

## ETHS honors Coach Murney Lazier on Opening Day

On Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, ETHS honored one of Evanston's legendary coaches, the late Murney Lazier, at the season-opening Athletic Hall of Fame Football Game vs. Wheaton North.

**Coach Lazier**, who died last May, served as head football coach at ETHS for 18 years beginning in 1957 and amassed an overall record of 125-17-4, collecting 13 Suburban League Championships and 6 mythical state championships. He also brought lacrosse to Illinois, introducing it as a spring intramural sport in 1959.

He is a member of six Halls of Fame including the Illinois Football Coaches' Association, Illinois Athletic Directors, the Chicagoland Sports, and the ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame, to name

a few. ETHS's Memorial Stadium field was named in his honor in 2007. Throughout his career at ETHS, Lazier also served as a teacher, wrestling coach, and wrestling official.

**The tribute** to Coach Lazier took place on "his" field during a pregame ceremony before a packed stadium. All former athletes, colleagues, family, and friends of Lazier were invited onto the field to form a tunnel at the 50-yard line. Lazier's son, Shawn, walked through the tunnel on his way to do the coin toss while Lazier's many accomplishments were announced. A post-game gathering at Farmhouse restaurant in downtown Evanston followed the game.

*Continued on page 4*



**"Murney Men" from over the years posed with Coach Lazier's sons, Shawn (front L holding the football) and his brother Rian (front R), during a pregame ceremony honoring the legendary ETHS football coach.**

## From the Alumni Association Executive Director

### Students & Teachers... Teachers & Students

The ETHS Alumni Association supports many things. Keeping In Touch with our 60,000+ living alumni is at the core of what we do. One of the major ways we do keep in touch is through reunions, and the Fall is the prime season for classes to get back together.

We offer tours of ETHS to reunion classes between September 1 and June 1 (there is always construction going on in the summer and we cannot take groups through then). Most of the classes look at all of the renovations and improvements and have flashes of nostalgia.

**I find it** interesting that many of the conversations that come out of the tours, and in discussions with reunion classes, end up focused on teachers. It is not surprising. Our most profound experiences during high school years fall into several categories: events (Homecoming, Prom, a theater production or concert, etc.), friends, or our classroom experiences with our teachers.

50<sup>th</sup> reunion classes have always invited a few retired

members of the faculty and staff to join them in their festivities. This year, the class of 1968 took connecting with their teachers to a new level. **Susan Moore Gobel '68** arranged a number of the events that took place during this gala celebration. Along with the usual tour of ETHS and class lunch at school, Susan organized a number of discussion sessions as part of an "ETHS EXPERIENCE: A day at the old school." Classmates and some former teachers held six "KIT Talks" and some musical experiences, as well.

**One of the** highlights for the class was a Faculty Appreciation Lunch held before the reunion got started. Twenty-two members of the staff from 1967-68 were on hand with a large group of their former students. Each student rose to toast a teacher and to thank the teachers for helping prepare them for the next steps in their lives.

Not only were History, English, Combined Studies, World Languages, Math, and Science represented, also present were members of Fine Arts, what was then called Applied Arts (now Career/Technical



**David Futransky '69**

Education), and Physical Education. Bob Trevarthan represented the 1967-68 administration.

The afternoon went well beyond the toasts and speeches. The strong connections between students and their educators were quite evident. Individually, people talked about not just the things they remembered from the classroom; they spoke of the life lessons and impact of those days in class. As a former classroom teacher, and having followed this group by one year at ETHS (Class of '69), I was moved beyond words as I observed these interactions.

**One of the** common threads that unite our alumni is their interac-

tion with members of the faculty and staff at ETHS. It is also a two-way street. When I attend activities with groups of retired teachers, they often talk about students. They remember many and stay in touch with a large number. Teachers learn from their students, and ETHS has long been a place where this interaction has been at the center of all we do.

**We are very** fortunate to have a wonderful physical space at ETHS. Through the generosity of our alumni and other friends, the ETHS Foundation is able to help the District continually improve and enhance the school.

The core education at ETHS is and was built upon the student and teacher interactions. I hope when the class of 2018 holds its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion that they celebrate their relationships with teachers in the same way the class of 1968 did. I know they are connecting with the present group of educators in many of the same ways we did when we were students.

## KIT Contents

Lazier Tribute	1
Exec. Director letter	1
Superintendent's Letter	2
Alumni Board	2
Research Center	3
Astro Teller	3
New Athletic Wing	4
Dual in the Pool	5
Earth Day	5
ETHS Kudos	6
Alumni Mini-Grants	6
Girls Play Sports	6
Authors' Bookshelf	7
Look Magazine	7
Distinguished Alum Award winners	8
Class Notes	9
Reunion Roundup	10
Athletic Hall of Fame	13
In Memory	14
ETHS Foundation	15

# Superintendent's Letter

## Moving the Needle, Everyone Benefits

Former President Barack Obama is a leading proponent of everyone in America achieving a quality education. "It's not enough to train today's workforce," he said. "We also have to prepare tomorrow's workforce by guaranteeing every child access to a world-class education."

At ETHS, we are committed to providing a world-class education and achieving equity for every student. OpenSource Leadership Strategies succinctly defines equity as "A proactive, strategic approach that accounts for structural differences in opportunities, burdens, and needs in order to fulfill the promise of equality for all." We are proactive and strategic in this work. Guided by our school board, our teachers and staff actively and decisively implement practices daily that are designed to guarantee a world-class education for everyone. We want all our students to be in the best classes we can offer, to be challenged, and receive plentiful support. As we have reported, our commitment to equity has resulted in steadily higher student achievement and notable student accomplishments over the past decade.

This past school year we placed increased attention on Black male achievement. Our reasoning was clear. While ETHS is enviably successful in educating our students, we have not done as well educating all our Black male students. Our structure and instructional practices have worked exceptionally well for countless students but not consistently as well for our Black males.

This past year we became even more reflective and

determined, examining why our approaches have not worked as well for Black males and implementing changes aimed at better meeting their needs. Again, President Obama has articulated the challenge: "In too many communities, too many young men of color are left behind and seen only as objects of fear." There has been a damaging culture of low expectations in our society and in too many schools.

At ETHS, we have confronted this issue head on, first and foremost by having universally high expectations for our Black males. Moreover, we are holding ourselves accountable for addressing systemic barriers and burdens, stereotypes, and a culture of low expectations students often experience. Our Black males bring abundant intelligence, talents, insights, and dreams each day to this school. They are a vital asset at ETHS, and we strive vigorously to help them maximize their beautiful life potential.

Our job is to figure out how they receive from us what they need and that they experience the learning environment that works best for their individual needs. What's powerful is that when we are daily being reflective and intentional about meeting differing individual needs, that becomes our practice—and it benefits all the students we serve at ETHS. Everyone benefits.

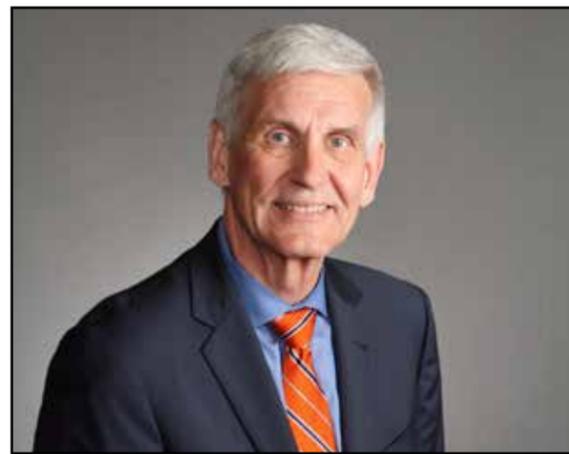
During Year One of our Black-male change initiative, the results are already encouraging. While we have a long way to go, we have demonstrated that our work is moving the needle. Black males in last year's freshman class, compared to the year before, had a lower percentage

of Ds and Fs and a higher percentage of As and Bs, as well as more GPAs over 2.5. In addition, more Black males earned more academic credits and had fewer absences, tardies, and behavior incidents. Black freshman males had a higher rate of attendance at Wildkit Academy academic support sessions, higher extracurricular participation, and more than doubled their progress with 88% completing their Individual Career and Academic Plans.

Furthermore, we documented the same kinds of gains and improvements for Black males school-wide, not just the freshman class we are following. In the first year of our restructured, de-tracked sophomore English course that provides a challenging honors curriculum for all sophomores, we documented the best grade distribution ever for Black males with a notable increase in percentage of As, Bs, and Cs overall. Biology with Support with a new reading-support model yielded jumps in the number of As and Bs for Black males, and 92% of the students enrolled earned a C or better, an increase from previous years.

This coming year we will build upon these strides as we enhance the most effectively used strategies, and we will develop and implement additional approaches. Kudos to our teachers, staff and administrators for successfully focusing on systemic changes. We are on a learning curve. Our Black males have high aspirations. They care about their ETHS education and are putting forth highly effective efforts to succeed.

All students benefit when we examine our structures, practices, policies and procedures to make systemic improvements, reflect on needed changes, focus on students' differing needs, and have high expectations for everyone. Yes, the rising tide raises all ships, and we have been experiencing a rising tide of improved outcomes for students here at ETHS.



ETHS Superintendent Eric Witherspoon

## Superintendent's remarks made to the students and staff on October 29, 2018

Good morning, E-town. This is Dr. Witherspoon. I will take just a few minutes to speak with you about recent tragedies.

We are experiencing a difficult time in America.

Wednesday, a white man with a history of violence shot and killed two African-Americans, seemingly at random, at a Kentucky Kroger store following a failed attempt to barge into a Black church.

After mail bombs were being sent to people who'd been criticized by the President, a suspect was arrested Friday – a man who had railed against Democrats and minorities with hate-filled messages online.

And Saturday morning, a man shouting anti-Semitic slurs opened fire at a Pittsburgh synagogue, killing 11 people attending Jewish services.

CNN reported, "Those three incidents in 72 hours shared one thing: hate."

Sadly, in recent years, we have seen deadly hatred in way too many places. It can feel overwhelming. But never let a few deranged haters lessen your resolve to make this world a better place. After a tragic weekend, I am sure many of you are filled with strong emotions this morning.

If you are feeling grief and sadness, be thankful that you are experiencing genuine human emotions. That is what makes us human.

Be thankful that you care, thankful that you do have feelings and that you do have a concern for all human beings, that you yearn for kindness, empathy and peace.

There are thousands of us here at ETHS today and millions upon millions of us in this country who are good people, not haters.

Here at ETHS we have the power to reject hate by taking action in our daily lives and lifting up our concerns for the well-being and safety of one another—today, tomorrow, every single day. We can counteract hate daily by honoring and cherishing our many differences and our enviable diversity, by cherishing our different religions, cultures, languages, identities and races.

Our school is a beloved community, a school dedicated to social justice, equity, nonviolence and love, a school where there is no place for hate, no place for unkindness. WE can change the world for the better, and you do that each day one action at a time.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. embraced a beloved community and he said,

*"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."*

At Evanston Township High School, we can all decide to stick with love by nurturing and protecting one another. That's the Wildkit Way!

## The KIT

### Alumni Association Officers

Kevin Mack '95  
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### Newsletter of the ETHS Alumni Association

#### ETHS Superintendent

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# What's New at ETHS?

## New Research Center connects ETHS to the world

ETHS's celebrated Chemistry/Physics program took on new energy this past summer thanks to a major physical renovation. Known to all as Chem/Phys, this three-year, accelerated-science course challenges students in college-level chemistry and calculus-based physics that are integrated throughout the year. According to Mark Vondracek, the "Phys" part of the teaching team, "This is a unique program, with no other known high school in the country doing advanced physics and chemistry the way we do."

Research and experimentation are an integral part of the program, and since the mid-1950s, when Chem/Phys began at ETHS, hundreds of students have earned top honors in prestigious science competitions, nationally and internationally, for their innovative, cutting-edge research projects. Chem/Phys alums have forged careers in medicine, engineering, science, research, education, and business, success most of them attribute to the rigorous accelerated math and science courses they took at ETHS.

**But, despite** the brain power that flourishes in Chem/Phys classes, the two third-floor classrooms, in part of the original building dating back to 1924, had declined physically over the years. The physics room had immovable tables and the electricity and plumbing were iffy. In the chemistry classroom, said Terry Gatchell, "Chem" teacher, students would blow a fuse if they simultaneously plugged in their stir plates. Aged cabinets wouldn't open. Water from old bench troughs readily flooded onto the floor. Not to mention issues with asbestos and ADA accessibility.

A center room that divided the two classrooms was used for storage...and often socializing instead of quiet research time.

In September 2017, the Alumni Association organized a Chem/Phys reunion that drew 125 enthusiastic alums back to ETHS, some who graduated in the 1960s, coming in from all around the country. In addition, many current and former teach-



**Mark Vondracek, the "Phys" of Chem/Phys, shows off his newly renovated classroom. Below, his teammate Terry Gatchell's chemistry classroom was also completely rebuilt over the summer. A set of rooms between the two classrooms will serve as the new ETHS Research Center.**



ers were present, including Don Iverson, age 90+, one of the original Chem/Phys teachers from the mid-1950s.

"We asked the alums to support a new collegiate-style research center," said Joanne Bertsche, Executive Director of the ETHS Foundation. "From far and wide they responded out of gratitude for the school's role in their life and because they wanted to extend that excellence for future generations of Wildkits." An initial \$225,000 was raised from alums and parents thanks in part to a challenge gift from **Laurie Wiss Latimer '81** and husband Henry, parents of two Chem/Phys daughters, and a record-breaking reunion gift from the Class of 1967.

**Still, despite** the generosity of donors to create the ETHS Research Center, it became obvious that the two adjoining classrooms needed a complete overhaul. Enter **Leonard Schaeffer '63**, who pledged \$1.2 million for a comprehensive Chem/Phys renovation. Schaeffer

is dedicated to advancing science at ETHS, previously providing significant challenge gifts for four new STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) labs and an extensive upgrade of the school's Planetarium.

The Physics classroom has been totally rebuilt with new moveable, modular lab tables, generous amounts of cabinetry and white-boards, and direct access to the Chem classroom and the central Research Center. The Chem side now has new lab tables, reliable power to conduct and monitor experiments, new fume hoods, and other enhancements. "It is a truly modern, functional, and inviting lab," said Gatchell. "The kids—Chem/Phys as well as regular chemistry and Special Ed. Chem/Phys—love it and treat it with respect and pride," she added.

It's the Research Center that is the program's centerpiece. Said Vondracek: "It's a facility for research and independent work where kids can get

their hands dirty, prepare research for competitions, and collaborate with people all around the world."

**The Research Center** is divided into three areas: the front space is for high-end computer computational research; the middle area is reserved for teleconferencing and collaborative projects; and the back area is reserved for physical experimental setups. Over the years, the Chem/Phys program has partnered with Northwestern University for research and lab space, but there are only so many openings at NU, said Vondracek. "Also, we have more faculty with research backgrounds, and need to present options to all students who may be motivated, and want to try real science research," he added.

Gatchell is planning to use part of the back research room, where natural sunlight floods in, for her students to experiment with plants (root regeneration) and optics. She noted that one of her science colleagues wants to have students study adaptive regeneration in there ("*planeria* exhibit a remarkable ability to re-grow body parts," she explained).

**Teleconferencing** is an exciting addition to the Research Center. In 2015, Vondracek was named among the "Top 50 Teachers in the World" in the

## Teller promotes doing the impossible

ETHS welcomed back alumnus **Dr. Eric "Astro" Teller '88** on October 8, who spoke at a program sponsored by Family Action Network. Teller is an inventor, futurist, entrepreneur, writer, and thinker. Specifically, he heads Alphabet X's (formerly Google X) "Moonshot Factory," an R&D laboratory where his team seeks to solve the world's biggest problems through audacious, experimental projects.

During his stay in Evanston, Teller, a 2013 ETHS Distinguished Alumni Awardee, also spoke to students. According to Mark Vondracek: "Astro came back to his old Chem/Phys room to chat with 60 or so juniors and seniors. Inspi-

ational comments, as he reminded everyone that to do the impossible requires numerous failures, and that success comes from what is learned from those failures. It also helps to be a little weird, too!"

**The remote communication** is the "coolest" part of the Research Center, said Gatchell. "Using the large monitor at the conference table, we will be able to hold meetings with students, teachers, and researchers from around the world," she explained, adding, "Our students can demonstrate experiments for other kids, ask questions of professors, or brainstorm ideas for research."

By making the new Research Center accessible to all curious ETHS students, not just those in Chem/Phys, and by connecting their inquiry to students around the world, ETHS will be able to strengthen their sense of global citizenship and help them "be aware of the larger world in which they will live, study and work," said Vondracek.



**Mark Vondracek (at ctr.) invited Teller to talk to current Chem/Phys students, including student Carlon Rosales (at l.).**

Check out Teller's TED talk about this—TED2016/February — The Unexpected Benefit of Celebrating Failure.

## ETHS adds new gateway to the school's athletic wing

This past summer, Evanston Township High School added a new, accessible, secure, and welcoming entryway to the school's athletic wing.

No longer must athletes, students, and visitors traverse the rear entrance to Beardsley Gym or the field house through a dark, roofless alleyway with meager signage. No longer will students have to suffer the rain and snow to get to the second-floor gyms for P.E. class.

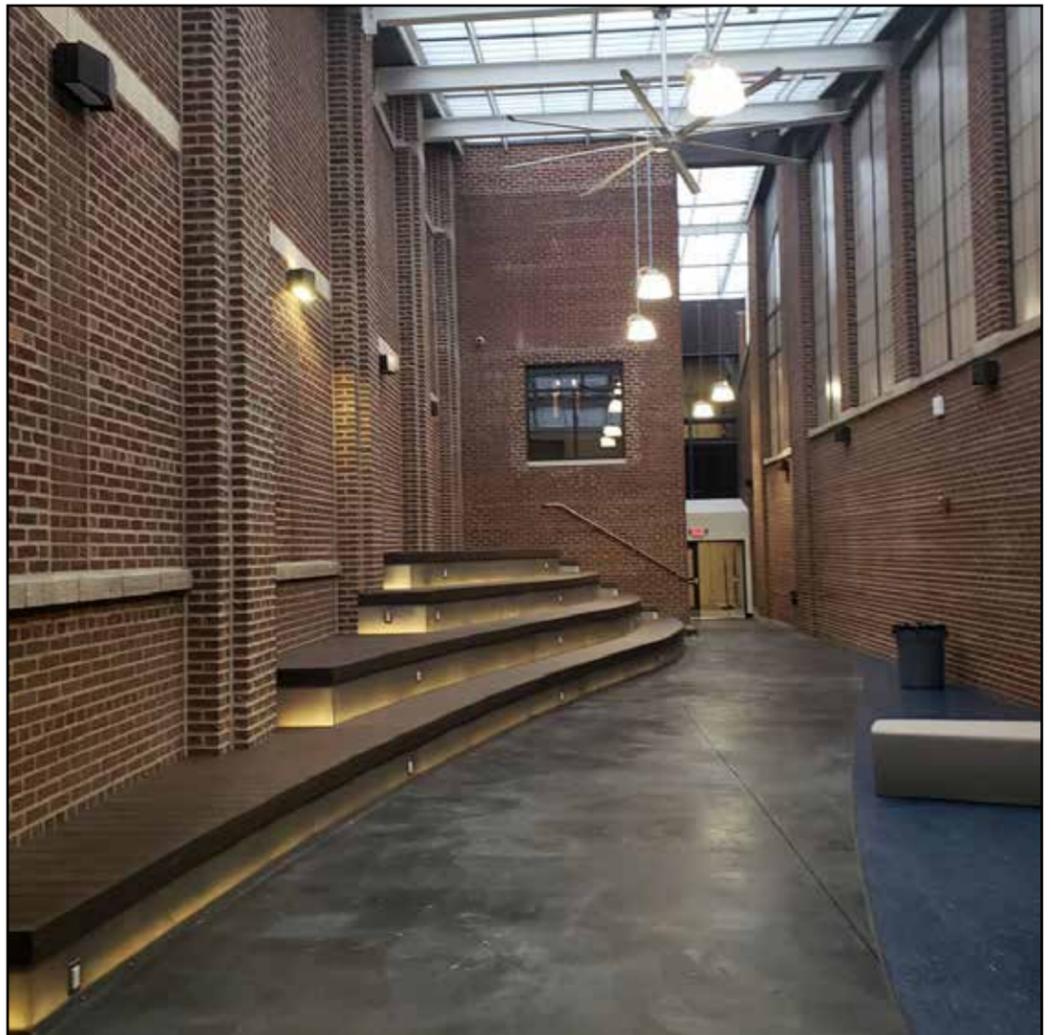
**The attractive** entrance includes a covered walkway, an elevator to the second-floor gyms and Beardsley Gym balcony seating, and handicapped-accessible bathrooms on the upper floor.

A checkpoint near the entryway will allow Safety Department members to screen visitors and monitor activity in the rear gym wing.

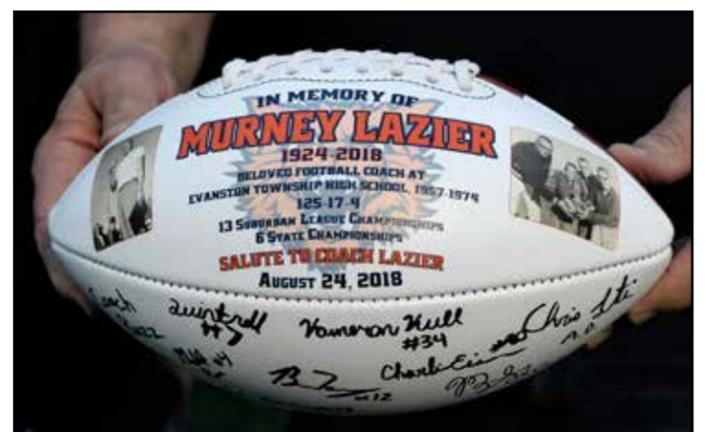
A sunny atrium and commons area (at rt.) on the entrance level features tiered bench seating where athletes, fans, and visitors can gather before and after games and practices. Orange and blue décor (below), tiled hallways, and signage speak to school pride and easy wayfinding.

**ETHS's athletic** entrance has not been renovated since it was built in the 1960s, and the renovation cost was over \$3 million. In addition, donors to the ETHS Foundation provided funding toward the building project.

"The Foundation provided \$100,000 toward the comprehensive project, but our focus was on extra enhancements to the atrium area," said Joanne Bertsche, Foundation Executive Director. "I think the entranceway is a new gateway to the school that inspires considerable Wildkit pride," she added.



## Coach Lazier tribute, cont. from page 1



Commemorative football given to Coach Lazier's sons Shawn and Rian at the pregame ceremony.

ETHS Athletic Director **Chris Livatino '91** thanked the huge gathering for coming back to pay tribute to Lazier. "You all played such a huge part in making the turf field and the lights a reality starting back in 2007," he said, adding: "From **Mike Kenn '74** and **Emery Moorehead '72** working with the NFL and Chicago Bears to help us secure the NFL grant, to **George Bridgeforth '72**, **Gerry '73** and **Tom Corcoran '71**, **Dave Kauppi '71**, and **Jim Osyra '74** putting together the presentation for our Superintendent and ETHS School Board, to the many, many, many Murney Men who donated to the construction of the turf field

and lights, we could not have built Murney Lazier Field without you!"

**Shawn Lazier** has asked that any contributions or donations be made to the ETHS Foundation in his father's name. Fittingly, this year's projects are to re-turf Murney Lazier Field next summer and to create the Wildkit Wellness & Performance Center, which will be a state-of-the-art strength and conditioning facility designed to benefit all students at ETHS through Athletics and Physical Education.

Thanks to **Chris Livatino** for his input

**Keep in Touch  
with the  
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**Twitter — [Twitter.com/ethsalumni](https://www.twitter.com/ethsalumni)**

## ETHS, New Trier — 100<sup>th</sup> Dual in the Pool: A Century in the Making

This December, male swimmers from ETHS and New Trier High School will face off for the 100<sup>th</sup> swim meet between the two schools. Over the past century, both high school rivals have traded winning state and local titles and produced outstanding swimmers who went on to become NCAA, World, and Olympic champions and medalists.

**Billed as the** Dual in the Pool, the legendary rivalry will play out on Friday, December 14, from 5:30-7:30pm in the ETHS pool. Other celebratory events sponsored by ETHS and New Trier will surround the main event, including a pre-meet luncheon on Friday, a post-meet gathering, and a Saturday breakfast with current team members and alumni.

ETHS provided a bit of swim-meet history: In 1918, the schools had their first dual swim meet at the Evanston YMCA in a pool that was 15 yards long and 4 lanes wide. ETHS outswam New Trier 31 to 26. Other than in 1934 and 1935, these two North Shore rivals have met annually to see who was the best competitor that day.

**In 1960**, Evanston produced one of its best teams in its history and

beat the outstanding New Trier team 52 to 34, won the State Meet, and received the National Championship title. “As far as I am concerned,” said Dave Robertson, New Trier coach, “this state meet must go down as the greatest ever held. The times were fantastically fast. And most of the winners will be back next year,” he added.

The following year, New Trier produced arguably one of the best high school teams ever and recaptured the title by defeating Evanston 56 to 30, winning the State Meet along with the National Championship title.

### And so it goes.

According to **Tom Schwarten '63**, the impetus for this Dual in the Pool surfaced at a periodic alumni swimmers' breakfast when retired ETHS swim coach **Chuck Fargo '62** noted that 1918 was the start of recorded dual meets with New Trier. “So our group stepped up and has been working with the ETHS Alumni Association and others at ETHS to help make this celebration happen,” said Schwarten.

This event has all the makings of a great reunion. All net proceeds will be

donated to each school's swim program.

**A committee** of 15 has pulled together to plan the various events, including Wildkit alumni **John Newman '63, Dale Stempel '70, Patrick Burton '83, Al Shiff '66, Kevin Mack '95** (ETHS Alumni

Board President), **Peter Skogland '64, David Futransky '69** (ETHS Alumni Executive Director), **Fred Southward '66, Dave Burgess '58, Walter Keats '63, Alf McConnell '62, Paul Salily '81** (who is New Trier's Superintendent), and Trevian Mark Anderson.

Go online to sign up at [www.eths.k12.il.us/alumni](http://www.eths.k12.il.us/alumni). A \$5 registration fee will be charged at that time, and t-shirts will be available for advance purchase at \$10. Details of Dual in the Pool events will be posted as the meet date gets closer. **Go to [www.ethsntswim.com](http://www.ethsntswim.com).**



## ETHS Community Service, Kiwanis Club partner to keep Evanston beautiful

Evanston Kiwanian **Jim Wolinski '70** and ETHS Community Service director **Mary Fifies Collins '84** have organized the Evanston Earth Day clean-up every spring for 10 years. Over 400 students and community members collect hundreds of pounds of trash and recyclables from Evanston streets in the last decade.

This event not only brings Evanstonians together for a good cause, but it also raises awareness about the importance of residents getting involved and keeping our neighborhoods clean.

Last April, over 40 ETHS students and staff, Kiwanians, Aldermen **Peter Braithwaite '88** and **Robin Rue Simmons '94**, Fire chief Brian Scott, and ETHS parents and siblings braved the cold to pitch in. They plan to hold the event again next year in coordination with the City's clean up, as well—usually on the third Saturday in April from 9-11am.



**ETHS alumni and staff (l. to rt.) Lloyandra Cooper '08 and Mary Collins '84, along with Kiwanis Club presidents Kevin Kelly '70, and Jim Wolinski '70 helped organize the event. Cooper and Collins organized student involvement and Kelly and Wolinski organized the Kiwanis Club volunteers as well as the food.**



**Kiwanians, ETHS staff members, and over 40 ETHS students braved the chilly weather last spring to help collect trash from around Evanston as part of the City of Evanston's Earth Day clean-up project.**

# ETHS Kudos

## STUDENTS

Eleven ETHS seniors have been named semifinalists for the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 high school students from across the U.S. were named semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) and will compete for Merit Scholarships that will be announced in the spring.

ETHS's Speech and Debate Team was recognized by the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) and awarded membership in the prestigious 200 Club by earning 200 or more degrees last year. Each year, students in the National Speech & Debate Association Honor Society earn points and degrees based on competitive and service-related activities. The ETHS team currently ranks in the top 10% of schools nationwide.

### Alumni Scholarships

Last May, five seniors were awarded ETHS Alumni Association Scholarships: **Dina Baron, Michael Colton, Jose Morales-Martinez, Holly Desmond, and Caitlin Strickland.** The \$1,000 award is given annually to five graduating seniors for post-secondary education and is based on the student's character and contributions to the school and/or community.

Each year ETHS awards approximately \$105,000 in scholarships established and funded by outside organizations and individuals. The Alumni Association scholarships, originally established by the Class of 1954 beginning in 1995, are funded from alumni donations and dues. The awardees are determined initially by a panel of ETHS retirees, followed by a panel of college admissions personnel.

## STAFF



ETHS Band Director **Matthew Bufis** was named a winner of the 2018 Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award by Quinland & Fabish Music Company. These awards have been presented annually since 1989. Matthew P. Bufis joined the ETHS music faculty in June of 2012 and was later named Director of Bands in June of 2016. Bufis leads the Wildkit Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Wind Symphony, teaches Guitar classes, and is the instrumental sponsor for the YAMO (student revue) pit orchestra.

## SCHOOL

The nonprofit organization AMIGOS honored ETHS with its 2018 Global Citizenship Award. The award recognizes exemplary educational organizations that show a commitment to developing global citizens as well as developing students that strive to make an impact in their communities. AMIGOS runs immersive volunteer programs in Latin America. Students live with host families in countries throughout the region and work with their community on a service project. Multiple students from ETHS have successfully completed AMIGOS programs. A strong teacher network at ETHS also encourages this experiential learning.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service named three summer meals sponsors from Illinois as recipients of the agency's Turnip the Beet Award. In May 2018, the City of Evanston, whose meals at nine city-run summer camps (breakfast, lunch, and snacks) were provided by the ETHS Nutrition Services Dept., received a bronze award from the federal agency.

## espnW, Toyota honor two ETHS alums for Girls Play Sports

On October 2, two Evanston residents and ETHS alums—**Megan Hanrahan Livatino** and **Liz Maday Brieva (ETHS '91 and '82, respectively)**—of Girls Play Sports (GPS) were honored by espnW and Toyota as Toyota Everyday Heroes at a conference in Newport Beach, CA. GPS introduces local Evanston girls in grades 4-8 to a wide variety of sports to encourage their future sports participation in high school, college, and beyond.

The GPS duo and two other organizations were recognized for making a difference for women and girls through sports and each were honored with a \$10,000 grant from Toyota.

**With the help** of coaches and female ETHS athletes who serve as coaches and mentors, GPS fosters leadership skills and confidence building through involvement in sports. Since GPS launched in 2012, Evanston has seen a dramatic rise in girls participating in athletics at ETHS, including more girls playing in sports than boys.

GPS exposes the girls to 15+ different sports over time. The program offers



**Liz Maday Brieva '82 (at l.) and Megan Hanrahan Livatino '91 were named Everyday Heroes by espnW and Toyota.**

after-school clinics, where they learn the basics, festivals that teach fundamentals through fun drills, leagues and tournaments, and a girls-only summer sports camp hosted at ETHS. Also, GPS holds discussion sessions, led by high school student athletes, which engage the girls in important topics including health and nutrition, friendships and relationships, social media, bullying, and more.

**Co-founded** in 2012 by Brieva and **Chris Livatino '91**, ETHS Athletic Director, GPS is a non-profit, donor-funded organization. Megan Livatino, who joined GPS in 2014 as Executive Director, played volleyball, basketball, and soccer for four years at ETHS and went on to play volleyball at Northwestern University. Brieva is GPS's Program Director, teaches special education in Evanston/Skokie District 65, and is ETHS's Head Girls' Volleyball Coach.

## Alumni mini-grants boost student learning

Last spring and this fall, the ETHS Alumni Association board approved a variety of mini-grants requested by teachers and staff to enhance their classroom curricula and extracurricular activities.

**Academic**-related grants went to Science, English, and World Languages teachers.

- One mini-grant will purchase a class set of electrosopes for use in physics classes at all levels.

- Another grant supported the Moth Radio Hour Storytelling Workshop, where sophomore English students shared stories about themselves with peers, and returned to their classrooms to record their stories and ultimately to write about them.

- This grant will purchase high-interest books for a class-based lending library to foster independent, "at home" reading among sophomores.

- The grant to the ASL (American Sign Language) Breakfast Club helped fund a time for students to socialize and practice using only ASL during breakfast.



**Students in the ASL class (l. to rt.: Natalie Glaser, Emily Mineroff, and Miles Leopold, all Class of '18, and Patrick Nee '20) used their sign-language skills to converse at the ASL Breakfast Club.**

Staff extracurricular sponsors also received mini-grants.

- GLAM/Prom Cutz's grant helped provide makeup and hair styling for girls going to Prom who may not otherwise have the resources.

- The ETHS Filmmakers Club grant will help purchase dedicated, high-end equipment and accessories for students to use as they learn about film production.

**The mini-grants**, each approximately \$1,000, come from the Alumni As-

sociation's budget. While the association no longer collects dues from ETHS alums, the board chose to use the balance to help support educational needs, particularly when academic budgets are stretched thin.

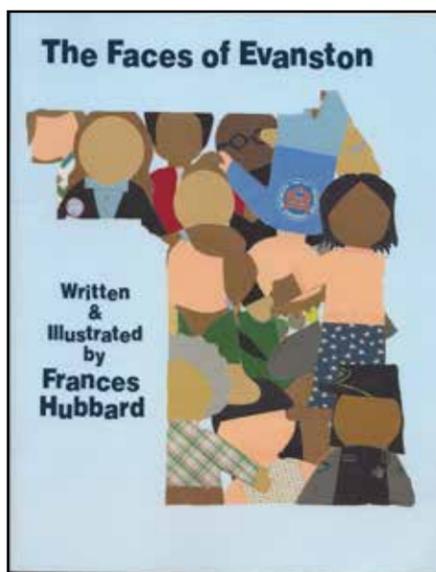
# ETHS Authors' Bookshelf

**Clifford Browder '46** had two books published in 2018. *Dark Knowledge*, the third title in his Metropolis series of historical novels set in 19<sup>th</sup>-century New York, deals with the slave trade in that city. Appalled to discover that some of his family may have been involved in the trade, young Chris Harmony sets out to learn the truth and encounters lies, evasions, and threats. *Fascinating New Yorkers: Power Freaks, Mobsters, Liberated Women, Creators, Queers and Craziest* comprises biographical sketches of colorful people, some remembered and some forgotten, who lived or died in New York. A longtime New York resident, Browder knew some of them, encountered others, and from friends gleaned anecdotes not known to the general public. He also exhibited at the BookCon 2018 book fair and the Brooklyn Book Festival.

*The Faces of Evanston* was written and illustrated last school year by **Frances Hubbard '18** as a Senior Studies project. This

children's book looks at life in Evanston from the viewpoint of a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader. Hubbard may be the youngest author who has submitted a book to be shared in the ETHS Authors' Bookshelf collection. Dedicated to "every child who has called Evanston home," all book proceeds were to be donated to fund books for school libraries.

*Role Reversal: How to Take Care of Yourself and Your Aging Parents* by **Iris Sneider Waichler '72** blends Waichler's personal experiences of caring for her father and her 40 years of experience as a social worker and patient advocate. The book is filled with information and ideas on many key topics of working with and caring for elderly family members. See more information about Waichler's writings in Class Notes.



**Naomi Wheatley Thompson Woods '35** has written *Only A Woman*, a collection of poems published after her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. Woods received an honorary degree from ETHS in the summer of 2017 after her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She had been unable to complete her ETHS degree because of circumstances during the Depression and the need to help support her family. She had a writing spurt at age 55 and over

the past 45 years has written a collection of poems about her life and times.

*From Where HELL Had Me: Set Free* by **Judy Chancellor Powell '67**. This memoir traces aspects of Powell's life, both good and bad, and the encouragement she has found to overcome.

**Cheryl Suchors '68** wrote *48 Peaks: Hiking and Healing in the White Mountains*. This inspiring memoir talks about her 10 years of pursuing a goal of climbing all 48 peaks of the White Mountains in New Hampshire. She endured the death of a close friend and her own cancer diagnosis. Suchors found solace in the outdoors and hiking became a form of therapy. The book takes a look at dealing with grief, strength, and finding power to overcome your personal fears.

**Cleopatra Bugelas Alexander '66** worked for over 30 years as a philanthropy consultant. She also served on the School Board of Evanston/Skokie School District 65. An ETHS Dis-

tinguished Alumni Award winner, Alexander now is also an author and illustrator of a series of children's books. Using her character, Shiny the Sea Star, she takes young and older readers on adventures around a globe that is interconnected by water. The three books she submitted to the Bookshelf are—*Shiny the Sea Star Surfs the Seas and Finds the Yangtze River Dragon*, *Shiny the Sea Star Surfs the Seas and Meets a Ganges River Tiger*, and *Shiny the Sea Star Surfs the Seas and Finds a Mississippi River Paddlewheel Boat*—all follow the rivers and oceans of the earth to take her "Star" on various treks and journeys. Bright colors will keep young readers focused on the information-filled books.

## ETHS part of *Look* magazine story



On September 22, 1964, *Look* magazine ran a feature about the "The Class of '68," students that entered college that fall. Over 200 college-bound seniors from 11 high schools around the country, including ETHS, were interviewed. This photo of ETHS's East Hall senior class ran as a two-page spread with the caption "Energetic Evanston (IL) High students, most of whom are college-bound now, are part of the harvest from more than 24,000 U.S. high schools that produced the 'best prepared' Class of 1968."

*Look* interviewed **Helga Zirkel** (now Schwarten), who is standing at the center of the photo, about her high school experience, her expectations about going to college, and where she was going (Chicago Art Institute).

*Look* ceased publication in October 1971 and donated its vast portfolio to the Library of Congress. Helga was among 70+ people who were photographed and interviewed by *Look* during the 1960s as "persons of interest." Currently, Ganzell Communications is preparing a documentary on these people and that pivotal decade in American history. Go to <http://sixties-survivors.org/> for more information about the documentary.

*Photographed by Douglas Jones for Look, now property of the Library of Congress*

# ETHS grants Distinguished Alumni Awards to seven alums

On December 3, four ETHS alums will be honored with the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award, including **David Baskin '08**, **Pam Cytrynbaum '84**, **Anna Lembke '85**, and **Robert Reece '64**.

Additionally, three alums will be honored with posthumous awards: **Fred Hutcherson Jr.** and **Dr. Warren Frank Spencer**, both from the Class of 1932, and **Michael Jaharis '45**. All are great examples of ETHS alumni who have risen to excellence in their field, given back to their community, and set high standards for current and future Wildkits.



**David Baskin** is the founder and CEO of Ani Shlishi located in Israel. This non-profit group uses second-hand clothing stores to provide opportunities for at-risk youth in Israel, regardless of religion. Foundational skills are developed and work ethic is encouraged as part of vocational training programs that are unique in the region. The translation of Ani Shlishi is "I am third," which is a phrase that David took from his ETHS baseball coach, the late Ross Freeland. David has won a number of awards and recognition in Israel.



**Pamela Cytrynbaum** is a journalist and educator with a long focus on criminal injustice and wrongful

conviction. She has been a leader of the Chicago Innocence Center that has been involved in overturning wrongful convictions. Pam has also worked extensively with both schools and community organizations in Evanston in the area of restorative justice.



**Anna Lembke** is a medical doctor and an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Stanford University School of Medicine. She has worked in the area of co-occurring psychiatric and addictive disorders, looking closely at the over-prescription of opioids. Anna is the author of the *Drug Dealer MD: How Doctors were duped, Patients got Hooked and why it is so hard to stop*. This book has brought the discussion of opioid overuse back to the front page of newspapers and into the spotlight as a national issue of concern.



**Robert Reece** is a semi-retired businessman and a community leader in the Evanston area. Bob began his professional career with companies like Xerox, Hewlett Packard, and Dunn and Bradstreet. After successfully negotiating his way through major corporations, Bob founded and led Reece Insurance and Financial Services in Evanston. Working closely

with his wife, **Pat Cherry Reece '62**, Bob has been a fixture in the community and is well known and regarded by all. He recently won the "Spirit of Evanston Award" which is only one more honor in a list far too lengthy to repeat. Bob has been a key leader in groups ranging from the Warren Cherry Scholarship Fund, FAAM, the Justin Wynn Foundation, and was the first African American President of the McGaw YMCA.

## POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

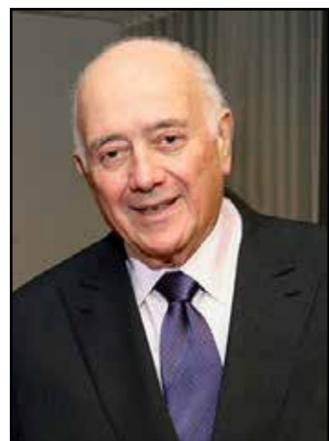


**Fred Hutcherson Jr.** was a self-taught aviator who eventually trained Black military cadets at Tuskegee to fly. His accomplishments include opening the first-ever Black-owned international airline based in Haiti, serving as a Captain with S.A.M. Airlines and as a pilot for British West Indies Airlines, operating a charter service, and raising money for the war effort. In ferrying bomber planes to England in WWII, he was among the first Black aviators to cross the Atlantic. However, to do this, racial barriers in the U.S. led to his joining the Royal Canadian Air Force. By 1942, he transferred to the Royal Canadian Ferry Command, passed the difficult instrument and navigation test with the highest score, and became the first Black pilot to graduate from that command. In 1944, he volunteered to join the U.S. Army Air Corps as a flight instructor in the "Tuskegee Project" that trained Black aviators, including the famous 99th pursuit squadron, for service in WWII. Even with his flying experience, his rank was downgraded from Captain to flight instructor. During the 1950s, Hutcherson flew

charter services out of Chicago-area airports and retired from flying in 1959 to run the family business in Evanston. On June 18, 2011, IL Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-9<sup>th</sup>) posthumously awarded Hutcherson a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of his collective contribution to the Tuskegee Airman legacy.



**Warren Frank Spencer** was a doctor in the Evanston community for many years. Dr. Spencer served the United States during World War II and was stationed in Europe. After the war he stayed in Italy and continued his medical education. He returned to the Chicago area and was one of the first African Americans to earn a medical degree from Northwestern University. Upon completion of his medical studies, he practiced in his home community working at Evanston and St. Francis Hospitals in Evanston and Bethesda Hospital in Chicago.



**Michael Jaharis** was an entrepreneur, philanthropist and humanist. After service in the US Army in the Korean War, where he was involved in medical and pharmaceutical supply, he worked in the pharmaceutical industry. Jaharis earned his law degree at night and went into corporate leadership in the pharmaceutical industry. He led

companies that developed drugs for asthma, heart disease, COPD, and many other uses. He served on the boards of several institutions of higher education including Tufts University and of hospitals in New York. With his wife, he created a foundation that has supported many public and philanthropic endeavors including fine arts, opera, and the Greek and Hellenistic communities both in this country and in his parents' homeland of Greece.

The Distinguished Alumni Award winners will be honored at two ceremonies on December 3. In the morning, they will be introduced to the senior class at an assembly in the Auditorium. Later, at a special dinner in the faculty dining room, they will be introduced to school officials and faculty, as well as school board and community members. During the day, the honorees will be able to visit classes and talk with students.

Next year, the deadline for 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award nominations is June 1. To nominate an ETHS alum for this award, go to Alumni Relations on the ETHS website ([eths.k12.il.us](http://eths.k12.il.us)) and fill out the nomination form.

# Class Notes

## 1940s



**David Viergever '48** attended his Class's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. He and his wife Ruth live in Mission Viejo, CA, and he is retired.

## 1950s

**Nancy Wiltgen Marchessault '53** called to tell us that she is still living in Glenview and is very active in the community. She spends time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and sees her cousin and classmate **Dorothy Harker Mathisen**. She loves reading *The KIT* and wants to let people know she is still "here."

## 1960s



Professional actress/singer **Alice Rosengard '64** (at L) posted that in August 2018 she took **Sherri (Huff) James Buxton's '64** Cabaret Intensive Workshop at the Berkshire Music School in Pittsfield, MA. Said Alice: "Sherri was always a wonderful singer and after studying voice at Indiana U (my alma mater too), she went on to have a wonderful career, singing on Broadway, in regional theatre, and in cabaret settings, many of them in New England. What you probably don't know is that she is a star in the Berkshires, and she is also a superb singing teacher and coach." This was Alice's second year taking Sherri's workshop,

a two-day course followed by a performance at the Piano Bar of the Gateways Inn in nearby Lenox, where Sherri sings frequently. "Having returned to singing a few years ago after a long hiatus, I have found great inspiration and gained much knowledge working with dear Sherri," said Alice.



**Barbara Provus**, who lives in Chicago, attended her Class of 1967's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion last year.

**Joyce Hehir Clyde '64** and husband Gary celebrated 50 years together with a first-class trip to Hawai'i. They stayed on Poipu Beach on Kauai with family. Joyce and Gary are retired. She was a teacher, and he was a dean at the college level. They spend summers on their boat and home in Anacortes, WA. Winters are spent in their motor home in California and Arizona as snowbirds. They have two daughters and a 5-year-old grandchild.



**George Weisz '69**, a former Arizona State Representative, served as a pallbearer at the funeral service for Senator John McCain held in Phoenix, AZ. Weisz is one of ETHS's Distinguished Alumni Award winners.



On September 16, former U.S. Marine **Mike Arrington '61** (at center) and the Black Daggers parachuted into Soldier Field before the Chicago Bears game.

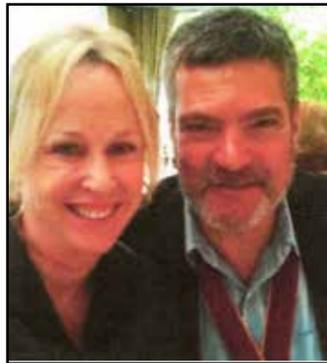
**John Harris '64** holds Realtor Emeritus status with 40+ years selling real estate in the North Shore suburbs and North side of Chicago. "I've seen many changes in the business," he says. He's been with Koenig Rubloff Realty Group most of that time. It's currently owned by Warren Buffet, and "it's been a good move," he said. His office phone/email is 847-556-5860, [jharris@KoenigRubloff.com](mailto:jharris@KoenigRubloff.com), web site is [JohnE-Harris.net](http://JohnE-Harris.net). He's lived in Rogers Park for 30 years, and says he'd be glad to help any classmates find their new home.



**Helga Zirkel Schwarten '64** is among 70+ persons of interest from *Look Magazine's* decade of the 1960s. She was first discovered by *Look* in 1964 when the magazine rated ETHS as first among high schools in the nation. They came back in 1969 for another photo shoot/story of Helga, who served on the Girls' Club Board all four years at ETHS (Vice President her senior year) and was Homecoming Queen as a senior, among other activities. All of these pictures are among *Look's* portfolio that was donated to the Library of Congress prior to going out of business. Ganzell Communications is doing a documentary on the 70+ persons of interest - <http://sixties-survivors.org/> Bill Ganzel spent three days here in July video interviewing Helga and taking pics.

## 1970s

**Iris Sneider Waichler '72** is an award-winning author, freelance writer, and speaker. Her latest book, *Role Reversal How to Take Care of Yourself and Your Aging Parents* won six book awards including a Finalist Best Book Award and Book Excellence Award. She has written hundreds of articles on healthcare related topics and speaks about issues related to aging and caregiving. She has also written *Riding the Infertility Roller Coaster: A Guide to Educate and Inspire*, which won the Mom's Choice Gold Award Winner for Best Book of the Year, National Parenting Publications (NAPPA) Gold Award for best book of the year and the finalist award for *Foreword Magazine* 2007 non-fiction Book of the Year.



**Steven Stone '72** is an attorney in Chicago, where he lives with his wife Barbara. They were married in 1979 and have three children: Christopher, Jeffrey, and Jennifer.

## 1980s



**Amy Skalinder '87** has been named the new Executive Director of the Howard Area Community Center (HACC), a community-based social impact agency. Amy's career has largely been in the nonprofit sector with organizations that focus on serving youth and families and community health, including 10 years in various roles at the McGaw YMCA in Evanston and six years as the Executive Director of Angles (formerly LINKS - North Shore Youth Health Service) in Northfield. She joins

HACC from NorthShore University HealthSystem, where she provided operational leadership to large outpatient psychiatric and behavioral health practices across multiple sites. After ETHS, Amy attended Tufts U and Loyola U Chicago, where she earned a Master's Degree in Social Work. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with family, singing in a classical chamber choir, and playing ice hockey.

## 1990s



**Dr. Amy Swift-Johnson '91** works as a full-time family medicine physician at Aurora Healthcare in Union Grove, WI. She lives in Zion, IL, with her husband, **Maurice Johnson '90**, and two children, Andrew and Marisa. Amy was awarded the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation given annually to a faculty member who exemplifies integrity, excellence, compassion, altruism, respect, empathy, and service. She was recently promoted to Assistant Professor at Rosalind Franklin U Chicago Medical School, where she teaches in many capacities. She is a 2006 alum of the Chicago Medical School and is an active member of the admissions and scholarship committees.



**Laura Carfang '99**, a breast cancer survivor, planned to defy all odds and run in the 2018 Bank of America Chicago Marathon on October 7. She hopes that her partici-

Cont. on page 10

**Class Notes**  
Cont. from p. 9

pation will provide hope and courage to thousands of women in the Chicago area. An ETHS and Loyola University alumna, Laura was diagnosed with breast cancer in late 2016 at age 34. In October 2017, she founded SurvivingBreast-Cancer.org, committed to empowering breast cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers, from day one. Its website has become a second home where patients, survivors and caregivers “can share their ups and down, provide tips and ideas, hug, cry, scream, hope and pray.”

**2000s**

**Fatouma Hewitt '15** participated in art, theater and acting at ETHS. She received two National Honor Society awards her junior and senior year and enrolled in two Oakton Community College (OCC) courses while at ETHS with the thought of pursuing a performing arts career. But, while at Oakton, she explored new career paths, including botany and agriculture, harking back to working in her home garden and at the Garfield Park Conservatory when she was younger. In 2018, she won OCC's 2018 Leadership Award and earned her Associate of Arts degree. She now attends the U of IL's College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences in Champaign-Urbana.

In May, **Lea Hemphill '00** graduated from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, LA, and has accepted a legal position in Chicago. She now lives in Chicago (email: miracle-baby2@hotmail.com).

**Kennan Daoudi '09**, Hamline University '13, and National-Louis University '16, has received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program English Teaching Assistant award to Algeria from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Daoudi will support the teaching of English at The Polytechnic School of Algiers as part of a project to help Algerian educators teach English while serving as a cultural ambassador for the U.S.

# Reunion Roundup

## Class of '68 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion – Raising the Bar

Over 350 '68 ETHS alumni, guests, and former teachers converged on the high school this September for the “best reunion in the school's history.”

Following recent tradition, three core events were a casual party on Friday night, a day at ETHS on Saturday, and a fancier evening party Saturday night. But, the '68 alums decided to knock the socks off this high school reunion.

Reunion maestros, **David Wells** and **Gil Hoel**, orchestrated the whole affair and kept us all safe, legal, and out of debt.

**The event** began Thursday with a luncheon honoring 22 former faculty members, hosted by **Susan Moore Gobel** and 35 other '68 alumni at the Michigan Shore Club (*see related story*). Thursday night, **Janon Furlong** organized a dinner at Hack-



**Gil Hoel (at l.), Harriett Wolf-skill Mitchell, and David Wells made the most of renewing friendships.**

ney's on Harms serving up a side of nostalgia along with the fried onion loaf.

Friday was another busy day. In the morning, **Nancy Marple Carter** sponsored a Chicago Architectural Foundation walking tour of Evanston's historic lakefront district, and **Tim Landfield** led a

brilliant master acting class at ETHS for advanced drama students.

**Friday night** was a casual buffet at the Levy Center, attended by over 240 classmates and guests. Cheers broke out for the arrival of the ETHS marching band, in full regalia, playing the Fight Song, followed by the presentation of the Class Gift check for over \$50,000 to the ETHS Educational Foundation.

Saturday during the day, 200 classmates visited ETHS for tours and a smorgasbord of activities ranging from panel discussions (on law and the media, war and peace, sports and health, film, TV, and theater, scientist citizens, and music in our future) to classmate storytelling, folk music performances, and a Dixie band jam.

The grand event Saturday night at the Doubletree was attended by over 300

'68-ers and their fans, with an Italian-themed buffet dinner, a DJ, and a custom movie by John Coulter about our era. Emcees **Jim Parks** and **Leondra Price** kept it lively. Best of all were the hundreds of conversations taking place in every corner of the hotel, as friends reconnected and remembered why it was so terrific being at ETHS.

**In case we** didn't get enough exercise dancing on Saturday night, **Greg Cook** led a Sunday morning bicycle tour of Evanston, starting and ending at the high school.

The class of '69 has a lot of work to do to outshine '68. And by the way, rumor has it that '68 has plans to have a reunion or two every year from now on!

By **Helene Nelson Full '68**

## Lunch with the teachers a big hit

The ETHS Class of '68 held its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion September 14-16. Classmates kicked off their reunion weekend with a Faculty Appreciation Lunch where they honored retired teachers at Michigan Shores Club in Wilmette.

Faculty honorees included Henrietta Berning and Ann Stevens, girls' PE; Curt Crotty and Jill Jahant, English; Owen Hein, Combined Studies; Mary Jane Crotty, Latin; Kirsten Borg, Pat Peterson, and William Siavelis, history; Roland Dubosq, French; Doug Halsted, David Taylor, and Jerry Leibforth, chemistry; Larry Larkin, physics; Sam Sibley, mathematics; Jerry Madden, TV and media; Bill Ditton, theater arts; Diane Rosewall, representing her husband Richard, Music Chair; Robert Trevarthen, track coach and vice principal; Jane Koten, counselor; Don Owens, music/band; and John Reque, journalism.

**Alumni hosts** introduced the retirees with personal and glowing comments, each highlighting the impact these faculty members had on their students, which have been long remembered.

Then on Saturday, the class held panel discussions on topics ranging from Viet Nam to the future of science, and music and theater. Classmates and faculty retirees also toured the new additions to the school such as the upgraded auto shop and Chem-Phys/Theory Center compound.

**According to** Jill Jahant: “It was such a pleasant occasion and all of us realized the talent of the lead organizer, **Susan Moore Gobel '68**. Thanks Class of '68! And thanks **Dave Futransky '69**, Alumni Assn. Executive Director, for the tour of the school.”

It was a wonderful experience for the alumni to discover what their teachers have been doing for the past 50 years, and to see the old sparkle still in their eyes. And it was huge fun for the faculty, who were able to reconnect with colleagues and bask in an afternoon of adulation. Lesson learned: our ETHS teachers really were great, and still are!

Thanks to **Susan Moore Gobel '68** for her contributions to this article



**John Reque, Pat Peterson, Robert Trevarthen**



**Henrietta Berning**



**Mary Jane and Curtis Crotty**



**William Siavelis**



**Jane Koten**



**Doug Halsted, Jerry Leibforth**



**Roland Dubosq, Christine Cozzens '68**



**Ann Stevens**

## 1968 alumnus earns his ETHS diploma 50 years later

The 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Class of 1968 was marked by a special ceremony on Saturday, September 15. **Dennis Sershon '68** left school prior to his graduation and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He was deployed to Viet Nam, earned multiple military honors including two Purple Hearts, two presidential unit citations, and a naval unit citation, while serving his tour of duty. After receiving an honorable discharge, he returned to the Chicago area, worked, married, raised a family and stayed close to several Evanston school friends.

Sershon and **Laura Palmer '68**, who had been a reporter in Vietnam and later became a TV news producer, author, and hospital



**Dennis Sershon received his diploma from David Futransky, Alumni Assn. Executive Director.**

chaplain, were recruited to participate in a reunion discussion panel “War and Peace: Looking at War’s Impact, from the battlefield to the villages, newsrooms, and hospitals,”

During preparation for the panel, Palmer learned Sershon’s story and suggested

to Alumni Assn. Executive Director **David Futransky '69** and Supt. Eric Witherspoon that ETHS give Sershon an honorary diploma. They learned that a recent change in Illinois state law allowed Korean and Vietnam War veterans to receive diplomas, no matter how much time had elapsed since their original graduation.

So, following the panel discussion Futransky presented Sershon with his ETHS diploma to a standing ovation from his classmates and many retired faculty members.

Congratulations to the most recent graduate of the ETHS Class of 1968, Dennis Sershon!

## Combined Studies reunion in the works

Over the years, the ETHS Alumni Association has held reunions for affinity groups. These have ranged from Athletics to Chem-Phys and from YAMO to Chess. Now plans are afoot to host a reunion for alumni who participated in the Combined Studies Program over the years.

Combined Studies was a program that taught History and English together. At times, Fine Arts and portions of the Mathematics curriculum were also taught in this program. It started in the late 1930s in consultation with Northwestern University and morphed

into various forms until the late 1970s.

A key component to Combined Studies in the '60s and '70s was student involvement in planning of class activities and units. There was a CS council that met regularly with faculty and department leadership.

In following that tradition, a Combined Studies Reunion planning committee will be meeting during the winter of 2019. If you are interested in participating or have ideas for a gathering in late 2019 or early 2020, please contact [alumni@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:alumni@eths.k12.il.us).

## Class of '70 + One commune in the outdoors



After three days canoeing on a Lewis and Clark stretch of the Missouri River, these six hiked three days along their Lolo Trail journey. Pictured (l to rt) are Jim Kinzer, Bill Welch, Bruce Carmichael, Jim Westfall (“who organized and herded the squirrels,” quipped Bill Geiger) Kent Smith, and Bill Geiger — all ETHS '70s except Kent '71.

## Class of '64 to celebrate 55th reunion next fall

It's now official! '64 classmates will hold their 55th Class Reunion **Friday, September 13, and Saturday, September 14, 2019**. So **SAVE THE DATE**. They will be lunching at Hackney's on Friday, “Meeting and Greeting” on Friday Night, and enjoying a buffet dinner on Saturday night. They are exploring something for Saturday day and possibly Sunday brunch, as well. Details will follow as the committee gets everything more organized. Questions? Contact **Kathy Dalgety Miehls '64** at [kathymiehls@yahoo.com](mailto:kathymiehls@yahoo.com).

## 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of Class of 1969

Save the Date! September 13 – 15, 2019

- Friday at Frisbee Center in Des Plaines
- Saturday night at Levy Center in Evanston

Contact [Eths1969@gmail.com](mailto:Eths1969@gmail.com) for information.

- [www.eths1969.myevent.com](http://www.eths1969.myevent.com)
- Facebook – Evanston Township High School Class of 1969

## Class of 1958—60th REUNION AND BEYOND

Our 60th Reunion, held in Evanston this summer, was by all reports the “Best EVER”! We were able to talk with some of our classmates we hadn’t seen since graduation. We ate and drank and laughed and played with friends that, in some cases, went back as far as kindergarten. Wonderful people, people we have missed. Over 100 people attended, our largest attendance in the past 10 years.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who came and enjoyed all or part of the four days we had together. For those who weren’t able to attend, we’re sorry they couldn’t. It was a very special time! Our Web Master, **Bill Bregar**, has just updated our web site and posted a lot of pictures from the 60th, so go to [ETHS58.org](http://ETHS58.org) and re-visit the good time you shared or see what—and whom—you missed.

For the future, we definitely plan to continue producing Reunions—at least as long as your Reunion Committee is still upright and relatively capable. We definitely plan to do every five years back in the Evanston area.

In between the Big 5’s we’re considering gathering in other places around the country to make it easier for some of you to participate as well as giving the rest of us a chance to visit old friends in fun, new places. What about New Orleans, San Francisco, the Florida Keys?



**Planning Committee met at Hackney's on Lake: (l. to rt.) Barbara Page Lamm, Geoff Wilson, Sue Hemb Alt, Ed Kovan, Gary Wandrey, Pete Otterstrom (Chairman), Missing: Bill Bregar**

Maybe we’ll even entice you to take a vacation with us—perhaps on a Mexican beach, a river cruise, a train ride through the Canadian Rockies...

*Your Class of 1958 Reunion Committee*

**Pete Otterstrom**, 2018 Reunion Chair

**Bill Bregar**, Co-Chair and Webmaster

**Ed Kovan**, Co-Chair

**Geoff Wilson**, Co-Chair

**Sue Hemb Alt**, Master List Keeper & Regional Coordinator Manager

**Gary Wandrey**, Hospitality Suite Manager

**Barbara Page Lamm**, Treasurer



**These Class of '58 classmates checked out the “Ballerina” statue by noted sculptor Sylvia Shaw Judson, which was the '58 senior class gift, in Senior Courtyard.**

## Class of '63 mini-reunion



**Our more-or-less usual group from the ETHS Class of 1963 had its 50+5 reunion in Chicago this summer. Here is a picture of us (l. to rt.) are Payson Wild, Kit Vernon, Richard (Wes) Westerfield, Bob Carlson, Don Friedman, Tom McCoy, and Richard Robin.**

## Classmates who lunch...have fun!



Ever since their 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion in September 2014, many ETHS '64 classmates have met for monthly luncheons in the Chicago area. Most live locally, but some from far and wide join in when they are in town. This lunch held in August at Hackney's on Lake was no exception. Gathered here are: front row, (l to rt)—Jerri Engeln McCabe, Bonnie Gerth, Kathy Dalgety Miehl, Nancy Schroeder; 2<sup>nd</sup> row (l to rt)—Sylvia Ramming Wulffen, Judy Anderson, Betty Stoehr Reeder, Renee Sherer Schleicher, Jim Deerfield, Steve Gerth; back row (l to rt)—Bob Reeder, Fred Brostoff, Fran O'Connell, and Robert Lindner. Nancy Schroeder lives in Long Boat Key, FL, and the Reeders live in Sarasota, FL.

## Class of 1961 makes donation to ETHS Foundation

**Dianne Trenbeth '61**, Treasurer of the Class of 1961's reunion committee, recently donated the remaining balance from the class's reunion account to the ETHS Foundation. The reunion committee decided to donate the reunion balance to the Foundation rather than keep it banked for future reunions. The class held its 55<sup>th</sup>—and possibly last—reunion in August 2016.

## ETHS Class of '60 .... 2020

**60th Reunion Plans are in the works. Contact Elena Pappas [elenapappas5929@yahoo.com](mailto:elenapappas5929@yahoo.com) for more details.**

## Class of 2018 inducted into ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame

Two of the most successful football coaches in Evanston's history are among the six individuals and two teams selected to the Evanston Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2018 by a committee of coaches, administrators, and community members.

**TOM ALDERSON '55, Boys' Swimming** Tom Alderson started swimming on his own in Chicago and transferred to ETHS as a freshman. However, he was a major contributor to the Evanston swim teams that collected three straight state-team titles under Hall of Fame coach Dobbie Burton, winning three gold medals and a silver in his three-year ETHS career. Only two other Wildkit male swimmers—fellow Hall of Famers **Dick Hanley '55** and **Mike Farmer '55**—have been part of three state championship squads.

Alderson was the first to win a state title as a high school sophomore, winning the 100-yard freestyle. He also earned a gold medal in the 200-freestyle relay. As a junior, Alderson settled for 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100-freestyle behind New Trier rival Don Patterson. He finished his senior season on a triumphant note, ruling the State 200-freestyle in 2:02.4 and placing 5<sup>th</sup> in the 150-individual-medley event.

**HOMER FLEETWOOD 1922, Baseball/Basketball** Twenty-five years before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier for Major League Baseball, Evanston's Homer Fleetwood was making inroads as a local pioneer for Black athletes. An accomplished baseball and basketball player at ETHS, his contributions to the Evanston community went beyond the diamond and the court. He shares the honor of having the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center in Evanston named after him and Edwin B. Jourdain Jr., Evanston's first Black alderman.

Fleetwood was the first Black athlete to play varsity basketball and baseball at ETHS, and the first named as a varsity team captain (the 1922 baseball squad). A catcher for the Wildkit baseball team, he was also the second leading scorer for the basketball team as a senior, and was voted 2nd-Team All-Suburban League by

the basketball coaches. After attending the U of IL, he transferred to Northwestern U and was the first African American to suit up for basketball there.

Fleetwood took over as the recreation director at Evanston's Foster Park following World War II, and created opportunities for youngsters and adults while holding that job for more than two decades. He retired in the mid-1960s, only to return when park officials found his replacement couldn't do the job. He organized baseball teams for youngsters, started softball teams for women and men, and organized tennis classes, mostly for women. In the winter, he'd flood the tennis courts so people could ice skate. He even had kite-flying contests set up at Foster.

**JUVON MCGARRY '89 Boys' Basketball** Any true Evanston basketball fan would include Juvon McGarry on the all-time starting five for ETHS. His resume is impressive. He's the career-leading scorer at ETHS with 1,479 points in his three varsity seasons (1986-89), ranks second in rebounding, and still owns the single-season scoring mark, pouring in 604 points as a senior during 1988-89. After ETHS, the 6-foot-5, 220-pounder was the leading scorer his final year for a Kankakee Community College team that ranked No. 1 nationally. In his only season at Western Illinois, he was the squad's second leading scorer.

McGarry moved to Evanston from Chicago's West Side in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and his ability was easy for head coach **Mike Hart '69** and assistant Jerry Murphy to spot right away. He averaged 21.5 points as a senior, and 20 points per game and 11 rebounds as a junior.

At Kankakee, he bolstered the team and they only lost five games in two years. McGarry landed at Western Illinois as a junior after being recruited by major four-year schools. But his career at WIU was cut short due to a family tragedy, and he came home to help support the family.

**GABRIELLE MEAD, '92, Girls' Track** Gabrielle Mead may not have been the ultimate team player

for the Evanston girls' track program, but she showed the way for others at the dawn of ETHS's girls' track dynasty. Mead captured the state championship in the 300-meter hurdles as a junior in 1991, placed 5<sup>th</sup> in that event as a senior, and collected three other state medals in relay races for a Wildkit program that earned its first state team title in 1991.

Mead combined athletic prowess with academic excellence, compiling a 4.3 GPA and earning Academic All-State recognition. She found a balance within a sport where the ETHS coaching staff tries to emphasize the team aspect of what is mostly an individual sport. Mead admitted decades later that she was more excited about winning the 800-meter medley relay at state than she was about her unexpected gold-medal performance in the 300 hurdles.

As a senior at state, Mead settled for 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 300 hurdles, rallied the 1600 relay team from 4<sup>th</sup> place when she got the baton to an overall 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish, and ran a leg that held the 800 medley team to 6<sup>th</sup>. ETHS earned 6<sup>th</sup> place in the team standings that year. Mead continued her track career at Yale University, switching to middle distance races by her sophomore year.

**JOHN RIEHLE, Football Coach/Athletic Director** John Riehle's impact on and off the football field will never be forgotten by those he encountered and mentored at Evanston. As head football coach, he guided the Wildkits to the state playoffs in 10 of the 12 years he led the program. A won-loss record of 97-33 included a total of 7 Central Suburban League South championships in those 12 seasons. Evanston only endured one losing season with Riehle at the helm, at 4-5 in his final season in 1999.

Riehle also served as Athletic Director at ETHS from 2000-2005 and, as he had during his tenure in football, always put the needs of students first. He helped a total of 48 football players earn Division I college scholarships, including 4 who played in the National Football League. Riehle's career as both a coach and administrator could actually be

summed up in just two words — He Cared. Riehle served as president of the Illinois High School Football Coaches' Association and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2001.

**CECIL 'POP' VANCE, Football Coach** In the depths of the Depression, Pop Vance brought Evanston's football program to new heights and led the Wildkits to three mythical state championships (1930, 1932, and 1934), five Suburban League titles, and an overall record of 45-5-6.

In the early 1920s, Vance moved to Chicago and coached one year at Proviso in Maywood, compiling a 4-3-1 record in 1924. Vance joined the ETHS coaching staff and assisted a fellow Hall of Famer, John Riddell, for three years before taking over in 1928. The Wildkits finished 6-0-2 in 1928; 3-4-1 in 1929; 7-0-1 in 1930; 7-1 in 1931; 7-0-1 in 1932; 7-0-1 in 1933; and 8-0 in 1934.

Vance's success didn't go unnoticed. The new head coach at Northwestern U, Lynn "Pappy" Waldorf, added Vance to his staff as one of his first moves prior to the 1935 season. He hoped Vance would bring some of his players with him, and that first season ETHS standouts **Bob Voigts '35** and **Dan Gertz** came with Vance to NU. Voigts later earned All-American honors for the Wildcats and became NU's head coach after Waldorf left in 1946.

**1963 BOYS' GYMNASTICS TEAM** Evanston wasn't even on the state gymnastics map in the early 1960s when Ron Walden was hired as head coach to start a new program. When he was finished, he had established a mini-dynasty. Working with athletes who had competed in the sport at any level prior to high school, Walden led the Wildkits to the state championships in 1963, 1965, and 1967.

Walden's philosophy was to build a team, not just to focus on the top individuals. So seven Wildkits on the 1963 squad scored top 10 finishes in the state finals, enough to deliver the team title by a margin of 67 points to 54 for runner-up Niles E. That performance completed a perfect season for ETHS, which

won all 12 dual meets, dominated the Suburban League meet 122 to 96 for Proviso E, and edged Niles E by a half point (107-106.5) at the district meet at Niles.

"We won it with a team effort, and they really matured from when they started as freshmen to when they were seniors," said Walden, who was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame himself in 2017.

**1997 FOOTBALL TEAM** A case could be made that the 1997 squad was the best team in school history, despite all the "mythical" state titles earned by the Evanston football program. That group of Wildkits tied the school record (11 wins) set by the 1994 squad, was the first team to post a perfect 9-0 mark during the regular season, and averaged 34 points per game.

Only a 13-0 loss in the quarterfinal round of the state playoffs at Andrew—after a storm dumped six inches of snow on the field by halftime—prevented that team from turning in the best postseason performance by an ETHS team since the playoffs began in 1974.

Otherwise, the Wildkits were dominant all season led by **Sean Hopson '98**, **Andrew Westhouse '98**, and the late **Tripp Healy '98**. Hopson, Hall of Fame running back **Siaka Massaquoi '98** and **Algie Atkinson '98**, who set a single season school record for quarterback sacks with 15, were all named as All-Staters as the 'Kits crushed St. Charles (42-17), Glenbrook N (41-0), Niles N (47-0), Maine W (28-10), Maine E (55-12), New Trier (28-20), Niles W (40-7), Glenbrook S (21-7) and Waukegan (33-12) and completed a perfect regular season. The Central Suburban League South champs then scored big over Zion-Benton (34-7) and Libertyville (33-10) before stumbling at Andrew. Ranked No. 4 in the country by *USA Today*, the 'Kits only faltered on that fateful trip to the south suburbs for the Class 6A quarterfinals.

*By Dennis Mahoney*

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# In Memory

## 1930s

Anna Muench Hieber, 1937, 4/22/2018

Donald R. Gustavson, 1938, 9/9/2017

Jean Elizabeth Walden Ward, 1939, 9/20/2018

## 1940s

Elizabeth "Betty" Brown Young, 1940, 10/16/2015

Edward Dohring, 1942, died in 2014

Mary Anne Armistead Hoover, 1943, February 2018

Elizabeth Kelsey Browder, 1943, 12/27/2017

Leroy Hokenson, 1944, 5/15/2013

Elmer Michael Hahn, 1945, 7/12/2018

Richard A. Martin, 1946, 11/24/2017

Walter "Rennie" Newman, 1946, 4/17/18

Edward J. Budil, 1947, 11/16/2015

Mary Olsen Dohring, 1947, 4/12/2018

Dorothy Peterson Chasteen, 1947, died in 2013

Harriette Clarke Hokenson, 1947, 2/17/16

John R. "Jack" Benson, 1947, 5/12/2018

Patricia Kelsey, 1948, 11/6/2017

Robert Padgett, 1948, Fall 2016

Tom O'Laughlin, 1948, 7/19/2018

## 1950s

Dr. Erick Robert Ratzler, 1950, 7/7/2017

Lucy Muchmore Maday, 1950, 11/13/2014

Jean Murphy Stickrod, 1950, 5/3/2018

Helen Salmon Schroeder, 1950, 9/5/2018

Barbara Hobart Mitten, 1950, 10/7/2018

Robert Baker, 1952, 4/9/2018

Ted D. Kimbrough, 1952, 4/16/2018

Kenneth Walker Jr., 1952, 4/12/2018

Don Maloney, 1953, 10/16/2018

Palmer Gehring, 1954, 5/19/2018

Kerry Winn Burstein, 1954, 7/18/2018

Howard Brinton, 1954, 10/8/2018

Carol Cunningham Sawyer, 1955, 1/30/2018

Diane Edith Romnes-Smith, 1956, 8/16/2018

Joseph Terry Denny, 1956, April 2018

Ruth Burzik, 1957, 8/14/2018

Fred Wakefield, 1957, 1/28/2018

Cathleen Carver Schaffer, 1959, 3/20/2018

## 1960s

Evelyn Katz Ziven, 1961, 1/1/2018

Robert Pickens, 1962, 4/12/2018

Jeffrey L. Goodwin, 1963, 4/27/2017

Stephen Packard, 1963, 6/5/2018

Alice Jones Carter, 1964, 8/22/2018

James "Jim" Lindgren, 1964, 9/20/2018

James Lunn, 1964, 9/30/2018

Roy Gutman, 1964

Barb McCaull Arnoux, 1965, 2/18/2018

Thomas Arnoux, 1965, 8/21/2018

Robert D. Hackman, 1965, 5/17/2018

Dean Satterthwaite, 1966, 2/14/2014

Steven Schultz, 1967, 4/6/2018

Albert Joy, 1968, 6/22/2015

Alan Schencker, 1968, died in 2012

Sanford "Sandy" Champion, 1968, 6/22/2015

Jill Finke Stuart, 1969, December 2017

Elyse Ross Iper, 1969, 7/10/2016

Deborah Roxburgh Scott, 1969, June 2014

Benjamin Adams Rawlins Jr., 1969, 1/18/2015

Dr. Kevin Halstuck, 1969, 9/1/2018

Philip Reznick, 1969, 6/13/2018

Richard Strafer, 1969, 7/21/2017

Bruce Kapp, 1969, 4/21/2008

## 1970s

James Haswell, 1970, 10/11/2010

Sarah E. Stevens, 1971, 4/25/2018

Gregg A. Field, 1971, 1/2/2018

Terry O'Gara, 1975, 12/26/2017

Alan Goodson, 1977, 3/6/2018

Myles Ullenbrauck, 1979, 8/27/2018

## 1980s

Bishop Benjamin Gibert, 1980, 2/28/2017

## 1990s

Brierly W. Anderson, 1990, 8/10/2018

Russell Todres, 1990, died September 2018

Paul T. Carr, 1995, 9/24/2018

**Editor's Note:** Last spring, we listed James Roberts, who died 1/8/2018, as being in the Class of 1968. He was in the Class of 1965. We regret the error.

## ETHS Faculty Members

**Dr. George F. Seidenbecker** died on July 11, 2018, at age 74. He taught English at ETHS for 33 years, retiring in 2000, and was known for his sense of humor, his love of language, and, especially, puns. He created the Pun Club and headed the Creative Writing Club, and his students won many awards for their poetry and prose over the years. He was passionate about the Macintosh computer and spearheaded the installation of a Mac lab at ETHS. He wrote reflections and poetry on his iPad and an "Auto Biography" about his other passion: cars.

**Janet Gohmann**, a Special Education visual arts teacher, died on May 14, 2018. She taught at ETHS for 23 years and retired in June 2010. An inventive educator and valued member of her department, she inspired her special-needs students to express themselves and build their self-confidence through the visual arts.

**Ken McGonagle** died on May 10, 2018, at age 88. He taught and coached at ETHS from 1955-1989, primarily serving as the varsity head baseball coach and head boys' soccer coach, where he accumulated the most wins by any coach in the history of our school, 727, while also winning the state championship in summer baseball and three state championships in boys' soccer. McGonagle was also a pioneer in sports at ETHS, introducing soccer to our school in 1959. He is a member of five Halls of Fame including the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches' Association, Illinois State Soccer Coaches' Association, and the Royalton (MN) High School Hall of Fame.

**Ronald C. Helberg**, head track coach at ETHS from 1967-80, died August 6, 2018, at age 81. A noted track/field runner himself, he coached at Palatine (1959-62) and Maine East (1962-70) before coming to ETHS, where he led the Wildkits to state track team championships in 1970, 1971, 1972, and 1974. From 1980-94, he served as Athletic Director at Hoffman Estates and Glenbrook South High Schools. A founder and former president of the IL Track/Cross Country Coaches' Assn., he was also inducted into that organization's Hall of Fame.

**Vivian Schurfranz**, 92, retired teacher and History Department Chair, died on July 1, 2018 in Evanston. She was admired by her students and the countless readers she influenced through her work as a teacher and author. Her career as a teacher spanned four decades in Arkansas and Illinois. As an author, her novels *Roman Hostage* and *A Message for General Washington* engaged and educated thousands of young readers. In all, Schurfranz wrote more than 25 novels, including seven of the popular Boxcar Children books.



**ETHS**  
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## Alumni Gifts Strengthen the ETHS Experience

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Your support is evident on every corner of the ETHS campus...state-of-the-art Planetarium...functionally designed Ceramics Studio...innovative Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Labs...university-quality Chem/Phys Labs and Research Center...stunning new atrium at the athletic entranceway...and much more.



This year, with your help, the Foundation is setting its sights on transforming the outdated weight room into a new Wildkit Wellness and Performance Center. This facility will have a new dynamic, a new aesthetic, and a new purpose.

**E**very student uses this facility—students in P.E. classes, after-school intramural participants, and student athletes training with their sports teams.

**T**ransforming the floor plan and adding adaptive equipment will better serve a diverse student body with varied size, strength, and biomechanical differences. Students with physical and learning challenges will be able to participate more fully.

**H**igher levels of confidence and motivation are added benefits of conditioning.

**S**tudents interested in careers in wellness and fitness fields will be exposed to current best practices.

With growing concerns for the well-being of our 3,600+ students, we recognize that fitness has a positive effect on their minds as well as their bodies, and we strive to foster a healthier school environment.

Most of the Foundation's funding for campus improvements comes from individual donors just like you who want to strengthen the ETHS experience.

Can we count on you to continue to offer the best for our students?

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The Alumni Office has found we have several thousand duplicate addresses in our 50,000+ data base. In an effort to reduce postage costs, and keep people from getting 2, 3 or more copies of *The KIT* in their mailbox, we decided to be more efficient. This cuts the paper printing cost, as well as postage, and allows us to still be able to send the ETHS alumni newsletter to you.

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