro Cougar Foundation PO Box 18181 Tucson, AZ 85731**



# Hall of Fame Breakfast is once again a smashing success

On November 3rd, the Sahuaro community gathered to honor this year's inductees to the Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation Hall of Fame. Honored this year were Alumni/Activist Nancy (Hamilton) Bowman ('75), Educator Chuck Adams, and Entrepreneur Patty (Leya) Tingstad ('81).

