

Last-minute score lifts 'Kits to homecoming win over Trevians

by Dennis Mahoney, ETHS Sports Information Director

There have been plenty of iconic moments in the history of the Evanston-New Trier football rivalry, one that dates back to 1913.

Demarion Timberlake added his name to the list of Wildkit legends Friday, September 29, at Lazier Field on a play that would have made Murney Lazier, the late Hall of Fame coach, proud.

Timberlake's determination to reach the end zone matched Evanston's desperation to end a four-game losing skid and his touchdown with 43 seconds left in the game lifted the hosts to a 26-22 homecoming victory over New Trier in front of a packed house.

Put simply, Timberlake refused to lose.

On his 46-yard, fourth-quarter touchdown run, a push from behind from teammate **Owen McElhatton**, on a last-minute screen pass from quarterback **Colin Livatino**, helped the ETHS running back plow through a mob of potential tacklers and sprint down the left sideline for the game-winning score.

With the victory, Evanston moved to 1-1 in the Central Suburban League South division and improved to 2-4 overall, reviving talk around the program about a potentially strong finish that could still secure an IHSA state playoff berth. The loss knocked the Trevians (1-5) out of postseason consideration.

According to ETHS head coach Mike Burzawa: "We found a way to win tonight, and these kids deserve it. We had a big team discussion on Monday – about more than Xs and Os, about going out there and playing free, having fun, believing in yourself. They made a memory for themselves tonight, and I'm so proud of them."

The Wildkits did face adversity on more than one occasion, plagued by bad center snaps on punts that led to bad field position. But the beleaguered defensive unit rose to the



Scoreboard tells the story. "I gave it my all," says Demarion Timberlake of his winning run.

occasion, forcing three turnovers and racking up four sacks of New Trier quarterback Patrick Heneghan while limiting the Trevians to 141 yards rushing.

Senior linebacker **Yohanness Jean-Francois** accounted for two of those sacks and also blocked a field goal attempt. Junior **Ryan Abrams** contributed a sack and an interception, and sophomore **Michael Pryor** intercepted a pass on the final play of the game to seal the win.

Evanston now leads the all-time series against New

Trier with 56 wins to 53 for the Trevs. The two rivals have tied six times.

"If we had lost this game, the season would be over [out of playoff consideration]," said Jean-Francois. "And it was our last chance as seniors to beat New Trier. I think the seniors were all really locked in because of that. We just had to stay locked in."

"This is a big win. Absolutely, this could be a turning point in the season," said Burzawa. "When you get the validation for all of the hard work you put in, it sure is a great feeling."

From the Alumni Association Executive Director

THEY COME TO US!

When we host reunion classes for tours or other alumni groups, especially from classes that graduated in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, we are often asked to compare ETHS of "back in the day" to our school as it exists today. I have been involved in conversations that look at many touchpoints for evaluating what ETHS is like vs. yesterday.

These range from discussions of the metrics used by publications that "rate" schools, to demographic information of yesterday and today, and tend to wonder if anything in the

present can compare with our impressions and memories of the past. ETHS has always been known as a top school.

Earlier, when ETHS was growing to reach its peak enrollment – over 5,400 students in the late 1960s and early 1970s, we were a recognized leader. Our building was expanding to handle this growth, schedules were created around "mods," and Evanston—and the world—was very different.

ETHS was approximately 80-85% white. Students were tracked into pre-college or pre-vocational avenues, which were not



David Futransky '69

broadly acknowledged. A national magazine rated ETHS as the #1 high school in America. However, that rating was mostly anecdotal. We had many students going to highly selective colleges and universities. We had National Merit Scholar Fi-

nalists and Semi-Finalists. We prided ourselves on the number of high achievers on standardized tests such as the number of Illinois State Scholars based on ACT scores. Not all of our students took those tests, but those who did were well prepared.

Today we rank in the top 3% of high schools in the USA by current publications. Another publication rated us #3 in Illinois. The total pool of schools is much larger than before. The "selective admissions" public high schools did not exist 50 years ago to the extent that it does today. The metrics are based on test scores—some the

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Superintendent's Letter

IN LAK'ECH

TU ERES MI OTRO YO.
You are my other me.

SI TE HAGO DANO A TI,
If I do harm to you,

ME HAGO DANO A MI MISMO.
I do harm to myself.

SI TE AMO Y RESPETO,
If I love and respect you,

ME AMO Y RESPETO YO.
I love and respect myself.

With the new school year underway, I'd like to share an excerpt from the poem "In Lak'ech" by Luis Valdez that I've been using with our staff to frame the work we do together.

The poem illustrates ETHS's commitment to honoring each other, and is a reminder that we are all connected. With

everything going on in the world, it remains important to me to be responsive to the voices of our ETHS family--our students, fami-

lies, and staff. We grow as a family when all of our voices are heard.

For this reason, our ETHS community believes in honoring all of our identities: race, disability, ability, ethnicity, religion, culture, gender, sexuality, economic class, and language. We continue to work hard to create an inclusive, accessible, and welcoming environment for all students in our classrooms and at all of our numerous events.

With our commitment to disrupting patterns of oppression, many have shared that they feel seen by our staff. Despite our efforts, however, some have also expressed they have felt invisible, dismissed, or humiliated because of their identity. We need to do

better. We can all do our part by paying attention to our multiple and intersecting identities.

Healing is a process, not a destination. It is an ongoing journey of growth and change. To that end, we believe in restorative practices and inclusive learning environments: shifting from punishment to growth, repairing harm, building community, and promoting accountability. Above all, we are dedicated to fostering a sense of belonging and wellbeing. This includes showing up for our students in and outside of school. Students are less likely to be depressed when we are connected to their full lives outside of school.



Supt. Dr. Marcus Campbell

"It is in collectivities that we find reservoirs of hope and optimism," Angela Davis said. Together, collectively, we can show up for students, staff, and families, and find our reservoirs of hope and optimism. I'm looking forward to a great school year. In Lak'ech.

Dr. Marcus Campbell

Dave Futransky Cont. from page 1

that other school districts looked at us as a model. Administrators and researchers from around the country came to visit and to learn how we were doing things to help our students. We were a pilot school for AP courses. We were innovators in scheduling. We held classes in Chemistry and Physics that were taught together, and we had a planetarium. Our teachers were featured speakers at conferences around the country. ETHS was held to be one of the top schools, not just one of the top public schools, in the United States. That was one of the better anecdotal measures of our success and status — educators knew of and admired and learned from the best practices at ETHS

So, how do we stack up today? How do we go beyond the magazine rankings and know if ETHS is as good a school,

or a better school, than when I was a student, graduating more than 50 years ago?

One way to tell is to see how we are viewed by other schools and districts. What are we doing that they aspire to do for their students? Who comes and looks at ETHS? Who reaches out to us to learn from our examples. The list is large and continues to grow. Our teachers are invited to speak at conferences in their fields. Administrators and researchers come and visit. As was true 60 years ago,

THEY COME TO US. The American Educational Research Association has visited twice. This prestigious group of higher education research professionals came to learn how we support all of our students



towards higher achievement. Minority Student Achievement Network schools have had administrators and teachers visit their ETHS counterparts to learn how we have helped more students be successful in more AP classes.

That group has also looked to ETHS for leadership in detracking many courses. Shaker Heights, Ohio, asked us to help them with detracking their schools, following the models we have been using for over

a decade, as have schools from Massachusetts such as Cambridge Rindge and Latin and Brookline. Oak Park River

Forest has sought our help as they try to better support their diverse population. Other districts such as Mundelein High School, Niles North, and Elk Grove have COME TO US as they look at their AP programs. Shepard, Eisenhower, and Richards High Schools have COME TO US to learn how we have been a leader in the use of Chromebooks with our students. Stevenson has COME TO US to learn what we have done with

Data Science classes and programs for students.

How do we measure success? Walking through the halls of ETHS I see successful students. Talking with ETHS teachers I hear of students who are learning and growing. And I see visitors from other schools who come to observe and learn about the things we do for our students. As alumni, we can be proud of our links to the chain that represents all of those who have come before and after us at our alma mater. We can be proud of how we are seen by broader communities. We can be very proud that other educators COME TO US to take home a part of the Wildkit Way.

ETHS graduates the Class of 2023



Nearly 900 ETHS students walked across the stage at Northwestern University's Welsh Ryan Arena during the Class of 2023 graduation ceremony on May 21, 2023.

Commencement speaker, preacher, union organizer, and public defender Jacqueline New-some '08 discussed the obstacles students faced in their four years of high school, including navigating a global pandemic. She encouraged the graduates to continue to grow and go after what you need to be a whole, healed person, saying "keep fighting the good fight and believe that you will win."

The KIT

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ETHS Alumni Assn. • 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201
847/424-7704 • alumni@eths.k12.il.us

ETHS NEWS

4 players, 2 teams, 2 coaches named to Athletic Hall of Fame

by Dennis Mahoney, ETHS Sports Information Director

Basketball royalty was crowned when the Class of 2023 was inducted into the ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame on August 25. Cage legends **Nojel Eastern '17**, **Leighah-Amori Wool '17**, **James Bixby** and the **1983-84 Class AA state runner-up basketball team** are the headliners for the newest class, which was recognized at the varsity football game.

Eastern and Wool top the list of outstanding individuals in ETHS basketball programs. Bixby was the first basketball coach to put the program on the map, creating an invitational tournament for top teams in the Midwest back when the Wildkits played their games at the local YMCA. And the 1983-84 basketball squad won its first 32 games in a row, a school record, before falling in the state title game.

Joining them in the Class of 2023 are soccer standout **Gus Eliopoulos '76**, football/basketball star **Caesar "Zip" Gayles '20**, track coach **Alvin Pierce Bradley '05**, and the **1959-60 state champion boys' swimming and diving team**.

The new inductees were chosen by a Hall of Fame committee that includes administrators, coaches, faculty, and community members.

LEIGHAH-AMORI WOOL, BASKETBALL



The 2023 Hall of Fame luncheon at Evanston was a family reunion for the best

female basketball player in school history.

And whether or not you agree that **Leighah-Amori Wool** is the GOAT – greatest of all-time – there's no denying that she's part of the first father-daughter combination to earn induction at the same time. Wool's father, **Steve Wool '85**, and her uncle **Lou Wool '84** joined Leighah-Amori in the newest Hall of Fame class, as both were members of the 1983-84 basketball squad that earned runner-up honors at the state basketball finals.

Leighah-Amori did it all for ETHS during her four-year varsity career. She was the first female player to surpass 1,000 points, and she's the program's career-leading scorer (1,268 points) and 3-point field-goal shooter. She's a two-time all-Central Suburban League South division selection and was named All-State as a junior. In college, she averaged double figures at both Western Michigan (12.5 points per game) and Stony Brook (10.5 ppg).

Her impact was so significant at ETHS that it almost defies description. She scored, rebounded, and even at her (6-foot) size often brought the ball up the court against enemy pressure.

Her dad noted: "She was really competitive and really hated losing. When she started playing AAU [Midwest Elite] she was coached by Josh Oppenheimer, a Milwaukee Bucks coach, who took her game to the next level."

Leighah-Amori led the Wildkits to four straight IHSA regional titles, but the 'Kits couldn't clear the sectional hurdle in any of those years. "Best player ever? I don't know about that," said Leighah-Amori. "I just played because I loved it."



NOJEL EASTERN, BASKETBALL

Football was his sport when Nojel Eastern first considered moving from Chicago to Evanston. Fortunately, he changed his mind and his basketball career took off and helped ETHS's program soar to new heights.

His induction into the ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame once he became eligible for the honor was a slam dunk. He ranks third all-time in career scoring with 1,456 points after starting all four years for the Wildkits. He's also the career-assist leader, is a three-time all-conference choice, and earned All-State honors in 2015-16.

ETHS's 92 victories during his career were a record for the program at the time. He was runner-up in the voting for Mr. Basketball in Illinois as a senior, then played three years at Purdue U. Currently, he's playing professional basketball in Mexico.

Hard work and a remarkable basketball IQ helped Eastern become the first freshman to start under head coach Mike Ellis at ETHS. He earned all-tournament recognition as a freshman at the Pekin Holiday Tournament. As a sophomore he led the 'Kits to Central Suburban League South division and regional championships, averaging 15.7 points, 5.3 rebounds, and whipping passes all over Beardsley Gym that led to easy scores for his teammates.

That unselfish play highlighted his junior campaign, when he averaged 14.9 points, 6.5 rebounds, and 4.0 assists. He raised his profile so much that both high school and college recruiters were

constantly in pursuit of the 6-foot-6 point guard. But, he wouldn't leave his new home.

Evanston earned an invitation to the Beach Ball Classic his senior year featuring nationally ranked teams. ETHS defeated teams from Florida, Kentucky, and Georgia before bowing to a charter school from Pennsylvania in overtime in the championship game. Eastern was at his best during that weeklong tourney, pouring in 90 points in those four games, including 28 in the title contest.

CAESAR "ZIP" GAYLES, FOOTBALL/BASKETBALL

Caesar Felton "Zip" Gayles has a storied athletics career. As a coach, he won national championships in football and basketball, including a 51-game winning streak in basketball at Langston U., a Black college in Langston, OK.

As a player, he was chosen to the all-star college team in 1956 and was an All-American in football and basketball at Morehouse College. He is a member of the Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame, the Langston Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame. He even coached the first college basketball team ever to beat the Harlem Globetrotters.

Gayles moved to Evanston as a youngster and excelled in both football and basketball.

He played both sports at Morehouse College and lettered in track, before deciding to make coaching his life's work. Following brief stints as head collegiate football coach in Tennessee and Arkansas, he finally led the Langston football and basketball programs to prominence when all-black schools only competed against each other. From 1930 to 1965, Gayles guided the Langston basketball teams to a 571-281 won-loss record, and a 146-78-18 mark in football.

1983-84 BASKETBALL TEAM

The 1968 ETHS basketball state champions are still regarded as one of the best teams ever to capture the state title. No Wildkit team

has been able to match that accolade. And the 1983-84 squad has become only the third boys' basketball team to earn induction into the ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame. Both the 1968 and 1917 cage teams have been honored previously.

Led by co-captains **Lou Wool** and **Tony Mason**, and star **Everette Stephens**, that team rolled to a school record 32 wins in a row before losing to Chicago Simeon 53-47 in the state title game.

"We were in the shadow of that '68 team," recalled **Brian Brown**, a reserve on the 1984 club. "But ours was a once-in-a-lifetime type of team. We had 16 guys on that team who were all winners in different ways."

Evanston was ranked No. 1 in Illinois for most of the year and climbed to No. 12 in the country according to *USA Today*. But, the Wildkits were so banged up by the time they reached the state championship game that they had trainer Bruce Romain working overtime. And Stephens had to sit out much of the second half with foul trouble in the season-ending defeat. Nonetheless, ETHS won second place in the state.

GUS ELIOPOULOS, SOCCER

Eliopoulos did more than earn All-American honors in soccer at Evanston. He helped create the soccer culture at ETHS as well.

Forty years after he came here from Greece, the ETHS boys' soccer program is still referred to as a "United Nations" that brings together diverse nationalities, colors, and faiths under one Orange and Blue umbrella.

Not many Wildkit fans ever witnessed a teenager who could execute the soccer "bicycle kick" that helped Eliopoulos lead ETHS to prominence his senior year, when he tallied 19 goals and 8 assists. He moved to varsity as a sophomore, led the Wildkits in scoring as a junior and senior, and was

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named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-American team in 1975.

Evanston's 1975 squad lost 3-2 to Maine East in the sectional tournament, but the Wildkits were voted No. 1 in the state in a coaches' association poll conducted AFTER the state tournament ended.

1959-60 BOYS' SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

Ask any athlete about the head-to-head rivalry with New Trier and then ask if they'd prefer to beat the Trevians during the regular season—or win a state championship.

That choice is probably obvious now. But ask the swimmers and divers who battled it out in the pool from 1950 to 1962 and you might get an unexpected response. In an era where the two schools placed 1-2 at the state finals an amazing 10 times, including a tie for the title in 1956, winning the regular season dual meet was at least AS important as whatever happened in the postseason.

The latest team inductees enjoyed a sweep during the 1959-60 season, using a 52-34 dual-meet tri-

umph over their northern neighbor that also ended New Trier's three-year stranglehold on the state championship a couple of weeks later.

Led by individual state champions **Tom Gibson**, **Gregg Skalinder**, **Jeff Moore**, and **John Pringle**, the Wildkits ruled the pool at the state finals outscoring New Trier 86-69. Moore and Skalinder combined with **Peter Hammer** and **Rick Mayer** set a national record in the 200 medley relay. It marked the last state title for ETHS under legendary coach Dobbie Burton, until the Wildkits won it all again in 2001.

A.P. BRADLEY, TRACK COACH

Alvin Pierce Bradley built the foundation for success in the Evanston boys' track program.

A pioneer who thrived as an athlete, running as a member of one of the first track & field teams at ETHS, Bradley led the Wildkits to their first state championship in any sport when the 'Kits claimed the 1922 track title.

Bradley graduated from Evanston in 1905 after having set school records in both the 60- and 100-yard dashes. He placed third at the state finals in 1905 in the 100, mak-



Members of the Class of 2023 ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame (minus Leighah-Amori Wool, Nojel Eastern, and Gus Eliopoulos), From left to right, Brian Brown, Louis Wool, Steve Wool, Kevin Ackles, Jim Finucane, Brian Taylor, Derrick Brown, Coach Herb Williams, Everette Stephens, Stephen Kling, Tony Mason, K.C. Johnson, and Athletic Director Chris Livatino.

ing him one of the first ETHS athletes ever to score at the state meet. He was preceded only by **Billy McLean**, third in the mile run in 1903, and **J.L. Barker**, first in the 400 in 1904.

Bradley put the Wildkits on the map after taking over the track program in 1917. He guided them to top 10 state finishes in 1919 (7th), 1921 (tie for 4th), 1923 (4th), 1924 (10th), 1925 (tie for 6th), and 1928 (3rd) during his tenure, in addition to the 1922 team title.

JAMES BIXBY, BASKETBALL COACH

James W. Bixby's "real" job in Evanston was as general secretary of the YMCA for

33 years. And he instituted a learn-to-swim program there that provided an estimated 22,000 children in the city an opportunity they wouldn't have had if he hadn't moved here from Iowa to join the YMCA staff.

But in his spare time, Bixby put ETHS basketball on the map. His resume includes a winning percentage of 78% in a coaching career that spanned 14 seasons from 1906 to 1920.

The Wildkits won three straight titles in the North Shore League—their first real conference affiliation—and captured Suburban League crowns in 1914 and 1918. Bixby guided ETHS to its first

state tournament appearance, bowing in the quarterfinals in 1908 against Rock Island.

Evanston never qualified for the IHSA finals again under Bixby. Instead, he created the "Central States Tournament" that was held at the YMCA and attracted cagers from all over the Midwest. Evanston won that inaugural tournament in 1911. The 'Kits also ruled the tourney in 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915 as the sport grew in popularity.

The Central States tourney was the forerunner to the National Prep Tournament. Evanston won the title in 1917, outlasting Freeport 27-22 in overtime in the championship game.

ETHS festival draws in the community to celebrate literacy



ETHS held its second annual E-Town Community Literacy Fest on October 7 to celebrate the importance of literacy.

Open to the entire Evanston community, the Festival featured free book giveaways, games, and free food from three local restaurants (Jamaican Spice, Yo Fresh, and Mother's Soul Food).

The event was held outside on ETHS's tennis courts at the corner of Church and Dodge.

According to **Jerry Succes '87**, ETHS Director of Academic Supports, over 275 people from high school students, elementary and middle school students, and just people and families from the community who stopped by as they were driving or walking by, attended this year's family-friendly Fest, more than the previous year.

Said Succes of this to-be school-sponsored annual event, "We help spread the

joy of literacy throughout the community."

Two local organizations featured free book handouts to children: the Evanston Public Library, as well as Young, Black & Lit, which provided free young adult and children's books that center, reflect, and affirm Black children.

The ETHS Foundation donated funds to purchase books to give away, and **Alicia Hart '99**, New Student Transition Coordinator, donated cloth bags for the students to decorate and carry their free books home with them.



Two sisters decorated colorful cloth bags, donated by the Welcome Center's director, Alicia Hart '99 to carry home the free books they chose at the Literacy Festival.

Sustainability keeps ETHS environmentally responsible at lower costs

In May, two ETHS departments gave reports to the School Board about how ETHS practices sustainability in running the school. Kendra Williams, CFO, and John Crawford, Director of Operations and Sustainability, explained the school's initiatives in being environmentally responsible. Kim Minestra, Director of Nutrition Services, highlighted the Farm to School program where ETHS grows much of the produce eaten at school, in collaboration with Matt Ryan, Farm to School Coordinator.

ETHS is a large, complex, one-building school district that has practiced maintaining an ecological balance of natural resources for decades. For example, the school has its own off-site power plant that heats and cools the building with low-pressure steam (and serves as back-up if any energy disasters occur). In 2008, ETHS installed underground retention tanks to divert rainwater to irrigate the numerous athletic fields, thereby not using (or paying for) water from the City of Evanston.

In 2014, the school began replacing fluorescent lighting with LED lights that reduce electricity costs and are more environmentally friendly. ETHS has received thousands of dollars in rebates from ComEd's LED replacement program and a \$50,000 matching energy efficiency grant from the state education office (ISBE).

Working with Nicor Gas and ComEd since 2018, ETHS has used low- to no-cost initiatives that result in real energy savings and reduce the school's carbon footprint. Since the 2018 baseline year, natural gas use has been reduced by 31.3% and electricity use has dropped 20%, saving \$361,272.65 in energy costs.

The administrators noted that whenever possible, the work—for example in the power plant and in replacing LED lights—is staffed by highly trained ETHS employees saving the district thousands of dollars in vendor costs.

New initiatives include a study recommending the installation of solar arrays on the current nine (of 159) roofs that can currently house them and replacing the roof over two gymnasiums with solar panels, together producing an 11% offset to the current electricity usage. As the school's roofs age, their replacement will be viewed with the goal of adding to the total solar array.

Other current and upcoming initiatives include applying through ComEd for a public school carbon-free assessment; seeking American Green Zone Alliance certification for landscaping services that are now 100% electric, battery, or robotic; planting 20+ native trees and plants on campus that are pollinator friendly; and expanding composting to all five cafeterias, among other plans.



Part of the energy-friendly landscaping services are 29 robotic lawnmowers that whirl around the 65-acre campus. Like an indoor Roomba, each robot mows a declared area outside and when done, returns to its charging base. They are satellite-driven and can be programmed to cover any area that needs mowing. The students, of course, are fond of the robots, have given them names, and, on occasion, decorated them with googly eyes.

Reducing waste in student cafeterias is targeted. No styrofoam is currently used; reusable compartment trays and self-serve condiment bottles are in place. ETHS was among 66 (out of 241 proposals) Illinois school districts to receive a \$21,000 grant from ISBE to install self-serve bulk-milk dispensers and replace milk cartons with 9-inch reusable cups. Other plans beginning in 2023-24 include eliminating plastic water bottles and offering reusable flatware.

A Sustainability Policy Planning Committee has been formed with students, community members, staff, administration, and a School Board member to help shape ETHS sustainability policy.

Farm to School Program

Following the Operations sustainability report, Minestra and Ryan described the unique Farm to School program that provides organically grown produce throughout the year to Evanston students, staff, and community members on a sustainable basis.

Since 2009, ETHS has daily served students and staff about 3,000 pounds of organically grown produce harvested from two school-owned lots, dubbed Edible Acre 1 and 2, across from the school, and an orchard with 50 Asian pears and apple trees, and a grape arbor. From late August to November, and during summer school, the school cafeterias offer home-grown fresh lettuce, spinach, squash, cucumbers, peppers (four kinds), radishes, carrots, tomatoes (six varieties), beets, green beans, peas, eggplants, and other seasonal veggies. Beyond the fall months, ETHS must buy produce on the open market.

Annually, Minestra and Ryan, former Operations Manager for The Talking Farm, a local urban-agriculture organization, work together to create a crop plan that maximizes the harvest from the two gardens and orchard. More raised beds were built in the Edible Acres, more crops were planted, and the school's greenhouse became a winter seedbed for lettuce, herbs, and other vegetables.

The Acres' harvest was large enough to share with the community. Previously,

that included selling some of the summer yield at the weekly Evanston Farmers' Market. But, Minestra and Ryan decided launching a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, which allows people to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer, would be a better use of everyone's time. In this case, the "farmer" is ETHS.

So, the CSA program launched in 2016 with 10 ETHS staff members that each invested \$250, and every Thursday for 10 weeks received a CSA box of freshly picked vegetables from the Edible Acres. "This allows ETHS staff to support the garden," said Ryan, "and leaves no waste." In 2023, the CSA expanded to 25 people and from 10 to 22 weeks for \$660 paid up front "because we have planned the crops in detail to ensure assortment as much as possible," said Minestra.

In addition, last year the program partnered with Village Farmstand in Evanston, a micro-warehouse community grocery store with an online marketplace that provides local eggs, meats, and fruits for an additional cost.

ETHS raises funds in other ways to help subsidize the Farm to School program. Village Farmstand buys some of the harvest and markets it under ETHS's name. Since 2019, ETHS also holds a seedling sale each spring to grow and offer organic seedlings to ETHS students, staff, and the greater Evanston community. The CSA and Seedling Sale each raise about \$20,000.

The gardens serve as a classroom for students taking the Urban Agriculture course. During the school year, Ryan works once a week with each of the



This grape arbor, built by the students in the Geometry in Construction class, is located near the football stadium, adjacent to the Edible Orchard. Local Boy Scout Troop 815 planted Concord grapes in June 2021 as part of an Eagle Scout project. They will provide coverage of the picnic tables and grapes to harvest for jams, jellies, juice, and eating off the vine.

four Urban Ag classes (60 students total) "out in the garden(s) where they get hands-on experience harvesting, weeding, watering, etc.," said Ryan.

The Urban Ag classes also help each week to harvest the produce and pack the CSA boxes. Each box averages six to seven pounds of produce, "an assortment of five to eight different items each time," noted Minestra. Other student partnerships include students in Community Service, Special Education, Senior Studies, Graphic Design, and the Geometry in Construction class, which built a pergola to use as a grape arbor, and seedbeds for the program. Last year blemished apples from the Edible Orchard were harvested and put through a cider press, to the students' delight.

Since 2009, throughout the summer, students in the city's Summer Youth Employment Program are hired to work in the gardens. Employment program students work 15 hours a week to maintain the garden, earn money, and gain career skills.

In the future, ETHS will continue to receive federal Supply Chain Assistance Funds to purchase unprocessed food locally such as rice and milk. Farm to School is also working with Village Farmstand to buy local produce directly from local farmers.

Going green has been a cost-saver for ETHS. By growing its own food, ETHS has annually saved at least \$15,000 in organic produce.

Geometry in Construction homes benefit moderate-income families

This 2023 summer has been a busy one for ETHS's Geometry in Construction course. Now in its 10th year, this interdisciplinary course for freshmen and sophomores teaches them both geometry and construction skills while building an actual single-family home. And this summer, two new, two-story homes were placed on City-donated properties located near the high school.

GIC is patterned after an innovative program in Loveland High School in Colorado. In 2013-14, the Mathematics and Career and Technical Education departments at ETHS launched GIC with 56 students that built a one-story, three-bedroom house—16-feet by 75-feet—in ETHS's back parking lot. Once the shell was constructed, the City worked with ETHS to move the house to a City-owned property on Jackson Ave. Once in place, contractors took over setting up the plumbing and electrical wiring.

Since the program's first year, students now enrolled in the course annually build a two-story, three bedroom, 2-1/2 bath residence. Both floors are built simultaneously, side-by-side, and moved in the summer.

Start-up funds for the course came from the school, and donations, including major grants from the ETHS Foundation and the Evanston Community Foundation. Now profits from each house sale go back to ETHS to help pay for construction of a new house the following year. The ETHS Foundation funds the gap between the sale cost of each home and what it can be listed for as affordable housing.

Taught by Maryjoy Heine-man (Math) and Matthew Kaiser (CTE), the course is a collaborative project with ETHS, the City of Evanston, and the Community Partners in Affordable Housing. The city finds a suitable lot for each house, which is sold by Community Partners to local low-income residents.

The class has two purposes. First, it gives students a chance to apply theoretical math concepts to real-life situations. Secondly, GIC provides a home for a moderate-income family in a city where housing costs are anything but moderate. First-time buyers are the target market, and there are income restrictions for eligible purchasers. Community Partners husbands the house sales over time to keep them permanently affordable.

The course has built eight facilities (eight houses and an athletic storage unit) over the decade. During the pandemic close-down year with remote, online learning, GIC students did construction-type projects at home such as building balsa-model homes on a smaller scale.

But in fall 2022, GIC was back in business with in-person learning at school and needed a project to build. In the past, ETHS's retired CFO Mary Rodino had worked with the City to find empty properties that needed moderate-income family houses. That didn't happen during the Covid lockdown.

Instead, ETHS Athletic Director **Chris Livatino '91** suggested GIC build a unit for storing daily Physical Education-class and sports-team equipment for track and field, soccer, lacrosse, football, and softball.

Funded by ETHS, the new building opened to great acclaim...and GIC went back to building houses. Local independent architect DonnaLee Floeter designed the storage unit as well as the homes the students build.

GIC launched in 2013-14 with 56 students. That grew to 60 the following year, and according to teacher Kaiser: "We started 2022-2023 with 100 students! We are really excited." And it just keeps growing.



This summer the school hosted an unveiling and open house on Emerson Street in the Fifth Ward for the program's seventh completed home. Students built this particular home during the 2019-2020 year. It has three bedrooms and two bathrooms, along with a front and back porch.



Both floors of the eighth house were moved from the Evanston campus this summer to Brown Ave. and hoisted into place by a giant crane. The interior of the house was to be completed later this year, and the affordable home should be ready for a family to move in next year.



Located at the east end of the back sports playfields just off Church St., the new athletic storage unit, approximately 20 ft. by 50 ft., includes three garage bays, a second-floor storage area, and a concession stand for snacks during the games. In addition, this facility will incorporate green technology with a solar-powered addition. The first floor has 9 ft. walls and the second floor has 8 ft. walls.

2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Distinguished Alumni Awards committee was faced with its annual daunting task of selecting from all of the nominations for the most prestigious recognition of ETHS alumni.

The committee meets over the summer and reviews the materials it receives every year. Nominations are kept on file for three years. If a nomination is among the finalists, but not selected, it is held for an additional year.

Nominations are now open for 2024. **You can use the form on the ETHS alumni website—www.eths.k12.il.us/Page/515. Nominations are due June 1.** If you have questions, contact the Alumni Office at 847-424-7704.

This year there are four living recipients of the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award—Nichelle Campbell-Miller, Dr. Frank Ling, Dr. Kenneth Schaeffe, and Andrew Slavitt—as well as two posthumous awards: Dr. Elizabeth Hill and Sanderson Hicks.



Nichelle Campbell-Miller, 2011—Nichelle, who lives and works in Terre Haute, IN, works daily with at-risk youth to make a difference in their life. A school social worker, she established the first GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) Club for students at the school and is a diligent mentor for them. She facilitated anti-racism training for teachers and collaborated with others through anti-bias and anti-racism work to address interpersonal issues relating to the intersections of identities and systems that discriminate against vulnerable populations.

In addition to the many school programs she has developed, she also implemented a food distribu-

tion network for the entire Terre Haute community. She served as the founding president of the Pride Center of Terre Haute. In 2021, she was awarded Indiana Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. In January 2023, Nichelle was selected by the Chamber of Commerce and *Tribune Star* as one of 12 Under 40, a prestigious award recognizing young individuals making a positive impact in West Central Indiana.



Sanderson (Sam) Hicks, 1940 was drafted halfway through his senior year at ETHS to serve with the Army Air Corps during World War II in the Philippines. After the war, he completed his degree and in 1950, he became the first African American Firefighter in Evanston. He rose through the ranks and was promoted to the rank of Fire Chief, again being the first African American to serve in that capacity in Evanston. Chief Hicks founded the Evanston Speed Skating Club and was the first coach for Olympian Shani Davis, the first African American speed-skater to medal in the Olympics. Sam was elected to the US Speed-skating Hall of Fame for his devotion to and support of youth programs and achievements.



Dr. Elizabeth Webb Hill, 1916 was born in Evanston in 1898 and received her medical degree from

the U of Illinois in 1931. During the Depression, she struggled to maintain a private practice in Evanston, often providing free health care to those who could not afford it. In 1939, she founded a Woman's Auxiliary at the Community Hospital of Evanston to help raise operating funds for the hospital, and was appointed Chief of Staff in the mid-1940s., making her the first African American woman to be named to such a position in Illinois. After World War II, she led a campaign for a new 56-bed hospital facility. Elizabeth was actively involved in numerous organizations and city commissions and was a lecturer at Northwestern University's School of Medicine.



Dr. Kenneth Schaeffe, 1986 has had two careers. The first was in theater, with Boom Chicago, an Amsterdam-based improv comedy club that he founded with two other ETHS alumni, **Jon Rosenfeld** and **Andrew Moskows** (all class of '86). This theater company still exists today. Boom Chicago has launched numerous careers and projects, including big hits like *Ted Lasso* and the careers of Jordan Peele (*Get Out*, *Nope*) and Seth Meyers.

Ken left Boom Chicago in 2006, after 13 years, to go back to school and become a doctor. It was a 10-year journey, first doing a Post Doc Pre-Med program at Columbia University in New York, and then attending the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and later residency at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan. Now an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in New York, and a member of the global health faculty group, he spends up to four months

a year in Uganda, delivering medical care at an impoverished government hospital. Ken also teaches American medical students and residents who come to the hospital for 28-day training rotations. He has also edited a two-volume, 1500-page global health textbook called *Reasoning Without Resources* based on case histories and experiences in Uganda that seek to empower healthcare workers.



Andrew Slavitt, 1984—After earning his BS from the U of Pennsylvania and his MBA from Harvard University, Andrew founded Health Allies, a start-up helping families fight exorbitant medical bills charged by large hospitals and insurance companies. The Obama administration tapped him to lead and successfully automate the first working website for Obamacare (Healthcare.gov) and was featured on the cover of *Time Magazine* for this success. Andrew stayed with the Obama administration to lead implementation of Obamacare, and was promoted to Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, running all of Obamacare, Medicaid, and Medicare for the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

After leaving public office, Andrew wrote the best-selling book *Preventable: The Inside Story of How Leadership Failures, Politics and Selfishness Doomed the U.S. Coronavirus Response*, and was a regular guest on CNN, MSNBC, and Fox. Also, during this time, Andrew founded the non-profit "United States of Care," a think-tank whose mission is to ensure access to quality, affordable health care regardless of health status or income. Andrew also founded the podcast

"In The Bubble," where he broadcasts weekly to over 700,000 Americans nationwide.

After President Biden won office, Andrew again was asked to serve our country, joining the Biden administration as a Senior Advisor on the Covid-19 Taskforce, where he helped educate Americans on the status of the disease, and ultimately helped lead the successful roll-out of vaccines.



Dr. Frank Ling, 1966 is a nationally renowned physician (OB/GYN). In addition to his practice, he is a Clinical Professor at Vanderbilt University and at several teaching hospitals. He has written and published hundreds of medical papers and abstracts throughout his career. His most noted book is "the" textbook every medical student has used for the past 30 years. Undoubtedly Dr. Ling has been an extremely dedicated, successful doctor and an educator. He is still at the top of his field, and is extremely admired and respected by his peers and the medical community as well as by the Asian American community.

He served as an Elder at the Hope Presbyterian Church, and is also on the medical committee for the Memphis chapter of Make a Wish.

At ETHS Frank played four years in soccer, four years in the orchestra, four years of Quadrangle Boys' Club including a year as President. His current passion is the game of golf.

Spring 2023 Sports

by Dennis Mahoney, ETHS Sports Information Director

A spring season that started out so promising didn't result in much team success for Evanston in 2023. But individuals continued to shine for the Orange and Blue as three Wildkits captured state track and field championships as individuals.

Abrielle Artley '23 (300-meter hurdles), **Miles Granjean '23** (110-meter hurdles), and **Dawson Wright '23** (shotput) all turned in gold medal performances. Granjean's success came in just two years after he gave up his hockey career, while Wright embraced the challenge of a new event after injuries curtailed her running career.

Notable accomplishments for Evanston's spring teams included the baseball squad, which established a new single season record for victories, then stumbled in the sectional championship game, and the boys' gymnastics team, which repeated as Central Suburban League South division champs and placed 2nd at the sectional qualifying meet.

BOYS' TRACK & FIELD



Miles Granjean lived up to his No. 1 billing in a big way at the state finals.

Just seven months after he took up the event, Granjean showed the cream always rises to the top by winning the Class 3A 110-meter hurdle championship. The unflappable senior clocked the state's best times in that event all of the outdoor season and finished alone at the top after posting a winning time of 14.36 seconds.

"It feels great! I've been waiting for this moment all year," said Granjean, who added a 5th place finish in the 100-meter dash (10.96) and a 9th place effort in the 200 (22.62).

"There was pressure on Miles all year, and he just owned being No. 1," said Evanston head coach Don Michelin.

Granjean is just the second Wildkit athlete to earn a state medal in three different individual events at the same state track finals, joining **Robert McGee** who in 1979 won both the long and short hurdles, and the open 100, and also ran on a championship relay team.

GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD



Abrielle Artley wasn't interested in another 2nd place finish. So the Evanston senior lived up to the past ETHS legacy in the 300-meter hurdles.

It's an event that ETHS runners have owned ever since the state series began. Artley, who placed 2nd in the race as a junior, recorded a winning time of 43.25 seconds after finishing 2nd in state in the 100 hurdles earlier that day.

She accounted for the 10th state title by an Evanston runner in the 300-meter in the history of the state finals, and the first since **Margaret Bamgbose** in 2012.

Artley's state title came at the end of a season where she spent more time on the sidelines than any previous Evanston champ. Said ETHS head coach **Fenton Gunter '74**: "We've never had a state champion who missed that much time due to illness and injuries. She earned that title in her last race. She didn't give up."

One throw. That's all it took for **Dawson Wright '23** to make history for Evanston at the Class 3A state finals.

Concluding an improbable rise to the top, Wright captured the state champi-

onship in the shot put with a personal best throw of 13.19 meters and became the first individual in the history of the program to win that event.

The ETHS senior, who had to stop sprinting after her junior season because of leg problems, took up throwing for the first time this year. And now there's no one better.

"You like to see those tears when they're tears of joy," said head coach Gunter, whose team placed 7th in the team standings. Only two other Wildkit athletes have even earned medals in the shot at State, **Shola Kadiri** (2nd in 1998) and **Pollyanna Johns** (8th in 1993).

BOYS' TENNIS



He checks in at about 5 feet, 8 inches and 130 pounds, which means that no one's choosing **Finn Pollard '24** first when picking sides for a pickup football or basketball game. But put a tennis racquet in the Evanston junior's hands and he's nothing but lethal.

Pollard proved he could play with the big boys in his second straight trip to the Class 2A state tennis tournament, winning three of five singles matches against the elite players in the state. Pollard won one more match than a year ago and turned in one of the deepest runs for an ETHS state qualifier in years...and gained some self-confidence in the process.

"Now, I think I belong with these guys," said Pollard, who was seeded in the 9-16 range. "Now, I think I'm at their level."

GIRLS' BADMINTON
Evanston sophomores **Eva Cherkasky** and **Arnie Gopez** scored a pair of victories before they were eliminated from the state badminton tournament. The ETHS doubles team finished with a 2-2 over-

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The KIT newsletter has been published since Fall 1995 and is an award-winning way we connect with our Alumni. When the Alumni Assn. started, dues were charged to subsidize the costs of printing and postage. Over the years, to be more inclusive, the Association stopped charging dues and encouraged giving to the ETHS Foundation to support projects at ETHS rather than mailings.

Today, we send over 35,000 print copies of *The KIT*. However, printing and postage costs have greatly increased. There is a way to save these costs so we can continue to support capital improvements at ETHS through the ETHS Foundation as well as

provide scholarships and mini-grants for classroom programs.

You can get an electronic version of *The KIT* with a link sent to your email twice a year as new editions are published. Send an email to alumni@eths202.org, or use the link on the alumni page of the ETHS website – www.eths.k12.il.us and future issues will be there with a simple click on a link.

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all record at the tourney. They opened with a 21-16, 21-16 victory over Lyons Township, then fell into the consolation bracket after dropping a 21-3, 21-11 decision to a team seeded in the top 12 at the tournament.

In the consolation bracket, Evanston prevailed 21-15, 21-16 over the Lockport twosome, and then was eliminated from tourney play with a 21-10, 23-21 loss to Glenbrook North.

BOYS' GYMNASTICS
By the time he graduates, **Erik Van Leer** might be the best individual ever to come through the ETHS boys' gymnastics program. But the sophomore stand-out can't be two places at once.

After winning every single event at the Central Suburban League conference championship meet, Van Leer opted to skip the state series and compete at the USA Men's Developmental Program National Championships instead. That competition was held on the same weekend as the state finals.

Van Leer will have an opportunity to compete at state next year with the Wildkits who DID qualify

for the state finals—**Xavier Probst**, **Mo Frischer** and **Jacob Potter**—all returning again for the 2024 season. ETHS scored a 2nd-place team finish at the sectional even without Van Leer in the lineup.

BASEBALL



A nine-run outburst in the 4th inning of the sectional championship game against New Trier enabled the Trevians to pull off a nightmare finish to what had been a dream season for the winningest baseball squad in Wildkit history. New Trier's 11-0 victory forced an ETHS team with designs on the first Final Four berth in program history to settle for a school record for victories in a 31-8 season.

"Give New Trier a ton of credit," said a dejected Evanston head coach, Frank Consiglio. "Still, Evanston had the best regular season ever," he pointed out. "Absolutely, this is a team that will be remembered."

ETHS Kudos

ETHS ranked 3rd best high school in the United States

Fifteen Illinois high school districts ranked in the Top 100 in the country, according to a new report issued by Niche in September 2023. Three Illinois districts ranked in the Top 5 in the United States. Adlai E. Stevenson High School District in Lincolnshire was ranked as the best in the United States, followed by Glenbrook High School District 125 in second place, and **Evanston Township High School finishing third.**

Now in its ninth year, Niche rankings differ from others that rely almost exclusively on

test scores and academic performance in that they also include input from students, alumni, and parents, as well as quantitative data from sources such as the U.S. Department of Education to evaluate teachers, resources, and facilities.

Niche gave ETHS an overall A+ in calculating its ranking—A for Academics, A for teachers, A+ for clubs and Activities, A for Sports, A+ for Resources and Facilities, A for Diversity, A for College Prep, A- for Administration, and B+ for Food.

ETHS student newspaper named best overall publication by Illinois Journalism Educators Assn.

Last spring, *The Evanstonian*, ETHS's student newspaper, was named best overall publication (for schools with over 2,700 students) in the Illinois Journalism Educators Association's (IJE) 2022-23 Newspaper and Digital News Media Contest.

The IJE contest recognized the work Illinois high school journalists produced from March 2022 to March 2023. In total, *The Evanstonian* received 31 awards: 11 first-place awards, nine second-place awards, seven third-place awards, and six honorable mentions.

National School Public Relations Assn. honors ETHS

ETHS was recognized by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) with a 2023 Golden Achievement Award for its *2022-23 Superintendent Listening & Learning Series*.

NSPRA's Golden Achievement Award honors outstanding, strategic work in all aspects of school public relations, communications, marketing, and engagement. ETHS was one of 95 school districts in the nation to receive a 2023 Golden Achievement Award out of more than 1,800 entries from school PR professionals across the country.

The *Listening & Learning Series* was a multi-phase campaign to introduce Dr. Marcus Campbell as the new superintendent of ETHS D202 and to provide community members a wide range of opportunities to help shape the direction of the district moving forward. Through multiple programs and events, including Community Talk-Backs, a Community Advisory Council, Wildkit Walkabouts with students, Talking Circles with staff, and the school's first podcast series (*Wildkit Way*), the Series explored forms of engagement authentic to Campbell's leadership style.

Presidential Scholar from ETHS

Emmet Duggan, an ETHS senior, was recognized as a 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholar by the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The program honored 161 of the nation's most distinguished graduating seniors.

According to program guidelines, scholars are chosen based on their accomplishments in many areas – academic and artistic success, technical excellence, leadership, and involvement in school and the community – and represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in America's youth. Application is by invitation only and the White House Commission



on Presidential Scholars reviewed the applications of all finalists from a pool of more than 5,000 candidates.

Candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program from ETHS also included **Max Smith** and **Rex Wallin**.

Nat'l merit semifinalists for 2024

Six ETHS seniors have been named Semifinalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. The ETHS Semifinalists are: **Jacob DiCrescenzo**, **Anna Grigorescu**, **Sarah Schulkin**, **Alexander Senechal**, **Aidan Thomson**, and **Emmett Zaslow**.

The National Merit Scholarship Company (NMSC) annually recognizes U.S. high school students who

demonstrate definitive marks of academic excellence. Semifinalists have an opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships to be offered next spring.

Approximately 16,000 high school students were named as semifinalists by National Merit. These students represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

"It's exciting to see the dedication, innovation, and spirit of our school district being recognized nationally," said Campbell. "This honor not only reflects our commitment to keep our community proximate to ETHS, but also it reflects our dedication to our students' success."

Northwestern University honors Michael Van Krey

A longtime Japanese teacher at ETHS was one of five high school teachers from around the world to be honored at Northwestern University's commencement ceremony last spring.

Michael Van Krey, a teacher in ETHS's World Language and Bilingual Department since 1997, is a winner of a 2023 Northwestern's Morton Schapiro Distinguished Secondary School Teacher award, district officials announced. Named after the former university president, the honor is awarded based on nominations submitted by graduating Northwestern seniors.

Van Krey was nominated by **Liam O'Carroll**, a member of the ETHS class of 2019 who was set to graduate with an engineering degree from NU.

Van Krey was O'Carroll's Japanese teacher for four years at ETHS, where he helped develop O'Carroll's language skills inside and outside the classroom, including on a 2018 school trip to Japan.

Distinguished teacher awardees are selected by a committee of university faculty, staff and students, who review nominations and request portfolios from nominees to be considered as finalists. Each of the five winning teachers wins a \$5,000 cash prize, and each of their high schools also receives \$5,000.



Class Notes

1960s



Stephanie Misaki Whiting '65 was re-elected to the Hawaii Counselors Association Executive Board where she has served since 2010. In addition to private practice counseling in Hawaii, she is on the training faculty for the Center for Mind-Body Medicine, Washington, DC. She is also a registered mental health provider for Give An Hour, providing free, confidential counseling for military veterans. In November, Stephanie competed in her 79th USA Powerlifting meet spanning 40 years of state, national, and international competition. Weight training year round keeps her in shape for travel to destinations such as Patagonia, Rapa Nui, the Galapagos, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, the Outback, and Antarctica, but most of all, she and husband Dennis enjoy traveling to visit their children and grandchildren.



In August, **Seth Masia '66** was inducted into the Colorado Snowsports Hall of Fame in Vail, CO. Votes were cast by snow sports industry professionals. The Hall of Fame website said of Seth...: "Few Colorado-based ski writers are respected as widely as Seth Masia. He was a key editor and writer for *SKI Magazine* at the peak of its influence and pioneered online ski journalism. His tenure with *SKI Magazine*, his Presidency of the

International Skiing History Assn., along with numerous books, articles, and skiing-related internet accomplishments are notable. His leadership has been built on the work of his predecessors to create an unparalleled record of snow sports history." Seth was editor of *The Evanstonian* newspaper from 1965-66.



Jay Siegall '64 recently wrote: "Had lunch with **Lois Shelton '64** who I did not know at ETHS but through communication with **Marty Campbell '64** I read her book about her very difficult growing up, so different from anything I ever imagined a classmate at Evanston was experiencing."

1970s

On March 4, **Deja Vishny '72**, a criminal defense attorney and trial lawyer based in Milwaukee, WI, was awarded the Champion of Justice Award by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Deja specializes in homicide and false confession cases as well as suppression and trial skills. She trains and lectures for NGOs, criminal and public defense, and state bar associations throughout the U.S. and in India. Before entering private practice in 2019, Deja was a public defender in Wisconsin for 38 years. In addition, she serves on the faculty of the National Criminal Defense College.

1980s

Larry Perlman '82 recently retired after 35 years of service to the Wichita Public Schools as a Special Education teacher and Elementary School administrator. A legacy of school improvement and positively impacting the hearts and minds of thousands of students,

staff and families in the Wichita community will remain. Larry will continue his work as a mobile DJ in Wichita and looks forward to time with family and friends.

Last March, **Philippe Largent '86** became the director of AARP Illinois, the state's largest outreach and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of those age 50+. He has spent the last 25 years advocating for Illinois residents in a variety of settings.

Andy Vick '83 was named Executive Director of Downtown Evanston Special Service Area. He recently returned to Evanston after working in other cities in a similar capacity to what this new role entails. These past positions include executive director of the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region in Colorado Springs, CO, and executive director of the Allegany Arts Council in Cumberland, MD. His history of volunteerism for a variety of nonprofit organizations rounds out his experience, giving him a solid understanding of what board members need in a leader and how best to serve a Special Service Area in a complex community like Evanston.



Dr. Justin Schwartz '82 was named Pennsylvania State University's permanent executive vice president and provost, effective last May 1. He had held the role in an interim capacity since August 2022, having previously served as Harold and Inge Marcus Dean of Penn State's College of Engineering since 2017. As provost, he will serve as Penn State's chief academic officer and oversee all academic units within the University's colleges, school, and campuses, as well as major academic support units.

ETHS grads light up Stage and Screen

Jacqueline Williams '83

most recently joined the national road company of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the role of Calpurnia. She is a multi-award winner whose Broadway credits include *The Young Man From Atlanta* and Off-Broadway including *From the Mississippi Delta*, *The Talented Tenth*, and *Mill Fire*. Jacqueline has a long association in Chicago with Goodman Theatre (over 30 years), Steppenwolf Theatre, Court Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Next Theatre Company, and Victory Gardens Theater, and the national tours of *Crowns* and *Born in the R.S.A.* She reprised her role of Mae in *Head of Passes* at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles opposite Phylicia Rashad. Regional credits include work at the La Jolla Playhouse, Huntington



Theatre Company, A Contemporary Theatre, and others. Film and television credits include *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago Med*, *Chicago P.D.*, among many others. She is a former Lunt-Fontanne Fellow and has been honored by the Jeff Committee, 3Arts, Helen Hayes, Black Theater Alliance, American Arts Council, Drama Desk, Sarah Siddons Excellence in the Arts, After Dark Awards, and more. She holds a BFA from the Goodman School of Drama/Theatre School.



This spring, **Tom Shea '84** marked his 30th production with Music Theater Workshop as actor, director, assistant director, lecturer, and understudy, this time as the lead character Max Bialystock in *The Producers: The Musical*. In the past, he was seen in 1981 in *H.M.S. Pinafore* and recently in *Pippin* with Music Theater Workshop, in the North Theater, and in 28 other shows in

the interim. A mainstay of Chicagoland's music and theater scene, he has been seen at the Mercury (*Urinetown*, *The Christmas Schooner*), Drury Lane (*How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*), Second City Theatricals (*Fatty Arbuckle's Spectacular Musical Revue*), and Theo (*Threepenny Opera*), among others. During the holidays he can be seen around town in Dickensian caroling garb. He is also the author of "*Broadway's Most Wanted: The Top 10 Book of Dynamic Divas, Surefire Showstoppers, and Box-Office Busts*," available through Amazon. Tom earned his BA in Musical Theater at Coe College.

Alan Barinholtz '69

has become a mainstay in TV land. He moved with his wife to Los Angeles last fall to be close to family. Last spring he was cast as Judge Alan Rosen in a TV series that premiered last month on Freevee/Amazon called *Jury Duty*, which was the #1 show on all the streaming networks earlier in May. He joined the Screen Actors Guild and played a small speaking part in *History of the World Part Two*, which his older son, Ike,

worked on as an executive producer, writer, and actor. Alan says: "Since living here I've gone Hollywood and am now represented by an agent and shot an episode of *Physical* on Apple, and a pilot for NBC called *St. Vincent*." He earned his BFA at Ohio State, did standup comedy for a couple years, got a law degree at Loyola U-Chicago, and practiced law for the last 42 years. He send kudos to the two years he was in YAMO.

Reunion Roundup

ETHS Class of 1953 celebrates its 70th Reunion

The 70th reunion of the Class of 1953 was very warm and happy, enjoyed by all who attended. They had 16 alums in attendance, and several more who had hoped to be there but couldn't quite make the trip.



Front row, L to R: Carol Kamin Bellows, Betsy DuBois Gelb, Steve Cole, Sandy Brown Hart, Frankie Casad Siatta, Gretchen Warvel Paschky, Diane Badal Greenlees; Second row, L to R: Dick Steinmetz, Andy Anderson, Bob Meyer, Art Harris, Forrest Gale, Jim Harper, Pare DeGot, Martin Tangora, Gary Shearer.

Class of 2013 celebrated its 10-year reunion—twice

Two alums started planning the 10th-year reunion for their Class of 2013, not realizing both classmates was doing the same thing.

So, the class held two reunions this summer and fall. There was a one-day gathering in August that drew about 30 people to a local brewery. It was a small, but excited group that came together to celebrate the years they spent at ETHS.

And then there was a weekend-long reunion, September 1-3, that 65 people attended. On Friday, they attended a Meet & Greet at Chasers Sports Bar in Niles. Saturday found them on a boat cruise, the Anita Dee II, out of DuSable Harbor. And Sunday's wrap-up event was a Family Day BBQ at Lovelace Park in Evanston.



The Class of 2013 celebrated twice this year. One reunion attracted about 30 people (see photo at left) in August. And a September three-day gathering drew around 65 classmates (see below).



Happy crowd came to 1973's 50th



The ETHS Class of 1973 had a wonderful 50th reunion weekend on September 8th-10th. The celebration started Friday evening with a picnic at Lighthouse Beach that included a bonfire, s'mores, dramatic surf, and warm comraderie.

On Saturday the class had an extensive tour of the high school, including the main library (see above), led by the Alumni office staff. There was a great deal of upbeat reminiscing along with shock and awe at the new facilities. Seeing and talking to current students was also a real treat.

The main event took place at Double Clutch Brewery on Saturday night. A big crowd gathered at this location for dining, dancing, listening to music, and mostly talking. There was a lot of joy as classmates recognized friends from the past and distant past.

Class of 1983's 40th drew over 200



The Class of 1983 had an incredible 40th reunion the weekend of Oct.20th. Friday night, over 100 people met at The Ridgeville Tavern in downtown Evanston to start things rolling. Saturday morning, 90 people showed up for a tour of ETHS, many of whom hadn't been back to the school since graduation. Everyone was quite impressed with the school improvements and additions. Saturday evening, the class met at the American Legion Post 42, with 230 grads in attendance. The group reminisced for hours and danced to the spinning tunes of DJ Blade, Class of 1983's own Harold Bailey. It was a perfect reunion weekend.

Continued on page 12

BIG 45 reunion for the Class of 1978



Saturday, October 14th 2023 marked the 'BIG 45' celebration for ETHS Class of 1978! '78ers came together from near and far for a grand reunion party held at Double Clutch Brewery, Evanston. It was a weekend filled with ETHS memories from back in the day, as well as great new memories as classmates re-connected - many for the first time in 45 years! Onward to the 50th!

Class of 1970 mini-reunion

This past August the ETHS Class of 1970 held an impromptu gathering at Moretti's Italian restaurant in Morton Grove, IL. They all had a great time together.



Class of 1974's 50th coming up next year

The ETHS Class of 1974 Reunion Association invites all members of the class to attend the 50th reunion: #ETHS1974 Cheers to 50 Years!

The main event will take place at the Park Center Lakeview Room in Glenview on **Saturday, September 14, 2024**. Other events for the reunion weekend of September 13-15 include a Pub Crawl, School Tour, Middle School events, and other small group gatherings.

For more information and to connect with the Class of 1974, please visit our website: <http://www.eths1974.com> to review your information or to join. This is the very best way to get the most updated information.

Questions? Want to volunteer to help? Send an email to reunion@eths1974.com. Looking forward to making our 50th reunion the very best ever.

Class of 1964 mini-reunion in Denver



Four 1964 grads gathered in Denver recently for a long awaited brunch, on July 20, 2023. There was endless chatter, laughter and hugs, as well as promises made to do it again, soon! Attending were (from left to right): Judy Campbell, Marilyn Golan, Barbara Steurmer, and Sherrie Igoe.

Save the Date

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Centennial Planning Update

With the 2024-25 Centennial rapidly approaching, a 100-member planning committee held its first meeting in October.

The committee, under the co-chairmanship of current ETHS Superintendent Dr. Marcus Campbell, former Superintendents Dr. Allan Alson, Dr. Eric Witherspoon, and former Assistant Superintendent/Principal **Denise Martin '69**, heard from David Futransky about the general plans for three events during the 2024-25 academic year.

The main ETHS building at Church and Dodge opened in September 1924. This yearlong program will

celebrate the largest single school building in the United States and look at our heritage in the past 100 years.

Archival material and historic records will allow us to tell the stories of many alumni and constituent groups over the years.

Three committees were created to each work on a particular activity. Events are planned for the fall of 2024, the winter of 2025, and the spring of 2025. It is hoped that all alumni will be able to attend and participate in at least one of these celebrations.

The Centennial Celebrations will start with an **all-year reunion** that will be

in the *fall 2024*. A date will be set before the spring edition of *The KIT* goes to press, so be sure to look for communications about this.

Current thinking is for a Saturday gathering in Memorial Stadium with food trucks surrounding the perimeter and tents being erected for decade-wide gatherings. This will be an afternoon event that will allow classmates and old friends to find time to gather in the evening.

Winter 2025 will see an **Alumni Variety Show** in the ETHS auditorium that



might also have performances streamed in from remote locations. Alumni performers from a vast array of the performing arts are being recruited to “put on a show.”

Spring 2025 will give current ETHS students, faculty, and staff the chance to showcase current co-curricular and extracurricular activities. An Open House format will bring

alums and community members into the building to sample and participate in a wide-ranging group of programs.

There are numerous volunteer opportunities to help shape these events. **If you are interested, contact David Futransky at 847-424-7704 or futranskyd@eths202.org.**

Black Alumni Association to share Black experience at ETHS

We are excited to announce the formation of the Black Alumni Association of Evanston Township High School!

The association has been formed as a space for Black Alumni to network, socialize and share past

and present experiences from our days at ETHS.

As the association grows, we hope to give back to our beloved ETHS through community service, fundraisers, events and scholarships that uplift our youth and community as

a whole. Please join us on facebook: Black Alumni Association of Evanston Township High School. You can also connect with us through email at eths-blackalumni@gmail.com! We look forward to hearing from you!

*By Nehezi Roberts
Maraayah '92
and Joi Arceneaux '06*



Joi Arceneaux '06 (above) and Nehezi Roberts Maraayah '92 (below) are leaders in creating and organizing the Black Alumni Assn.

How to Submit News to *The KIT*

We love to hear from our alumni all across the country. Let us know what you are up to! Following are ways to share what's new with other ETHS graduates:

• **Class Notes:** Your personal updates...Where are you working? Where have you traveled? Etc. Send us pictures and a short summary.

• **Mini Class Reunions:** Have you been meeting with a group of your high school friends for years or maybe only recently? Send us your story. Of course, we love pictures too!

• **Class Reunions:** Did you attend or coordinate your class reunion? Tell us how it went.

• **In Memory:** Do you know of an ETHS alum who has recently passed away? Please let us know the alum's name, class year, and date of death.

• **Authors' Bookshelf:** Did you pen a book? Send in your book to be catalogued and shelved on our ETHS Authors' Bookshelf. Include a summary and information on where other alumni can purchase your book.

All information may be sent via email to David Futransky, Alumni Assn. Director, at futranskyd@eths202.org. Questions? Call 847-424-7704.

In Memory

1930s

Lorraine Ericksen, 1937, 4/22/2023
Elizabeth Roberts Greene, 1939, 4/10/2023

1940s

Harry L. Hampton, 1941, 4/20/2021
Mary Jayne Barreca Fosco, 1941, 3/27/2018
Esther Moore Malmgren, 1943, 4/2022
Robert "Bob" Dunn, 1943, 3/23/2023
John Stuart Hanson, 1943, 3/27/2023
Neil E. Hiatt, 1943, 12/30/2022
Marilyn Frey Middy, 1944, 1/21/2023
Lorraine Iglione Paxson, 1944, 4/11/2023
Eugene "Gene" Martz, 1945, 6/8/2023
Helen Johnson Martz, 1946, 11/8/2020
William D. Bruce, 1946, 2/11/2022
Neil J. King, 1947, 5/18/2023
Marie Czerwinski, 1948, 12/2018
Janet Proctor Lareau, 1948, 6/4/2023

1950s

Dr. Thomas C. Tritschler, 1950, 9/8/2023
Bob Donigan, 1950, 9/28/2023
Samuel Theodore Amdur Jr., 1951, 7/4/2022
Carol Cadwell Hagemeyer, 1952, 5/16/2023
Nancy Busch Price, 1952, 11/27/2022
Rudolph "Rudy" King, 1952, 2/8/2022
Jack C. Strasser, 1952, 4/12/2023
Karl H. Muench, 1952, 3/26/2023
James A. Brennan Jr., 1953, 8/16/2023
Janice Boess Geist, 1953, 1/7/2023
Arlene Bolte Roddy, 1953, 9/6/2022
Julian J. Gorski, 1953, 4/2023
Cliff Terry, 1954, 5/4/2023
Roy F. Reid, 1954, 5/25/2019
Carol Anderson Magee, 1954, 3/5/2023
Richard Lewis Lang, 1954, 6/24/2023
Judy Alex Bagatti, 1955, 12/28/2022
Charles Edward "Charlie" Russell, 1955, 4/12/2023
Nancy Solheim Stanley, 1955, 4/14/2023
Thomas H. Marty, 1956, 12/21/2022

Henry Robert Stange, 1956, 5/22/2023
Melinda Crenshaw Paschen, 1956, 10/8/2022
Catherine "Katie" Rau Bell, 1957, 6/16/2023
David Covin, 1958, 6/3/2023
Morton Wilce Johnson, 1958, 5/1/2023
Barbara Jane Gerch, 1959, 6/30/2023
David Gerfen, 1959, 3/28/2023
Phillip Flueger, 1959, 9/10/2023

1960s

John Sebert, 1960, 6/6/2023
Wesley V. Mims Sr., 1960, 10/11/2018
Janice Taylor Sterbenz, 1960, 4/17/2021
William "Bill" Evans, 1961, 10/2023
Edwin Stephen "Steve" Hunt, 1961, 4/2/2023
Michael David Robbins, 1961, Spring 2022
Robert P. Genenz, 1961, 7/13/2023
Richard "Rick" L. Boyer, 1961, 1/19/2021
Sandra Jones Thomason, 1962, 1/7/2023
Linda Derr Mahr, 1962, 1/18/2023
Susan Hampton Pushkin, 1962, 5/21/2022
Louis Preysz, 1962, 7/9/2023
Virginia Witt, 1963, 1/4/2023
James W. Hamilton, 1963, 2/22/2023
Arthur R. Strobeck, 1963, 5/6/2023
Karalee Kowatz, 1963, 7/1/2023
Philip A. Metcalf, 1963, 3/9/2023
James M. Alcoba, 1964, 5/3/2023
Michael Francis Barnes, 1964, 8/23/2023
Jean Landberg Riordan, 1964, 8/28/2023
Patricia A. Mierkiewicz, 1964, 1/24/2021
Janet Bengtson Leahy, 1964, 6/4/2023
Marilyn Grimes, 1964, 1/18/2023
Alan Philip Gross, 1965, 8/25/2023
Barry Sonenthal, 1965, 2/2022
Joseph C. Jung, 1965, 6/11/2023
Dennis Lopatin, 1966, 9/18/2023
Ronald R. Mills, 1966, 7/27/2023

William "Bill" Majewski, 1966, 1/8/2023
Jesse Sibert, 1966, 6/9/2023
Barbara Blair Lynch, 1967, 8/4/2023
William J. Stinchcomb, 1967, July 2023
Richard Reichstein, 1968, 9/3/2023
Joyce "Joy" Murphy, 1968, 6/4/2023
Tobie Nidetz, 1968, 7/5/2023
Rose Marie Fuller Longmire, 1969, 3/31/2023
Charles Paden, 1969, 4/9/2023

1970s

Steven R. Gilford, 1970, 8/14/2023
Anne Murphy Carden, 1971, 4/27/2023
Alan Futransky, 1972, 7/20/2023
Wayne Samuel Murray, 1972, 2/8/2023
Edwin "Ed" Vetter, 1972, 3/18/2023
Brenda Davis Bostick, 1974, 11/23/2022
Jody Louise Williams, 1974, 10/17/2023
Robin E. Blackwell, 1975, 3/9/2023
Patricia Sherrill Mierkiewicz, 1975, 3/18/2018
Ann L. Singer, 1976, 2/5/2023
Laura H. Brown, 1976, 5/25/2023
Glen Crabtree, 1976, 4/19/2023
Robert L. Jones, 1977, 1977, 9/8/2023
John Kezdy, 1977, 8/26/2023
Charles Peterson, 1978, 4/8/2023
Josephine Bowen-Gardner, 1979, 4/13/2023
June Huff McClain, 1979, 10/7/2023

1980s

Lia Mortensen, 1983, 6/7/2023
Gela Graves, 1983, 4/5/2022
Paul A. Hicks, 1984, 4/26/2023
Jon Steven Modlin, 1985, 8/27/2023
Wesley V. Mims Jr., 1986, 6/20/2023
Michelle Reid Mitchell, 1989, 12/27/2022

1990s

Bryan S. Collins, 1992, 4/2023
Martin C. Liccardo, 1996, 8/16/2023
Paul Ribeiro, 1997, 6/22/2023

Caitlin Walsh, 1998, 9/11/2023
Mary Jo Carihfield, 1999, 8/6/2023

2000s

Jordan Fleps, 2010, 8/12/2023
Caitlin Westerfield, 2016, 5/17/2023
Anthony Jimenez, at tended ETHS in 2021, 6/27/2023

STAFF



Steven Gilford, a member of the ETHS class of 1970, served on the ETHS school board from 1993–2005, and as Board President from 1996–1998. In addition, he served on the Illinois State Board of Education from 2/10/2009–1/11/2017 as a board member and as Vice Chairman and as Chairman of its Operations Committee.

Richard C. Bowers, age 71, passed away on January 12, 2023. He was an Associate Principal and Fine Arts Department Chair at ETHS from 1994 until 2010 when he retired. He was a life-long learner who earned a number of bachelor, masters, and doctoral degrees. Even in retirement, he earned his paralegal certificate. He was also an educator and collector of African art.



Ann Stevens passed away 7/24/2023 at age 89. She served at ETHS in the Physical Education Department from 1963 to 1994, 20 years as department chair. She retired in 1994.



Robert "Bob" Roth taught English at ETHS for 40 years and retired in 2012. He passed away 5/1/2023 at age 74.

Anthony "Tony" Frank Kirch, 82, a resident of Grayslake, IL, passed away 12/18/2022. He worked in the ETHS Science Department from 1969 to 1994.

Semadar Siegel, retired ETHS Hebrew teacher, Israeli Culture Club sponsor, and member of the Holocaust Remembrance Activities committee, passed away after a prolonged illness on 6/15/2023.

June Huff McClain, who worked at ETHS in the Attendance and Registrar offices from 1997–2020, passed away 10/7/2023. She was a member of the ETHS Class of 1979.

Jesse Sibert '66, girls' track coach for over than 30 years, died 6/9/2023.

Charlene "Char" Ockrim, secretary in the Special Education Department, died on 6/1/2023.

Editor's Note: In the Spring 2023 KIT, we listed the date of death of Dean Olson, ETHS 1977, incorrectly. It should be November 19, 2022. We regret the error.

November 2023



ETHS
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NICHOLE VALDEZ-ARAUZ '24



I am so thankful I got this experience prior to going to college and paying for it. It confirmed my interest in a career in nursing."

Nichole first heard about iKIT work-based learning opportunities her junior year. She spent spring break shadowing medical assistants, nurses, and doctors in the Labor and Delivery unit. This experience opened doors for her, leading to a paid iKit summer internship that elevated her knowledge and skills.

Nichole's face lights up talking about working at Evanston Hospital where she learned to take vitals, run tests, perform screenings, and administer injections. Now, as a senior, her favorite class is Health Science Careers taught by Joyce Sia, BSN, RN, because "... guest speakers give us real insight into their work life at the hospital."

Empowered with this knowledge, Nichole is enthusiastic about attending college and pursuing nursing. "ETHS wants a better future for us - all these experiences are preparing us for the best career and life we can possibly have."

Today's students are dynamic.

They are creative and connected, navigating a world with rapidly changing technology, needs, and careers. What remains constant is that our students graduate with the desire to succeed and make an impact. They want to continue to be ready for the changing world around them and it is our job to prepare them to be ready for their next step.

As we look to the future, we must be BOLD in our approach to education and evolve to the changing needs of the world around us.

Through the ETHS Foundation, you are building a stronger, more equitable ETHS. You build 21st century learning spaces that empower educators to engage new teaching techniques. You create educational opportunities that inspire students for careers in emerging and evolving fields. You support a diverse Evanston/Skokie community by offsetting rising costs and limited public funding.

Your year-end gift is an investment in ETHS, an investment in THEIR future. Your support for dynamic spaces and educational resources empowers every student to discover their passions and create a solid foundation on which to build the rest of their lives.

Thank you for your partnership and support for all students,

Dr. Marcus Campbell, Superintendent

P.S. This is a postscript with `<variable text>`.



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Originally, the 55 acres that became home to Evanston Township High School was barren farmland. While it isn't clear who owned the land, what is clear is that Carl Steif, a German immigrant who lived in Skokie, built a house and barn on the property in 1906, moved in with his wife Pauline and their growing family (eventually 12 children), and became a tenant farmer.



Alumni Association
Evanston Twp. High School
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