



Woodrow Wilson High School Alumni Update - November 2007

FROM THE WILSON STAGE TO THE PORTLAND OPERA

This week our very own Wilson grad **Angela Niederloh '95**, mezzo-soprano, takes to the stage of the Portland Opera in the lead role of Cinderella, as part of their Great Women of the Stage. This week's performances are November 8 and 10 at 7:30PM. "We heard her perform on opening night and she was wonderful!" recalls WWHS alumni Dick and Donna Barton, '58.

The Willamette Week states, "Portland's favorite home-team opera luminary, mezzo Angela Niederloh, stars as the glass-slipper-donning diva in a new Portland Opera production of Rossini's delightful opera." The New York Times referred to Angela as "an exciting coloratura mezzo-soprano." David Stabler, Oregonian critic, wrote "mezzo-soprano Angela Niederloh is the real thing. We'll be hearing from her for years to come!" It is exciting to learn from Eamon ffitch, Portland State University's Daily Vanguard newspaper, that Angela has a new position as 'adjunct voice faculty' at PSU's College of Fine and Performing Arts this fall. "I was lucky to grow up in one of the best cities ever," said Niederloh. "I had the opportunity to live in some very fantastic places, but they never felt like home. This is home."

Angela worked with Wilson past drama teacher Mel Simrell as a vocal coach to put on Wilson's third production of *Anything Goes* in 2005. It was great to have Angie back on stage as she was in the 1993 production of *Anything Goes* at Wilson. "I have known Angie since her high school days and it is wonderful to watch her career soar. It couldn't happen to a nicer person!" states Mel. Steve Peter, Wilson's current Choirs Director and past Cleveland Choir Director, remembers Angie's fine work at Wilson back in the mid-90s. His fondest "memories of her were back in the early 2000's when she served as a private voice teacher over at Cleveland," remembers Steve. "Her students and I were thrilled with her talent and ability to relate to young singers. Great news...BRAVA, Angie!"

Julie Accuardi, retired Wilson drama teacher beams at the mention of Angie. "I think this is wonderful," states Julie. "I just saw Angie today in Cinderella. She was wonderful, and it was such a thrill to watch her shine. I am so proud of her. She was very active in Wilson drama and music. She played many parts for Wilson, among them Bonnie in *Anything Goes*, Maggie in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Celia in *As You Like It*, and Olive in the female version of *The Odd Couple*. She was also on the Thespian Board, Improv Team, and a member of the Senior Vocal Ensemble under the direction of Becky Thompson. I can't wait to see her next performance. She is a real star!"

"WHAT'S THAT BUG?!"

Eric R. Eaton '79 is principal author of the new Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America, published by Houghton Mifflin Co. (2007). Eric has contributed text and illustrations to other books, including *Wild in the City* by Michael Houck and MJ Cody; and has written numerous articles about insects for various popular magazines including *Ranger Rick*, *Missouri Conservationist*, and *Timeline* (journal of the Ohio Historical Society). Eric also helped to discover two species of insects new to science! If you ever wondered what that insect or spider was that you came across outdoors or in your house, you might want to catch Eric at the upcoming Audubon Society of Portland's Wild Arts Festival on Sunday, **November 18** from Noon to 4:00PM, as one of the featured authors at the annual event. \$5 admission, 16 and under get in free. Get a 2 for 1 coupon at http://www.audubonportland.org/fundraising_events/waf/. Montgomery Park Atrium and Ballroom, 2701 NW Vaughn. Eric looks forward to chatting with members of the Wilson community and "the opportunity to instill in others the fascination and appreciation that we share for the intricate lives of these oft-maligned creatures." You can also learn more about Eric at <http://community.webtv.net/bugeric/BugEric>. Congratulations, Eric!

WILSON ATHLETES INDUCTED INTO PIL HALL OF FAME

On October 14, 2007 the Portland Interscholastic League (PIL) inducted three Wilson graduates into the PIL Hall of Fame: **Al Lehrer '59**, **Gordon Riese '60**, and **Steve Rudolph '75**.

- **Al Lehrer, 1959**, baseball, basketball. Two-year Basketball letter winner; Three-year Baseball letter winner All-PIL 1st Team; Four-year letter winner at Oregon State; Most Valuable Player - 1963; Played in Boston Red Sox organization for 12 years; Won Silver Glove Award in Class AAA; Managed Winter-Haven Red Sox; Coached third base for four years at Triple A level.
- **Gordon Riese, 1960**, basketball, baseball. Three-year Basketball letter winner, Most Valuable Player; Three-year Baseball letter winner, All PIL 1st Team; Played Baseball at Portland State, Two-time All-American; Played professional Baseball for three years; PAC-10 Football official 1977-2004.
- **Steve Rudolph, 1975**, football, basketball, baseball. Three-year Football letter winner, Two-time All-PIL 1st Team, All-state 1st Team; Three-year Basketball letter winner, Team Captain; Three-year Baseball letter winner, Two-time All-PIL 1st Team, member Metro All-Star Team, member All-Tournament Team at American Legion Regional Tournament; Four-year Baseball letter winner at Oregon State.

FOND AFTER-SCHOOL MEMORIES AT LYNCH'S MARKET

Do you remember Lynch's Market in Hillsdale? You probably spent a lot of time there before and after school. This past summer the Lynch family came back to the store for a visit. Read more about their visit and hopefully it will bring back some fond memories of your time at this special store: http://www.swcommconnection.com/features/story.php?story_id=118592600595051400

COACH BEACHELL DEDICATED 24 YEARS TO PIL HOOPS, KIDS

Coach Dick Beachell, 71, died August 13, 2007 after battling mantle cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma for nearly three years. According to Steven Brandon from the Portland Tribune, Dick's "Wilson teams, which featured Damon Stoudamore, Keith Smith, Charles and Aaron McKinney, Pat Strickland and Duray Thirdgill, won state titles in 1985, '89 and '91. Beachell also was assistant coach under Jack Bertell '58 with the 1972 state champion Jefferson team." To read more about this wonderful high school basketball coach go to: http://www.localnewsdaily.com/sports/story.php?story_id=118730390893015700.

GEORGE PERRY (1919-2007)

George Perry passed away on August 22, 2007. George taught Shop and Math at Wilson High School from 1956 to 1979. He will be missed.

FROM WILSON TO STANFORD GRADUATE

Megan Hoarfrost '03 graduated from Stanford University in June, 2007. She earned Phi Beta Kappa with honors in Chemical Engineering. She is entering a PhD Program in Chemical Engineering at U.C. Berkeley. Judy and Dan Hoarfrost, Wilson parents, proudly state, "We are very proud of our exceptional Wilson High alumni!"

GRAD COMMISSIONED IN US AIR FORCE

Allen "AJ" Jennings '03 graduated this past spring from the US Air Force Academy and is being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He begins pilot training in 2008 in Alabama. Congratulations to AJ and his wonderful family (parents, Jennifer and John; sister Maggie '09; and brother Colin '06)!

FIFTY YEARS OF WILSON DRAMA

Check out this compilation of "Fifty Years of Wilson Drama" created with historical files and photos at <http://fifty.wilsonhs.com/drama/>. Enjoy this tribute to students, teachers, staff, parents, and community who support Wilson. If you have photos or stories to share from your time at Wilson or you have news on what drama alumni have been up to since graduating from Wilson, please contact to Linda Doyle at lsdoyle@earthlink.net.

REUNIONS

Class of 1968... Reunion

Reunion - Wilson High School 1968; Friday, September 19, 2008; Embassy Suites - Downtown, 319 SW Pine St, Portland, OR 97204. 7:00 PM - 12:00 AM. Attire: Dressy Casual. <http://www.classic-reunions.com/asp/reunioninfo.asp?reunionid=808&schoolid=1000000040>

Class of 1959... 50th Reunion in 2009

Wilson classmates of the Class of 1959 are in the initial stages of planning for the 50th reunion. The exact date in 2009 has not been decided. Any questions or input regarding the reunion can be forwarded to the committee at wilsongrad59@comcast.net.

50TH ANNIVERSARY APPARAL

Interested in purchasing 50th Anniversary t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps? To place an order, contact Jack Bertell '58 at jrbertell@comcast.net.

WWHS ALUMNI MAILING LIST

If you know of someone that would like to get on the WWHS alumni mailing list, please have them go to the 50th website and complete the simple online form at <http://fifty.wilsonhs.com/>.