



The Bear Facts

Welcome to the official newsletter of the Ballard High School Alumni Association. Our mission is to keep graduates and friends of Ballard up-to-date on school and alumni news.

Visit our Website



August 2020 Stadium Update: We're Nearing the Finish!

The Stadium project continues to make great progress under the watchful eyes of Tony Waits '72, Mike Judah '75 and Betsy Hultman Wall '73. Key details include the following:

- Brick and paver sales are up to 314 units since the last newsletter. We are keeping the order open as we close in on the next break point for discounts. **You now have until August 31 to purchase a brick or paver if you'd still like to participate.** To place an order, go to <https://www.thatsmybrick.com/ballardalumni>.
- The new roofs on both the ticket sales and restroom buildings were made possible by generous donations from Mike Judah and K&I Lumber. THANK YOU!
- We will soon be announcing that we have a Ballard family who will receive naming rights for their contributions to build a turf field. Stay tuned for further news.
- We have raised \$586,000 for this project thus far and need another \$200,000 to get all the way home. If you'd like to make a donation to the Stadium or the Alumni Association, go to <https://chip-in.us/ballard>.

We're going to make this happen! Have a great Bruin Nation Day!

Steve Gowers '72

Membership Committee Outreach to Alumni Continues

Thanks to everyone who has helped thus far in gathering contact information for Ballard alumni. There are still several classes for which we do not have many email addresses. If you know of any alumni from the following classes, please direct them to our official website to join -- <http://www.ballardalumni.com>. There is no fee to sign up!

The classes for which we could use extra help include:

- 1981-1988;
- 1990-2000;
- 2006-present.

If you know of any class leaders or reunion organizers, they can contact Caroline Robinson at caro61@bellsouth.net to coordinate passing on any email information.

Future website enhancements are being developed to connect with fellow alumni, opportunities to help students, trivia games, job posting from other alumni, and more. All suggestions are welcome of what you would like to see. Feel free to email ballardalumni@gmail.com with any ideas. Tune in next month for a few fun surprises!

Thanks for your continued support!

Caroline Robinson



Join the Chromebook Fund to Help Every Ballard Student Succeed.



The Covid-19 pandemic has presented huge challenges for our schools. JCPS has made the decision to begin the 2020-2021 school year "virtually", and many of our student families with multiple children are at a loss trying to share a single Chromebook to access on-line materials.

The Alumni Association is taking up the challenge by requesting donations to purchase additional Chromebooks. Each Chromebook costs about \$300 and about 20 are needed, so we are working to raise \$6,000 to make these purchases possible.

Many of our alumni have asked for ways to support the academic aspects of the Ballard experience. If you'd like to help a needy Ballard student succeed in school, this is a fine way to get involved. Any amount is welcome and will go a long way to helping students study at home.

The Alumni Association has set up two ways to contribute:

- A Venmo account has been established, so you can contribute via Venmo to **@theballardalumniassociation**.
- You can also send checks payable to "Ballard Alumni Association/Student Fund" and mail it to Steve Gowers at 3701 Taylorsville Road, Suite 3, Louisville, KY 40220.

Thanks so much for your help. You'll make a difference in a student's life and future with your involvement.

Meet Mona Das and David Frockt - Ballard Alumni of the Month



Hearing that two Ballard alumni had been elected to the state Senate is not too surprising. But hearing that they are both legislating in the Washington State Senate ... well, that's a bit unexpected. Mona Das '89 and David Frockt '87 each serve their constituents, finding ways to support one another's efforts and work on bills together when they can. Mona was elected in 2018 and

has an active focus on environmental issues while working hard to raise money to help other women of color pursue elective office. David was elected in 2010 and is particularly active in state budget and healthcare issues.

Neither David nor Mona realized they were both Ballard Bruins until meeting at a fund-raising event sponsored by David in 2017. Mentioning that he grew up in Louisville, David piqued Mona's curiosity and they made the connection when comparing Louisville memories.



Once leaving Ballard, Mona pursued her college degree at the University of Cincinnati. David pursued his degree at the University of Pennsylvania, going on to intern for Representative Ron Mazzoli after graduating. When not working in the legislature, David has a private legal practice and Mona is the CEO of commercial & residential mortgage brokerage.

Know any other Ballard grads with an interesting story to tell? Send me their bio or have them reach out to me at rmoeller@change-managed.com.



What's Bruin? Spotlight on Matt Lowe

Among our many purchasers of bricks and pavers to support the Stadium project is Matt Lowe, a 2006 graduate. We understand that Matt was the first general education graduate at Ballard with significant disabilities, making him a role model for others to follow.

Since his time at Ballard, he has worked for several local organizations. For the past six years, he has been part of the UPS team working to load and unload air freighters.

Matt has great memories of his time at Ballard and was excited to participate in the brick fundraiser. He joined the program as a Bronze-level sponsor.

Thanks to Matt and all of the other contributors who are making the new stadium possible!

Do you have personal news you'd like to share with Bruin Nation? A new job, a published article, a professional recognition? Here's your chance to let everyone know "What's Bruin" in your life. Send your submissions for inclusion in our next issue to rmoeller@change-managed.com