

Cocalico Pride

Spring 2013

Volume 1, Issue 3

SAVE THE DATE

Cocalico Education Foundation Events:

April 13 - Community Yard Sale

September 28 - "Screamin' Eagle" 5K Run/Walk

Cocalico High School Events:

April 13 - Sr. Citizen's Social

April 27 - Cocalico Community 5K Run/Walk

May 16 - Spring Concert & Art Show

Cocalico Middle School Events:

May 5 - 7th/8th Grade Spring Band & Chorus

May 13 - 6th Grade Spring Band & Chorus

May 19 - Ice Cream Social



Goals of the Cocalico Alumni Association

- ◆ Let people know about upcoming events and reunions
- ◆ Help Alumni get in touch with other alumni
- ◆ Raise awareness of the Cocalico Education Foundation and all of the great things the organization does for the community
- ◆ Keep alumni connected to what is happening

Featured Alumnus

Brian Tothero, Class Of 1991



Flipping through the Lancaster Newspaper a few weeks ago I came across one of our alumni who had just become the Commanding Officer of the USS Buffalo in a ceremony in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Instantly intrigued (and impressed), I realized I had just found my next Featured Alumnus for the COCALICO PRIDE.

Brian Tothero's fellow classmates voted him "Most Likely To Succeed" and it's apparent they couldn't have been more accurate. Commander Tothero has had quite an exciting career with the US Navy; he has served three sea tours and been assigned to the Pentagon. (See his full biography on page 2)

On a whim, I contacted his parents, Barry & Gail Tothero (also Cocalico Alumni), to see if Brian would agree to an email interview. To my delight he agreed and it follows.

Did you attend Cocalico School District for all grades K-12? Yes. I lived in Reamstown for my entire life until I left for college at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado in 1991. I continued to return home during my summer vacations until I went to Officer Candidate School in the summer of 1995.

During high school, in what clubs, sports or other extra-curricular activities did you participate? I played sports throughout my high school years. I played on the basketball and baseball teams. Team sports are so important both for the lessons it teaches you about shared goals as well as instilling a commitment to fitness – both of which are critical to success in the military.

Do you have a favorite high school memory? When I was in high school, my father coached me in baseball. Getting to spend time with him and sharing a passion for the game is one of my fondest memories of those years.

Did you have a favorite Cocalico teacher? While I had a great experience and met many quality teachers during my education in the Cocalico School District, my most influential years were my experiences in Cocalico Middle School. I remember, and still stay in touch with, Mrs. Anne Worley and Mrs. Jody Lausch. It was during my middle school years that I learned to truly appreciate the value of an education. These two particular teachers provided some individualized advice and guidance that I have used throughout the rest of my education and career. When I lost interest in reading, Mrs. Lausch challenged me to read more difficult books that pushed my imagination, making me think about more abstract ideas. Mrs. Worley showed me how to be very methodical and conscientious with my mathematics skills, which carried me through my nuclear power training several years later. I also appreciated the teachings of Mr. Barry Bicksler in high school calculus. Mr. Bicksler taught me more calculus in one year than I learned in two years at one of the hardest engineering schools in the country. Because of the example that these particular teachers set for me, I am looking forward to having a second career in education when someday I transition from the Navy.

Was there anything that you took away from Cocalico Area that added to your life? I continue to enjoy returning to Lancaster County and my hometown of Reamstown every chance I get. I believe that the people residing in this part of Pennsylvania are some of the most down-to-earth, honest, hard-working, and common-sense people in the country. I believe that these traits, which I learned in Lancaster County, have made me successful in the military.

Are there any other members of your family serving or have served in the military?

Both of my grandfathers served in the United States Army during World War II. My grandfather, Lloyd Tothero, served in the Northern Africa, Italian, and European theaters for about four years in the anti-aircraft artillery branch. My other grandfather, Galen Mohn, served in the Pacific Theater in the infantry and was wounded in Okinawa.

(Continued on Page 2)



Most Likely to Succeed
Brian Tothero

Do you know someone who would make an interesting Alumnus for our feature? Email the alumni association at alumni@cocalico.org or call (717) 336-1413.

Cocalico Alumni Association

Cocalico School District
P.O. Box 800
Denver, PA 17517
Phone: 717-336-1413
Email: alumni@cocalico.org



DID YOU KNOW?

Senior Citizens, age 65 & over, living within the Cocalico School District are eligible for special lifetime passes which admit them without charge to all HOME sporting, drama, & musical events. These passes can be obtained by visiting the Administration Offices at the front of the senior high school during normal business hours.

Dear Readers,

We hope that you enjoy this issue of Cocalico Pride. The main focus is our soon-to-be retirees. We have over TEN teachers, administration & support staff retiring at the end of this school year. They have over 320 years with the district among them!

We are always looking for interesting people and topics for upcoming articles. Please send any suggestions to alumni@cocalico.org. Do you enjoy writing? We are also looking for volunteers to help write articles for the newsletter.

If you have any group photos from your recent reunion that you would like to share, please email them to us. Who knows, they may show up in an upcoming issue.

Thank you for reading.

Kristy Firestone '92 & Lesley Stricker '87

(Tothero Interview cont. from Page 1)

Where is the most interesting place you have visited during your military career? I have been able to visit several ports in Europe, the Middle East, Far East, and the Pacific. While I have been to many interesting places, I truly enjoyed spending four days in Perth, Australia and almost a week in Scotland. During my stay in Scotland, I was very fortunate to be able to travel to meet my parents in London. They were living there for a couple of years because of my father's work.

Do you have any hobbies?

I enjoy fly-fishing for mountain trout, but the opportunities to go out fishing are very infrequent. I try to spend most of my off-duty time with my daughter. When I do get some free time, usually early in the morning, I spend my time in the gym trying to stay physically fit.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment?

I wouldn't consider anything that I have done as great, but I take pride in trying to be a good father to my daughter. In the military, I feel honored to work with some of the best young people that I have seen throughout the country and the world. I take a great deal of satisfaction in seeing them succeed in the military and in their follow-on civilian lives. Just being able to serve on a submarine is a special experience. During sea duty, we deploy for about six months every two years. We are able to conduct operations that have a positive impact on our national security strategies.

I learned a lot growing up in Cocalico that I carry with me today. My family and my teachers gave me the foundation I needed for a successful career in the Navy: the ability to work as part of a team, an interest in always learning and challenging myself, and a foundation in math and science. To any student today, I would say that if you want to succeed in the world today, these are the things you should be learning. And if you want to work in one of the most challenging environments, nothing beats a U.S. Navy submarine.



Commander Brian Tothero graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geophysical Engineering. He received his commission through the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate (NPOC) program after completing Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida.

Tothero's initial sea assignment following nuclear power training was aboard USS SCRANTON (SSN 756) in Norfolk, Virginia, serving as a division officer in several engineering divisions and as the communications officer. For his department head tour, he served on USS LOS ANGELES (SSN 688) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as the engineering officer. For his executive officer tour, Tothero served aboard USS HOUSTON (SSN 713) in Apra Harbor, Guam. During his three sea tours, he has deployed five times to the North Atlantic, Arabian Gulf, and Western Pacific (three times).

Tothero's shore duty assignments include instructor duty at Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa, New York as a Shift Engineer and Staff Training Group Officer. After his department head tour, he was assigned as the Squadron Engineer for Commander Submarine Squadron 1, in Pearl Harbor. His most recent assignment was at the Pentagon on the Joint Staff as the Maritime Reconnaissance Officer in the operations directorate.

Tothero has completed post-graduate degrees at New School University and Salve Regina University. His service school education includes professional military education through the Naval War College of Distance Education, Air War College, and National War College, where he received a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy.

Tothero's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards). His unit awards include five Battle Efficiency "E" awards.

Tothero met his wife, Helen, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. They have a twelve-year old daughter, Lily.

Tothero is the son of Barry and Gail Tothero of Reamstown, Pennsylvania.

Dave Davies – Employee in the Spotlight



David Davies started his career with Cocalico in 1979 teaching science to middle school students. After 12 years of teaching, he became the Cocalico Middle School Principal from 1991-1998; Cocalico High School Principal from 1998-2006; and as assistant superintendent from 2006 to the present. Dave's career at Cocalico encompassed MANY building projects. He was principal of the middle school during that building's expansion. During his years as high school principal, he endured the high school classroom expansion, and as the assistant superintendent he assisted with the new physical education area. Dave would like to add that during those years, "We had an entire group of students that literally experienced construction from kindergarten to graduation. This group of students was awesome through all of the disruptions. I have always been extremely proud of Cocalico students, but this group was extraordinary!"

When asked if he has a memorable moment from his career, Dave answered with, "MANY" and that he wishes he had written them all down. "I sincerely do not remember bad moments. For some dumb reason, even the bad moments were good moments for me because I viewed them as teachable moments." Dave expressed that he really respected and cared for all of his students. "I treated them as if they were my own. Sometimes they didn't understand this, but I really did understand the importance of every single interaction I had with a child. I wanted them to succeed as humans first and I tried to instill in them a desire to continue to grow and become better." In addition to his students, Dave was also raising three girls of his own with his wife, Judy, an art teacher at Cocalico. They will be married 33 years in August and as Dave put it, "by far, the best thing that ever happened to me." His daughters are now grown and living all around the world. His oldest daughter, Tara, works for Bosch and lives in Germany. His middle daughter Amber works for PNC as an Operations Manager in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and youngest daughter, Caitlin, is a college student at Kutztown University majoring in business marketing. Visiting his daughters is one of the things that Dave really looks forward to with retirement.



The value of all human interaction is one of the most important lessons learned by Dave during his career. "It does not matter if it is picking up the phone and talking to a troubled parent, conversations with police, conversations with staff, or discussing the schools with taxpayers - all of this matters," Dave believes. Dave remarked that the community has been great and being part of this experience has made him a better person. Throughout his career, Dave ranks "being a witness to the maturing of youth" at the top of his list. "Watching kids grow is both entertaining and uplifting. And, as I got older, watching younger staff do the same has also been uplifting. It has been a real privilege! Sometimes we forget that humans are not perfect and witnessing interactions between humans can be very entertaining."

Speaking of entertainment, anyone who has worked with Dave knows that he is very comical, and he admits to enjoying a practical joke now and then. His favorite and most impressive joke was when he was high school principal. "I was having a difficult time getting my budget approved by the district office. At the same time, I was arranging a visit from the National Guard and I had asked them if they could bring a helicopter to our site for the kids to visit. As it turns out, they agreed to bring one of their 'monster choppers' to our site. I had them set up a landing zone right in front of district office. When the helicopter landed, it defoliated the trees in front of the office and caused a heck of a scene. I called the district office and said, 'Now, about that high school budget.' It was hilarious and I got the budget approved! Humor mixed with hard work has always worked for me."

In addition to visiting his children, Dave looks forward to more time to volunteer in the Rotary Club, catch up on his gigantic list of to-dos, and take care of his and Judy's parents. **Best Wishes, Dave!**

The Cocalico Education Foundation is hosting their third Community Yard Sale. The yard sale will be open to customers from 8 a.m. – noon. They have had very positive feedback from both standholders and customers in the past. Food & drinks will be available. Come out and shop, and stay for lunch!

YARD SALE

Saturday, April 13
Denver Elementary Parking Lot
8:00 a.m. - Noon



SAVE THE DATE!

Screamin' Eagle Run 2013

Saturday, September 28th

Have you thought about running a 5K ? Why not train this summer in preparation for this race? Mark it on your calendar now, and we will see you in September! Information will follow in the next newsletter!

The planning committee for the Screamin' Eagle is also looking for help. Please contact Sean Killen at SKillen@fultonbank.com for more information.



Mrs. Donna Dinger

Incorporating and implementing technology would top her list of major changes that took place during her 34 year teaching career. Mrs. Dinger has spent 33 of her 34 years teaching third grade and believes that Cocalico is *Lancaster County's Best Kept Secret*. "It's been a privilege being a part of it for so long!" She has enjoyed the challenge of introducing and implementing new curricula - math, communication arts, and most recently, science. "It's rewarding when the light bulb comes on, and I see the students 'get it'." In her spare time, Mrs. Dinger enjoys volunteering with her four dogs (three greyhounds & one coonhound) in the Reading Education Assistance Dogs program and other facilities doing therapy. Although she will miss teaching (especially moments whenever students are excited and motivated to show their unique creativity and style), she hopes to continue volunteering with her therapy dogs and becoming more involved with groups who are advocates for animal welfare. Mrs. Dinger resides in the Reinholds/Denver area with her husband Earl. **Happy Retirement, Mrs. Dinger!**

Mrs. Deborah Henly



Mrs. Henly feels the most rewarding part of her career has been how her students grow and change academically and socially during their first grade year. "The biggest area I've seen changes in has been the addition of technology." When starting out at the old Denver Elementary school in 1973, no one could have predicted that first graders would be learning keyboarding skills! Mrs. Henly adds that she has had many exciting and memorable moments over the years, including in 1976 when the staff and students dressed up in colonial clothes; the year the author, Steven Kellogg, came to talk to the students on "author day," and every March when her classroom is transformed into a "Rain Forest" complete with vines and many animals. "There have been so many wonderful teachers and administrators at Cocalico that have contributed to my career, but my very first principal, Mae Wingenroth, was the most influential to me as a first grade teacher. She always said, 'If you get every first grader home safely, you've had a successful first day.' I think of her every year on the first day of school." In her upcoming retirement, Mrs. Henly looks forward to visiting her children (Michelle & Mark) more often since they both live out of the area. She also plans on volunteering and traveling with her husband of 37 years, Thomas. **Best Wishes, Mrs. Henly!**

Mr. Ronald Worline



Mr. Worline has had the opportunity to retire twice during his lifetime. Before working for Cocalico School District for the last nine years as a part-time delivery person, Mr. Worline retired from Case New Holland where he worked as a system analyst for 35 years while also attending classes at Franklin & Marshall College. Mr. Worline has been married to his wife Jean for 48 years. They met while he was in the Navy and stationed in Bainbridge Maryland at Personnel Accounting Machine Installation Continental United States (PAMI CONUS). Mr. Worline enjoyed travelling the East Coast playing basketball and football while enlisted in the Navy. Mr. & Mrs. Worline live in Denver and have four daughters, five grandsons, and one granddaughter (and two Siamese cats). Mr. Worline is eager to have more time for his hobbies, which include fishing, traveling & gardening. He also looks forward to "laying on the sofa and throwing grapes in my mouth." We will miss his smiling face around the district, but you'll be sure to see him if you attend any of the home basketball or football games. He's always there cheering on Cocalico! **Enjoy, Mr. Worline!**

Mr. Jim Kreider



Twenty-one years ago Mr. Kreider came to Cocalico High School to teach after having taught at Annville Cleona for 14 years. The building was very familiar to him because Mr. Kreider is also an alumni of Cocalico High School and was a part of the 1974 basketball team that won section, county and district titles that year! When asked about the experience Mr. Kreider replied, "1974 was a long time ago, but we all learned a lot of valuable lessons through the basketball experiences that have stayed with us today. The best part was the friendships that I made and I still keep in touch with 'the guys'." Mr. Kreider also coached basketball. For eleven years he was the varsity coach at Annville Cleona and for seven years he was the head coach at Cocalico. During the last three years he has helped out by coaching the 7th grade girls' team which he said has "been a blast." Mr. Kreider's family includes his wife, Heather, his daughter Sarah, and Lily, the dog. He looks forward to relaxing and joining a tennis or golf league. Mr. Kreider noted that he was "fortunate to work with many great staff members and administrators" and is appreciative that he was "able to come back to Cocalico and be able to teach and coach here." The best part of his job has been "being around kids. They keep you young." **Happy Retirement, Mr. Kreider!**

Help Wanted! The alumni association would like to start holding annual events, but we need volunteers to help plan and organize. If you have an interest on serving on the event committee, please contact Lesley Worline Stricker ('87) at alumni@cocalico.org or 717-336-1413.



Mrs. Audrey Stoner

From Alumni to Athletic Director



"A well-known sports enthusiast, Audi can be frequently seen in the gym. She plans to attend college and would like to coach hockey here." - **Cocalico High School Yearbook 1974**. Exactly five years later, she did just that! Mrs. Stoner's high school resume is impressive. Not only did she play field hockey all four years of high school, she found time to be involved in many clubs and hold positions as vice president and president of her class. Over the summer she worked at a local diner and the snack bar at Redner's. When I asked her how she did it all she commented, "Multi-tasking! I liked being busy and involved." During high school she noted that Mrs. Carolyn Good helped her develop her love of reading, and Mrs. Elaine Bowman inspired her to become a P.E. teacher.

Mrs. Stoner went to college at East Stoudsburg University and received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Health & Physical Education. While at East Stoudsburg, she continued to play field hockey (lettering three of her four years), and played lacrosse. In 1979 she returned to Cocalico as a teacher. I asked her how it felt to return in that capacity, she answered, "It felt strange at first since most of the teachers I had were still there, but they were very helpful."

After teaching Health and P.E. for 20 years, coaching field hockey for 21 years (15 of those years as head coach), coaching softball as head coach for 13 years, and attaining her Master's Degree in Health Service Administration, it was time for something new. In 1999 Mrs. Stoner became Cocalico's Athletic Director. Would she miss teaching? "Not really, I was ready for a new challenge."

Mrs. Stoner has announced that she will be retiring at the end of the 2012/2013 school year. So I asked Mrs. Stoner what she enjoyed most about teaching and coaching at Cocalico. "She responded, "Being a positive role model and helping students achieve their goals." What does Mrs. Stoner see as being the biggest change with students from 1974 compared to 2013? She replied, "The opportunities that students have, especially in girls' sports." In her spare time, Mrs. Stoner enjoys skiing and horseback riding. Congratulations on your retirement Mrs. Stoner. We're pretty sure whatever you do, you'll be busy!

The Class of 1977 held their 35th class reunion last August. This was the first class to graduate from the current high school facility. They helped move desks, chairs, and other items by walking them through the field from the "old" high school (currently Denver Elementary).



Picture courtesy of Cathy Gotsch

Pictures Wanted!

Did you recently have a class reunion? If you took group pictures of the reunion and would like to share, please contact Lesley Worline Stricker ('87) at alumni@cocalico.org or 717-336-1413.

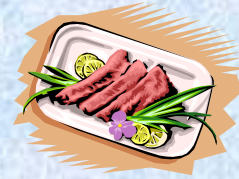
2013 IRON CHEF COCALICO



Sample Taste Testing



2013 Winner Kelly Kapinos, pictured with her assistant, Howard Neil-Hollinger



Reserved Dining Area



Goody Bags from FruitTastic



Desserts to Sample

On March 3, 2013, the Cocalico Education Foundation held its 7th Annual Iron Chef Cocalico. After an exciting 40-minute competition, Kelly Kapinos of *Lily's on Main* was crowned the winner with her tantalizing dish prepared with this year's secret ingredients of scallions, couscous, pretzel crackers, and ugli fruit. What most people don't realize is that there's more to Cocalico Iron Chef than the cooking competition. This year there were over 30 food vendors and local businesses supplying treats and samples to all present. The "People's Choice" award was given to Andrea Heinly of *The Peanut Bar* in Reading. Her presentation of "cheeseburger shooters" was voted the best among the four competitors. By winning the "People's Choice" award, Andrea has secured herself a spot in next year's Iron Chef Cocalico competition. In addition to the food competitions, there were multiple raffles, a live auction, and a silent auction that included many great items from the community and handmade items from the students. Another highlight of the event was the presentation of the first *Brian C. Ferree Scholarship* that was awarded to Michelle Eyster, a senior at Cocalico who plans to continue her education in the culinary field. All proceeds from the Iron Chef Cocalico will be used for classroom grants and scholarships throughout the district. We hope to see you there next year!



Handcrafted Pottery items from the High School



Silent Auction



Mr. Gene Ferree presenting Michelle Eyster with the scholarship in his son's name.



"People's Choice" Winner, Andrea Heinly from the Peanut Bar



Cupcake Display

Louise Gockley & Jean Bard



With 56 years of cafeteria service between them, Louise Gockley and Jean Bard have announced that they too will be retiring at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. While Louise spent 28 years cooking up lunch for the children at Denver Elementary, Jean worked at all four of the elementary schools during her career. (including Schoeneck Elementary before its closure) They both agree that a lot has changed in their profession. In the beginning of their careers, everything was made from scratch;. (That involved A LOT of peeling!) The incorporation of computers was another significant change for them and the students. Currently, every child carries a “lunch card” that is scanned after every purchase. It will debit the cost from their account which means no more loose change and lost lunch tickets to worry about! When asked who played an influential role in their careers, Louise remarked Elaine Zook had taught her a lot, and Jean mentioned Jay Eshleman because he gave her the opportunity to be the head cook. Not only have the ladies prepared lunch for the students for the past 28 years, but they have had to prepare meals for their own families too! Louise and her husband, Elmer, have seven children, twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Jean and her husband, Clair, have three daughters, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Louise looks forward to catching up at home and not getting up early in the morning if she doesn't feel like it. Jean will be moving into a new home after retirement and plans on working on sewing quilts for her children and grandchildren. Both Louise and Jean concur that the best part of their job has been the children; seeing and talking with them and hearing their “thank-yous.” Jean added, “What I have liked most is having the chance to feed kids hot meals that they might not get otherwise.” **Enjoy your retirements, Louise & Jean!**

Aavidum: “I’ve Got Your Back.”

The word Aavidum was formed in 2004 by a group of Cocalico students. It was the result of our students taking action after another student committed suicide. With the help of Mr. Joe Vulopas, the group has brought their creation to life. The Aavidum Club is about helping kids with depression and bringing attention to suicide prevention. They also want to speak out against teen issues, such as bullying. Currently, Mr. Vulopas has been busy visiting places around the United States. He wants Aavidum to be recognized nationally as a word and as a club. Last year, a few kids from Cocalico High School went with Mr. Vulopas to Washington, D.C. to meet with congressmen about getting Aavidum recognized. The Aavidum Club has also been working to make itself popular locally, too. *Naturally Grounded*, the new coffee shop in Stevens, hosts Aavidum events, including “Coffee Houses.” Students participate by singing, playing an instrument, reading poetry/creative writing, or supporting performers as an audience member. Once the Aavidum Club has raised enough money to sustain it's own efforts, club members hope to find another specific cause for which to raise money. Aavidum is hoping to implement even bigger goals with helping teens and saving lives. Check out the club's website at aavidum.com.

Article written by: Mariah Sensenig - Cocalico High School Student





Are You Thankful for a Special CSD Employee?

Did a particular teacher encourage you to follow a certain career path? Was there a special bus driver who always gave you a smile each and every day? When you think of Cocalico, is there a particular staff person to whom you want to say, “Thanks!”?

The Cocalico Education Foundation (CEF) is offering a whole new way for you to thank a teacher, principal, librarian, classroom aide, or any other employee who has made a positive difference in your life. Please consider donating to the “Thank You Teacher” campaign. Funds raised will directly support and enhance educational opportunities for all people in the Cocalico community through classroom grants, student scholarships, early literacy efforts, and a family fund for those facing financial hardships. The staff person you honor will be given a certificate acknowledging your generous gift.

There are two ways you can donate: 1) donate securely online through PayPal at <https://sites.google.com/a/cocalico.net/cocalico-education-foundation/home> or 2) complete a donation form that can be picked up at any Cocalico school building. For more information, please call Lesley Stricker at 336-1405.

WHO IS THE COCALICO EDUCATION FOUNDATION?

The Cocalico Education Foundation (CEF) was established in 1998 by a group of school and civic leaders that believe that community support and adequate resources are essential to the success of public education. Contributions received for the Alumni Association, Cocalico Family Fund and Education Foundation would all be tax deductible.



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Did someone forward this newsletter to you and you would like to continue to receive it? Don't forget to register online at alumni@cocalico.org, so that we can email you the next issue when it's ready!

Do you have suggestions for someone or something interesting for an upcoming issue? Let us know by emailing us at alumni@cocalico.org.



Would you like to help out with this newsletter or upcoming Alumni events? Please contact us!