



Unatego Alumni Association



Letter from the President

By Keith Bachman

Our association continues to move forward as we are adjusting to some recent changes in our staffing. Allison Collins is taking a break from her position as our newsletter editor to focus on some other things of importance to her for a while. Also Courtenay O'Hara has recently secured a position outside the area and she is not able to continue full time in her duties as our past president. We are thankful for Allison's and Courtenay's contributions to our association. We wish them the very best in their new endeavors and we are hopeful that they will return to us in the future. We continue to seek new board members and committee members as well as class captains. Our commitment to our mission in supporting our Alumni friends, the students of the Unatego Central School, and our communities remains strong. We welcome all attendees/graduates of the Unadilla, Otego, and Unatego Central School Districts to join us.

We continue to experience growth in membership and increasing interest in our all class reunion weekend festivities. We are able to support more students with more scholarship funds thanks to your support and the generosity of the Unadilla Central School Alumni Association. We are honored to have two outstanding alumni as this year's inductees into the Unatego Central School District Hall of Distinction, a program we support, but with a selection committee separate from our board. New candidates are always welcome and the deadline for the 2021 induction is the end of February, 2020. On October 5th, the Unatego Homecoming Weekend celebration was held and our alumni joined the festivities by holding the Unatego Alumni Soccer game (see our article for details). We are considering honoring one of our outstanding athletic teams from the past during homecoming 2020. It is exciting to know that we are part of the Homecoming, a valuable tradition for students, families, friends, and alumni.

Our alumni all-class reunion will be held from July 17th through 19th, kicking off with our Friday night meet and greet event at the Long River Inn in Unadilla. We are expecting some more alumni classes to hold their reunion celebrations during our 2020 all class reunion weekend and we hope to add some activities as well.

Our board members are encouraged about our future and we are grateful for your support for our alumni, students, school, and community. I hope you will join us at one of our events in the coming year and that you might consider new/renewed membership and some ways to support our Association.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Membership News

Terry O'Hara joined the association since the last newsletter and we have several renewals!!!

You can now pay your dues using **VENMO**. Use Elizabeth Shultis, 607.434.5972, memo should be Alumni Dues.

We have nearly 1000 members on the **FACEBOOK** page ... check us out at Unatego Alumni.

Save the Date:

All Class Reunion July 17th - 19th



Scholarship Awards

Unatego Alumni Scholarship Awards

The Unatego Association is proud to announce the 2019 scholarship winners: Carly Hill and Trevor Winchester. Carly is enrolled at The University of Tampa and Trevor is at Clarkson University. Congratulations to two hard-working and deserving students.

Class of 1998 Special Awards

The Class of 1998 gave two special awards at graduation. The first went to Mandy Levielle in memory of longtime Unatego teacher, Lynn Bourdon. The second to Noah Hatalia in memory of Steve Koberlein, a member of the Class of 1998.

Unadilla Alumni Awards

The Unadilla Association gave four awards at this past June's graduation. The winners and the college they are attending are: Madison Rivera, SUNY Oswego, Adrienne Matheson, SUNY Oneonta, Derek Kleeschulte, SUNY Cobleskill and Brandon Sacco, SUNY Hudson Valley Community College.

The Unadilla Alumni Association is a separate association, entirely funding their scholarships but works with the Unatego Association to disseminate the scholarships.

Unatego Athletes Excel



Congratulations Unatego Girls' Soccer Team

The Unatego Girls' Soccer Team made history this year by becoming the first Unatego team ever to make it to the NY State final four soccer tournament. They placed 2nd overall after losing a hard fought and very exciting game by 1 goal to defending NY State champions Stillwater. The Unatego community could not be prouder of these outstanding student athletes.



Gavin Fetterman took 26th and Nick Sousa took 29th at the Section 4 Class D Cross Country Championships held at Chenango Valley State Park. Congratulations Gavin and Nick on an outstanding performance for Unatego.

New Owner for Otego Elementary

On November 4th the Unatego Board of Education ended a three-year quest to find a suitable owner for the Otego Elementary School. The meeting was filled with joy and relief as the Board of Education unanimously named the Oneonta Christian Academy the winning bid.

It was a hard three years. Closing a school is never easy. Rural schools are the heart of any community. Many families have a multi-generational connection to Otego Elementary, built in 1933. It's sad to let go of a building that houses so many memories. However, times change. The District that once had 1,450 students twenty years ago now has 717. Keeping three schools open with empty classrooms doesn't make economic sense.

A previous Request for Proposals (RFP) in May 2018 brought in 4 bidders. After one dropped out, the Board split 4 to 3 in favor of an indoor agriculture concern from Endicott, NY over a private school for dyslexia based in Amenia, NY. Ultimately the winning bidder failed to come up with financing and the school in Amenia closed due to financial difficulties. The District had to start again.



**Otego Elementary School
Is Now
Oneonta Christian Academy**

Our Board

President:
Keith Bachman

Vice President:
Kathy Newman

Secretary:
Judy Pitel

Treasurer:
Betsy Shultis

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Richard Downey
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Alumni Soccer Debut at Homecoming

October 5, 2019 – Alumni from Unatego were found at the soccer field in Otego for Homecoming 2019. The Alumni Soccer Game, which used to be played over the Thanksgiving break, was moved to Homecoming Weekend this year as a way to start a new tradition at Unatego Central School. The match, organized by Chad Angellotti '98, was attended by ten Unatego Alumni dating as far back as the class of 1997. The match was a short sided field with smaller goals that allowed for more fun than competition. Shirts were handed out to Alumni to designate both green and white teams and were made possibly by generous donations from Alumni Jay Shultis of Table Rock Boulderling, Josh Schlafer of Table Rock Fitness and Betsy Shultis of Benson Agency Real Estate. The hope is to grow this and other events over Homecoming Weekend. Watch the Unatego Alumni Facebook Page for more information about Homecoming 2020.



A New Tradition

Unatego Alumni Soccer Team

Milestone Reunions

Thinking about organizing your class reunion for 2020? Whether it's your 10th or 50th we hope you will join us during our all class reunion weekend:

July 17th – 19th, 2020!

Join us on Face Book!



Unatego Alumni



Unatego Announces Sixth Class for Hall of Distinction

The Unatego Hall of Distinction Committee has selected two alumni to be honored for induction this year. This year's inductees include an outstanding high school and collegiate athlete from the class of 1983 who went on to excel as a mechanical engineer and a 2010 graduate who went on to become a very successful professional musician.

The Unatego Hall of Distinction honors graduates of Unatego or from previous districts of Unadilla Central and Otego Central who have distinguished themselves through recognition, honor, and distinction during their lives.

The selections were announced on Friday, June 21 at the High School Graduation Ceremonies. The actual induction ceremony honoring the newest members will take place Saturday January 11th at the High School during the Wickham Wrestling Tournament.

Steve Hall

Steve Hall was a 1983 graduate of the Unatego High School where he excelled in wrestling and football, finishing 7th place at the New York State Wrestling Championship his senior year. He continued his athletic career at Worcester Polytechnic Institute as a four year varsity wrestler, finishing as a four-time All-New England wrestler and helping his team to New England Champions in 1985 and 1987. He also earned honors in his senior year as an Academic All-American. A successful student throughout his time at WPI, he earned professional accolades throughout his career as a mechanical engineer, owning two U.S. Patents, and serving as the President of the International Association for SMT Equipment Development and finished his technology career as the President of EKRA America, Inc. He then returned to his alma mater where he went on to serve as the head coach of the WPI Wrestling Team, leading them to 93 victories in his eight years as head coach. Culminating with his winning honors as the New England Wrestling Association and National Wrestling Coaches Association northeast Region Coach of the Year.

Aaron Foster

Aaron "Frosty" Foster, a 2010 graduate of Unatego, grew up listening to Bluegrass music and received his first guitar as a Christmas present when he was ten. Aaron, a Wells Bridge native, has always been interested in music and Bluegrass in particular. While enrolled in Eastern Tennessee State University studying Business Management, he took several music electives, ultimately leading to his graduation with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, with a minor in Bluegrass, Old Time, and Country Music Studies. While in college, Aaron played guitar in the ETSE Bluegrass Pride Band, in which he earned recognition by being part of the making of two Bluegrass Today Top 20 singles. He continued to pursue his music career after college, producing two albums and several singles, including Reaping the Blues and Opening Doors. He played guitar for several years as a member of the band Dreamcatcher, and most recently joined the Amanda Cook Band as a guitarist.

Reunion News

Several classes had milestone reunions in Summer of 2019. The Class of 1969 held their 50th, Class of 1974, their 45th and Class of 1979 their 40th and Class of 1999 their 20th.

The Class of 1970 is currently working on their 50th reunion for next year!

As you are planning your class reunions, please feel free to post your events and dates on the Unatego Alumni Facebook page! Also, if you are looking for classmates let us know and we could ask the people on the newsletter list if they have leads.

The 2020 All Class Reunion Weekend is July 17-19th. We will have the mixer at the Long River Inn on the 17th and the High School Tours on the morning of 19th.



50 Years – Class of '69



45 Years – Class of '74



40 Years – Class of '79



20 Years – Class of '99

Unatego Alumni Association Membership Form

Name (include maiden name): _____

Mailing

Address: _____

Email

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Year of Graduation: _____

Annual MEMBERSHIP Fee/person \$10.00 _____

Paid by Check _____ or Paid with Cash _____

Lifetime MEMBERSHIP Fee \$250.00 _____

Paid by Check _____ or Paid with Cash _____

Additional Donation for Scholarship Fund _____

Paid by Check _____ or Paid with Cash _____

You can now pay using VENMO: Use Elizabeth Shultis, 607.434.5972
memo should be Alumni Dues

Would you like to be contacted to join a committee or be a class captain?

YES _____ NO _____

*Mail this completed form and your check made payable to **Unatego Alumni Association***

To:

Betsy Shultis, 7 Diane Drive, Otego, NY 13825