

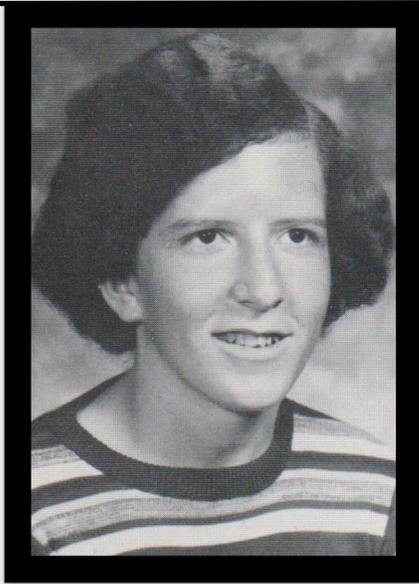
**Homecoming
Sept. 22 & 23
2017**



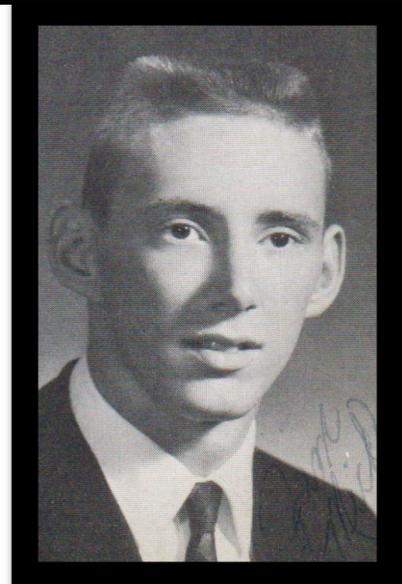
Tuscola High School

HALL OF FAME

—Weber-Jones and Manwaring to be Inducted—



Judy Weber-Jones
Class of 1979



James Manwaring
Class of 1962

**T
C
H
S**

The two Hall of Fame inductees—Judy Weber-Jones and James Manwaring—will be honored at the Alumni Association’s luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Douglas County Museum, 700 S. Main, Tuscola. The event will take place during Homecoming weekend on Saturday, Sept. 23rd. There will be a

catered dinner served at \$15/person. You won’t want to miss this memorable event when you get the chance to hear from the inductees. All are welcome to attend. The Alumni Association hopes that past Hall of Famers will be able to attend this event. Special guests will be our Class of ‘67.

Judy... My life has been filled with one blessing after another. There are no words in my vocabulary to describe what it meant to me to find out that I was chosen to represent our "Divine Class of 1979" in the Tuscola Hall of Fame, which is a very prestigious honor. What makes it extra special is that the Hall of Fame Committee chose me as an educator. Right here in Tuscola is where it all began for me, from kindergarten through high school. So many teachers have influenced my life, not the least of which was the late Bill Burress. I have always said that I wouldn't be in the profession of teaching Driver's Education if it were not for Bill. My Dad was a carpenter, and Bill used to work for him. When I was a sophomore, Bill told a story in our Driver's Education class that has impacted me for the rest of my life. It seems that Bill had a couple of friends who were going to a baseball game in St. Louis. Bill couldn't go because he had already agreed to work for my Dad that day. The friend that asked him to go was killed in a car crash returning home from the game. Bill went into Driver's Ed. teaching as a way of perhaps preventing such tragedies in the future. I felt Driver's Education was an occupation through which I could help to save other people's lives. As I reflect on all my years in Tuscola, I couldn't have asked for a better school and community in which to be raised. When I look back at all the successes of our alumni, it seems to me to be a tribute to the strong educational foundation that we all received at Tuscola. This award would not have been possible except for several factors: first, the talents with which God has blessed me; second, the many special people in my life, especially my parents, Catherine and Quentin Weber. My Mom instilled in me the love, caring, patience, and respect for others which every teacher needs. My Dad gave me a strong work ethic. He taught me that, whatever job I was given to do, to do it fairly and honestly and to the best of my ability. No one was going to outwork me. Both of my parents brought me up in a strong Catholic home, teaching me, first and foremost, to always put the needs of others before my own. I was also taught to keep my priorities straight, in the following order: 1. God 2. Family 3. Work and school. Only by following these principles can one have a successful life. I cannot thank my parents enough for my strong faith. My husband, Rusty, to whom I have been married for 22 years, has always been very supportive of all my countless hours at school, teaching and coaching, and while I was away on educational trips or conferences. My oldest sister Shirley always led me down the right path, being the older sister role model for me, and her husband, Bob Taylor, always supported me as well. In fact, I would not be a Hall of Fame inductee if it were not for Bob and his family. My brother Ronnie, who had muscular dystrophy and was confined to a wheelchair from 1st Grade on, died at the age of 20. He was the reason that I played so many sports; Ronnie could watch me play looking out of the screen door or a window. My best friend, sister Joan Colwell has always been my #1 fan and supporter, along with her family. My brother Bill and his family show their support by long distance from their home in Plano, Texas. Bill was always my sports competition, and instilled in me the desire to win. In this, he was helped by our neighbors, Steve and Linda Leonard. I also wish to thank my high school physical education teacher and volleyball coach, Diana Lenzi, for my training as an educator that began at Parkland College. Diana knew I wanted to continue to play sports, but I was unsure which college to attend. Diana asked Lynette Trout, volleyball coach at Parkland College, to come out and scout our game in Tolono. Diana introduced Lynette and I, and the rest is history. I received my A.S. degree from Parkland College in 1981, and went on to earn my B.S. and M.S. degrees from Eastern Illinois University in 1983 and 1990. My first teaching job was at Melvin-Sibley High School, where for 8 years I taught Driver's Education, Physical Education (Elementary and High School), and Health, along with coaching varsity volleyball, basketball, and softball, plus junior high girl's basketball. The highlight at Melvin-Sibley was the softball team I established there. When I was in high school at Tuscola, we didn't have a softball team, and only played travel softball which was sponsored by the Tuscola Women's Club in the summer. This was my inspiration to start a high school team at Melvin-Sibley. In 1993, we consolidated with Gibson City to form GCMS, where I taught for 23 years, until my retirement in 2016. There, I taught Driver's Education and high school P.E., and coached high school and 8th grade volleyball, varsity softball (on a team that I established, as well as coaching girl's varsity golf. I also served as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddle Coach for almost 20 years. What a great opportunity that was to share my strong faith with my student athletes! Even though I'm retired, I still teach Driver's Education part time at Urbana High School. "Once a teacher, always a teacher!" I just love teaching students to drive. Mine was a very normal teaching career until 2005, when I implemented Project Ignition, a teen safe-driving service-learning program, at GCMS. I was always looking for a project that would change teen driving behaviors and attitudes, and this project did that and more. In 2006, the first year of our project, we won the National Champion "Best of the Best", in Philadelphia, PA. Project Ignition has over the past 11 years won 4 National First Place awards and numerous state awards as well. The students and I have presented information about the program's accomplishments all over the country, including Albuquerque, Atlanta, Denver, Edmond, Kalamazoo, Minneapolis, Nashville, Philadelphia, San Jose, and Washington, D.C. One of the greatest honors, and one of the highlights of my teaching career, was doing a presentation at the U.S. Department of Transportation. My students and I have been recognized on the floor of the General Assembly in Springfield, and have received two Resolutions from the Illinois House of Representatives. Many private and public companies and organizations have given GCMS Project Ignition grant and prize money totaling over \$150,000 to help promote safe driving in Illinois. It is worthy of special mention that my Project Ignition team was invited to Tazewell County to establish a teen safe driving program like that at GCMS. No fewer than 15 teens had died in auto crashes in 15 months in Tazewell County, and the program we initiated helped to stop that trend. We also helped initiate the Illinois Department of Transportation's Operation Teen Safe Driving Program, mentoring 105 schools throughout the State in the first year. I worked with noted race car driver Andy Pilgrim on a distracted-driving unit that became part of the Driver's Education curriculum in the State of Illinois. I worked hard to change traffic laws in Illinois, including the texting ban, tougher graduated driver's license laws, and increased fines for speeding. I retired from teaching at GCMS in May of 2016. That same month, I received the Illinois High School & College Driver Education Teacher of the Year



Judy Weber-Jones '17
today

award for the State of Illinois. Then, in July of 2016, in Portland, Oregon, I became the first teacher from Illinois to be presented the National Teacher of the Year Excellence Award from the American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association. This is the highest award that a Driver's Education teacher can receive in the United States. Other recognitions include: 2006, I received the Governor's PATH Award (People Are Today's Heroes); 2007, I was inducted into the IHSCDEA Hall of Fame; 2010, I received the National Leader for Impact on Teen Driver Safety Award; and 2011, the General Motors and National Safety Council Teen Driving Safety Leadership Award, in Philadelphia. I would like to again thank the Tuscola Women's Club and Tuscola Physical Education Departments, teachers, and coaches for all my sports awards. While I was at Parkland College playing softball in 1980 and 1981, both teams won first place in the conference. My sophomore year at Parkland, I was voted MVP and First Team Conference. In 1996, in Bloomington, MN, I was named First Team All American at the Women's Major National Softball Championships. Most recently, in 2017, I was selected as one of Parkland College's 50 Notable Alumni, during the College's 50th anniversary year. None of these achievements would have been possible without my strong sports background and educational foundation from the Tuscola School system. Through God, all things are possible. I count my blessings daily, and thank God that He has used me to make a positive difference in the lives of my students. Thanks so much to the Tuscola Hall of Fame Committee for this tremendous honor. I will cherish this Hall of Fame memory for the rest of my life. I would also like to invite everyone to visit my students' website at www.gcmsprojectignition.weebly.com, and to check out the 30-plus traffic safety videos that my Project Ignition team has made over the years.



Jim Manwaring is now retired and living the good life in Colorado and Arizona with his wife, Paige and their brood of ten rescued cats. Jim graduated from Tuscola High in 1962 and joins fellow classmates Bob Wetzel, Mike Weber and Morrie Reese in the Hall of Fame – four inductees from a class of 52 graduates is indicative of the commitment to development shared by that class of seniors. It wasn't something in the water but something in the education and the work ethic instilled by their common environment.

Jim was born and raised in Tuscola on a farm about seven miles west of town. He graduated TCHS in 1962 with academic honors and seven "letters" in football, basketball, and track. Academics was not a priority until his junior year when he became interested in science and technology, an interest that led to an engineering career and away from his objective of becoming a high school football coach. Following graduation from TCHS, he attended the University of Illinois with his TCHS classmates, Bob Wetzel, Marcus Bunting and Howard Patterson. Although the adjustment from TCHS to university life was difficult, he managed to graduate with a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering.

Jim's thirty-eight year professional career revolved around the drinking water industry in various capacities with non-profit organizations, the federal government, municipal water suppliers, international water and water research organizations, and private industry. These jobs led him from central Illinois to Virginia, Philadelphia, Washington D.C. and finally Denver. He became one of the global experts on water supply technology and developed an organization, the American Water Works Research Foundation, into the world's leading water research agency. Along the way, he created relationships with water organizations throughout the developed world that altered the entire approach to collaborative water research planning and execution.

Life outside of water was also productive and enjoyable. He and his wife, Paige Beville, have been married for 37 years; son Brian lives in Tucson and daughter, Jessica, her husband and their two children reside in Charlotte. Paige and Jim follow the sun and spend winters in Phoenix and summers in the mountains of Colorado. When he is not herding cats, you can usually find him on the golf course where he carries a six handicap.

School, sports and farming provided the basic life lessons to persevere, work hard and stay positive. Jim was driving tractors at the age of 10, detasseling corn from sunup to sundown at 13, and baling hay throughout the summer at 15. He learned that, like farming, life is unpredictable. One hopes for the best, expects the worst, but it teaches you to handle anything. Football, basketball and studying throughout the four years of high school, gave him the drive to learn and grow and understand the value of teamwork. These lessons gave Jim the competitive work ethic, dedication and focus that stayed with him throughout his career and life.



“Join us on Facebook”

Tuscola High School

Alumni Association

has over 1387 friends!

Renew ol’ friendships!

Also check out

Remembering Tuscola

for some great reminiscing. . .

Need a memorial for a classmate?

Make a donation to the TCHS Alumni Association. Just send your check to the TCHS Alumni Assn., 907 Lake Shore Dr., Tuscola, IL 61953 in their memory. What better way to remember them by donating to their alma mater!



DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN MEMORY OF . . .

Betty Carroll

Hank Groves

Jim Hartman

Patti Phillips

Judy Kleiss

Wayne Meyer

Marc Kleiss

Cheryl Sanderson



2018 TCHS

HOME COMING

September 28th and 29th



Front (l-r): Marilyn Kleiss, John Coffey, Vickie Vinson, Kathy Hanners and Kathy Kelsey. Back (l-r): Gary Little, John Rothgeb filling in for John Beatty (in the service), Dana Bishop (King), Sharon Copeland (Queen), Maureen Deaver, Pat Keen, and Wendall Warren.

50 YEARS AGO..... CLASS OF 1967 GRADUATED

The big 50th reunion of the Class of '67 will take place over Homecoming weekend. Early arrivals from the class will gather at Monical's at noon on Friday, September 22nd for lunch. We plan to participate in the parade and will have an entry that will carry our classmates along the parade route. We hope to have a large gathering at the reception in the school library following the parade. We have invited class members to be recognized at 6:30 p.m. prior to kickoff of the football game against Central A & M and attend the reception at the Community Building after the game (9:00 p.m.) Info has been shared about the Hall of Fame luncheon with our Class of '67 members who will make reservations through the school office. For those not attending the Hall of Fame luncheon on Saturday, reservations are being taken for lunch at Flesor's Candy Kitchen. We will gather at Ironhorse Golf Course on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. for a social hour followed by dinner. Everyone, including former TCHS students and teachers, is invited to come out

and enjoy the festivities and visit with the Class of 1967 after 9:00 p.m.

Any questions should be directed to Doug McCumber or their class committee working on this event.

Captain Dana Bishop, Coach Gene Murray, Alternate Capt. Garrett Graham.



T. McCumber, D. McCumber, G. Graham, C. Holmes, Coach Arnold, M. Seip, D. Brown, P. Keen, D. Bishop.

Donations to Alumni Assn.

The TCHS Alumni Association is 9 years old now! We started by accumulating funds from donations, memorials and a 50/50 cash drawing. What do we use these monies for? We have expenses in our Hall of Fame inductees' plaques and mementoes, our reception in the Library after the Homecoming parade, our luncheon at the Museum, and our all-school reunion at the Community Bldg. following the Homecoming football game. The committee wanted to make a difference at the high school and began awarding scholarships to seniors who had relatives who previously graduated from TCHS. We'd like to keep these special scholarships going. Any ideas, suggestions, donations may be sent to TCHS Alumni Assn., 907 Lake Shore Dr., Tuscola, IL 61953. You may also email shoes76@aol.com—Marci Hausman Shoemaker (Class of '74), President, or phone 217-253-9400. This group was formed to make a better Homecoming for all of the alumni and give back to our alma mater. The committee consists of Patti Waters (Class of '49), Bob Utterback (Class of '59), Barb Utterback (Class of '62), Bruce Wood (Class of '75), Susie Harbaugh (Class of '75), Alan & Marci Shoemaker (Class of '74), Ryan Hornaday (Class of '97), Tracy Hornaday (Class of '95), Cheryl Bozarth (Class of '74), Kathy Frye (Class of '77), Sherri Stewart (Class of '85), and Justin Bozarth (Class of '04).

TCHS Alumni Association (501c3 organization) does not solicit membership dues. We are wholly funded by your donations and contributions to our fundraising events.

THANK YOU!!



Donation

Scholarships for TCHS Seniors

Donations may be sent to TCHS Alumni Association, 907 Lake Shore Dr., Tuscola, IL 61953. These are a tax write-off. Name: _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Address: _____



**Need the perfect TCHS
graduation gift?
A thoughtful Christmas
present? How 'bout bestie's
birthday?**

Order bags, blankets, jackets, shirts, hats with this logo!
Just check out this website. . .

<https://tuscolaman1975.qbstores.com>

-The TCHS Alumni Association gets a percentage
of your order donated back to us-

