



## HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

### *Giving Back to Education*

### ***HHS Alumni Recognition Feature!***

*Dear HHS Alumni and HPS Foundation Supporters,*

Holdrege High School is fortunate to have many very successful graduates. We are excited to continue sharing the stories of some of those HHS Alums thanks to the journalistic talents of Kristine (Long) Jacobson, Class of 1990.

In June, several classes enjoyed reunions during Swedish Days, and our ***HPS Foundation 5th Annual Golf Tournament*** was a huge success.

We also welcome your suggestions and comments and encourage you to join the Duster Alumni Association (*see form below*).

Sincerely,

*Matt Allmand, Chairman  
HPS Foundation Committee*

### **Nancy Tederman Osborne - Class of 1958**

by Kristine Jacobson

Nancy (Tederman) Osborne's career includes teaching fifth grade, founding the Teammates mentoring program, volunteering for her church and other causes close to her heart, and of course, being involved with Husker athletics. Nancy is married to former Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne and has spent most of her adult life in Lincoln. But, she spent her junior high and high school years in Holdrege, where she graduated with the class of 1958.

One of her best memories of Holdrege is "the fun of growing up in a small enough town to walk almost anywhere and the friendships and family fun we had," Nancy said.

Nancy's family moved to Holdrege from Gothenburg when she was 10 and in the fifth grade so her dad could manage the J.M. McDonalds store. "I went to Roosevelt School the first year I was in Holdrege," Nancy said. "My teacher was Jean Robinson (she later married and became Jean Peterson). She was very kind to me as the



Tom & Nancy Osborne

'new' kid. I loved her and the fifth grade and vowed to become a fifth grade teacher because of that experience. "

Nancy graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1962 with a degree in an elementary education and taught fifth grade for three years, until her first child was born.

She has fond memories of other Holdrege teachers as well. "Coach Kiefer was the football coach, driver's ed. and American history teacher and a great guy," she said. "We loved getting him to talk about his World War II experiences in history class. He loved getting the girls to talking about what his football players were up to when we were in driver's ed. He taught me to change a tire the 'old fashioned' way."

She also recalls Miss Benji, who taught Latin and algebra; Miss Eberly, who taught English; and Mr. Buettner, who taught junior high math.

There were no girls' sports when Nancy was in high school, but she did play the saxophone in the band and was in the pep club. She recalls the city auditorium was also the skating rink and was a gathering place for kids on the weekends.

It was during her college years at UNL that she met Tom Osborne. He was a graduate student when she was a senior. "We had the same values, and he was fun to be with," she said about Tom.

Tom became the head football coach at Nebraska in 1973 and served in that role for 25 years. Nancy enjoyed getting to know the coaches and their families, the families of the players and of course, the Nebraska fans. "Winning games was a joy, of course, because it represented a group of coaches and players working very hard to accomplish their goals," she said. "The coaching families witnessed what goes into making it all work and were very much a part of the effort."

There were downsides as well to the highly-public position in Husker football. "The challenges were learning to deal with public scrutiny and criticism as well as keeping our feet on the ground amid the adoration that goes along with winning in athletics," Nancy said.

Tom and Nancy have lived in Lincoln for nearly 50 years. She has belonged to and volunteered at St. Mark's United Methodist Church for most of her married life. She has served as a small group leader, Sunday school teacher, and Foundation Board member. She also volunteers for Meals on Wheels, Christian Heritage Children's Home (volunteer and employee), Samaritan Counseling Center Board, Lighthouse Board, and as a school volunteer.

One of her and Tom's biggest passions is the Teammates Mentoring program that they founded in 1991. "Tom and I were both raised with parents who gave back to their communities," Nancy said. "Our faith is our foundation and teaches giving back, especially to those less fortunate than yourself."

They discovered the Teammates program idea from Eugene Lang of Chicago, who had similar program there.

The program pairs caring, adult community volunteers with a child in middle school to spend an hour a week with that child at school. The mentor then continues meeting with that same child, hopefully throughout high school. "Our goal is to mentor them to graduation, and beyond, if they so choose," she said.

Nancy said that she and Tom became aware of the gap between children who had a stable home life and those who were "on their own." "We thought this kind of program was one way to encourage graduation and going on to college to better their chances at securing good jobs and becoming productive citizens," she said.

The Lincoln Public Schools agreed to initially allow them come into the schools with the Teammates Program, and now the program is in 120 schools across the country, including Holdrege Public Schools. "We are delighted that the program has grown statewide and beyond," she said. "We have very good people working for the program who are taking it to a level we really could only dream about at the beginning." Their daughter, Suzanne, is the Executive Director of Teammates.

Besides Suzanne, Tom and Nancy have two other children: Mike and Ann. Ann's husband, Bob Wilke, is also from Holdrege. Tom and Nancy also have four grandchildren, who all live in Lincoln.

Tom retired from being the Athletic Director at UNL on Jan. 1, 2013. However, he is still working overseeing building projects that were initiated under his tenure, particularly the research area in the East Stadium where they are studying brain injuries in sports and how to prevent them. "Retiring is not in his vocabulary," she said.

But, Tom still does find time for his favorite pastime, fishing, and often Nancy goes along. "I am not a fisherman, but I do enjoy most of the places Tom goes to fish," she said. "I take my (rug) hooking or book and Charley (the dog) and enjoy the surroundings."

## About Us

*The mission of the HPS Foundation is to support and enhance the educational efforts of students and teachers of Holdrege Public Schools by providing funding for innovative and challenging programs, learning experiences, and activities.*

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