

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Who was the Superintendent when you graduated?

Doug Williams

How many students were in your graduating class?

I think we had 80. I enjoyed the size of my class, but could see that future classes were going to be larger.

Who was your most influential teacher?

As a compliment to the school district – that is incredibly hard to answer as I had so many great teachers. I would say it depends on what year I was and what specifically I was being influenced of. Bob Jensen most heavily influenced my character development, Nancy Peterson most heavily influenced my learning development, and Scott Auderer showed me how to balance working hard both on the pitch and in the classroom. Dan Knutson had a humor that was special to me, and helped me discover who I was. I could go on and on about great teachers that I appreciate and stay in touch with to this day.

What activities in high school did you participate in?

Football, golf, track, and basketball were my sports, but I only played the first 2 the last couple years of school. If I could do it all over again I would have played soccer, football, and wrestling all of middle and high school. One of my largest regrets to this day, as my physique is built for wrestling and my favorite sport since college has been soccer. Outside of sports, I was in the Spanish Club and Chess Clubs, and was in Boy Scouts.

What was the make, model, year of your first car?

Well the first car I drove was my parents' 88 Lincoln Town Car. It was almost literally a limousine, and weighed over two tons, and topped out at 107 mph. I can see why they made it a safe "first car". The first car I bought was my sophomore year, and was a 1991 Honda Prelude Si. Basically, the exact opposite of the Town Car, lol.

What is something that most people do not know about you?

I spend a lot of time looking up. I can name countless birds and planes, classify almost any cloud accurately, and name over 40 constellations.

What were you like as a child?

As a child, I was fearless and stubborn. I think I have a world record in spankings received. It's developed me into a very disciplined person today, and I usually kept a level headed approach to things. I see myself as a very efficient and rational person as well, but I remain fearless.

What was your favorite school lunch?

Mine was the crispitos. Fried ground beef dipped in nacho cheese? It wasn't healthy but definitely worth getting the double lunch that day.

What was your first job?

Probably selling night crawlers as bait from home for a few years. When I became stronger I started mowing lawns and moving snow instead. I helped the Taber family pick countless tomatoes and vegetables for farmer's market, and my first "real job" was stocking trucks full of insulation at Kinzler Companies, where I ultimately worked for 8 years to put myself through college. Being raised by a farm boy who sold real estate, strong work ethic and entrepreneurialism were traits impressed upon me at a young age.

Who is your favorite super hero?

Today it would be Batman. When I was younger it would have been the Ninja Turtle Donatello.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

In my free time I enjoy traveling, backcountry hiking/camping, engineering things, and playing as much soccer as possible. Sometimes I even make time to date someone 😊

Did your parents graduate from Gilbert High School?

Nope. Mom and dad are in fact high school sweethearts from Glidden/Ralston school district, approximately an hour west of Ames.

Do you have brothers and sisters that attend/attended Gilbert High School?

I did pioneer Gilbert as the first of four kids to go through the school district. We all went K-12, so our family has a lot of Tiger pride!

Do you have children that attend/attended Gilbert High School?

I don't have any children, but if I did I would strongly consider moving into the Gilbert school district for their benefit.

What was your favorite song from your prom dance?

My memory doesn't serve me that well, unfortunately.

What was a popular movie when you were in high school?

A movie that was just then becoming a "classic" was Dumb and Dumber, and I can't tell you how often I quoted Zoolander with some friends.

What was your class motto?

The only motto I recall was the Boy Scouts motto of "Be Prepared."

What was your class flower?

No idea.

What were your class colors?

Still no idea.

Guess who this alumni is.....? Stay tuned to next spotlight to find out!