

# THE NEWFANE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



October 2022 Newsletter

## WELCOME NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS!

Emma Oudette  
Laura Keller  
Lisa Hoffer  
Chelsea Johannssen  
Tammy Newton  
Keith Crombie  
Kimberly Rudick  
DianaHayes

Elizabeth Soemann  
Jordon Thomas  
Nancy Weber-Loeffert  
Katie KaShaw  
James Pritchard  
Cody Coulter  
Wendy Carmer

Bryan Zafrano  
Tracy Lattanzio  
Kristi Young  
Karen Needle  
Amy Reed  
Amy Brown  
Randy Carmer

## PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER!

[Click here to become  
a member!](#)

Or visit our website at:  
[newfanealumni.org](http://newfanealumni.org)

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR ALUMNI MIXER, DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI INDUCTION CEREMONY, AND HOMECOMING GAME!



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Please email Lisa Fletcher at [lfletcher@newfanecentralschools.org](mailto:lfletcher@newfanecentralschools.org) to be highlighted in an upcoming newsletter!! If you already emailed Lisa at her gmail address and did not hear back from her, PLEASE email her again; however, use her school address above **and use the form at the link or QR code below!**

<https://forms.gle/dNzRMKbajK51v46B9>



Purchase your alumni  
apparel at



<https://newfanealumniassociation.itemorder.com/sale>



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Newfane, NY 14108



@newfanealumniassoc



[www.newfanealumni.org](http://www.newfanealumni.org)



[newfanealumni@newfanecentralschools.org](mailto:newfanealumni@newfanecentralschools.org)

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT COL. LANCE DICKENSON

Thank you to everyone who attended the Alumni Annual Membership Meeting in August. We used that time to highlight our past year accomplishments, elect new officers and board members, and determine our goals for the coming year.

We have much to be proud of after completing our first full year as an alumni organization. We facilitated numerous class reunions, hosted our second Panther Pretty event, awarded three scholarships to graduating seniors, initiated an Alumni Speakers Series, continued our merchandise sales, established Facebook and Instagram accounts, and started an Alumni Spotlight series.

Our officers for 2022-23 are President, Lance Dickinson; First Vice President, Lara MacFarlane; Secretary, Tom Hicks; and Treasurer, Hannah Borden. Our new board members include Lisa Fletcher, Kevin LaForest and Michele Phillips. We are still looking for volunteers to serve on the board heading committees or serving as an officer. You do not have to be in the local area to serve! We hold Zoom meetings on the third Monday of each month and have members attending from across the country. If you are interested in taking a more active role in the organization, please contact us at [newfanealumni@newfanecentralschools.org](mailto:newfanealumni@newfanecentralschools.org).

For the 2022-23 school year, we are focusing on Membership, Distinguished Alumni Induction, Scholarships, Alumni Speaker Series, Panther Pretty, Publicity, and fundraising. We have started strong with our Alumni Pavilion brick sales and have numerous activities planned for Homecoming. Our first Distinguished Alumni Induction will take place on Thursday, October 20 at 9:15 a.m. in the high school. We will also be hosting a tour of the high school on Friday, October 21 at 3:30 p.m., followed by an Alumni Mixer at Calhoon's Pub at 5:00 p.m. Then, we want everyone to join us at the Alumni Tent for the Homecoming football game versus Wilson at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Thanks again to all the alumni who have helped us set a firm foundation for our association. Like any group, our success depends on volunteers, and we can always use more. Continue to spread the word about the great things we are doing for Newfane students and the connections we have formed between alumni, the district, and the community.

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Newfane Alumni Association is very excited to announce that we will be celebrating the first winners of the Distinguished Alumni Award at a ceremony on October 20 at the Newfane High School in front of the current student body. They will then all be announced at the Homecoming football game on October 22. Come celebrate your fellow alum and enjoy the homecoming experience at the new stadium. Get to know our honorees in this newsletter!



## Class Reunions

If you are you planning your reunion, would you like our help? Please contact us at [newfanealumni@newfanecentralschools.org](mailto:newfanealumni@newfanecentralschools.org) to find out more about how we can help you advertise, plan, and make your reunion a success!

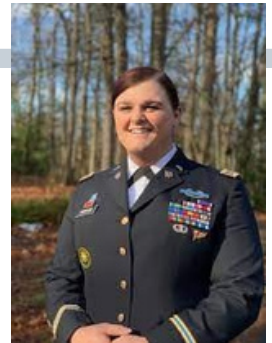
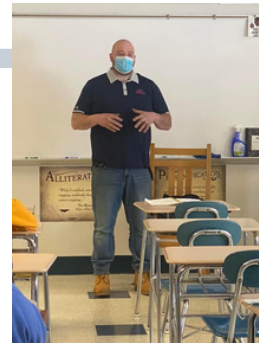


New sign and the first football game in stadium! Homecoming is the following weekend!



# Alumni Giving Back

The High School has welcomed Alumni Speakers into classrooms to talk to our future generations about their career pathways. With the start of the new school year, please contact us if you are interested in sharing your career, please send us an email!



## "BUY A BRICK" CAMPAIGN

The Newfane Alumni Association presents to you a unique opportunity to be a forever part of Panther culture and history by purchasing an engraved brick to be placed outside of the brand new stadium being constructed this summer. All proceeds benefit Newfane Alumni Association scholarships and programs. Bricks are selling quickly! Consider honoring your family, friends, or graduating class, today! Please visit [www.newfanealumni.org](http://www.newfanealumni.org) and our facebook page for updated purchase information!

# Scholarships

The Newfane Alumni Association is proud to announce that scholarships will be granted this upcoming June of 2023 to graduating students.

All scholarships boast a reward of \$500 to a college bound senior. Please visit our website if your class or family would like to offer a scholarship to graduating students. There you will find criteria and applications.

## Alumni Speaker needed for the 2023 Newfane Graduation

The Newfane Alumni Association was asked to select the alumni speaker for graduation. As we worked through many amazing and talented alum, one stuck out to all of us as being the first NAA selected speaker, Maureen Langston-Henderson. Maureen is a 1997 graduate of Newfane. We were excited and blown away by her presence at graduation. She made all Newfane alumni proud.

**Who will be our next speaker?**



# LET'S PLAY



Come join us at the **Homecoming Football game on October 22!!!**

We will be celebrating the alumni being honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award at the new stadium! Be sure to put this one on your calendars because it will be something to be a part of! Come celebrate YOU!

**Next Week!**



## Homecoming Festivities

**October 20:** The Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony during the school day.

**October 21:** (3:30PM) A tour of the new facilities and capital project. All alumni are welcome to attend. (5PM-7PM) An Alumni Mixer will take place at Calhoun's Pub!! All alumni are welcome!

**October 22:** (11AM at Lakeside Beach State Park) Newfane Cross Country All-League Meet. (4PM at the high school) BBQ Chicken dinners will be available for purchase. (7PM at the new stadium) Newfane Football game against Wilson! Our first Distinguished Alumni Award winners will also be recognized during this time along with the first inductees of the Newfane Athletic Hall of Fame!

# Distinguished Alumni Inductees

## Dr. Rebecca Liddell Huppi – Class of 1984, Cancer Research

Rebecca Huppi is a cancer research scientist who graduated from Newfane in 1984. She earned her BA in Biology at the State University of New York at Potsdam, NY and her PhD in Developmental Biology, Teratology and Anatomy at Thomas Jefferson University. Undertaking a postdoctoral fellowship at the Kimmel Cancer Center of Thomas Jefferson University, Dr. Huppi received an American Cancer Society Grant to investigate mouse models of developmental and cancer anomalies through mouse positional cloning and transgenic technologies.

Dr. Huppi has worked at the National Cancer Institute since 1998. She received a Cancer Research Training Award and, soon after, assumed a Staff Scientist position in the Laboratory of Genetics and performed as an Instructor of Biochemistry for the Foundation for Advanced Education in Sciences (FAES).

In 2001, Dr. Huppi joined the Cancer Diagnosis Program as a Program Specialist and continued to serve as Course Coordinator for Biochemistry at FAES. In 2006, she moved to the AIDS Cancer Clinical Program and assumed the role of Program Director of Record for two major NCI HIV Initiatives: The AIDS Malignancy Consortium and the AIDS and Cancer Specimen Resource.

Dr. Huppi has received two NIH Director's Awards for her work on the Sexual and Gender Minority Research Coordinating Committee and five NCI Awards of Merit for her work on Women's Health Activities, LMIC HIV/AIDS Malignancy programs, Clinical Trials Stewardship and Affordable Cancer Technologies Research.



# Paul Hobbs – Class of 1971, Winemaker

Paul Hobbs is a world-renowned winemaker. In 2013, Forbes Magazine referred to Mr. Hobbs as “The Steve Jobs of Wine”. Furthermore, he has been twice named “Wine Personality of the Year” by Robert Parker of *The Wine Advocate*. Over his 40+ year career, Hobbs has received more than ten 100-point scores across his portfolio—a rare feat that places him in the top echelon of the world’s winemakers.

Mr. Hobbs graduated from Newfane in 1971, earned his BS in Chemistry from the University of Notre Dame in 1975, and MS in Viticulture & Enology from the University of California, Davis in 1978.

Regarded as an international visionary for his accomplishments in the vineyard and winery, Mr. Hobbs combines his childhood roots on the family farm in Western New York with an innovative scientific approach to refine the art of winemaking. He is recognized across the globe for breaking with tradition and forging new paths in the pursuit of excellence; both in stewardship of the land, and the crafting of wines that represent the purist concept of place. He led the way in the early 90’s as a pioneer of site-specific, vineyard designate wines. Robert Parker notes that “Paul Hobbs is like a good truffle-hunting dog when it comes to finding great vineyards.”

In 1979, Paul Hobbs was appointed a member of the inaugural Opus One winemaking team joint venture between California-based Robert Mondavi Winery and Chateau Mouton Rothschild of Bordeaux.

Later, a first trip to Argentina in 1988 marked the beginning of what today has become a highly consequential South American winemaking career. Prominently featured in Ian Mount’s “The Vineyard at the End of the World: Maverick Winemakers and the Rebirth of Malbec,” Hobbs is recognized for his legendary status as the pioneer winemaker who played the leading role in launching the variety’s rise to fame.



Today, Hobbs is owner and vintner for eight wineries around the world: Paul Hobbs, Crossbarn, and HOBBS (California), Hillick & Hobbs (Finger Lakes, New York), Viña Cobos (Argentina), Crocus (Cahors, France), Yacoubian-Hobbs (Armenia), and Alvaredos-Hobbs (Galicia, Spain).

## Dr. Jean Greig Roberts – Class of 1971, Musician

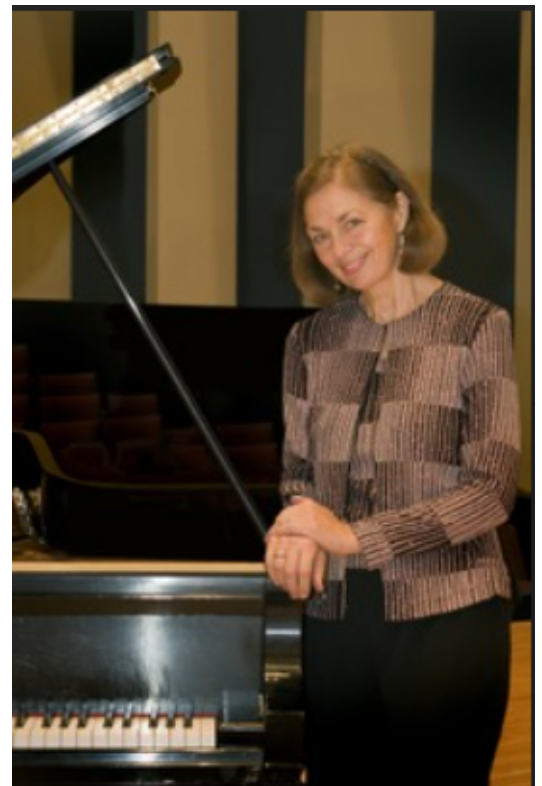
Dr. Jean Greig Roberts pursued her passion for music, which she clearly displayed during her years at Newfane, by playing oboe in the band and accompanying chorus performances by singing and playing the piano.

Upon graduating in 1971, Dr. Roberts attended the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. After further music studies, she received a Master of Music degree from the Yale University School of Music and a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Roberts served as an assistant professor on the faculty at North Greenville College, SC and as an adjunct music professor at Furman University, SC. Additionally, her experiences included the West Australian Conservatorium of Music in Perth, Australia, Mercer University, GA, Stephen F. Austin State University, TX and Concordia College, MN. She particularly enjoyed collaborating with students and faculty in recitals and performing two-piano concerts with her husband John.

Dr. Robert's dedication as a church musician grew significantly during her lifetime, serving as organist/choir director at various churches in her travels. For her, church music was an expression of faith through service, rather than a profession.

Dr. Jean Roberts passed away on August 16, 2019.





## **Tom Beilein – Class of 1964, Law Enforcement**

Tom Beilein is a 1964 graduate of Newfane, a Vietnam War Veteran and graduate of Niagara Community College with a 40-year career in law enforcement in the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Beilein worked as a corrections officer in the jail and on road patrol, was reassigned to the Criminal Investigation Bureau as a Senior and Chief Investigator, and served as an Inspector for the Criminal Bureau, Welfare Fraud Bureau, Juvenile Aid, and the Drug Task Force.

In 1993, he was elected Niagara County Sheriff where he led a 340-member full-service law enforcement agency responsible for public safety in a region of 270 square miles, emergency services, correctional services and civil law enforcement services. Sheriff Beilein was re-elected three times and held the position for 14 years.

Tom Beilein was appointed Chairman of the New York State Commission of Corrections, a regulatory agency responsible for overseeing the NYS Prisons, Detention Facilities, and County jails in 2008. Chairman Tom Beilein holds the distinction of being the only former sheriff to serve as the Chair.



## **Susie Zafrano – Class of 1986, Special Education Teacher**

Susie Zafrano is a 1986 graduate of Newfane. She has been a teacher for almost 30 years and has spent over 17 years volunteering as a coach for the Special Olympics--taking many teams to competitions while instilling the values of teamwork and having fun--not just winning.

Mrs. Zafrano started her career in the inner city of Buffalo working with elementary aged children and has spent the past 22 years teaching at Orleans Niagara BOCES as a teacher of students with special needs.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Zafrano worked with student populations that many shy away from; her position requires an incredible amount of patience and heart. Teaching is a tireless and often thankless job, but when hearing Mrs. Zafrano speak of her students, one can tell that she genuinely cares and wants them to succeed, not only in her class, but in life.



## **Dr. Brian Hamluk – Class of 1994, College Administrator**

Brian Hamluk is a 1994 graduate of Newfane who earned his BS in Physical and Health Education from St Bonaventure University, MS in Cultural Foundations of Education from Syracuse University, MA in Education and Human Development from George Washington University, MTA in Sports Administration from George Washington University, Master of Public Policy and Management from the University of Pittsburgh, and Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration from George Washington University.

Dr. Hamluk is the current Vice President for Student Life at the University at Buffalo and leads the departments, units, programs, and services committed to advancing the university experience for 30,000 students. Under his leadership, Student Life provides students with resources and support needed for academic success, personal growth, career development, leadership, community engagement, and health and wellness.

Prior to joining UB, Dr. Hamluk was Associate Dean of Students and Director of Administration at the University of Pittsburgh. He was a key member of the university's Student Affairs Leadership Team and assumed a prominent role in the development of the division's strategic goals and initiatives.

Dr. Hamluk has also served in administrative roles at George Washington University and Syracuse University and has worked with students in a variety of settings including Intercollegiate Athletics, Student Development, Alcohol and other Drug Education, and Student Academic Support Services.

