



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



October 21, 2020 -- From left to right, Demetrius Franklin, Yvonne Parker, Willie Parker, Raneca Parker, Tracy Parker and Ballard AD Chris Kinney.

A brick or paver would be a thoughtful memorial for a Ballard grad who has passed away. If you'd like to use this opportunity to commemorate a loved one, please consider clicking on the link below to place an order.

<https://www.thatsmybrick.com/ballardalumni>

November 2020 Stadium Update: DeVante Parker and Family Make Donations for Turf Field Construction

The family of Miami Dolphins star DeVante Parker and family friend Demetrius Franklin presented the Turf Field Fund with a check for \$10,000. Devante has special memories of his years playing at Ballard and was pleased to help create a new turf field for a new generation of Bruins. Devante's mother and sister, Reneca Parker and Tracy Parker, along with grandparents Yvonne and Willie Parker, also contributed \$1,200. Both donations will be put to good use. Thank you, Parker family!

We are also close to announcement of a title sponsor for the new turf field, giving our team a world-class playing surface. Our hope is to make this announcement in December. Watch **The Bear Facts** for more details to come.

The new stadium is really taking shape. Stop by to see for yourself when you get a chance.

Steve Gowers '72

Help the Jo Adel Foundation Feed Hungry Families This Thanksgiving

Jo Adell, star outfielder for the Los Angeles Angels and 2017 graduate of Ballard, has created a foundation to benefit those in need here in Louisville. He's looking for Ballard grads who want to help him in this mission.



**THE 2020 JO ADELL & LMPD
THANKSGIVING
DINNER
CELEBRATION**

Providing a special Thanksgiving for Louisville families in need.

We will have 1000 frozen turkeys and pre-packaged side items ready to deliver or pick up from Newburg Middle School. Visit joadellfoundation.org

Saturday, November 21
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Newburg Middle School
Gym

4901 Exeter Ave
Louisville, KY 40218




Special thanks to our partners for helping make this event possible:





There are three ways you can be a part of the foundation. First, you can be a volunteer. If you sign up as a Volunteer, you may be asked to work on projects that are sponsored by JAF or volunteer your time if JAF works with other charitable organizations. Second, you can submit a project idea and become a Project Leader. Jo doesn't have all of the answers and he is relying on others to help come up with creative ways to help our community. Finally, you can be a Donor. We are a 501C and all of your donations will be tax exempt and welcomed.

To learn more about the foundation, volunteer or make a contribution, visit their website:

www.joadellfoundation.org.

Ballard Alumni Raise Money and Have Fun Together

The Membership Committee would like to thank Brittany Gowers Abdelahad '04, Shred415 and these intrepid alumni for joining forces to raise money last month for Alumni Association projects. Everyone participating had a great time and the admission fees paid will go toward upcoming projects to make BHS better.

Keep watching **The Bear Facts** for news on future alumni events in months to come!



Help Us Welcome the Newest Directors of Your Alumni Association

The old adage, "it seems like yesterday, but it feels like five years ago" is appropriate as it relates to our renewed Ballard Alumni Association and Board members! But no, it was only one year ago this past October!

A big Bruin **Thank You** to two outgoing Board members **Victoria Russell '98**, and **Christian Bowles '11**. A year ago we all collectively jumped into this big unknown of our BAA Board and wow, what a year 2019/2020 has been! These two board members provided us their talent through this difficult year, with Christian supporting our financial start-up and Vickie through her communications and council during a challenging time. I know these two Bruins will not be far away and we can call on them anytime. Thank you, Christian and Victoria!

Welcome **Paul Fischer, '08**, and **Ann Baird Furnish '86**! Ann brings deep experience to our Board including teaching at BHS, being engaged

Paul brings us a strong financial background as a CPA and Sr. Manager for a Big 4 firm. Our fiduciary responsibilities are of the utmost importance to your BAA Board and we will appreciate Paul's support in this regard. These two were elected to a three (3) year term. WELCOME ABOARD!

A Shout out to Barbara Trager '72 for agreeing to serve for an additional three year term! Barbara's willingness to take on our Membership Committee and her vision and leadership in student involvement and financial oversight has been invaluable. Thanks, Barbara, for your commitment!

Your Ballard Alumni Association Board of Directors is in good hands for this 2020/2021 year!

GO BRUINS!

Stuart Ray, Director of Communications '72

in sports while her children attended Ballard and has impressive process and business experience in her work life, all experience our Board can benefit from!

The Chromebook Fund Thanks Those Who Have Contributed

The Alumni Association would like to take a moment to thank those who have contributed thus far to the purchase of Chromebooks for deserving students coping with the challenges of non-traditional education. Kudos to:

- Ethan Bond '92
- Susan Bornstein '79
- Greg Trietz '72
- Mary Ross Bratcher '76
- Susie Shircliff '04
- Barbara Hurt '91
- Stuart Ray '80
- Scott Gowers '94
- Christopher Gowers '07
- Brittany Gowers Abdelahad '04

There are still students in need of your help if you'd like to join this list. The Alumni Association has set up two ways to contribute:

- A Chip In account has been established, so you can contribute with credit card or debit card at this web address:
<https://donate.chip-in.us/?nonprofitid=114998>.
- 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 our Ballard Alumni of the Month



Pamela Herron Swann

Pam Swann, RN, is a Certified Occupational Health Nurse at West Florida Hospital in Pensacola, FL. In her role, she is responsible for taking care of employees, doctors and nurses on the front line fighting COVID-19. Her focus is on employee health, ailment and injury prevention, and protection from occupational and environmental hazards at the hospital. Among other things, she personally administers flu shots to each of the 1000+ employees at the hospital each year.

Outside of work, she has been an active member of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN). Pam is currently in her second term as Chairperson of the AAOHN Board of Directors and has been active on many of the associations committees over the years.



Pam is a 1980 graduate of Ballard and was proudly nominated for Alumni of the Month by her husband Joel Swann, also a 1980 Ballard graduate.

Pam, your hard work and leadership make all of us proud. Keep up the great work!

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.

David DeSanctis

David graduated from Ballard in 2010 with an Alternative High School Diploma and continued his education at both Jefferson Community College and U of L. While at Ballard he received the Spotlight Award and School Spirit Award. He has also competed in the Special Olympics.

During the day, David works as a Maintenance Person at Bluegrass Harley-Davidson. Outside of work, he is an active volunteer as a Public Outreach Associate for the National Downs Syndrome Society, as a Board Member for the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disability, and as a public speaker around the U.S. in support of those with developmental disabilities.

David, we are proud to call you a Bruin and wish you continued good luck helping others achieve all they can!



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
