



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 news and alumni news.

[Visit our Website](#)



July 2020 Football Stadium Construction Update

A big THANK YOU to Dr. Neuss, our principal, Chris Kinney, our Athletic Director and the following alumni for their help in making this Stadium Project come to life:

- Tony Waits '72, father of Chad '02;
- Betsy Hultman Wall '73;
- Mike Judah '75, father of Nick '04;
- Neil Waddle '06 (architect), brother of Lee '02;
- George Clark '06 (structural engineer);
- Doug White, father of Helaina '19 and Peyton '22;
- Ken Grossman '75.

Phase 1 of your Stadium Project is moving ahead:

- The new bleachers are being installed by project manager Nathan Mosher '94 of TOADVINE and son of Rob Mosher '72;
- The new track installation began July 3rd;
- A cast bronze Donor Plaque will include names of those donating \$2,500 or more and will be placed on the column at the entrance of the Stadium. **Deadline for donations for your name to be on the plaque is Monday, July 13th!**
- New roofs for the ticket sales building will be installed July 18-19. Many thanks to Mike Judah and K&I Lumber for donating the materials.

Our initial newsletter spurred 67 new orders for pavers and bricks -- THANK YOU! That brings our total donors of bricks & pavers to 263. You can still make a contribution through the purchase of a



brick or pave through July 19. For more information and to buy a brick of your own, click on <https://www.thatsmybrick.com/ballardalumni>.

If you would like to make a contribution to either the Stadium Project or to your Alumni Association for future projects, click on <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.

We've had several questions about the web site below:

<https://www.alumniclass.com/ballard-high-school-bruins-louisville-ky>.

This is a for-profit site organized by a third party and IS NOT our official site.

Thanks for your continued support!

Caroline Robinson



Dr. Neuss Looks Ahead to the 2020-2021 School Year

We asked Dr. Neuss about his goals for the 2020-2021 school year, and he shared the following thoughts.

"With so many unknowns, it has been very challenging to plan for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Regardless of what the next few months will bring, our leadership team remains steadfast as we continue building on our foundational motto of "Excellence in Academics, Arts, and Athletics."

During 2020-2021, we will look to advance last year's work with an emphasis on literacy, racial



For those of you who haven't met Ballard's principal for the past three years, Dr. Jason Neuss, click on the YouTube link below to get better acquainted with the leader of our school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qX5tsqtfSRU>

Meet Michael DiMercurio - Ballard Alumni of the Month

After graduating from Ballard with the Class of 1976, Michael went on to graduate first academically in his class from the U.S. Naval Academy with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He went on to be named a National Science Foundation Scholar, graduating with a master's in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1981.

Michael went on to serve on the nuclear fast attack submarine *USS Hammerhead* where he earned "qualified in submarines" gold dolphins, allowing him to stand command watches as officer of the deck submerged. By the time he mustered out, he had risen to become the "bull lieutenant", the most senior of the eight junior officers aboard.

He tried a career in private industry as a project manager, but the thrill of chasing Russian submarines never got out of his blood. Since he always regarded himself as "more a writer who became an engineer than an engineer who became a writer", he put his knowledge of naval tactics to work in novels. Today, Michael is best-known to the world as the author of nine (so far) *USA Today* best-selling Navy submarine fiction novels including *Vertical Dive*, *Emergency Deep*, *Attack of the Seawolf* and *Threat Vector*. All of his

equality, and improved culture and climate. To address this, professional development for our teachers and staff will have an intense focus on cultural competency and engaging literacy strategies.

The recent work by a dedicated group of alumni has been impressive. While their current focus has been on the immediate need to support the rebuilding of Pat Crawford Stadium, they will soon be able to shift their focus to supporting the various academic and arts programs within the school. I am incredibly grateful to be the principal of this great school and look forward to what the years ahead will bring. Thank you for your continued support of Ballard High School."



novels are readily available on Amazon. If you liked Tom Clancy's *The Hunt for Red October*, you'll love these books.

His advice to other aspiring writers is that "there is only one audience for your writing – you. If you are writing for anyone else, you're missing the point. If someone other than you likes it, that's a bonus."

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

What's Bruin? Spotlight on Nola Johnson

2003 graduate Nola Johnson recently had a blog post published in the on-line journal *InHerSight*. It focuses on recognizing racism in the workplace and offers valuable insights on how to address it.



To read it yourself, click on the link below.

After servicing as Class President at Ballard, Nola graduated from the University of Missouri - Columbia with a BSBA in marketing and an MBA in non-profit management. She currently lives in Raleigh, NC and is a senior manager at Transloc.

<https://www.inhersight.com/blog/insight-commentary/recognizing-racism-workplace-and-speaking-up>

Do you have personal news you'd like to share with Bruin Nation? 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.

rmoeller@change-managed.com
