



Sahuaro Cougar Foundation
PO Box 18181
Tucson, AZ 85731

Cougar Tracks Newsletter

July 2020 Edition

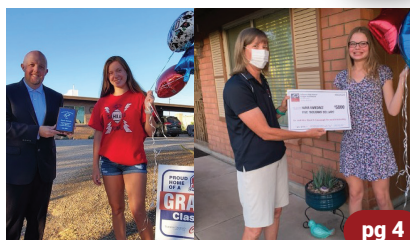
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Founder's Corner - Notes from Dr. David Ashcraft

Recognizing a unique 52-member fraternity of Student Body Presidents



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

One particular group of exemplary Sahuaro students is a unique 52-member fraternity that is comprised of the school's Student Body Presidents who served from 1968 through 2020. Members of this august body are as diverse as the school itself, and share a common love for the school and the students they have represented.

Two sets of former Student Body Presidents share the same last name - **Kevin and Patrick Dukes**, and yours truly (who was the first SBP) and **Ashley Ross Ashcraft** ('03) who was the 35th to serve in that capacity. Ashley is one of five individuals to be inducted into the Cougar Foundation Hall of Fame in the 2020 Class. She served as a high school English teacher at two different Army posts and headed up an Aviation Company Family Readiness Group, rendering support to spouses and families whose soldiers were deployed. She is currently writing a blog and book to assist other military spouses with their unique challenges. Ashley is married to **US Army MAJ Tim Ashcraft** ('03) who is also a Hall of Fame Inductee this year. Tim and family recently settled into their new post at Fort Bragg, NC where he will serve as an Air Cavalry Squadron S3 - Operations Officer. Following three years of teaching engineering courses at West Point, Tim completed a tour at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS and recently earned the distinction of Professional Engineer (PE).

Several other Sahuaro student leaders are noted here. The 2015-16 school year was led by **Richard Botkin**, son of another 2020 Hall of

Fame Inductee, **Steve Botkin** who serves as a coach and Interscholastics Director at Sahuaro. Steve has distinguished himself by becoming the winningest girls basketball coach in Southern Arizona. Steve's Mother, and Rick's Grandmother **Clara**, is a 2008 member of the Hall of Fame. Rick attended the U of A on a full scholarship and will graduate this December in Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology with plans to move into a lab internship in his field.

2004 Hall of Fame Inductee **Peter Van Slyke** is a 1974 Sahuaro graduate who served as Student Body President his senior year. He is best known for his 40-plus year tenure as an actor, playwright and director of Gaslight Theatre shows in Tucson.

1981-82, Student Body President **Joel Estes** was inducted into the Foundation's Hall of Fame in 2016. In addition to helping the Sahuaro Baseball Team win a state championship under Coach **Hal Eustice** (Cougar Foundation Inaugural Hall of Fame Class of 1993), Joel also won the 1986 National Championship with the Arizona Wildcats Baseball team. Since then, he has followed a successful career in the investment and banking industry.

Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2017, **Nellie Cho Wilcox** held the office of Student Body President in 1995-96. She distinguished herself as class president her freshman, sophomore and junior years before leading the student body her senior year. Like Ashley, Nellie is a proud military spouse who has held her family together while maintaining a successful career in the pharmaceutical industry.

Finally, Tucson attorney and Pima County Superior Court Commissioner **Geoffrey Ferlan** held the office of Sahuaro Student Body President in 1983-84. He has also served on the Family and Juvenile Court benches.

These are just a few of the outstanding student leaders who have presided over the Student Council at Sahuaro. As more information becomes available, others may be featured in future editions of Cougar Tracks.

Two additional individuals will be inducted into the Cougar Foundation Hall of Fame this fall. **Jane Stratman**, who served as Sahuaro's first Dean of Girls, was at Tucson and Pueblo High Schools before being appointed to her position at Sahuaro by founding principal **Hank Egbert**. Upon her departure, she became an administrator and school board member in Pinetop, AZ. Jane was a valued mentor to students and worked tirelessly during the school's formative years.

The fifth Cougar Foundation Hall of Fame Inductee in the Class of 2020 is **Herbert "Will" Montoya**. Will played football and wrestled at Sahuaro, also being selected as Homecoming King. He later went on to play college football. Will had a successful career in the financial planning arena and is now Chairman of the Board of a home for families in crisis while being involved in numerous community service activities.

It is easy to see why Sahuaro has enjoyed so much success over the years. These outstanding Cougars continue to make us proud!

Sahuaro Cougar Foundation Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: Jeffery Gardner
VICE PRESIDENT: Peter DeMars
SECRETARY-TREASURER: Fran Johnson
ASSISTANT SEC-TREAS: Sandy Novak
EDITOR EMERITUS: Marti Jones

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Chuck Adams
Erica Allen
Steve Botkin

Jan Boyd
Bobby Estrella
Amy Fitch-Heacock

Debbie Glasser
Jerry Halfmann
Fred Knapp

Ed Rothlisberger
Scott Rumel
Steve Weinstein

COUGAR FOUNDATION / HALL OF FAME FOUNDING MEMBERS:

Harry Johnson
Dr. David Ashcraft



SAHUARO
COUGAR
FOUNDATION

PO Box 18181
Tucson, AZ 85731
sahuarocougars.org

This year, we will distribute over

\$25,000.00

in scholarships and financial aid



Scan the QR code above or visit sahuarocougars.org/scholarships

This year, the Cougar Foundation will distribute over \$25,000 in scholarships and financial aid to deserving Sahuaro seniors.

There are several opportunities for deserving soon-to-graduate Seniors to get funding for their continuing education or other education-related expenses. Seniors and their families should reference the Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation website at sahuarocougars.org/scholarships to see all available funds.



Hall of Fame Honorees Announced



Sandy Novak
Cougar Foundation Hall of Fame
Committee Member

Ashley Ross Ashcraft ('03)

Ashley Ross Ashcraft graduated from Sahuaro in 2003 and from the University of Arizona in 2008. While at Sahuaro Ashley was very involved with student council, National Honor Society, and cheerleading.



After graduating from the University of Arizona Ashley went into the teaching profession. She taught high school English in Texas and Alabama. She received many awards for her students' accomplishments including Teacher of the Year in 2014.

Ashley was awarded the Yellow Rose of Texas award in 2014, which is given by the Governor of Texas to women for exceptional community service. Ashley has also been very involved with her church activities. She is the founder of Our Faithful Home, an online ministry helping women fulfill their callings in life. She has been asked to speak at many church leadership functions. Ashley was a leader in high school as the student council president her senior year, she was a leader in college at the University of Arizona's on the Business College's student council, she was a leader as a teacher in Texas and Alabama, and is a leader in her church. All of this while moving continuously with her husband Tim, who is a Major in the United States Army. She also has raised three wonderful children.

Major Tim Ashcraft ('03)

Major Tim Ashcraft graduated from Sahuaro in 2003 with honors then attended The United States Military Academy at West Point where he earned a degree in Engineering with an emphasis in Aeronautical Systems. While at Sahuaro Tim earned 1st team All Southern Arizona honors in football. Tim was the first recipient of the AIA Everyday Heroes Student of the Year Award for his achievement in academics, activities and athletics. Tim also excelled in Fine Arts as the lead in three Sahuaro musicals during his four years. He went on to sing in the US Military Academy's Glee Club as well as other choral groups.



After graduating from West Point Tim went to helicopter flight school where he earned his wings as an aviator. Tim flew several hundred missions in Afghanistan over a period of nearly two years earning multiple Air Medals and a Bronze Star. Following Flight School, Tim served as a platoon leader and company commander and was recently promoted to the rank of Major. He is currently with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC where he is S3 Operations Officer for an Air Cavalry Squadron. Tim and his wife Ashley are blessed with 3 beautiful children.

Steve Botkin ('86)

Steve Botkin graduated from Sahuaro in 1986 and from the University of Arizona in 1990. While at Sahuaro Steve played football and discovered his love for basketball. He volunteered as an assistant girls' basketball coach with Jim Scott while he was still in college. Steve also was mentored by legendary coach Dick McConnell.



In 1988 Steve became the freshman girls' basketball coach and his love for coaching flourished. Steve then became the junior varsity girls coach at Sahuaro and then the Varsity coach at Rincon High School.

When Jim Scott retired in 2000 Steve became the 3rd Varsity girls basketball coach at Sahuaro. He has amassed over 550 career wins and is currently ranked #1 in Southern Arizona for girls basketball. His most recent accomplishment was his girls' team playing in the State Championship game. Steve has also coached football and softball at Sahuaro. In 2001 Steve started teaching. He taught physical education and also ran the drivers education curriculum along with the Behind the Wheel program after school for students. Steve has run basketball camps, been involved with the American Cancer Society for over 10 years, and has run the Boyd Baker Basketball tournament for several years at Sahuaro.

Steve's mother (Clara Botkin) is a member of the Cougar Hall of Fame. His wife Laura is a Sahuaro graduate (1989) and his two children Rick and Alyssa are Sahuaro honors graduates.

In 2017 Steve became the Activities Director at Sahuaro. Steve continues to support the administration and all aspects of Sahuaro through athletics and activities. He definitely bleeds Red and Blue!

Herbert "Will" Montoya ('80)

Herbert "Will" "Herbie" Montoya graduated from Sahuaro in 1980 and from Baker University in 1984. While at Sahuaro Will competed in football and wrestling. He was also Homecoming King his senior year.



Will earned a scholarship to play football at Baker University in Kansas. While at Baker University Will was the Senior class Vice President. He also helped start the soccer program for the university that now competes at the NAIA II level. After graduating from Baker University he worked for Dean Witter as a Financial Advisor. In 1990 he started Montoya Financial Services and then progressed to Montoya and Associates LLC until in 2018 Will

sold his company to BKS Partners as a Partner and Advisor. In 2019 the company went public.

This company is the 3rd fastest growing Agency in the US and the 33rd largest Agency in the US. Will is tireless in his work with nonprofits in Florida, where he and his family have resided for many years. Will serves as president for the local Rotary club and serves on the Municipal Service District board appointed by Florida Governor Rick Scott. Will is the Chairman of the Board at Seamark Ranch in Florida a nurturing home and family system that gives children from families in crisis the tools they need for a brighter future. Will and his wife Leslie live in Florida. They have three grown children.

Jane Stratman

Jane Stratman worked at Sahuaro from 1968 to 1977. Jane earned her Bachelor's Degree in 1944 from Butler University, her Master's Degree in 1951 at Purdue University and her Administrative Certificate from the University of Arizona in 1970. Jane taught at Tucson High and Pueblo High School.



In the Fall of 1968 Jane was appointed by Henry D. Egbert, Sahuaro's founding Principal as the first Dean of Girls'. She was instrumental in assisting with the implementation of the school's philosophy as well as setting the tone for effective student discipline. Jane was instrumental in the formation and advising of the Girls League, an association consisting of all female students at Sahuaro.

In 1977 Jane moved to Pinetop, Arizona where she served as Principal of Blue Ridge Junior High School. Jane also served for twelve years on the Blue Ridge School Board. She also served on the Navajo Silent Witness Board for 15 years. Jane loved Pinetop and golf. She served in numerous capacities on the Women's Golf Association Board of Pinetop Country Club.

Hall of Fame Breakfast

The Sahuaro High Cougar Foundation cordially invites you to attend the Annual Breakfast and Hall of Fame Induction:

Saturday, October 24

See the next page for details!



SAHUARO
COUGAR
FOUNDATION

Hall of Fame Breakfast

The Sahuaro High Cougar Foundation cordially invites Cougar Alumni, Faculty, Parents, Students, and Friends to attend the Annual Breakfast and Hall of Fame Induction:

Saturday, October 24, 2020

at Sahuaro High School, 545 North Camino Seco Tucson, Arizona 85710

Registration will take place at the front gate at 8:30am, with the program starting at 9:00am

Your safety is our first priority.

Cougar Foundation events will comply with the most up-to-date health guidelines to keep our guests safe

- We'll be seated outdoors in the shaded courtyard at spread-out tables.
- Volunteers and attendees will be temperature screened prior to entry.
- Dining will be modified to reduce touch-points and shared contact.
- Strict cleaning and sanitizing procedures and mask guidelines will be followed.

Note that these may change as we all learn more about the virus and how it spreads

Cost:

- \$300 for a table of 10 - a savings of \$50 (\$100 is tax deductible)
- \$35 for an adult admission (\$15 is tax deductible)
- \$25 for Cougar Hall of Fame Members (\$5 is tax deductible)
- \$20 for Current Faculty & Staff (includes membership)
- \$20 for Alumni celebrating a reunion this year (includes membership)
- \$15 for children 6-18
- FREE admission for children age 5 and younger

Join us as we honor our 2020 inductees:



Major Tim Ashcraft '03, Ashley Ross Ashcraft '03, Steve Botkin '86, Herbert "Will" Montoya '80, and Jane Stratman, Sahuaro's first Dean of Girls

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Ticket Purchases

Table of 10: _____ x \$300 = _____

Adult Admissions: _____ x \$35 = _____

Hall of Fame Members: _____ x \$25 = _____

Current Faculty/Staff: _____ x \$20 = _____

Alumni (reunion year) _____ x \$20 = _____

Children 6 -18: _____ x \$15 = _____

Children under 6 (free): _____

2021 Foundation Dues (optional)

Individual Dues: _____ x \$15 = _____

Family Dues: _____ x \$25 = _____

Donations (optional)

Donation amount _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Please list names of other attendees in your party:

Checks and Cash Accepted, or register with credit card online at sahuarocougars.org/hall-of-fame-breakfast/

Mail registration to: Sahuaro Cougar Foundation, PO Box 18181 Tucson, AZ 85731

For additional information call: 520-247-0336 RSVP DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 17, 2020

Special Delivery

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Honors Night was a virtual event rather than the usual in-person celebration. Cougar Foundation board members volunteered to take honors and awards to some exceptional graduating seniors.



Jack Belobraydic



Hope McDuffrie



Ulysses Lermer



Christina Niyiigena



Haley Valdez



Izzabela Goerke



Maya Kwiedacz



Joaquin Cota



Luis Hernandez



Ellie Martin



Ryan Nguyen



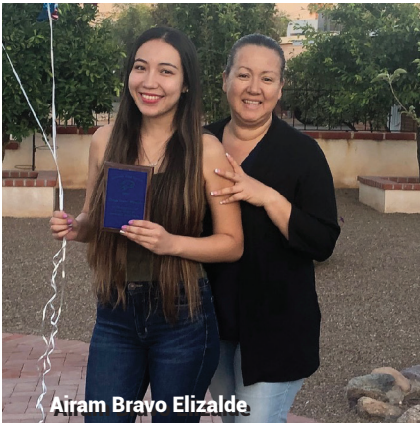
Cierra Lamont

Special Delivery

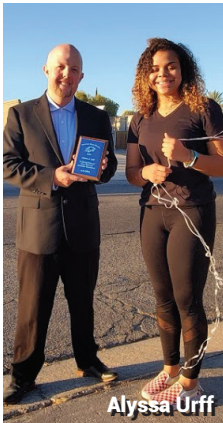
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Honors Night was a virtual event rather than the usual in-person celebration. Cougar Foundation board members volunteered to take honors and awards to some exceptional graduating seniors.



Faith Moses



Airam Bravo Elizalde



Alyssa Urff



Zachary Bates



Keila Salazar



Ashley Schlegel



Bepheline Howe



Trinity Brandenburg



Avery Miller



Calen McFarland



Kory Pearson



Logan Martin



Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation

Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday September 5, 2020

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
Sahuaro 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 = _____

Donations _____

[A] Subtotal _____

» [B] Sponsorship

Title ☐ \$5000 Red ☐ \$2500

Blue ☐ \$1000 Plat. ☐ \$400

Hole ☐ \$225 Tee ☐ \$175

Green ☐ \$100

[B] Subtotal _____

Total owed: (total of sections [A] and [B]) _____

\$80 registration for pre-payment only; payment on the tournament day will cost \$90/player

Event Information

Registration 6:30am

Start Time 7:30am

Contact Information:

Fran Johnson	520-247-0336
Fred Knapp	520-609-6392
Debbie Glasser	520-360-3788
Jeffry Gardner	520-990-1190
Ed Rothlisberger	520-465-9048
Amy Fitch-Heacock	520-331-2261

Find out more at sahuarocougars.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 Sahuaro 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 Sahuaro Cougar Foundation - PO Box 18181, Tucson, AZ 85731

Checks should be made out to Sahuaro Cougar Foundation. If you prefer to use credit card, enter information below or visit sahuarocougars.org



Name on card: _____
Card # _____

Expires: ____ / ____
CSC/CVV: _____

