



# The Marionette

## Coach Baxter Inducted into the Men's ITA Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame



Francis Baxter

Congratulations go to former Harding teacher and coach for his recent induction into the ITA Collegiate Men's Tennis Hall of Fame.

Most Harding High School students remember their beloved mathematics teacher, tennis, basketball and swimming coach, Francis Baxter. A Central State College graduate Mr. Baxter joined the Harding faculty in 1960 and stayed in that position until the school was converted to a middle school. In 1970 Coach Baxter joined the faculty at the former Central State College (now UCO). He was the Men's Varsity Tennis coach, Physical Education Instructor and

Intramural Director. Shortly thereafter, he also became the first male to coach a women's sports team when he was named as coach of the women's tennis team in 1979.

Coach Baxter held numerous administrative positions in the Oklahoma District Tennis Association, the Missouri Valley Tennis Association and the United States Tennis Association including being captain of the "over-60 team" for International competitions that placed first 5 times.

The winning teams that he coached during his long career include Harding High

School teams that won the state championship three times, college teams ranked first in Oklahoma doubles competitions three times, and first in Missouri Valley Tennis Association doubles competitions three times.

Over his career Coach Baxter estimates that he coached over 1000 dual matches in high school and college. Among

Cont. Pg 3—Coach Baxter

### Class of 1958 60th Reunion

The class of '58 is planning a 60th reunion to be held in the latter half of April 2018. Look for a "save the date" card to be mailed very soon.

Events for the weekend will include:

- Friday night party
- Saturday at the Blackledge's home
- Sunday Brunch at Judy (Evans) and Guy Liebman's home

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## Outstanding Alum—Lisa Erdberg '65

After graduation from Harding in 1965, Lisa Erdberg headed east to attend college and graduated from Radcliffe College in 1969. She worked for a couple of years at a legal aid office in Roxbury, MA where she was inspired to continue her education in the field of law. After graduation from Boston Law College she worked for one year as a legal aid attorney in western Massachusetts but found that she did not like that work very much. She moved to New York and attended NYU law school where she obtained an L.L.M. in taxation. She soon accepted a job offer from Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, a semiconductor company in what is now known as Silicon Valley. Several years later she moved to Wells Fargo where her responsibilities were in international tax.

Lisa met her husband, Dennis Gibbins at Wells Fargo. She cites Dennis' support as instrumental in helping her when she decided to leave the practice of law.

After some time contemplating what she would do next in her life,

Lisa decided to learn Italian. She had an interest in language in her high school years and cites Marjorie Miller and Dorothy Graham as teachers who inspired her. Nonetheless, she had never learned one language very well. She began by enrolling in conversational Italian. Lisa says "one thing led to another" and in 1994 she received a Ph.D. in Italian Studies from UC Berkeley. She was Resident Scholar at the Museo ItaloAmericano in San Francisco where she taught Italian literature in translation as well as helping organize a variety of programs at the Museo. She also had the opportunity to do some literary translating, one of the most rewarding things she has ever done. During this time Lisa became active in her synagogue and co-taught a course in *Introduction to Judaism* with the Senior Rabbi, as well as coordinating the synagogue's program for choosing Judaism. Recently she retired from those responsibilities.

Because photography has been an interest for Lisa's for a long time, a few years ago she decided to pursue it seriously. A lifetime



Lisa Erdberg '65

learner, Lisa took courses and attended workshops to enhance her skills. As she says "it too has taken a life of its own and we'll see where it goes".

Lisa has always been interested in public service, so it is not surprising that she would become active in her community. She has served on the board of the San Francisco Educational Fund and served as President of the organization for two terms. For the past 11 years she served on the board of the San Francisco Opera, where she is Vice President and Chair of Strategy Development.

Lisa and her husband have lived in the same house in San Francisco's Marina District since 1983. They have a delightful little dog, Daisy, who turned 14 this August.

## Funding for Charter Schools

Few people have an appreciation for the way Public Charter Schools are funded in Oklahoma. Current state law allows charter schools to receive money that is provided by the school district from the State of Oklahoma. On the other hand, money from other sources that are available to regular district schools including local property taxes, motor vehicle taxes and money derived from the State Land Use Trust do not go to Charter Schools. For this reason each student at a charter school is funded at a rate that is about 83% of a student at a regular public school of the district.

According to Barry Schmelzen-

bach, President of the Public Charter School Association, this creates a situation where students at charter schools have less value than their counterparts at other district schools. For this reason the Public Charter School Association is suing the State of Oklahoma in a challenge to the policy that funds Charter Schools at a lower rate.

While charter schools are underfunded and often are housed in makeshift facilities in churches or old dance halls, many far outperform traditional schools academically. In Oklahoma City 15 percent of the schools are charters yet they account for 50 percent of the schools receiving a grade of A on

the State's Department of Education school report cards.

An example is Harding Charter Preparatory High School which is ranked as the best high school in Oklahoma and 111th nationally. Harding is also on *TheBestSchools.Org* list of the 50 best schools in the nation and the 9th best transformative school in the nation by Newsweek.

Nationally students who graduate from charter schools are more likely to earn a four year college degree than those from similar socioeconomic backgrounds who graduated from traditional public

Continued page 3—Funding

## Coach Baxter (continued from page 1)

these were 673 wins!

For his accomplishments in coaching Coach Baxter was inducted into the Missouri Valley Tennis Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma District Tennis Hall of Fame and received the honor of NCAA II National Men's "Coach of the Year", and

the Lone Star Conference Women's and Men's Tennis Coach of the year.

In his acceptance speech for the current honor, Coach Baxter related that he learned a lesson from his dad while growing up on a farm in Oklahoma when

trying to learn how to get the horses to plow a straight furrow. That was to "pat'em on the back, feed and water them and they will work all day". Coach Baxter finished his speech by saying "I am a very fortunate guy who had the privilege of showing up each day and trying to plow a straight furrow."

## Great Year for Harding Charter Schools

This year brought recognition for both charter schools at Harding.

### Harding Charter Prep

- Raised \$171,000 to renovate the science wing.
- Highest ACT average in the State of Oklahoma with a 24.2.
- Received grade of A+ on State Board of Education report card.
- Student Council Awarded "Gold Chapter" status by the Oklahoma Association of Student Councils. The first charter school to achieve this award.
- Oklahoma Charter School of the year by the Oklahoma School Choice Summit.

- Named Best Charter High School in Oklahoma in 2017 by *Niche*.
- Achieved the highest College Readiness index in the state of Oklahoma according to US News and World Report.
- Ranked #1 high school in Oklahoma and #111 in the country by Washington Post. This was the 5th year in a row to be ranked #1 in Oklahoma.
- Graduated 11 Oklahoma Academic Scholars (27 ACT or higher with a GPA of 3.8 or higher). Graduates included 3 valedictorians and two Oklahoma All-Staters.

### Harding Fine Arts Academy

- Received a grade of A+ on the State Board of Education report card.

- Received \$25,000 grant from Devon Energy for showing innovation in science education. This money will go toward renovation of their science room.
- Raised over \$100,000 during spring fundraiser that honored Harding High School graduate, Nancy Payne Ellis '59.
- Ranked among the three best schools in Oklahoma by US News and World Report.

## Funding (continued from pg 2)

schools. In some cases, charter school graduates earned college degrees at up to five times that of those from non-charters.

Critics of charter schools complain that charters take away students from traditional schools. Many of the same people refuse to agree to consolidation of schools in their districts where some buildings are half full and in a State where there is an excessive number of school districts creating a drain on

financial resources.

In recent years bills were filed to equalize the funding for charter schools. However, the legislature chose not to act.

Schools should be rewarded on the basis of success and not failure. It is hoped that the courts will find in favor of this lawsuit and provide adequate funding for charter schools.

## Fallen Eagles

Rochelle Bernert '63, 8/2017, Houston, TX.

Louis Holshouser '62, 8/11/2017, Edmond, OK.

Roger Hoskins '61, 3/29/2017, Oklahoma City, OK.

Steve Imel '68, details unknown.

Minette Ridings Kelson '64, 5/17/2017, Houston, TX.

Jim Smiley '62, 5/12/17, Seattle, WA.

Joe Wheler '59, 5/25/17, Oklahoma City, OK.

(report recent deaths to [harding.alumni.org](http://harding.alumni.org))



**HARDING HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA CITY**

12101 N. MacArthur Blvd.  
Suite A Box 290  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162-1800

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## Time to Consider a Scholarship Donation

Yearly dues are \$25.00 (for the year beginning 6-1-17 through 5-31-18) and lifetime dues are \$150.00

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name while at Harding \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

HHS class \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I have included payment for : Annual dues \_\_\_\_\_ ; Lifetime dues \_\_\_\_\_.

I have included a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation for the HHSAA scholarship fund(s) or gift fund:

Please indicate which fund General (B) \_\_\_\_\_ ; Sayre (CP) \_\_\_\_\_ ; Miller (B) \_\_\_\_\_ ;

Promise (FA) \_\_\_\_\_ ; Campbell (CP) \_\_\_\_\_ Gifts (B) \_\_\_\_\_.

Parenthesis indicate which school is supported: Both Schools (B), Charter Prep (CP), Fine Arts (FA)

My contribution is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Dues and Contributions to the HHSAA Are Tax Deductible**

**Make checks payable to the HHSAA**

Donors receive recognition as Scholarship Sponsor -Platinum Eagle Donor (\$1000+) Golden Eagle Donor,(\$500-999),  
Silver Eagle Donor (\$250-499), Bronze Eagle Donor (\$100-249) or Eagle Donor (\$1-99).

**Mail to: HHSAA, 12101 N. MacArthur, Suite A-Box 290, Oklahoma City, OK 73162-1800**