



Sahuaro Cougar Foundation
PO Box 18181
Tucson, AZ 85731

Cougar Tracks Newsletter

April 2019 Edition

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Arizona Daily Star Retrospective Offers Glimpse of Sahuaro's Creation



Bill Hopkins / Tucson Citizen



Bill Hopkins / Tucson Citizen



Art Grasberger / Tucson Citizen



Art Grasberger / Tucson Citizen

To see more, visit https://tucson.com/news/retrotucson/photos-sahuaro-high-school-opening-in/collection_f8e0f0d3-2828-5baf-9c89-a15f6274b622.html

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Dr. David Ashcraft

Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation

Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday April 27, 2019

Forty Niner Country Club

Don't miss out!
see pages 3 & 4 for more information



Founder's Corner - Notes from Dr. David Ashcraft

An Interview with Sahuaro's first Assistant Principal, Al Slawson



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

Over the past year or so, the Founder's Corner has been dedicated to highlighting some of the history, traditions and personalities of Sahuaro High School. As we enter the second half of the school's first century, we take a look back and recognize that Sahuaro has continually been relevant and viable within the educational fabric of our community. A half century prior to entering high school for many of us saw WWI to which most of us don't closely relate. Yet 1968, in the middle of the Viet Nam Conflict, still seems like yesterday.

In this issue, the first **Assistant Principal for Pupil Personnel and Cougar Foundation Hall of Fame member Al Slawson** shares a few brief

insights from his perspective as a founding father of the school. Mr. Slawson is the sole remaining original administrator of Sahuaro and was willing to dedicate time to offer some thoughts to Cougar Tracks readers in the midst of his many activities and world travels.

DA: What positions did you hold prior to being hired by Hank Egbert to oversee curriculum, instruction, registration and counselors?

AS: I served as a teacher and coach in Schenectady NY, and as a counselor, dean, and part time personnel assistant at Palo Verde High School

DA: How was Sahuaro's first faculty and staff selected?

AS: Hank Egbert and I worked together. He identified most of the teachers with my input and advice regarding those I had worked with at Palo Verde. Harry Johnson and I consulted with Mr. Egbert on administrative support staff. I identified the counseling staff, registrar and assistant, and recommended individuals for hire. Mr. Johnson and I had a tug of war with the principal on who would be named basketball coach. Thankfully Mr. Egbert went with our recommendation, and that was Dick McConnell.

DA: What are some of your most vivid memories of the early years of Sahuaro?

AS: I was involved the year before Sahuaro opened while the school was under construction. Hank, Harry and I would visit the site to make sure we had a good understanding of the physical plant (i.e. utility tunnels/freight elevator/heating and cooling, etc.) so any of us could follow up to help solve problems.

One day while supervising and setting up furniture/equipment for the student personnel area, I was having a discussion with a construction worker and a Siamese kitten kept following us around and whining. I gave the kitten a drink of water and hoped it would be on its way. That was a mistake; that kitten became my shadow any time I was in the building. After consulting with my wife, I took the kitten home and we named her Sahuaro. She was the first of many Siamese cats we owned.

I have been part of four new school openings (Schenectady/Shalmon, Palo Verde, Sahuaro and Project More). All of them were exciting endeavors, meeting and working with new people and implementing new programs. Sahuaro and Project More were especially difficult due to questions and doubt from neighbors and some district staff. The satisfaction in each case was most rewarding, and the effort was worth it. The success and recognition of the student achievement, both academically and in activities, brought great personal and staff pride.

DA: What advice would you have for new teachers or administrators?

AS: Teachers, work hard at the almost impossible task of understanding each student's strengths and capabilities and teach accordingly. Administrators, realize you don't have to do everything by yourself. Strive to include all stakeholders in the process and then you will be able to exercise effective leadership and make the best decisions.

DA: Anything else to add?

AS: Thank you for asking for my thoughts. I have been concerned that the history of Sahuaro might have been forgotten, or faded from memory.

I have never doubted that the school isn't moving along as we all had hoped. Living near Sahuaro affords me the daily opportunity to observe students going to, and coming from, school. They are still the good-looking and happily-appearing citizens we started with in 1968.



Art Grasberger / Tucson Citizen

Al Slawson conducts a tour of the yet-to-be-opened campus with the TPS Board of Education in April of 1968.



Jim Daunheimer / Sahuaro High School

Aerial photo of the Sahuaro site taken toward the southeast by Jim Daunheimer in April of 1967.



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

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



Name on card: _____
Card # _____

Expires: ____ / ____
CSC/CVV: _____





Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation

Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday April 27, 2019

Forty Niner Country Club

Last year the Sahuaro 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 Sahuaro 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 Sahuaro 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 Sahuaro 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

Sahuaro "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 Sahuaro Community
 - Opportunity to insert literature in golfer's goodie bags
 - Special recognition during lunch

Sahuaro "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 Sahuaro 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 Sahuaro 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

Leveling the Playing Field: Practice Field Gets Much-Needed Repairs

Thanks to the Cougar Foundation, the Administration, and PE/Athletic Departments for their help



Becky K. Fajardo, MS, AT
Sahuaro High School Senior
Athletics Trainer

One of the most utilized areas at Sahuaro for physical education classes and athletic teams are the practice fields. For years, these fields have been plagued with problems. From holes and irrigation issues to a man hole cover- the fields have progressively gotten worse.

During the 2017-18 school year it was deemed that, for safety reasons, the fields needed to be addressed. TUSD's Risk Management Department and the Director of Interscholastics met with Sahuaro personnel to discuss the problems. TUSD personnel and Sahuaro Administration agreed that something needed to be done.

It took almost a year for funding to be allocated by both TUSD's Interscholastics and Operations departments to purchase fill soil and irrigation parts. In addition, **Maggie Mundle from Horizon Distribution** (the mother of two former Cougars) donated sprinkler heads, while the Cougar Foundation funded additional irrigation parts.

To complete the process Sahuaro's Ground Crew has been working diligently to repair the irrigation problems and prepare the ground for the new top soil. During the past 3 weeks over 35 sprinklers have been adjusted with correct risers, the fields have been aerated and almost 75 tons of fill soil have been spread.

The process is ongoing with the last step being the seeding of the fields. It will take an additional 4-6 weeks for the seed to become established. This will be perfect timing for the beginning of summer football. Once completed, this process will provide our students and the public a safer area for activities. We appreciate the support from the Cougar Foundation, Horizon Distribution, the Administration, Physical Education Department and Athletic Department for their cooperation in the process.

Editor's note: after this article was written, the Board agreed to fund 25 additional tons of soil mix.



Art Grasberger / Tucson Citizen

Women's Softball Welcomes new Scoreboard

Improvements recommended to promote excellence in womens' athletics

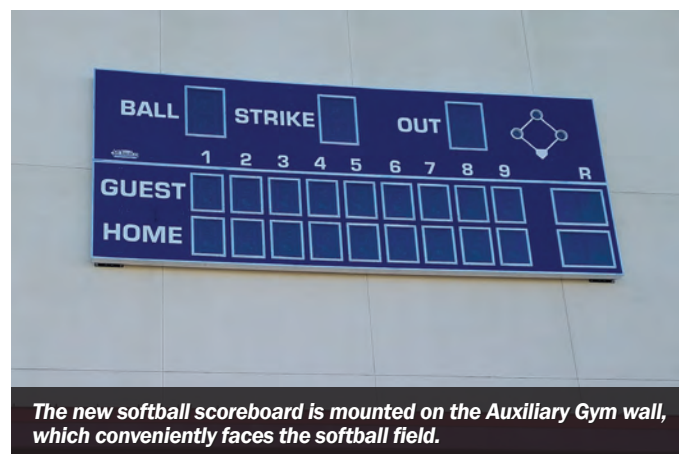


Steve Botkin
Athletic Director and Girls'
Basketball Coach

Last year, Sahuaro's Athletic Department earned the Tony Komadina Outstanding Girls' Athletic Program Award. As part of it's mission, the committee had a few recommendations for the school to continue to improve the athletic program. One of these recommendations was to purchase a scoreboard that is equal to that of the baseball scoreboard.

This February, Sahuaro purchased a new scoreboard and mounted it on the Auxiliary gym wall facing the field.

The feedback that Athletic Director Steve Botkin has received has been awesome. One parent said it makes it feel more like a true softball stadium. The girls love it and they are hoping that can hit a ball off of it. The public is welcome to watch them attempt this at any of their home games.



The new softball scoreboard is mounted on the Auxiliary Gym wall, which conveniently faces the softball field.

For more information on the Tony Komadina Outstanding Girls' Athletic Program Award and other Sahuaro honors, see the July 2018 edition of the Cougar Tracks, which is available at the Cougar Foundation website (saharocougars.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

Sahuaro Student-Athletes Sign On For Continued Success

On Monday, April 8th we had the opportunity to honor these 9 wonderful student-athletes as they signed to participate in collegiate athletics for a range of sports across the country. After their coaches talked about each and every one of them and they signed their documents, we had pictures with friends and family in front of the Cougar Banner. We also served cake and drinks for everyone. It was a very proud moment for Sahuaro High School.

Brianna Jackson (Softball)
Kingsley Ugwu (Football)
Susana Heslep (Basketball)
Kemuel (KJ) Redlin (Tennis)
Emilio Gonzalez (Baseball)

Chandler Gilbert Community College
Hutchinson Community College
Arizona Christian University
Pima Community College
Presentation College

Claudia Rollier (Soccer)
Lourdes Heslep (Basketball)
Trayvion White-Austin (Track & Field)
Alaysha Grissette (Volleyball)

Goucher College
Arizona Christian University
Central Arizona College
Dodge City College

