

# SA/KHS Alumni Association News



*Cerita Battles*



*Nancy Birchall*



*Howell Melton Jr.*



*Capt. Jere Palmes*

3rd Quarter 2018

**Hall of Fame Induction is Oct. 11 – Got Your Tickets?**

**Yellow Jackets Mourn Two Giants**

**Save the Date! Nights of Lights Event Set**

**Major Donors Support Jackets Forever Endowment**



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## Don't Miss the 2018 Hall of Fame Event!

You'll want to be there when four of our schools' most accomplished graduates are inducted into the St. Augustine/Ketterlinus High School (SA/KHS) Alumni Association's 2018 Hall of Fame. The former class members are set to be honored:

**6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11  
First Coast Technical College  
2980 Collins Avenue**

This year's banquet will be deliciously catered by the Black Molly Grill. The popular restaurant is owned and operated by alumni Jason Hamilton (Class of '94) and Ryan Torboli (Class of '97).



A silent auction will be featured, offering among other great items, tickets for the Sunday, Oct. 21 Jacksonville Jaguars game against the Houston Texans.

Set for induction are:

*Cerita Battles, Class of '86, senior vice president and head of retail diverse segments at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage*

*Nancy Birchall, Class of '63, community volunteer*

*Howell Melton Jr., Class of '69, former managing partner at Holland & Knight*

*Jere Palmes, Class of '39, U.S. Army Captain, posthumously awarded the Silver Star and other citations for meritorious action in World War II*

Tickets for the banquet are going fast, so get yours today!

It's easy to reserve online at [mysahs.com](http://mysahs.com). Click, "Hall of Fame" on the homepage. You can also get to the link via the SA/KHS Alumni Association's Facebook page.



*The SA/KHS Alumni Association Hall of Fame hallway at SAHS*

## Yellow Jacket Community Mourns Two Giants

### Teacher and Administrator Nancy Russell Little



Nancy, a proud Minorcan, began her teaching career in Miami. She returned to St. Augustine in 1978, where she spent more than 40 years as a teacher and then administrator in St. Johns County schools, including SAHS.

As her obituary announcement noted, those who Nancy worked with became an extended family. She lovingly kept in touch with many of her students, always encouraging them to reach their highest potential.

She is remembered forever by her family, who were the most important people in her life, including her husband, Ernie Little, three sons, four grandchildren, and a great grandson.

The SA/KHS Alumni Association Facebook post about Nancy's passing includes many tributes from former students of many schools, including Cynthia Conrad, who said:

*"I was blessed to have Nancy as a teacher in high school and a friend after that. She was a beautiful lady, inside and out, and I will carry her memory in my heart forever."*

## Athletic Director and Coach Wendall Willard McCraw

Wendell McCraw came to SAHS in 1969. He was an outstanding defensive coordinator for the Yellow Jackets through 1980. When athletic director and head football coach H.L. "Foots" Brumley retired in 1981, Coach McCraw took over both positions. He served as head football coach from 1981 to 1985, and as interim head football coach in 1995. He remained athletic director until his retirement in 2001. He was inducted into the Florida Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2009.

As athletic director, he was a stabilizing force over the 20 years he served in that capacity. Coach McCraw improved the athletic department's financial condition for all sports, for both girls and boys. He helped hire key individuals, including Hall of Fame football coach Joey Wiles. He also elevated the condition of SAHS practice and playing fields for all sports, making them legendary across Northeast Florida.

While Coach McCraw was athletic director, the school grew from 900 students in the late 1970s to 2,800 in 1999. He transformed the school sports club from one that served all sports to the booster club format which continues today. His approach allowed members of each club to focus on one sport, increasing parental participation. He also helped former Principal Paula Steele in forming the SA/KHS Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association led a campaign in 2016 to pay tribute to Coach McCraw, along with Coaches Wiles, Slater, and Brumley. The St. Augustine High School Athletic Complex was renamed the Wendall McCraw Athletic Complex, with funds for new signage provided by alumni donors.

Coach McCraw leaves behind his wife, Jackie Lopez McCraw, two children, and three grandchildren.

SA/KHS Alumni Association treasurer Trevor Davis (Class of '92) put together a video tribute to Coach McCraw and posted it on our Facebook page.



*Coach McCraw with new  
tribute signage in 2017*



*SA/KHS Alumni Association Board of Directors*

*Officers:*

**Debbie Adams, President**  
**Doug Wiles, Vice President**  
**Trevor Davis, Treasurer**  
**Paula Steele, Secretary**  
**Brad Davis, President Emeritus**

*Members:*

**Joseph Boles**  
**Deltra Long**  
**Christopher Way**

*Jackets Forever  
Endowment Committee:*

**Leonard Pellicer, Chair**  
**Katherine Batenhorst**  
**Robin Burchfield**  
**Susan Longo Cowperthwaite**  
**Deborah Geanuleas**  
**Doug Wiles**

*Membership Committee:*

**Dan Chitwood • Sue Chitwood**  
**Susan Longo Cowperthwaite**  
**Julee Cooke • Bill Napier**  
**Allesha Schirmer**  
**Susan Ponder-Stansel**  
**David Stansel • Debbie Wiles**

*Interested in serving on a committee? We'd love to have your help. Please contact any board member, or Pres. Debbie Adams at [dadams2@att.net](mailto:dadams2@att.net) or 904-540-0756.*

Mission: The purpose of this association is to support St. Augustine High School students and alumni through scholarship, mentorship, fellowship and community involvement, the support of such purposes to be exclusively charitable, to make and receive contributions as and for this association that qualify as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and any corresponding law of the State of Florida.

## Save the Date! 2nd Annual Nights of Light Event Set for Saturday, Nov. 17

If you missed last year's Nights of Lights event for SA/KHS Alumni Association members, you probably heard from someone who attended about the amazing food, the beautiful setting, and fun way to reconnect with alumni from many classes.

But you're in luck because board member Chris Way has consented to open his family's home to us again this year!

Even more fun is planned for this year. Yes, we'll gather on the deck to watch the City of St. Augustine flip the switch and light up downtown with holiday sparkle. But we're also thinking of a few games and other events to get everyone mixing and laughing.

Tickets will go fast once we're ready to announce they're on sale, so be alert! Make sure your email address is current at [mysahs.com](http://mysahs.com). Space is limited, so look for an announcement very soon!



*Board Member Chris Way, center, opens his home to lucky alumni;*



*Bayfront photo from Visit St. Augustine*

## All Y'All Spring Gathering Planned

There's not a much prettier place to gather in St. Augustine than the Fountain of Youth Archeological Park. That's why the Membership Committee is working with owner John Fraser (Class of '75) on a springtime gathering for alumni from all classes.

Planned for March or April of 2019, the group is still finalizing details. Stay tuned for more information!



## Keeping in Touch is Easier Than Ever

There are two easy ways to keep up with your alumni association.

1. Go to [mysahs.com](http://mysahs.com). You'll find everything from the history of our schools to our Hall of Fame inductees to new scholarship winners to class reunion information. You can also sign up for the email news list. See the new site for yourself today!
2. Follow us on Facebook. There, you'll find even more up-to-the-minute news, shares about class members and news from Facebook class pages, and much more to "Like."



Once a Jacket,  
Always a Jacket



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## Jackets Forever Endowment Growing

Five years ago, after an initial gift from the Class of '63, the SA/KHS Alumni Association established the Jackets Forever endowment fund to support academic programs at SAHS and provide the best educational opportunities for future generations of Yellow Jackets. When the fund reaches its goal of \$200,000, it will provide enough income so that students can be helped while preserving the principal for the future.

Support is in high gear under current endowment committee chair Leonard Pellicer (Class of '63). New ways to give have been established, such as designating Jackets Forever in estate plans or as a life insurance beneficiary. Pledges can be paid out over multiple years. Gifts are made in honor or memory of loved ones.

Since the SA/KHS Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) organization, your donation might be tax-deductible. See complete tax designation information at [mysahs.com](http://mysahs.com) and ask your tax professional about your individual situation.

*Thank you to the following endowment donors, who have given or pledged at the \$5,000 level and above!*

Ron & Nancy Birchall  
Rick & Robin Burchfield  
Susan Longo Cowperthwaite  
Frank DiMare  
Lee & Deborah Geanuleas  
Paul & Julia Kalv  
John Lee

Ron & Martha Mickler  
Sue-Ellen Gamble Mosler  
Leonard & Nancy Pellicer  
Barbara Beals Shapiro  
Doug & Doris Wiles  
Mary Willis



## New Classroom Grants Program Kicks Off

Sometimes coming up a little bit short on funds can make the difference between doing a class project or not doing one. It can mean fewer students get to be involved in something that will benefit them in ways they might not even realize until they too are alumni.

Filling the gaps that can make that difference is the goal of a new classroom grants program designed by SA/KHS Alumni Association Secretary Paula Steele, and endorsed by the whole board.

Applications from teachers for grants of up to \$250 each will be reviewed to ensure they meet the board's criteria.

