



CLASSES OF 2020-2021-2022 INDUCTION CEREMONY



**CLASS
OF 2015**



Alaska[®]

AIRLINES

Proud Sponsor of
Alaska School Activities Association
Alaska High School Hall of Fame



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WELCOME

As part of its 50th anniversary in 2006, Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) initiated the Alaska High School Hall of Fame to "identify and honor in a permanent manner, those individuals who have exhibited high ethical standards and integrity while achieving excellence in high school athletics and activities in the state of Alaska; as well as others who have distinguished themselves by virtue of exemplary contributions to the advancement of interscholastic athletics and activities in the state."



The induction of these outstanding individuals and organizations will mark the 13th year of the Hall of Fame. During this time 6 activity participants, 2 activity sponsors, 9 administrators, 58 athletes, 39 coaches, 4 officials, 10 contributors, and 2 Lifetime Achievement recognitions have been inducted.

We welcome Alaska Airlines' continuing sponsorship as it celebrates its 86th anniversary as one of the country's most respected air carriers.

We take great pride in inducting the members of the Class of 2020, 2021, and 2022 and invite all inductees, families, friends, supporters and constituents to share in the enduring spirit of this occasion.

Billy Strickland
ASAA Executive Director

INDUCTION CEREMONY

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022 | 5:30PM | ALASKA AIRLINES CENTER

Welcome - Billy Strickland ASAA Executive Director

National Anthem / Alaska Flag Song - Gary Matthews

Dinner Served

Master of Ceremonies - Don Winchester

Recognition Past Inductees

Speech - Hal Spackman

Hall of Fame Induction Class of 2020

Hall of Fame Induction Class of 2021

Hall of Fame Induction Class of 2022

Closing Remarks - Don Winchester

ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL



HALL OF FAME



CLASS OF

2020



ROYAL HENDERSON

***HAINES HS
DDF & Student
Government***



***2020 Activity Participant
Inductee***

2013 graduate of Haines High School – Elected as student body president during his sophomore year of high school, Henderson served in that capacity during his junior and senior years as well. “It is rare that at the end of the year a student is willing to throw his hat into the ring and face the student body during a campaign. Royal was undaunted and won over his peers, ultimately serving for three years as president” stated Haines High School Principal, Rene Martin.

As student body president, Henderson led in a fund-raising effort for an African orphanage, successfully appealed to administration for policy changes and made current political debates into school functions. After being student representative to the school board, Henderson made history by becoming the youngest elected official in Haines (and at the time in the State of Alaska) by winning a seat on the Haines Borough School Board his senior year. At the statewide level, Henderson represented Region V on the Alaska Association of Student Governments (AASG) both his junior and senior years. In addition to Student Government, Henderson was involved in other ASAA activities such as Drama, Debate and Forensics, Music and Track & Field. That Henderson accomplished all of this despite having cerebral palsy is a testament to his intelligent, inner-strength and commitment to excellence.

After graduating from high school, Henderson attended Gonzaga University earning a double major in History and Political Science. While there he was active in Gonzaga’s student government, serving as freshman senator and later as Student Body Attorney General. He is now in the Gonzaga Law School Acceleration Program.



ALANA CLOOTEN

LATHROP HS
Track & Field,
Basketball



2020 Athlete Inductee

2005 graduate of Lathrop High School – A dominate thrower in the sport of Track & Field, Clooten took first place in the discus four times and the shot put three times at the state championships. It should also be noted she did this her sophomore year with a torn ACL and meniscus. In addition to Track & Field, Clooten also was recognized as All-State in basketball both her junior and senior years. Her academic awards included being named Freshman of the Year at Lathrop (grade 9); induction into the Midnight Sun Chapter of the National Honor Society (grade 11); Alaska Statewide High School Science Symposium Winner in Physics (grade 11); winner of the Wendy's High School Heisman Award for the State of Alaska (grade 12); James W. Growden Memorial Award winner (highest athletic award given by Lathrop High School – grade 12). She was also on the honor roll every semester of high school.

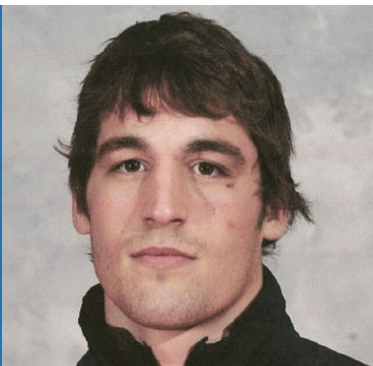
Clooten graduated Lathrop High School with a 4.167 grade point average and accepted a track and field scholarship to the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), where she continued her academic and athletic excellence. She broke the school record in the hammer throw as a freshman and was an NCAA Championships Qualifier twice in her career. She won the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) title in the hammer throw as a graduate student. She also served on the Georgia Tech Student Athlete Advisory Board for three years, serving as President her senior year.

In 2009 Clooten graduated from Georgia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, graduating with highest honors (3.67 GPA) and in 2010 received her Master of Science in Health Systems (4.0 GPA) also from Georgia Tech. Upon graduation, Clooten accepted a job with Accenture Strategy in Atlanta, GA.



CAYLE BYERS

CHUGIAK HS
Wrestling



2020 Athlete Inductee

2007 graduate of Chugiak High School – An outstanding wrestler, Byers was a four time state placer (second place 125 lbs. as a freshmen/fourth place at 140 lbs. as a sophomore) winning state championships both his junior (171 lbs.) and senior years (189 lbs.). Long time wrestling coach, Mark Faller once stated “Cayle’s ankle pick is one of the best if not the best in the world.” Byers also won the prestigious Reno Tournament of Champions and was ranked #6 in the nation by InterMat his senior year. “Cayle Byers is inherently a young man of honor, integrity and strong work ethic and his accomplishments reflect this”, stated one of his former coaches. Byers graduated high school with academic honors.

Byers went on to wrestle for George Mason University qualifying for the NCAA Division I tournament as a freshmen and sophomore. After transferring to national power Oklahoma State, Byers earned All-American honors after placing third in the 2012 NCAA Division I wrestling tournament. This was the highest NCAA Division I placement ever for an Alaskan wrestler. Afterwards, Byers went on to wrestle internationally and qualified for the U.S. Olympics Team trials in 2016.

In 2016 Byers retired from wrestling and returned home to Alaska. Byers’ wrestling career came full circle in 2017 when he started coaching with the Chugach Eagles Wrestling Club, where Byers started wrestling at age 6 and continued through high school. Coach Dan Bailey states, “It’s so important to get that collegiate level of expertise. The stuff those guys bring back to the club is super valuable. Seeing the things Cayle Byers brings to the room — that’s next-level stuff.” As stated by longtime, Chugiak coach and supporter Tom Huffer Sr. “You made all of us in the wrestling community in this state proud. Congratulations to Cayle, his parents and his family.”



LINCOLN JOHNSON

NIKISKI HS
Football & Wrestling



2020 Athlete Inductee

2013 graduate of Nikiski High School – A multi-sport standout for Nikiski High, Johnson earned 20 varsity letters. Johnson was first team All-State as an offensive and defensive lineman both his junior and senior years. His football teams won the State Championship his junior year and were State Runner Up his senior year. Johnson also was a three time state placer in wrestling coming in third his sophomore year (171 lbs.) and first both his junior (182 lbs.) and senior years (195 lbs.). As a senior, Johnson received the Dave Schultz High School Excellence Award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. As a Track & Field athlete, Johnson placed three times at the State Track & Field tournament in discus and once in the shot put. Johnson also participated in basketball and soccer, where he lettered each season.

“Lincoln is one of the best, all-around athletes I have ever known,” stated Nikiski Track & Field Coach Jake Doth “Despite the massive time commitments, Lincoln was able to compete in five varsity sports each year. Never before have we seen an athlete that could juggle double practices, play at a very high level, and maintain a 4.0 GPA. His accolades as a wrestler, football player, soccer goalie, and track athlete speak for themselves. Not only was Lincoln an amazing athlete, but he was also an amazing teammate. His hard work, determination, and kind heart made him a leader on every team he has ever been a part of.”

After graduating high school Johnson attended Greenville University (Illinois), where he played football for four years. He is currently in medical school at the University of Illinois (Rockford), College of Medicine.



LORRIE CLIFFORD

CHUGIAK HS
Flag Football &
Basketball



2020 Athlete Inductee

2009 graduate of Chugiak High School – An outstanding athlete in the sports of flag football and basketball, Clifford was a force to be reckoned with as an all-state basketball point guard and on the field as an all-conference flag football quarterback. “Her speed, coordination, and ability to anticipate the moves of her opponents helped hoist our teams to new athletic heights,” stated teammate Alexis Sayer, “She was a tenacious defender on the basketball court, whose ability to press in transitions and intercept passes frustrated even the most fluid offensive teams. On offense, she was quick to skirt around defense and generous with the ball, always prioritizing the cohesion of team play over personal statistics and praise.” During her senior year, Clifford lead Chugiak High in winning the State Championship in basketball, scoring 19 points, on 8 of 10 shooting from the floor, and 4-for-4 from the free throw line in the title game.

On the football field Lorrie was an absolute phenom of a high school quarterback. Jon Schroeder, her high school flag football coach, recalls “Lorrie’s ability to pass the football was head-and-shoulders above her competition. She routinely passed for over two hundred yards per game, and had one game of 12 completions, in 19 attempts, 316 yards, and five touchdowns. She was an outstanding leader on and off the field, in the classroom, and in the community. I have been fortunate enough to coach a number of outstanding young athletes at Chugiak, and Lorrie is at the top of the list.”

After high school, Clifford attended and graduated Western Oregon State University, where she played basketball, starting at point guard for two years. After college in 2013, Clifford was among a handful of former college athletes invited to a camp aimed at identifying potential rugby players. She made the team and urged former high school teammate, Alev Kelter to give rugby a try. Both went on to become USA National Girls Rugby team members.

Clifford is currently rehabilitating from an industrial accident. Stated a former teammate, “When I think of Lorrie Clifford, I recognize her as Hall of Fame athlete and a personal hero for the things she did that few ever saw: the first person in the gym and the last person out, the one picking up her discouraged teammate at a time out, the one with skinned knees and bruised elbows from diving for every loose ball, the one that always gives 110%—that extra rep, that additional sprint, that firm ray of hope when everyone else has resigned to defeat—and the one who inspires her team to do the same by her example. May she remain an example to future generations of athletes of the power of a strong character and unbreakable will.



MENDY BENSON

***KENAI-CENTRAL HS
Swimming &
Basketball***



2020 Athlete Inductee

1993 graduate of Kenai Central High School – A four-year participant in swimming, Benson was also a four-year starter on the Kenai Central basketball team. As a high school swimmer, Benson was a two-time state champion in the 50 freestyle, while also placing third in the 100 freestyle and 100 butterfly. On the basketball court, Benson was an important member of teams that finished fourth, second and first in the state tournament. She was named first team All-Region as a junior and senior and was first-team All-State as a senior as well as being named a Converse All American. Former coach, Craig Jung recalls “ Being both the school AD and women’s basketball coach, I always scheduled our first games of the year in Anchorage. One year Mendy won the state championship in swimming, climbed out of the Bartlett pool and scored 17 points while leading the team in rebounding that night.”

During her senior year, she also was the student body president. Former swim coach, Susan Maurer states, “She maintained a 4.0, participated in student government, and successfully juggled home and school responsibilities. She learned Japanese and Spanish, traveled widely and fished commercially to earn money for college.” Benson graduated as class valedictorian and received the Kenai Masonic Lodge Outstanding Student Award.

After choosing between swimming and basketball scholarships, Benson went on to have a great four year career at the University of Oregon. In addition to earning starting positions her junior and senior years, Benson was selected to the Pac-10 All-Academic Team. She graduated from Oregon with a major in Japanese and a minor in Spanish. Benson currently teaches languages in Idaho.



SARAH MURPHY

SERVICE HS
Swimming



2020 Athlete Inductee

1998 graduate of Service High School – A two year participant in Track & Field, it would be in the swimming pool where Murphy would etch her name in the record books. Says longtime swim official Dean Konopaske, “I have one memory that sticks out in my mind relative to Sarah’s swimming ability. I recall officiating a meet at Service High School when Sarah was a senior. I was looking at the Service High School Swimming record board above the pool and saw Sarah’s name besides nearly every girl’s event. I believe she had records in the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle, 100 and 200 butterfly, the 100 backstroke and a couple of relays.”

Over four years during ASAA State Swim and Dive Championships, Murphy would claim nine gold medals while setting three state records. She was awarded the Outstanding Competitor for the 1996 ASAA State Championships. She was also named Speedo National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association of America 1996-97 High School Swimmer of the Year. However, Murphy was also a great teammate and leader. A former teammate states, “ I experienced Sarah’s quiet leadership and was the benefactor of her caring and empathic character as a teammate innumerable times. Sarah was always quick to encourage others. She would often extend a hand of friendship to other swimmers regardless of team affiliations or rivalry. Seeing her forge friendships and connections with swimmers across the state during competitions made a huge impression on me and others.”

Murphy achieved honor roll status each semester at Service High was valedictorian and earned early acceptance into Harvard University. At Harvard, Murphy swam for two more years. She broke the school’s record for the 100-butterfly. After Harvard, Murphy attended the University of Washington School of Medicine. Currently married with two children, Murphy is now a faculty member at the WAAMI medical school at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.



ANITA HARRY

*Homer HS
Contributor*



2020 Contributor Inductee

Volunteer activities/transportation administrator in the Homer Junior/Senior High Schools for over 47 years – From 1972 until 2019, Harry has been “a behind the scenes servant, one who has enabled our students and coaches to attain countless individual and team awards at both the Regional and State levels,” states Homer High School Athletic Director, Chris Perk. Over the course of 47 years, Harry volunteered as bus driver, track scorer/time and field judge, track coach, volleyball scorer, volleyball C-team coach, volleyball official, basketball scorer/timer, swimming scorer/timer, swimming official, swimming coach, football scorer and timer, wrestling scorer/timer, soccer scorer/timer and softball scorer/timer. Since 1985, Harry has also served in various capacities for the Homer Booster Club and helped with the coordination of countless tournament and events.

Says former Homer High School Principal, Ronald Keffer, “In a short letter I cannot do justice to all that Anita Harry has done for the students and student-athletes of Homer High. During my tenure, she was ubiquitous. Somehow, she seemed not only to be at virtually every activity, but she also performed some critical function whenever she appeared. Often, she stepped in when no one else could be found, to drive a bus, officiate a volleyball game, keep score at a basketball game — no sport was outside her province, and we all were both impressed and grateful for her contributions. Her work with the swim team was particularly critical and long-term. As impactful as her work for Homer High School has been, Anita Harry always is remarkably quiet and unassuming. She always can be relied upon to provide institutional knowledge and history, and she has advice ready when needed, but, almost always, only when asked. She seems particularly adept at helping and moving a program in the proper direction at critical moments without ever becoming embroiled in conflict with anyone.”

Referred to by many as the “glue” that held Homer High Activities together, Harry’s service to the school cannot be overstated.



ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIANS ALASKA

Contributor



**ORTHOPEDIC
PHYSICIANS**
A L A S K A

2020 Contributor Inductee

Long time corporate sponsor of ASAA – Orthopedic Physicians Alaska (OPA), has been a long time corporate sponsor of ASAA. The monetary and in-kind contributions over the years have enabled ASAA to safely present a wide range of athletic events. OPA's presence at ASAA state championships ensures that all athletes are provided with sound and consistent medical expertise to enhance the safety of their athletic experience. Without OPA's continuing support, it would have been difficult for ASAA to financially be able to provide these services. "I can't imagine what it would be like trying to run a state event without OPA. Knowing that in the case of an injury, OPA's team of athletic trainers are there to care for our students is so reassuring" states ASAA Executive Director, Billy Strickland.

In addition, OPA's staff was instrumental in helping ASAA develop of its concussion policies. Their understanding of the issue along with how to practically implement procedures was critical in its development. This too has led to improvements in student care and safety. OPA personnel has further assisted ASAA by serving on both the ASAA and NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

For many years, OPA has provided expertise, personnel, and equipment to protect high school students. OPA's team of full-time certified athletic trainers serves the needs of student athletes, coaches and parents throughout the Anchorage and Mat-Su school districts. From taping ankles to diagnosing injuries to monitoring return-to-play concussion protocols, OPA's staff is in the schools every day, and often on weekends, keeping high school athletes healthy — and saving families (and school districts) money. For this, ASAA along with numerous high schools and students are forever grateful for the generosity of OPA.



BOB BARGER

Lifetime Achievement

Sitka & Anchorage



2020 Lifetime Achievement Inductee

Radio and television broadcaster with over 50 years' experience announcing high school sports across the state of Alaska – Since 1969 Bob has been one of the most recognized voices broadcasting all Alaska High School sports. His contribution to Alaska high school sports has touched the lives of generations of families, friends and communities supporting their high school student athletes. Beginning as a Sitka High School student on Southeast Alaska radio stations and continuing through the years on radio and television statewide, and for the last 7 years worldwide, countless numbers have enjoyed his play-by-play and commentary as they follow their favorite teams and athletes.

“My first opportunity to broadcast a game on my own was in early February, 1970. What was so unique about this was the floor of the visiting broadcaster's booth had fallen out of the bottom of the booth. The floorboards were placed up in the rafters over the basketball floor. I had to obtain a longer power cord from the principal at Wrangell High School to power up my broadcast gear and had a long phone line with me to plug into the phone line to broadcast back to the station in Sitka. I had to lay on the sheet of plywood with my broadcast gear and scorebook and broadcast the two games. That's the only time I had to lay down while broadcasting sports!” recalls Barger.

“He has an eye for the strategy of the game in front of him. He could help the listener “feel” the intensity of the moments while creating that visual picture of the game. He never questioned the officials, the players, nor the coaches in his broadcasting. He was always positive” says longtime Sitka resident Keith Perkins.

Barger moved to Anchorage in 2000, There he became a part of the growing Alaska Sports Broadcasting Network, becoming part of their high school airing of football, basketball and baseball regular season games. Additionally, Barger has been the voice of many state championships games on both television and for the National Federation of High Schools Network. Currently still active, Barger passion is fueled by a real love of high school sports.

ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL
HALL OF FAME
**CLARENCE
THOMPSON**
Official

Anchorage - Football & Basketball



2020 Official Inductee

Over 40 years of officiating in the sports of basketball and football – As a sports official, Thompson has directly impacted thousands of Alaska's high school students and coaches, both on and off the field. For over 40 years, Thompson has advanced the standard of sports officiating in Alaska through his leadership, encouragement of sportsmanship and discipline and commitment of excellence. By doing so, Thompson has demonstrated the highest attributes of a positive role model for students.

Thompson served two terms as President of the Anchorage Football Officials Association where he instituted a system of effective written evaluations and numerical rankings to assist members in assessing areas of deficiencies. Working in partnership with the school district and administration, he actively recruited the necessary resources to provide adequate dressing facilities; and negotiated pay increases for sports officials. He also served on other sports boards where he influenced decision making processes and addressed various concerns such as member representation in policy changes, and the general direction of the associations.

Thompson has officiated multiple Alaska high school semi-final and championship football games including three straight DI high school games. Fellow official Robert McMillian states, "These high caliber, high visibility, and high stakes games are normally reserved for the best officials and are true indicators for the cream of the crop Alaskan sports officials. As a multiple sports official, Mr. Thompson was also a cream of the crop official in basketball." Another fellow official adds "His level perspective and demeanor has set the tone on the court and gridiron for many years with the simple tenant that sports should be a fun environment for all participants. In some way, we as players, coaches, fans and officials have all been influenced by Clarence Thompson and the positive impact he has had on the games he officiates."

Due to shortage of high school football officials (especially high caliber officials), Thompson can still be found officiating high school games. In doing so he continues to mentor countless other officials on the traits that made him outstanding, including integrity, fairness, stability, and sound judgment.

ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL



HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF
2021



DON WITZEL

COLONY HS
Girls Basketball



2021 Coach Inductee

Witzel turned the Colony High girls basketball team into a powerhouse during his 15 seasons, leading the Knights to eight appearances in the Class 4A state championship game and winning four titles. He finished his coaching career with a 337-117 record over 17 seasons, most prominently at Colony, where between 1994 and 2009 he racked up eight Northern Lights Conference championships and state championships in 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2008.

Witzel the wizard was named NLC Coach of the Year three times and Alaska 4A Coach of the Year twice in 1998 and 2008. "He was deserving of these awards because he not only was successful at winning games, but he made lifelong connections with his players that made them better people," said Jeannie Hebert-Truax. "Facing a Don Witzel coached team was always a challenge."

Witzel started his coaching career in 1980 at Hooper Bay, where he went 29-2 and won Lower Yukon league titles in 1981 and 1982. From there he bounced around as an assistant before taking over as bench boss at Colony in 1994. Colony dominated the Northern Lights Conference on Witzel's watch, winning six straight league titles from 1995 to 2000. He also coached arguably Alaska's greatest women's basketball player in Jessica Moore, a two-time Gatorade Alaska Player of the Year and Parade All-American. "Coach Witzel demanded the best out of his players. His attention to detail was unmatched," Moore said. "I remember he would sometimes have us practice walking into a gym as if we were playing an away game. He made sure our heads were held high, and that there was no shuffling our feet or hands in our pockets. We walked with a purpose."

"Great coaches obsess about the smallest details, so when its game time you are fully prepared for battle," Moore said. "Looking back on my basketball career beginning at Colony, winning NCAA championships at UConn and then fulfilling my dream of playing professionally in the WNBA, I can say without a doubt that Don's guidance during those early years opened doors for me and set me on the path to achieve my goals."

Witzel made every player feel like they were special, from stars to subs. Ask Martha Yuknis, whose daughter played for Witzel. "Brook began playing ball as a timid and inexperienced seventh grader, and thanks to Don's coaching she became an integral player, both defensively and offensively, on a state championship team," Yuknis said. "Those years on the team with Don as a coach were exciting and wonderful years."



HAL SPACKMAN

Lifetime Achievement *Southeast Alaska*



*2021 Lifetime Achievement
Inductee*

For more than 30 years Spackman served as an administrator, coach and teacher all over Southeast Alaska, starting in 1980 in Metlakatla and moving on to Haines, Juneau and Sitka, where he retired in 2014.

In competition, he led two different schools to state championships in girls basketball and speech, drama & debate. In the classroom, he taught piano, journalism, photography, English, and performed duties such as principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent. "He believed in the value of co-curricular activities and how they could help mold future leaders and good citizens," Gary Matthews said.

Spackman came to Metlakatla in 1980, where he accepted a teaching position and served as assistant girls basketball coach under Alaska Hall of Fame coach Dave Cloud. In 1983, Spackman coached the school's speech and drama team, leading it to the Alaska small school state title. "During his tenure, Hal had a tremendous impact on the culture of the school and its students which continues to this day," Matthews said.

In 1983, Spackman moved to Haines, where he created the greatest era of Glacier Bears girls basketball in school history. Between 1985 and 1987 they won three straight Region V championships and captured the school's only Class 3A state title. He coached Haines to a Class 3A state championship in 1985 with a triple-OT victory over Wrangell. In 1986, Haines lost the state title game to Delta Junction. No Haines girls team has been back to the state final since.

"He always guided well-disciplined, respectful team members who were highly competitive, yet well-grounded in quality classroom performance as the first priority," said Bruce F. Johnson. "This was also true of students who elected participation in drama activities directed by Mr. Spackman."

Later in his career, Spackman became the Alaska Deputy Commissioner of Education and led the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program. "During my 40-plus year tenure, I encountered many exceptional and talented leaders with Mr. Spackman distinguishing himself as an elite educational leader who always put students at the forefront," Johnson said. "Regardless of the challenges faced, he worked tirelessly to make every student the best that they could become."



JEAN JACKSON

Lifetime Achievement

Klawock HS



*2021 Lifetime Achievement
Inductee*

When it comes to Klawock basketball, Jackson is in a class by herself. She led the Chieftains to eight state title games – four as a player and four as a coach – and helped Klawock become the first school to win five Class 1A state championships before making the jump to Class 2A and winning another state title at that level.

A decorated player who earned all-conference and all-state honors, her fingerprints were all over Klawock's success during her four seasons as a player as the team won three straight state championships in 1987, 1988 and 1989. Jackson was a four-time all-conference selection and a four-time all-tournament pick at state. Those that were fortunate enough to see her play easily saw her passion, grit, and purpose when she was on the floor," said Jim Holien. "She was a true champion."

After graduating from college, Jackson returned to her hometown in 1993 to begin her coaching career at the high school and teaching career at the elementary school. She coached the Chieftains from 1993 to 2001, leading Klawock to seven league titles and two state championships – a 1A title in 1996 and a 2A title in 1999. More than just basketball, Jackson taught her players how to win in life. "I had the privilege to grow up in Klawock and play basketball for Coach Jackson," said Sarah Dybdahl. "She planted in each of us resiliency, respect, integrity and how to lead through action. We were fortunate to have such a pillar in our life."

In 1999, her Klawock team snapped Ninilchik's 26-game winning streak with a 47-43 win in the state final. Jackson was named Alaska 2A Coach of the Year. "In the four years of being coached by Jean, she taught me more than just the game," said Teresa D. Fairbanks. "She taught me to be proud of who I am and to carry myself with dignity, even if something is weighing me down. A lot of who I am today is owed to her holding me to a higher standard and keeping me accountable."



LARRAE ROCHELEAU

Administrator
Southeast Alaska



*2021 Lifetime Achievement
Inductee*

A 14-year school administrator in Southeast Alaska, Rocheleau served as superintendent of the Annette Island School District in Metlakatla and Mt. Edgecumbe in Sitka before he was named the ninth president of Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka. He retired in 1994.

Rocheleau arrived in Metlakatla in 1979 with his wife Barbara and their eight children. During his tenure in Metlakatla, he was committed to improving all aspects of student life, ranging from raising test scores and student confidence levels to establishing Native culture, arts, and history in the school curriculum and increasing respect and discipline. "He cared for students as if they were his own children," said Lois A. Rhodes.

In 1984, Rocheleau moved to Sitka to help transition Mt. Edgecumbe from a Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school to a State of Alaska boarding school. He instituted the Family Dinner Program, created an annual Easter Egg Hunt and introduced students to the Ropes Program.

Under Rocheleau's tutelage, the Mt. Edgecumbe student body grew from 150 to 275 and achieved academic records and recognition from the National Honor Society. "He helped make MEHS what it is today — the best boarding school in Alaska and quite possibly the United States," Rhodes said. His Family Dinner Program was a smashing success. The invitation extended to teachers, who often brought their actual families and shared a table with their student family.

"He was challenged with the difficult task of restarting a school with long standing traditions. With his leadership, drive and hard work he was able to remake Mt. Edgecumbe," said Don Wickersham. Rocheleau hired a new staff and helped establish special bonds between students and staff.

"Larrae was a great listener and always found time to listen to students, teachers and other administrators, who sought his wisdom or just needed a valued ear to hear them out," said Roger Sampson. "He lifted everyone around him."



CLASS OF
2022



CORISE BITTNER STORY

HOMER HS
Swimming



2022 Athlete Inductee

Arguably Alaska's best female swimmer in the 1990s, Story won three individual state championships for Homer High and was named 1993 Alaska Swimmer of the Year before making a splash at the University of San Diego. The backstroke specialist competed at the NCAA Division I level when few Alaska swimmers advanced to the college level and left an indelible mark at San Diego, setting multiple school records and winning three Pacific Collegiate Swimming Conference titles in the 200 backstroke in 1995, 1996 and 1997.

Story's swimming prowess started in Homer, where she rewrote the school record books with new marks in the 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle, 200 individual medley, 50 free, 100 butterfly, 100 free, 500 free, 200 free relay, 100 backstroke and 400 free. She was a 2-time Region III Swimmer of the Year in 1992 and 1993.

In 1992, Story set a state record in the 100 backstroke. In 1993, she won state titles in the 100 backstroke and 200 IM on her way to being named ASAA State Championships Girls Swimmer of the Year. Story – the daughter of former Homer High coach John Bittner – usually went all-out in the water. She was a fearless competitor.

In 1993, she famously switched from the 100 backstroke to the 500 freestyle at the Soldotna Invitational and beat an accomplished long-distance specialist by half a body length in an epic head-to-head matchup that came down to the wire. "You won't see another battle like that for a long time," John Bittner told the Homer News.

After graduating college, Story returned to Homer to raise her family. She has been a volunteer with the Kachemak Swim Club since 2008 and in 2010 became the kindergarten teacher at McNeil Canyon Elementary School. "Her athleticism and continued support for swimming has created a strong swimming community in Homer and on the Kenai Peninsula," said Amy Stonorov.



DAVE MASSEY

JUNEAU-DOUGLAS HS
Softball



2022 Coach Inductee

The godfather of Juneau softball, Massey coached in the capital city community for more than 50 years and ushered the Juneau-Douglas High program into a championship era as head coach from 1992 to 2016. He guided the Crimson Bears to eight state championships and 13 appearances in the state title game. He coached 55 all-state players and three Gatorade Alaska Softball Players of the Year – Hannah Barril in 2006, Carrie Ann Laliberte in 2008 and Brittany Fenumiai in 2009.

In 2021, MaxPreps named Massey as Alaska's all-time greatest softball coach. "The game of softball would not be what it is in Southeast Alaska if it weren't for Dave Massey," Nicole Adair said. "He has taught hundreds if not thousands more adults what it means to be a coach that challenges and inspires youth to live up to their best potential."

Massey led Juneau-Douglas to the ASAA's first-ever state softball championship game in 1996. The Crimson Bears made it back to the state final in 1998 before winning the school's first softball state championship in 1999. Things only got better in the 2000s as Juneau became Alaska's team of the decade, advancing to seven straight state title games between 2002 and 2008 and winning five times in addition to another title in 2010.

"His success as a coach and mentor is long lasting. This last year in the Southeast conference for Alaska high school softball every one of the teams had a coach that had been a part of one of his programs and under his coaching at some point," Kalea Allen said. "That is quite special."

Massey's legacy continues through his former players like Lexie Razor, who played for him from 1992 to 1994 and then coached with him in from 2014 to 2016. "In 2017, I took over as head coach for JDHS softball," Razor said. "While Dave is not an official coaching staff member, he is still my go-to for questions and support. He has taught me more about coaching than any book or conference ever will."



MERLIN CORDES

Official

Kenai Peninsula - Basketball & Volleyball



2022 Lifetime Achievement Inductee

If you played or watched a basketball game or volleyball match on the Kenai Peninsula between 1991 and 2020, chances are Cordes was an official. The longtime referee was a game-day staple on the Peninsula and in other Alaska communities stretching from Unalaska to Cordova.

Cordes was one of Alaska's top referees on the hardwood and was called on to work dozens of games at the Class 1A and 2A state basketball championships, including several title games. From March Madness to kindergarten 3-on-3 games, he did it all. "He approached games not only as an official but also as a teacher," Chris Etzwiler said. "This was evident in how he taught players rules as each new junior high season kicked off. In the beginning of the season, he took time to teach players how to line up correctly at the free-throw line and how to check into a game properly instead of running onto the court in excitement."

A school teacher by trade, Cordes made friends easy and was hard to turn down when he asked you to serve your community. "He challenged me to become an official and give back to a game that had a huge influence on me as a student athlete. Almost 20 years I'm still using what he taught me to be part of basketball," said Dan Miotke.

Cordes had a tremendous influence on athletes, coaches and officials in Alaska. He trained dozens of officials to carry on the commitment to excellence, attention to detail and dedication to educating the next generation. "Ask anyone not only on the Kenai Peninsula but statewide and they will most likely know of Merlin and have a story or two to tell," Mike Etzwiler said. "He is the reason I started officiating 14 years ago and continue his legacy today."

In 2006, Cordes helped create a youth basketball program in Homer called Bruins Basketball for boys and girls in third to sixth grade. "This level of coaching and officiating is what we need more of," Amy Stonorov said. "The love of the sport, the dedication to educate and the fairness on which he gave, will be missed."



PAST CLASSES
2006
TO
2019

2006 INDUCTEES - INAUGURAL CLASS



ATHLETE

- John Brown - Ketchikan HS - 1968
- Don Clary - East Anchorage HS - 1975
- Mike Cronk - Walter Northway HS - 1987
- Herb Didrickson - Sheldon Jackson HS - 1946
- Steve Frank - Austin Lathrop HS - 1973
- Elizabeth "Betsy" Haines - East Anchorage HS - 1978
- Nina Kempel - West Anchorage HSI - 1987
- Rocky Klever - West Anchorage HS - 1977
- Chuck Kopp - Cook Inlet Academy - 1983
- Trajan Langdon - East Anchorage HS - 1994
- Butch Lincoln - Kotzebue HS - 1991
- Aelin Peterson - West Valley HS - 1992
- Mark Schlereth - Robert Service HS - 1984
- Brian Swanson - Chugiak HS - 1994
- Molly Tuter - Soldotna HS - 1993
- Kristy Klinnert Waythomas - Kodiak HS - 1987
- Gary Wilken - Austin Lathrop HS - 1964

COACH

- Tom Huffer, Sr - Chugiak HS

ADMINISTRATORS

- Gil Truitt - Mt. Edgecumbe HS
- Les Wells - Anchorage School District & ASAA

CONTRIBUTOR

- First National Bank Alaska



2007 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Gary Beller - West Anchorage HS - 1968
- Carl Blackhurst - Haines HS - 1996
- Yohance Humphrey - Chugiak HS - 1997
- Brit Jacobson Reid - Chugiak HS - 1994
- Ron Pollock - West Anchorage HS - 1968
- Emily Ransom Golick - Seward HS - 1994
- Sarah Olerud Swinton - Haines HS - 1986

COACH

- Joe Floyd - Kodiak High School
- Don Hather - Hoonah/Tok/Skagway HS
- Buck Nystrom - Eielson/North Pole HS
- Dick Thompson - Dimond/Service HS
- Larry Whitmore - Bartlett HS
- William "Bill" Wilttrout - Anchorage/Homer HS

ACTIVITY SPONSOR

- Karen Grussendorf - Sitka High School - 1967-1998

CONTRIBUTOR

- Dave Brann - Homer



2008 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Ann Berdahl - Nikiski HS - 1997
- Jeannie Hebert-Truax - Monroe Catholic High - 1988
- Gary Steeby - Chugiak HS - 1974

COACH

- Robert "Bob" Boudreaux - Soldotna HS - Football
- Dwayne Davies - Kake HS - Basketball
- Reilly Richey - Juneau-Douglas HS - Football
- John W. Tobin - North Pole HS - Wrestling
- Alice Witte - Homer HS - Volleyball

CONTRIBUTOR

- James "Whizzy" Whisenant - Lathrop HS



2009 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Myra Harris - Frank A. Degnan School - 1996
- Matt Mattson - West Valley HS - 1994
- Mara Rabinowitz - West Valley HS - 1984
- Mao Tosi - East Anchorage HS - 1995

COACH

- Dan Eide - Valdez HS
- Lynn Roumagoux - Dimond HS

ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT

- Peter Hiltz - Susan B. English School - 1984
- Michael More - West Anchorage HS - 1965

OFFICIAL

- John T. Jones - Anchorage

CONTRIBUTOR

- Spenard Builders Supply

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

- Richard McCormick - Douglas/Lathrop/Nome/Wrangell



2010 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Carlos Boozer, Jr. - Juneau-Douglas HS - 1999
- David Killpatrick - West Anchorage HS - 1990
- Larry Martin - Homer HS - 1969

ACTIVITY SPONSOR

- Roy McPherson - Ketchikan HS

CONTRIBUTOR

- AT&T Alaska



2011 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Scott Gomez - East Anchorage HS - 1996
- Matt Hemry - Dimond HS - 1986
- Sam Hill - Kotzebue & Nikiski HS - 1996
- Tom Huffer Jr. - Chugiak HS - 1985
- Jessica Moore - Colony HS - 2000
- Kikkan Randall - East Anchorage HS - 2001
- Sarah Sullivan Afoa - Dimond HS - 1979

ADMINISTRATOR

- Richard "Dick" Mize - Anchorage School District

COACH

- Woody Wenstrom - West Valley HS

OFFICIAL

- James Mason - Anchorage



2012 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Steve MacSwain - East Anchorage HS - 1983

ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT

- Vivica Genaux - West Valley HS - 1987
- Richard Cooper - Haines HS - 1984
- Roger Schmidt - Sitka HS - 1987

COACH

- Paul Brauneis - Chugiak HS
- Mike Smithers - Ketchikan HS
- Craig Jung - Kenai Central HS
- Ed Blahous Sr - Chugiak HS

OFFICIAL

- James Paxton - Anchorage

ADMINISTRATOR

- John Andrews - Kenai Peninsula School District

CONTRIBUTOR

- Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage
- Alaska Commercial Company - AC



2013 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Edward Blahaus, Jr. - Chugiak HS - 1985
- Mia Costello - West Anchorage HS - 1986

COACH

- Roger Nelles - Delta Junction/Wasilla HS
- Catherine Rhodes - Colony & Wasilla HS
- Joe Tremerallo - Lathrop HS
- Chuck White - East Anchorage & West Anchorage HS

ADMINISTRATOR

- Ron Gleason - Angoon & Juneau-Douglas HS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

- Steve Ivanoff - Unalakleet



2014 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Whitney Leman Schollenberg - Ninilchik School - 2003
- Steve Simmons - Chugiak HS - 1985
- Archie Young - Wrangell HS - 1991

COACH

- Donna Dooley-Diamond HS
- Virgil Hooe - Anchorage School District
- Boyd "Dan" D. Leman - Ninilchik HS
- Dave Reeves - Diamond HS
- Bruce Shearer - Kenai/Anchorage School District

OFFICIAL

- Don Kassube - Anchorage

ACTIVITY SPONSOR

- Richard "Dick" Barker - Tok & Bethel HS



2015 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Chris Kuper, Dimond HS - 2001
- Jeremiah Richards, Palmer HS - 1997
- Reggie Tongue, Lathrop HS - 1992

COACH

- Ted DeLeon, West Valley & Ben Eielson HS
- Rex Rock Sr., Pt. Hope HS
- Dave Schroer, Homer HS
- Lancer Smith, Palmer HS
- Mike Zibell, Noorvik HS

ADMINISTRATOR

- Roger Steinbrecher, Seward HS, Sand Point HS

CONTRIBUTOR

- Alaska Airlines
- Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks



2016 INDUCTEES

ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT

- Victor Barranco - North Pole - 2001

ATHLETE

- Chad Bentz - Juneau-Douglas, - 1999
- Casey Flair - East Anchorage - 2004
- Ian Pitzman - Homer - 1986
- Jed Wade - Wasilla - 2004

COACH

- Don Erickson - Covenant High School, Unalakleet

ADMINISTRATOR

- Dave Dirksen - Wrangell, Annette Island
- Gary Matthews - Haines, ASAA



2017 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Beth Ladd - Homer HS - 1991
- Brad Oleson - North Pole HS- 2001
- Dwayne Jones - Dimond HS - 1980
- Jody Hensen Reding - Homer HS - 1991

COACH

- Dave Cloud - Homer HS
- Bob Durado - West Anchorage & East Anchorage HS
- Earle Walker - Anchorage School District
- George Houston - Juneau-Douglas HS
- Phil Jordan - Alaska High Schools

ADMINISTRATOR

- Teresa Johnson - Anchorage School District

CONTRIBUTOR

- RAVN Alaska - Alaska



2018 INDUCTEES

ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT

- Andrew Vait – Homer High School

ACTIVITY SPONSOR

- Mark Robinson – Homer High School
- Robert Hutton – Hoonah High School
- William Searle – Homer High School

ATHLETE

- Cameron Severson – Petersburg High School
- Daryn Colledge – North Pole High School
- Kyle Fossman – Haines High School
- Leah Francis – Juneau-Douglas High School
- Talisa Rhea – Juneau-Douglas High School

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

- Al Howard – Soldotna
- Dan Gensel – Kenai Peninsula

OFFICIAL

- Jack Renn – Anchorage
- Ron Henderson – Anchorage/Kenai



2019 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE

- Alev Kelter - Chugiak HS - 2009
- Austin Vanderford - Ninilchik HS - 2008
- Cody Tanner - Chugiak HS - 1978
- Justin Dorn - Juneau-Douglas HS - 2001
- Philip Engebretsen - Homer HS - 1989
- Randy Hanson - Bethel Regional HS - 2010
- Stacia Rustad - Kenai Central HS - 1992



COACH

- Mike Ashley - Anchorage School District
- Vic Belleque - Dillingham HS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

- Steve Nerland - Anchorage



**CLASS
OF 2006**



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