



Alumni Newsletter # 11

November 11, 2010

Hello again Mount Doug Alumni! We apologize for the length of this newsletter but we have a lot of exciting news to report. Hopefully there is something of interest for everyone, so scroll down and check it out. You might even see a picture of a classmate or teacher. If you have a friend you would like to forward this email to (*and we strongly encourage you to do that*) use the link at the bottom of the page.

David Foster Named Honorary President of MD Alumni

Grammy Award winning music producer, composer and renowned discoverer of talent, David Foster, has been named Honorary President of the Mount Doug Alumni Association. Foster attended Mount Doug in 1964 - 66 but left the school to pursue his musical career before graduation. However, in recognition of his musical accomplishments outside the classroom, he was finally awarded his official 'Dogwood Certificate' as a Mount Doug graduate in 1985.



In accepting the position of Honorary President of the Alumni Association, David said, "*My fondest Mount Doug memories, of course, were times spent with the school band and our band leader, Bob Bergeson. He did for me exactly what teachers are supposed to and what I'm sure most did for all of us -inspire! My musical path is very much rooted in my solid upbringing and my time at Mount Doug High School. It's always exciting for me when the reunions come around and I get to catch up with all my peers. It's no secret that we are all a product of our many years spent together in school. Coming home is always exciting for me. I'm happy to accept this honour and can't wait till our next reunion.*"

Foster then enthused, "*Let's get this Mount Doug Alumni Association rockin' and get our peers on board to help give back to our alma mater! Let's help the present students and future alumni of our school be their best.*"

Foster is a sixteen-time Grammy Award winner (including the coveted Producer of the Year award no less than three times) with an unprecedented 44 nominations to his credit. He was regarded as one of the most sought-after session musicians, and has performed alongside such musical titans as John Lennon, Diana Ross, George Harrison, Rod Stewart and Barbra Streisand. His signature style of infectious rhythms and spot-on lyrics became synonymous with contemporary radio, giving birth to hit after hit from such musical heavyweights as Michael Jackson, Paul McCartney, Chicago, Neil Diamond, Alice Cooper, Manhattan Transfer, Phil Collins, The Pointer Sisters and Aretha Franklin, among many others.

The greatest compliment a recording executive can receive is being described as having great ears. David Foster has been described as not only possessing great ears, but also great eyes. That is, his

innate ability to recognize the potential of the music and to create within it a sympathetic visual identity that will express the essence of the sound.

In 1993, Foster was named Billboard's Top Singles Producer and Top R&B Producer, and was the year's top Grammy nominee with seven nominations, taking home his third award for Producer of the Year (Non-Classical) for Whitney Houston's soundtrack to *The Bodyguard*.

Over the past few years, he has produced songs that have driven such chart-topping records as: Celine Dion's Grammy Award-winning *Falling Into You*, which spawned two Foster-produced hit singles, "Because You Loved Me" and "To Love You More" (co-written with partner Edgar Bronfman, Jr.); Natalie Cole's *Unforgettable*; Barbra Streisand's *The Broadway Album* and *Back to Broadway*; Michael Bolton's *Timeless: The Classics*; and Kenny G's *Breathless*. Between 1994 and 1997, four of his productions (Toni Braxton's "Unbreak My Heart," Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You," All-4-One's "I Swear," and Celine Dion's "Because You Loved Me") each reached #1 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart and remained for a remarkable 42 weeks. Collectively, these songs occupied the #1 position for an unprecedented 20% of the time during these years.

Recently, David introduced the world to such young phenoms as Josh Groban, Michael Bubl  and Renee Olstead. He reunited with Andrea Bocelli for the *Under the Desert Sky* concert special on Lake Las Vegas in December 2005. David has also recently produced songs with American Idol alums Clay Aiken and Katherine McPhee. In December 2008, Foster was featured in his own PBS special titled 'Hitman: David Foster & Friends', a concert featuring live performances by Foster and numerous other performers. Foster then embarked on a successful 'Hitman: David Foster and Friends' North American tour. His book 'Hitman', a biography made its debut that same year.

A long time champion of children and advocate of their needs, in 1986, Foster established the David Foster Foundation to assist families of children in need of organ transplants. To date, David has helped the Foundation raise over 14 million dollars for the foundation and assisted hundreds of children from BC & Canada.

When asked about the Mount Doug Alumni and what he was looking forward to, Foster responded, "*Let's have some great events together in between times... like the school's 80th anniversary celebrations happening next year.*"

For more information about the 80th Anniversary Celebrations beginning 11/11/11 contact Wendy Gedney (Class of '67) at wgedney@shaw.ca or Kevin Sing (Class of '77) atksing@kevinsing.com

Save The Date 11/11/11

The countdown is on - some 365 days from now, the Mount Douglas Secondary Community will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of our school's opening. The celebrations will begin November 11, 2011 and continue through November 20th with incredible opportunities to connect with everyone and everything that has made Mount Doug the '*Best kept secret*' in the city, if not in BC.

So many students have walked the halls of both the Cedar Hill and Gordon Head campuses and have made their marks locally, nationally and internationally. So many teachers have opened our eyes to the possibilities. But mostly, our lives have been shaped by the relationships that were made just by being a part of Mount Doug.

Imagine, if you will, 10 days of reunions, not just of class years but also of sports teams, drama groups, artists, academics and yes, parties. Celebrations of the visual arts, performing arts; 'home-coming' sports events; a world record attempt to assemble the largest band playing a newly commissioned Mount Doug School Song. And there will be more.

This will be about showcasing the continuing excellence of Mount Doug today, as well as getting

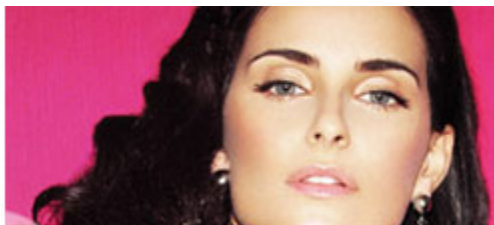


together to revel in the accomplishments of the past. The fun will also include participation of those who have gone on to fame (and fortune) - who knew that some of us would have such impact on so many - will they also be the inspiration of Mount Doug students today?

So save the date - plan to come home to Mount Doug in November 2011 and join the party for a day or more. Plan to meet your friends and Mount Doug family. Plan a Celebration Event. Your Mount Doug Alumni can help you coordinate. Let us know what you'd like to see beginning 11/11/11.

NewsFlash

Nelly Furtado, Mount Doug Class of 1996, was one of the seven new inductees on **Canada's Walk of Fame**, October 16, 2010. Nelly has achieved international fame in the music world and we are very proud of her. Congratulations, Nelly!



One on One... with Rob House, acting Principal, Mount Doug



Where were you born and where did you go to school in childhood?

Portsmouth England, in a house, ironically, by a midwife - 1960. Moved to Canada when I was 2, but went back a few times in my youth. Haven't been back in several years, but want to sometime soon to show my wife the cool places I remember, such as St Michael's Mount, Lands End, and St. Ives. Schools - Tillicum, Rockheights (I was in grade 2 for the opening of Rockheights! - got the strap in grade 2, too!) Lampson, back to Rockheights, settled at Lake Hill for second half of grade 4, and grades 5-7. Reynolds for 8-12 - sorry!

What did you like best about your high school?

Hmmm, probably my friends, not that I see them much anymore. When I was a substitute teacher I sometimes went back to Reynolds, and I was told by some of the teachers that we were known as a particularly "good group of kids." I see that at the reunions - not cliquey, a very friendly group. The teachers were pretty good, too, some of whom had some influence on my eventual career choice.

What were your favourite subjects?

Math, PE, and English - in that order. Yes, I was a math geek, and still am!

Where did you go to university?

UVic - BEd, and MEd. Had fabulous profs for the MEd, one of whom recently passed away - Bill Brownlee, may he rest in peace. He had done it all - teacher, vp, principal, assistant super, superintendent, lecturer, prof - and so it goes. At the end of the day, a wonderful teacher! This was a fellow who INSISTED that we show up for Thursday pub night, and he would always buy the first round! Then he was king in his court, and we loved it!

Why did you decide to go into the teaching profession? Did anyone inspire you?

Initially I went into computer science (another irony!) but realized that I had become a people person and wanted to go into teaching. Strangely enough, I was terribly shy throughout my school years until grade 12. Rich Tschritter, Carolyn Granewall were major influences. I had the pleasure of seeing them in the last few years and being able to tell them as much - fabulous teachers, and real human beings who truly loved kids.

At which schools have you worked in Victoria?

Hmmm, all of them (secondary, middle), almost, when I was a substitute teacher. I interned at Mount

Newton and Stelly's. Longer term contracts: Belmont, Claremont, Spectrum, Shoreline (11 years), Esquimalt, Mount Doug.

How long have you been at Mt. Doug?

This is my 7th year.

If you could have anything you wanted for the school, what would it/ they be?

Wow, dare I say more resources! You know what, a school that is full of adults who truly care about kids. Mount Doug is pretty darn good for that.

Would you like to mention your wife and children?

Debbie - love of my life for almost 33 years - we were high school sweethearts - met in French class at Reynolds! First date was a Heart concert at Memorial Arena! And yes, I have a piece of the concrete from the Barn on Blanshard that I'm looking at as I type this. Three kids - 24 year old daughter living in Vancouver studying to be a nurse, 22 year old doing business at Camosun, and a 17 year old in grade 12 at Spectrum.

School News

With another busy September behind us, Mount Doug is looking forward to working with the Alumni Association in preparation for the 80th anniversary celebration. And it has been busy! Several sports teams are in full swing with our junior and senior girls' volleyball teams winning several of their games. They are favorites to win Island Championships this year and the senior girls should be able to take a run at a BC Championship! In football, our varsity team is



playing hard having moved to AAA this season, but our JV's have been most impressive in winning all their games so far - they may repeat as BC Champs! In a recent regatta, our rowers were most impressive, with some of the teams coming in first place on the Gorge waterway. Whether in these sports or in soccer, field hockey, cross country or swimming, all our athletes are to be congratulated on their spirited play and great sportsmanship. Mount Doug remains a force in BC school sports! Thank you to athletic director Bernie Kidd for arranging all our great coaches and sponsors.

This year, our school again took part in the Tour de Rock Cops for Cancer fundraiser. We were very proud to have presented the team with well over \$15,000, three times the amount donated last year - all raised in less than three weeks! Our gymnasium was rocking on October 1st, with the Mount Doug students in the bleachers and students from Arbutus and Frank Hobbs on the floor. A big thank you goes to Ms. Fehr, Ms. Benard, Ms. Kucher and the Leadership students for taking on this challenge. Our principal, Dr. Fawcett, who is in recovery from cancer surgery, was in the audience for this special event and received a thunderous applause when he was acknowledged by vice-principal Mr. Mitchell. Special thanks goes to Mr. Meldrum, Mr. Savage, Mr. Quast, Ms. Morrison, Mrs. McKean and the football teams who shaved their heads in honour of this event. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. House also doffed their hair a few days in advance - we all agree it feels a little cooler up there these days!

In other news, students are busy fundraising for special trips later in the school year - New York, France, and Hawaii are currently being worked on. Our music programs have recently done their retreats and are busy rehearsing for their performances. On October 27, Mount Doug hosted a 'District Strings' concert, ably led by Mount Doug teacher Karen Whyte and other district strings teachers. In short, an amazing concert performed by some very talented students ranging from beginners to seasoned veterans. Finally, another group of students is busy rehearsing and selling tickets for this year's musical, 'Phantom of the Opera.' The performances run from November 30 to December 4 - if you would like to relive high school memories and come out, tickets are only \$12 for adults, \$10 for students. Please check out this link for more information. <https://sites.google.com/site/mtdougmusicaltheatre/ticket-information>

Nifty Fifties Lunch

The annual lunch for those who attended Mount Doug during the 1950s was held Saturday, September 18, 2010 at Glen Meadows Golf Club. Starting originally as a ladies' get-together, a few years ago men were invited to join, which has been great. This year, the combined total number was 85 - a record! Bev Jennings Bazin has been the organizer and emcee for the past couple of years and she has done a superb job. The lunch always takes place on the 3rd Saturday in September so circle the date on your 2011 calendar and check the 'Reunion' section of the website for the notice. No need to have graduated from Mount Doug; everyone who attended during the fifties, even if only for a year, is welcome!

- Florence Davis



Nifty Fifties

Class Of 1960 50TH Reunion September 16 & 17, 2010

There were only sixty-six of us in the graduating class of 1960 and thirty-three came to the reunion. We were unable to find ten people and, sadly, six have died so the turnout was sixty-six percent of those who were contacted. They came from as far away as Central America, Texas, PEI, Ontario, Alberta, all over BC, and Vancouver Island. Thirteen still live in the Victoria area.

For two days, we delighted in reconnecting with friends of long ago and smiles lit up all our faces; it was a very happy reunion! We laughed as we struggled to recognize each other, reminisced with Mrs. Ahrens and Mrs. Brake (Miss Butler), and shed a tear or two during Mr. Lowther's serenade. More than a few people thanked Mrs. Brake for teaching them to type. Who would have guessed then how useful a skill that would become?

The venues, UVIC's University Club and the Victoria Golf Club, were both ideal locations. We also toured the old school, now Cedar Hill Middle School, and were given the royal treatment by the Vice-Principal, Irene Ives. To our shock, we saw that although the building has been significantly changed by several additions, the gym and old grade twelve homerooms remain very much the same as they were half a century ago!

As we said our goodbyes, we knew we had made more happy memories to add to the many from Mount Doug school days.



Jack Lowther Mrs. Ahrens Mrs. Brake (Miss Butler)

Class Of 1980 Reunion

Mt Doug Grad 80 had a very successful 30 year reunion on September 18th at the Union Club. 144 grads came from all over North America to attend



this event. The noise in the room was so loud that they made us close the doors to the rest of the venue! People reconnected with friends that they hadn't seen in 1 - 30 years. We shared stories about our lives as they are now and reminisced about the good old days. After leaving the Union Club around 11:30 am, we wandered up the street to Millos Restaurant to continue our private party until 3 am. Can we still party or what...who says we're old?

- Susan Pearse

Get Yourself a Permanent Email Address

We now have the convenience of acquiring an email address and keeping it for life, assuming companies like Microsoft, Yahoo and Google are going to be around for a while. If you are using an email address that is provided by your ISP such as Shaw or Telus you might want to consider switching to one that is not tied into remaining with them as a customer. If you decide to change Internet service providers you will lose your email address associated with their domain. If you use a Gmail, Hotmail or Yahoo address instead you will have an address that you can keep permanently. Having a permanent address ensures that your friends will always be able to contact you no matter where you are or how much time has passed.

- Ron Crocker

Did You Know?

- In 1950, there were 21 Mount Doug graduates.

- Members of the Class of 1980 were born at the end of that demographic phenomenon known as the 'baby-boom' and they numbered 572.

- In 2010, the offspring of the boomers, sometimes referred to as 'Generation Y,' were 18 years old and 250 of them graduated from Mount Doug.



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