



# The KIT

The Keep in Touch Newsletter of Evanston Township High School's Alumni Association • Fall 2022

## Strengthening community, safety, healing — main focus points for 2022-23

On August 15, 2022, the first day of school, Dr. Marcus Campbell (at rt), told the freshmen class, “I feel like a freshman, as well, since it’s my first year as superintendent.” Last April, Campbell was appointed head of the school district to succeed the 16-year career of Dr. Eric Witherspoon, who retired on June 30. Campbell took over on July 1.

He was considered a top candidate for the job due to his experience and national reputation. He’d worked at ETHS for the last 21 years, starting as an English teacher for 10 years. He served in various academic and administrative positions, including Director for Student Supports and Racial Equity, Associate Principal, and, since 2013, as Assistant Superintendent/Principal.

Campbell played a central role in ETHS’s equity transformation programs and received both personal and professional accolades for his leadership in the district’s strategy and organizational change.

**Campbell chose** another insider, Dr. Taya Kinzie (at rt.), to follow him as school principal. She’s worked at ETHS since 2004, during which time her roles have included Associate Principal of Student Services, Dean, and Special Education Social Worker. Dr. Kinzie is also a Spanish/English bilingual Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and has previously served students and families in Chicago, Waukegan, and California Public Schools and for social service agencies.

While most of the students returned this year to in-person learning and are familiar with the block schedule that began last year, there are some elements that are new this year. COVID testing ended in September due to lack of demand, and

wearing masks is optional, not mandated. Absences can include mental health absences if needed (IL law allows five excused absences per year without the need for a doctor’s note, and students can make up any missed work).

**The girls’** gym locker room was renovated this summer, aligning with the boys’ locker room re-do three years ago. A few all-gender restrooms are now available.

What is not allowed on campus are weapons or dangerous articles of any form likely to cause bodily harm or property damage. “Safety is the top priority for our learning environment,” said Campbell. “Our focus is to keep everyone safe as we live through a time where we may feel more vulnerable than ever,” he added.

In addition, cell-phones are “to be off and put away” in classrooms or the Deans’ office, but can be used in hallways during passing periods, in cafeterias during lunch, or in The Hub, a student resource center.

**For Kinzie**, “healing is a priority so we can work together through feelings of fear, frustration, grief, loss, and other emotions. Healing together will make us stronger together.”

Four guiding principles will be the focus of decision-making in this post-pandemic school year: Social-emotional learning, racial equity, literacy, and post-high school planning. And Campbell is reach-



ing out in an effort to seek multiple perspectives to guide his leadership.

This fall he launched a **Listening & Learning Series** to communicate with students, families, staff, and community members.

A **Community Advisory Council** with eight individuals representing the various constituent groups (five parents/community members, three students) will meet quarterly to provide two-way communication between district leadership and the school community about emerging areas of need and to share perspectives on school processes, policies, and initiatives.

**Community TalkBacks**, held in different locations in Evanston/Skokie, will join Campbell and other school leaders in conversations to build and strengthen community relationships to define values purpose, and goals.

**Talking Circles** will bring Kinzie together with staff members monthly and

Campbell at least quarterly to hear feedback from all levels of the staff.

**Wildkit Walkabouts** will provide opportunities for students to discuss issues with Campbell that are important to them and impact their school experience. During first semester, Campbell and Kinzie planned to host a feedback forum with the ETHS Student Union.

Campbell also planned to host a **Wildkit Way Podcast** to help him stay con-

nected with the school community. Join this audio journey as Campbell shares his stories and insights... and has honest, real conversations with people who make ETHS and the Wildkit community the incredible place it is.

The first podcast—“Healing Together”—was released September 16. Go to the ETHS website—eths.k12.il.us—to get access online or via social media.

**“I firmly believe** in staying proximate to the people who make up this amazing school community,” said Campbell. “I am excited to partner with students, families, staff, and community members this year and hear their stories and their perspectives. Already this school year as we have welcomed back our staff and held our Open House for families, there is a feeling of solidarity, support, and enthusiasm around the high school. We will only get stronger from here,” he added.

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# Superintendent's Letter

Dear Wildkit Family,

I am humbled and honored to serve as your new superintendent. When I began my career at ETHS over 20 years ago as an English teacher, I could never have imagined I would be where I am today.

**I firmly believe** in ETHS—in all that we stand for and all that we can continue to become. And I am delighted to serve you in my new role.

Now that we are back in school, I want you to know how important it is to me that we continue to focus on healing. The ongoing challenges of the pandemic and everything else we are facing as a world, nation, and community

continue to affect us. Despite these difficulties, we will keep moving forward in solidarity and support each other along the way.

**Please know** that I understand how tough the last several years have been. Yet I believe we have become more resilient and more human. My focus remains on keeping everyone safe as we continue to live through unprecedented times where we may feel more vulnerable than ever.

It is also very important to me to continue to support our students and staff as we transition to a new normal. Although the year is off to a smooth start, there is always room for improvement.

We are increasing our staffing numbers, and we continue to hire a more diverse teaching faculty to support our more diverse student population.

We are also working to increase the number of mental health professionals in the district as we support students who are navigating grief, anxiety, and many other mental health concerns.

**The landscape** of our profession continues to shift. Schools need to invest more in students' well-being. We are committed to doing our part to ensure all students feel comfortable so that they can grow to their fullest potential.



ETHS Supt. Dr. Marcus Campbell

I am looking forward to working with old friends and new colleagues in my role. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this

capacity in such a wonderful community.

Sincerely,  
Marcus Campbell  
campbellm@eths202.org

## From the Alumni Association Executive Director

### A Busy Fall in 2022

We are truly back to school. Normalcy has returned in so many ways. YAMO played to sold out crowds. Homecoming spirit filled the halls and a pep rally was held at Lazier Field. Friday football games are drawing crowds and attendance is up at both girls' and boys' sports.

Classes are back in person and last year's block schedule seems as if it has always been in place, though some of us remember "mods" with different levels of fondness. Below are several highlighted areas that relate specifically to alumni. Remember, we are here for you, so please let us know how we can help you stay in touch.

### Reunions!

Reunions are back and ETHS alumni are coming back to visit. Because of

the pandemic, we were unable to host reunions for the past couple of years. This led to a backlog of events and Wildkits of all generations have been celebrating over the summer and fall of 2022.

Eleven different classes had celebrations between the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Homecoming. (Remember, we can only give tours when ETHS is in session—after late August. We were unable to take some of these classes inside the building, but they all found ways to celebrate).

Various events were planned for the classes of 1961, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1980, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1992, and 2002. Some included Wildkit football games, tours of the outside of the building in summertime, indoor tours in September and October, and parties all over the area.



David Futransky '69

They all had several things in common—lots of fun, catching up with old friends, making new ones among people they knew but did not really know, and remembering good feelings about ETHS. Some of the highlights are in this issue of *The KIT*. Be sure to look at the ETHS Alumni Relations webpage and in future issues of *The KIT* to find out about upcoming reunions.

### Distinguished Alumni Awards

Distinguished Alumni Awardees have been selected for this year. We are excited to be able to hold an assembly for the Senior Class of 2023 on December 5 and to introduce our honorees. More details appear in these pages.

### Building Centennial

The 2024-25 Centennial planning is moving ahead at a very quick pace. Architects are being considered and the ETHS Foundation has started its planning. An overall Centennial Committee is forming. Retired ETHS Superintendents Dr. Allan Alson and Dr. Eric Witherspoon will be joined by retired Principal and alumnae **Denise Martin '69** as our co-chairs.

The Committee will hold its first meeting in early spring and information will start coming to you in the not-too-distant future.

### Alumni Directory

You have probably received postcards and emails from PCI about the 2023 *Alumni Directory*. We do this every five years. Using a vendor is the only affordable way we know to gather and update information about all of you. This allows us to keep our database up to date. Because of this, we can keep you in touch with your alma mater. You get this semi-annual newsletter. We can keep our costs down by not mailing to addresses that are no longer where you live. We can increase contact through email. We can help reunion classes

connect with you as you reach milestone events.

Since we produced the 2018 *Alumni Directory*, we have all become more aware of security around our identities. For those who are unsure about responding, we greatly respect your concerns and hope that you will share updates with us, if there are any changes.

### New Emails

As the school year began, we have changed our email system from Outlook to Google. As many of the classroom applications that our faculty and students use, it takes away some of the confusion that exists when you have two systems running at the same time. ETHS email addresses have changed. The new email address for alumni is **alumni@eths202.org**. Please use that to connect with us or write me directly at **futranskyd@eths202.org**. The school's website address is still **www.eths.k12.il.us**.

## The KIT

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ETHS Alumni Association**

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# Rowing Club joins ETHS as a new sports offering

This fall, ETHS launched a new sports-related club—the Rowing Club. Beginning on August 15, approximately 46 students (one-half freshmen, the remaining sophomores through seniors) attended two weeks of extensive conditioning training and learning about the sport.

According to **Chris Livatino '91**, ETHS Athletic Director, “Thanks go the local North Channel Community Rowing (NCCR) organization for helping ETHS develop a feeder program that specifically targets students of color to participate in the new Rowing Club.” Last year NCCR began, particularly in District 65, attracting local middle-school stu-



ETHS Rowing Club rowing on the North Shore Channel.

District’s Dammich Rowing Center at Oakton St. and McCormick Blvd., and rowers will practice on the North Shore Channel.

Rules are paramount in rowing. It’s a team effort. There are nine people in a boat, eight rowers and one coxswain... “or the boat doesn’t go out,” said Ruiz. No unexcused absences are allowed. The boat and oars are fragile (made of carbon fiber) and expensive (upwards of \$55,000 per boat, \$500 for a pair of oars), so any negligence (e.g., stepping on the boat’s bottom, dropping the boat or oars, talking while carrying the boat) can jeopardize the whole boat team.

**Rowers must** pass an annual swim test. Minimum standards for those who will only row on the North Shore Channel include a 50-meter swim and five minutes of treading water. That benchmark increases

to a 100-meter swim and 10 minutes treading water for those in competitions elsewhere on larger bodies of water.

**Academic** eligibility includes passing five classes and a 2.0 minimum GPA

**The students** pay a \$15 club membership fee to U.S. Rowing, which can be waived if necessary. NU charges a small rental fee, and ETHS underwrites some expenses such as bus transportation to and from the North Shore Channel.

However, fundraising will be necessary for the program as a whole.

Ruiz added, “Support will allow us to keep participation costs at a minimum [and] make our sport accessible to more student athletes.”

To get more information about the Rowing Club, contact Ruiz at [RUIZL@ETHS202.ORG](mailto:RUIZL@ETHS202.ORG) or through the Athletic Department.



Members work out on the ETHS ergometers that simulate rowing strokes.

(and getting daily academic support if below that).

“Our goal for 2022-23 is to develop a strong team culture of effort, teamwork, and fun that will set us up for a long future of ETHS rowing success,” said Ruiz.



**Rowing** is a two-season sport, fall and spring, once the channel thaws in mid- to late March. According to Ruiz (aka Coach Lu): “We’re still in conversation with ETHS about

dents to rowing, students who eventually will come to ETHS. Those recruits—boys and girls from diverse racial backgrounds and low-income families—helped kick-off the inaugural season of ETHS’s club this year.

**Northwestern** University’s rowing program has partnered with ETHS and has loaned the club two eight-person shells, oars, and launches that travel along side the boat in the water. The club’s goal is to become independent over the next three to five years. Four NU grads, led by Luciana Ruiz, who all rowed at NU (Jacob LaPres, Jackson Lifford, and Alex Jimenez) plus two additional college rowers (Evan Miller—U of WI and Monica Schweitz—U of Puget Sound) have joined as volunteer coaches for the ETHS rowing program.

The boats, oars, launches, and related equipment are housed in the Skokie Park

what next semester will look like. Typically in rowing there is a winter conditioning season that is all indoor training on a rowing machine called an ergometer (erg), which simulates rowing strokes.”

Livatino said the students can do their conditioning in the school’s well-equipped Arrington Wellness & Performance Center, including the school’s five ergs. He also said the winter down-time gives the rowers a chance to join another sport.

**This school year** will be all about learning to row and develop core values. Competition won’t start until Fall of 2023 with other local programs such as New Trier and Loyola Academy. If the program takes off at ETHS, it can become an official competitive varsity sport, as happened this year with field hockey after being a “club” for several years.



On September 17, ETHS hosted its inaugural E-Town Community Literacy Fest. Held on the tennis courts on Church and Dodge, this family-friendly event was open to the entire Evanston community.

According to **Jerry Succes '87**, ETHS Director of Academic Supports, “Well over 200 parents and children attended, from high school students, elementary and middle school levels, and just people and families from the commu-

nity who stopped by as they were driving or walking by.”

**They joined** ETHS mascot Willie Wildkit for games, face

painting, a putty table, writing table, and several literacy related activities. Local food vendors—Tamalitos Chicago, YoFresh Cafe, and Mother’s Soulful Food—offered food at no charge.

“All of the books were either donated or we bought from our budget,” said Succes, adding “All of the books were free and we made sure every student who attended received at least two to three books.” For example,

Young, Black & Lit, a Chicago-area nonprofit organization, donated over 150 books for young adult and children that center, reflect, and affirm Black children. In addition, the ETHS Foundation donated funds to purchase over 150 Spanish/English-leveled textbooks that were given away free.



Students played Loteria, a Bingo game set in Spanish, among many other activities.



Geometry in Construction builds athletic storage facility

Later this fall, the ETHS Athletic Department will have a unique storage facility to house all of its sports-team equipment — built to order by students in the school’s Geometry in Construction (GIC) course.

Approximately 20 ft. x 50 ft., the two-story facility will be 9 ft. tall on the first floor, and 8 ft. on the second. Located near the softball field on the



campus’s north end, it will encompass 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.

**This will be** the 8<sup>th</sup> facility (7 houses, 1 athletic storage unit) that GIC students have built since the course began in 2013. The two-period interdisciplinary course integrates algebra with geometry and puts math to use by giving the students hands-on experience building significant



construction projects. The course is co-directed by Matthew Kaiser, Career/ Technical Education (CTE) teacher, and Maryjoy Heineman, math teacher.

**During the** pandemic year and remote learning, GIC students did construction-type projects at home such as building balsa-model homes on a smaller scale. But last school year, GIC was back in business with in-person learning and they needed a project to build.

Two summers ago, **Chris Livatino ’91**, ETHS Athletic Director, and CFO Mary Rodino were discussing building a storage space for an outdoor-track renovation project when the “light bulb” turned on, said Livatino. In the past, Rodino has worked with the City of Evanston to find empty properties that needed moderate-income family houses.

That didn’t happen during the pandemic lockdown, so the thought of constructing a sports storage unit at ETHS seemed a good alternative.

**According to** Livatino: “All of the estimates from the architect were over \$400,000 for a basic storage building. We looked at each other and said ‘That’s

crazy. We could do that ourselves for a lot less than that.’ ” So, Rodino worked with CTE Department Chair Shelley Gates, and the ETHS Foundation that annually helps support GIC, “and the rest is history,” said Livatino.



**The sports** facility will store equipment for track & field, soccer, lacrosse, football, softball, and daily Physical Education class equipment. With the sports unit almost done, said Kaiser, “this year we are back to houses.” The house currently under construction will be located at 1739 Brown in Evanston.

In the past, Math Department Chair **Dale Leibforth ’93** described GIC as “one of our most popular courses.” According to Kaiser: “We started this year with 100 students! It is looking like it is going to be a great year. We are really excited!”

Career Partnerships Program needs you

Are you or your organization considering ways to engage young people in learning more about your career field or industry? Would you like to help ETHS students gain real-world experience that can help them achieve post-high school success?

**Research shows** that young people who engage in Work-Based Learning programs develop skills that employers value but may be difficult to acquire in classroom settings. These include not only technical skills but also professional skills, such as the ability to work as a member of a team, an awareness of the need to be proactive, and an understanding of workplace expectations.

Tana Francellno, ETHS Career Partnership and Work-Based Learning



**At this Northshore University HealthSystem facility, ETHS students were given a site tour of the laboratory and pharmacy where 18 summer iKIT interns explored health-care careers for 10 weeks starting in June.**

Coordinator, with support from the Evanston Mayor’s Employer Advisory Committee, is currently looking for additional professionals to expand Work-Based Learning experiences for ETHS students and recent graduates.

These work-based learning experiences include a range of options including informal, virtual Q-and-A sessions about your career field, in-person job shadowing, classroom visits, and/or internship opportunities. Last school year, we engaged over 300+ students in career exploration experiences in seven career pathways.

**To learn more** about how you can become involved in helping ETHS students and graduates with career exploration, please contact Tana Francellno (francellnot@eths202.org) or 847-424-7014.

**At Wheels & Sprocket, a local full-service bike shop with 12 locations in the US, ETHS students participated in iKIT Job Shadow week during spring break. They received hands-on experience in bike mechanics, learned about the importance of a great customer experience, and were paid for working 20 hours. Here, Bryn Schulte at Wheels & Sprocket shows ETHS senior Owen Smith the ropes.**



Keep in Touch  
with the  
ETHS Alumni Association

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Twitter — Twitter.com/ethsalumni



ETHS’s Edible Acres feed students, staff, and community members

Evanston Township High School has gone green—literally. 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, at Dodge and Davis and on Church just west of the football field.

From late August to November, and during summer school, the cafeterias offer up home-grown fresh lettuce, spinach, squash, cucumbers, peppers (4 kinds), radishes, carrots, tomatoes (6 varieties), beets, green beans, peas, eggplants, and other seasonal goodies.

**Annually,** Kim Minestra, ETHS Nutrition Services Director, and Matt 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. More raised beds were built in the Edible Acres, more crops were planted, and the school’s green



On July 28, each person’s CSA box held the above collection of freshly picked vegetables from the Edible Acre.

donated \$5,000 to help buy trees for the orchard (aka Edible Orchard). This year, “the apple and pear orchard is really starting to produce,” said Ryan.

**The Acres’** harvest were 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 with 10 ETHS staff members that each invested \$250 and every Thursday for 10 weeks received a CSA box

of produce. “This allows ETHS staff to support the garden,” said Ryan, “and leaves no waste.”

**This year** the CSA expanded to 25 people and from 10 to 24 weeks for \$600 paid up front “because we have planned the crops in detail to ensure assortment as much as possible,” said Minestra.

In addition, this 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 also raises** funds in other ways to support the program. Village Farmstand buys some of the harvest, “and they have been very happy with the quality of the produce,” said Ryan.

ETHS also holds a seedling sale each spring to grow and offer organic seedlings to ETHS students, staff, and the greater Evanston community. Said Ryan, “We typically grow a couple thousand seedlings each year for the CSA as well as for the Edible Acres 1 and 2.”

**The gardens** have become a classroom for students taking the Urban Agriculture course. During the school year, Ryan works once a week with each of the four Urban Ag classes (over 70 students total) “out in the garden(s) where they get hands-on experience harvesting, weeding, water, etc. We also have one to two after school times for students to work in the garden,” he added.

The Urban Ag classes also help each week to harvest produce and package the CSA boxes. Each box averages six to seven pounds of produce, “an assortment

of five to eight different items each time,” noted Minestra.

**Throughout the** summer, students in the city’s Summer Youth Employment Program are hired to work in the garden. According to Minestra, “This is a great opportunity to make some money, have fun being outdoors, and learn the importance of growing local organic food.” Employment program students work 15 hours a week to maintain the garden. “They do everything from A to Z,” said Ryan.

**Going green** has been a cost-saver for ETHS. By growing its own food, ETHS has annually saved at least \$12,000 in organic produce. The rest of the year, Minestra buys produce and certain other foods in part through Farmlogix, an online marketplace where customers can shop by local farm or by product.



Students in the city’s Youth Employment Program manage the garden in the summer.

house became a winter seedbed for lettuce, herbs, and other vegetables. “It’s now year-round production,” said Ryan.

Minestra and Ryan also had other plans for growth. Five years ago, about 25 fruit trees—half Asian pear, half a variety of apple trees—were planted adjacent to the ETHS football field parking lot. The graduating Class of 2016

Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Title IX at ETHS

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, we are having a series of celebrations throughout the year and area asking you to PLEASE SHARE the following information and links with your former athletes (and fellow coaches) that you still have contact information for and post on your social media so that we can try and have as large a gathering as possible for each of these events.

- **Title IX Tributes** at girls sports contests (event dates listed in the FORM below). We want our alumni and former coaches to be a part of these events as you/they built the foundation of our female sports programs at ETHS.
- **SAVE THE DATE for Saturday, February 4, 2023 as we will have our major Title IX Celebration event after our**

Girls’ Basketball game vs Hersey at Northwestern’s Welsh-Ryan Arena.

- I am so incredibly happy to announce that G220 (formerly known as G206) will be re-named **Shirley Nannini Gymnasium** later this school year in honor of our beloved coach and AD, Shirley Nannini, who was one of the driving forces behind moving Title IX from theory to practice at ETHS. Once we have the date set for that naming ceremony, we will be communicating that out to everyone who registers for either of these two links below.
- **#TitleIXTuesday tweets** honoring the former athletes and coaches that shaped ETHS Athletics over the past 50 years.

Thank you again for the role you played or are playing to support and

grow sports opportunities for the young women of Evanston. **Please complete and promote these two forms and Twitter thread far and wide.**

**Fall Sports Title IX Tribute Sign-Up Form:** <https://forms.gle/3T8T7R9aCsDPxdzH7>

**ETHS Alumni Contact Form (for former coaches also):** <https://forms.gle/WCpzdauqt-LY3gfeo7>

**#TitleIXTuesday Twitter Thead:** <https://twitter.com/ETHSports/status/1540194331537162241?s=20&t=4w7ICDSc9N57g9zHE3LbNQ>

By **Chris Livatino ’91,**  
ETHS Athletic Director



# New organization empowers students of color

The last two years have been difficult for families and students in Evanston. Trauma from Covid losses and a rise in homicides, nationally and locally, that have targeted young Black males, have taken their toll.

In response, ETHS staff and alumni created a non-profit organization in February 2021 to serve Evanston youth and their families that have fallen victim to systemic racism, particularly low-income families.



**Team STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) projects included constructing a domino cascade that knocked down all the dominos.**

**Named Equity** & Empowerment for Evanston Families, EEEF offers families of color access to parental resources “while empowering their children through mentorship programs, academic supports, discovery opportunities, and real world experiences,” according to its mission statement.

Working with Evanston School District 65, a series of free programs for Black males in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade provide them with year-round support.

According to **Chris Livatino ’91**, ETHS Athletic Director, EEEF seeks to “open doors that have far too often been reserved for predominantly white families in Evanston” by offering after-school programs that emphasize academics to weekend immersion programs which introduce the youngsters to opportunities they will have when they come to ETHS.

**EEEEF launched** in summer 2021 with Camp Kuumba\* for 30 Black males in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In the fall, the organization partnered with Northwestern University to host a five-part seminar on healthy masculinity for the same campers. D65 has also become a partner and will allow EEEF volunteers to provide tutoring and promote Camp Kuumba during the year. This year, EEEF is creating programming for Black females and plans to add programs for the Latinx community next year.

**During the** school year, “We saw many of our campers improve academically and even join their schools’ student councils,” said Livatino. “We’ve also seen some begin to slip through the cracks,” he added.

For the past two summers, Camp Kuumba has offered the students “a boat load of opportunities,” said Livatino. According to **Mark Succes ’83**, camp director (and ETHS PE/Wellness teacher), these included sports, STEM projects, twice-weekly field trips (to zoos, Chicago museums), drawing, financial literacy, music, and community service projects, “getting them to try new things.” Succes was supported by ETHS teachers and coaches, and several ETHS alums, “all serving the Black males who will be ETHS students eventually,” he said.

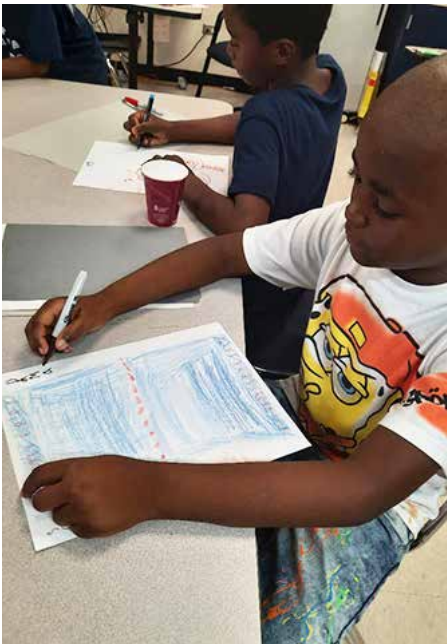
Along with the learning, the boys and adults had serious group discussions about attitude, respect, kindness, positivity, sportsmanship, and friendliness. “We are a group of brothers on a journey to explore and understand ourselves and each other,” Succes told them, adding. “We will support and honor each other on this journey.”

**This fall, the** EEEF Executive Committee, chaired by Executive Director

Greg Taylor, with members **Rudy Meo ’05**, **Clarinda Harbison ’97**, and **Carlton Rosemond ’98**, among others, met to review the Camp’s accomplishments and to determine how to expand the total program during the school year.

Suggestions included after-school tutoring, mini-sports leagues for a wide variety of sports for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders, learn-to-swim program, monthly field trips, and seasonal family gatherings. Other activities will include special interest clubs like Gaming Club and an Investment Club, quarterly service projects, continuing the Healthy Masculinity Workshop Series with NU, and partnering with Northlight Theatre to “Build a Play.”

**“We want our** children to have the same opportunities and supports as every other child in Evanston,” said Livatino. Campers’ participation in



**Camp Kuumba students worked with local artist Jevold Simmons to draw pictures of activities they participated in, such as swimming in the ETHS pool. They also were encouraged to share these experiences with their campmates and people who saw the art on the walls.**

the year-round programs will determine if they can attend camp again next summer. According to Livatino, “We will also identify new students from low-income families that would not otherwise have access to the opportunities we provide.”

Fund raising is an important reality for EEEF to continue and grow. While Camp Kuumba and all of the year-round pro-

gramming are free to the students, there are costs associated with the program nonetheless (art and other program supplies, transportation, lunches, museum entry fees, etc.).

The ETHS Class of 1964 was a catalyst for fund raising led by Melvin “Rommie” Taylor Jr., Greg Taylor’s father. The class helped raise over \$25,000 overall. In addition, an anonymous ETHS alumnus made a major donation to hire the Executive Director.

**To learn more** about EEEF, including ways to support their programs, you can look at their website: [www.equity4evanston.com](http://www.equity4evanston.com).

*\* Kuumba is the sixth principle of Kwanzaa, meaning to always do as much as we can, in the way we can, to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.*

## Authors’ Bookshelf



**Margaret (Davis) Ghielmetti ’77** has written *Brave(ish): A Memoir of a Recovering Perfectionist* that follows her literal journey (and traveler’s misadventures) living on four continents (and visiting nearly 50 countries) and her emotional journey to find her voice and re-connect with her creative expression.

Said Ghielmetti: “My writerly career began on *The Key* and *The Evanstonian*. My website (<https://margaretghielmetti.com>) includes video links to my ‘live lit’ storytelling (including winning two StorySLAMs with The Moth) and recent accolades, including Silver Finalist for The Gilda Award.

“Connection is why I create and share my art, so I appreciate this opportunity to connect with my fellow Wildkits,” she said.

**Lois Shelton ’64** has published her first and only book, her memoir *Rocky Trail but Steady Feet*.

Said Shelton: “In 1951, my mother took a Greyhound bus from the snowy north woods to Chicago with me in tow and \$10 in her pocket. She quickly found a job in Evanston that was her target town and a good choice. While we had rough years getting stable housing, changing schools, and securing work it eventually paid off.

“My mother was the daughter of Finnish im-

migrants that had eight children and died young leaving my mother as the caretaker of the younger children at a young age herself. At 20 she went to Pasadena as Rosie the Riveter to make bombs and in 1947 I was born.

“My life was unstable with many ups and downs, but ETHS gave me the foundation to go in a better direction...with an education, adventures, and taking risks. To reach goals, my life could be called non-traditional, but there are many ways to live a meaningful and fulfilling life.”

The book is available at Book Baby Book Shop, Barnes & Noble, or Amazon



# Spring 2022 Sports

The medal haul for Evanston’s teams in spring 2022 was, in a word, impressive.

The Wildkits scored IHSA state medals in both boys’ and girls’ track and field, and boys’ gymnastics, and claimed 4th place in the team standings in both girls’ track and soccer.

Here is a recap of Evanston’s accomplishments in the spring season.

**BOYS’ TRACK/FIELD**  
Ever since he was young, **Matt Cless** has dreamed of a career as a commercial airline pilot. And no one flew higher than the Evanston senior at the Class 3A state track and field finals at Eastern IL U.

Cless climaxed his unlikely climb in the sport — from basketball bench warmer to state track champion in two short years — by capturing the high jump state championship with a leap of 6 feet, 7.5 inches. The irrepressible senior improved on his 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at state a year ago and helped ETHS tie for 14<sup>th</sup> place with 20 points. He teamed with **Miles Granjean, Skyler Lee,** and **Vorn Ellis** for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 1600-meter relay with a season best time of 3 minutes, 21.42 seconds, and Ellis placed 7<sup>th</sup> overall in the 400. The dramatic clearance at 1.96 meters on his final try kept Cless in the hunt. He cleared 1.99 with ease, then needed just 2 attempts at 2.02 to beat out the defending champion, Rob Pulliam of Moline.

**GIRLS’ TRACK/FIELD**  
The next time someone taps **Fenny Gunter ’74** on the shoulder, don’t be surprised if the Evanston girls’ track coach

experiences a strong case of déjà vu. You can’t blame him. He’ll always remember a tap that led to a gold medal performance.

Senior **Dystonae Clark** shook off an ailing hamstring and helped ETHS to a 1<sup>st</sup>-place finish and a school record in the 1600-meter relay on a soggy day at the Class 3A state finals at Eastern IL U. She teamed with **Abrielle Artley, Rikki Gray,** and **Jacklynn Okereke** to set a blistering pace and won the title in 3 minutes, 47.45 seconds in a driving rainstorm. That sizzling effort wiped out the previous ETHS record of 3:48.67 and now ranks as the 5<sup>th</sup> fastest time in state history in that event. That fantastic — and wet — finish propelled the Wildkits to 4<sup>th</sup> place in the team standings falling two points short of a state trophy. The Wildkit total included a 2<sup>nd</sup> by the 800 relay team, a 4<sup>th</sup> in the 400 relay, a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Artley in the 300 hurdles, and a 4<sup>th</sup> (open 400) and a 7<sup>th</sup> (200) by senior **Maidson Hardamon**.

And Clark, who said her lower leg was really tight, was going to be replaced, but finally determined she could do it. “With all the stuff she’s been through over the past four years, I thought if anybody deserves to finish up as a champion, it’s her. So we put her back in there,” said Gunter. ETHS won the race by 10 seconds over Prospect. Only the wet and sloppy track prevented Evanston from making a more serious challenge to the state

record of 3:44.9 set by East St. Louis Lincoln back in 1984.

**BOYS’ GYMNASTICS**  
**Xavier Probst’s** path to success could some day lead to his dream of performing with Cirque de Soleil. But what the ETHS sophomore pulled off at the state gymnastics finals was no circus trick. In a stunning conclusion to his first high school gymnastics season, Probst turned in the routine of his career and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> on floor exercise at Hoffman Estates.

Probst joined his much decorated teammate, senior **Aryeh Lesch**, on the awards podium after Lesch also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> on vault. It marked the first time a pair of Evanston gymnasts earned state medals in the same season since 1986-87, when **Rodney Pointer** and **Mark Sussman** placed 1-2 on vault.

The Wildkits have rewritten the history book so many times in the past couple of seasons under head coach Frank Erwin, the ink barely dries. The ’Kits followed up their first conference championship since 1988 by advancing three individuals — Probst, Lesch, and freshman **Erik Van Leer** — to the finals in floor exercise. That’s an unprecedented effort for a program that has enjoyed a resurgence under Erwin.

Lesch has been a model of consistency for the Wildkits over the past four years. Lesch finished 7<sup>th</sup> on floor exercise at 9.25, the same state placing he earned as a junior in that event. The Dartmouth-bound standout is believed to be the only athlete in school history to score multiple top 10 State finishes in two sports, gymnastics and diving as a junior and a senior.

**GIRLS’ SOCCER**  
Sometimes just the ability to keep playing the game the same way you played it during the regular season is what separates true champions from the rest of a state tournament field. Evanston’s girls couldn’t find a way to do that at the state finals and fell short of their goal of achieving the program’s second state soccer title. A 2-1 loss to Lincoln-Way Central in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-place game at North Central College sent a talented Wildkit team out on a losing note with a final record of 21-4-1. A tearful group of seniors, the trophy they wanted was one to match the 2002 state championship team.

**BASEBALL**  
If there is a high school baseball coach in Illinois who already can’t wait until next year, it’s Evanston coach Frank Consiglio. The Wildkits will bring back their entire talented pitching staff and the only major hole to fill in the everyday lineup is at short-stop with the graduation of the gifted **Alex Vasquez**.

That didn’t make it any easier for Consiglio to watch the 2022 campaign come to an end with a defeat to Loyola Academy in the Class 4A regional championship game with a 21-10 season record.

**GIRLS’ BADMINTON**  
Three Evanston seniors earned top 32 finishes at the state tournament held at Hinsdale South. Both **Catherine Hanson**, in singles, and the doubles team of **Ella Berkowitz** and **Lula Garfield** scored a pair of victories in the 3-day tournament before being eliminated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of consolation bracket play.

**GIRLS’ WATER POLO**  
Years of frustration piled up on Evanston girls’ water polo coach Andy Miner and his players when it came to falling short of winning the Central Suburban League South division championship every year. Arch-rival New Trier had the upper hand for 10 straight years in the CSL tournament title game — until the Wildkits finally turned the tables on the Trevians! The top-seeded Wildkits downed New Trier 8-6 in the title match of the season-ending tournament to earn the first conference title for the girls’ program since 2005.

“It feels really good to get that monkey off our backs,” Miner said. “I’ve tried to downplay not winning it over the years, but every game matters, whether or not it’s for a championship. So we had a little shift in our mindset, because you have to play your best no matter what’s at stake.”

**Ava Santos-Volpe** scored three goals as the Wildkits defeated New Trier for the third time this season. She netted two of those goals and combined with **Hilda Arellano, Morrigan Bushroe-Stumpf** and **Zayra Arellano** to provide a cushion entering the final period that New Trier couldn’t overcome. The season didn’t have a happy ending for the Wildkits, though. New Trier sprung a 9-5 upset on ETHS in the championship game of the Glenbrook South Sectional and went on to place 4th at the state finals.

By Dennis Mahony  
ETHS Sports  
Information Director



# ETHS Kudos

## Geometry in Construction Award



**Rob Anthony (far left), CPAH President, and Amy Rosenfeld Kaufman (far right), CPAH Director of Development and Community Relations, congratulate ETHS staff members (L to Rt) Matthew Kaiser, Shelley Gates, Eric Witherspoon, Kendra Williams, and Dale Leibforth on receiving a community partner award.**

ETHS’s Geometry in Construction program was honored in June with the 2022 Community Partner Award for its extraordinary contributions to affordable housing in Evanston by Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH).

Since 2013, ETHS has collaborated with CPAH and the City of Evanston to build multiple homes for low-to-moderate income families. The Geometry in Construction program provides college- and career-bound students with the opportunity to learn the full geometry curriculum through the construction of a single-family home.

The course is offered for both regular and honors

credit. In addition to the mathematics coursework, students gain hands-on experience in home design, floor and wall construction, sheathing, roofing, siding, window installation, painting, and trim work.

“This program empowers our students while at the same time providing those in need in our community the life-changing opportunity to obtain safe, permanent, affordable housing,” said Shelley Gates, who served as the ETHS Department Chair for Career and Technical Education during the first nine years of the partnership. “It is a win-win, and an incredible partnership that we hope will continue for years to come.”

## Vondracek speaks at NU’s TEDx program

On May 15, **Dr. Mark Vondracek**, physics teacher and research adviser at ETHS for 24+ years, was among seven esteemed scholars and leaders chosen to present their ideas at Northwestern U’s TEDxNorthwestern U, an event shared every spring with the community.

Prior to teaching high school, he earned his Ph.D. in high-energy particle physics from the U of Illinois, using data from the



Collider Detector Facility collaboration at Fermilab. He has been honored as one of the world’s top 50 teachers with the Global Teacher Prize, as well as a Claes Nobel National Top 10 Teacher of the Year, the Contemporary Physics Education Project’s National Teacher of the Year, the IL State Board of Education’s Award of Excellence winner, Northwestern’s Distinguished Secondary Teacher Award, and dozens of other recognitions.

## 2023 National Merit Semifinalists

Nine ETHS seniors have been named Semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. 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, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

## Japan Bowl winners and trip to Japan

Last March, the ETHS Japan Bowl team took first place at the 2022 Illinois Japan Bowl. The three seniors competed based on the number of years they studied Japanese—each since freshman year. While they advanced to the national competition held in April, they did not place at nationals.



**ETHS Japan Bowl team (from left): Tyler Pitts, Jelena Djukic, and Ryan Pitts.**

However, this summer, the Japan-America Society of Washington, DC, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Kakehashi project invited 5 Japan Bowl winners (the three-member ETHS team and two members from Madison Country Day School in Waunakee, WI) for a trip to Japan. The students met the Japan Bowl Honorary Patron Princess Takamado, visited the Prime Minister’s

office, and they toured Tokyo, Kanazawa, and Shirakawa-go. The Illinois Japan Bowl is an academic competition, which covers a wide range of topics that tests high school students

studying the Japanese language across the state. Sponsored by the Japan America Society of Chicago, the competition tests not only knowledge of the language, but also the understanding of traditional and modern Japan.

## ESPN Female Athlete of the Year from ETHS



**Last spring, ETHS sophomore Olivia Ohlson was named ESPN’s Female Athlete of the Year for youth in Illinois and Northern Indiana in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Title IX to female athletes who are working to help bring girls into sports and stay involved with them. This award also honors the work she’s done through serving on the Girls Play Sports Youth Advisory Board and through her new program Diversify Golf. Olivia plays golf, basketball and softball for ETHS. She was nominated by ETHS’s Athletic Director Chris Livatino ’91 (Rt. in the photo).**

## Wilczynski named distinguished alum by Loyola U

**James Wilczynski**, Ph.D., a psychologist at the ETHS Day School, was recognized in April as a distinguished alumnus by the Loyola University Chicago School of Education. These awards are presented each year to individuals who have made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the legacy of excellence in the school.

At ETHS, Wilczynski helped develop and implement the Day School, as well as the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports framework. He also supported the creation of the school’s Pre-Post Hospitalization Program, and became a scholarship coordinator for special education.



**James Wilczynski, Ph.D., and his wife Ann Wilczynski**



# 2022 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

The Distinguished Alumni Awards committee was faced with its annual daunting task of selecting from all of the nominations for our 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 2023. You can use the form on the ETHS alumni website —<https://www.eths.k12.il.us/Page/515>. If you have any questions, contact the Alumni Office at 847-424-7704.**

There are three living recipients of the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award — Austin Tao 1961, Ellen Rosenblum 1968, and Karly Kupferberg 2003 —and four alumni who are being recognized posthumously — Helen Cromer Cooper 1924, Dr. Alvin Keith 1941, Dr. Florence Winfield 1944, and Mike Wynn 1965.



**Austin Tao 1961** came to ETHS after emigrating from Hong Kong four years earlier. He spoke limited English when he transferred from Chicago in the middle of his freshman year. As he gained language skills and confidence, he joined the JV basketball team. An art teacher encouraged him to follow his interest in architecture. Austin matriculated at the U of Illinois and U of Oregon. He has done thousands of projects in both the U.S. and in China. One of the leading landscape architects in America, he is now a National Trustee and Fellow

of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In addition to his leadership and support of organizations in St. Louis, he has served as the National President of the Organization of Chinese Americans, an advocacy group that fights injustice, discrimination, and hate crimes for all Pacific Asian Americans.



**Ellen Rosenblum 1968** is the first woman elected Attorney General of the state of Oregon. After a long career as an attorney, a prosecutor, and a judge, Ellen has been elected to her 3<sup>rd</sup> term as Attorney General. Long an advocate for women in the legal profession, she has also fought for reproductive freedom, environmental justice, civil rights, the student debt crisis, and the opioid crisis. She has led multi-state actions in these areas and fights for the most vulnerable people throughout the country. Her leadership has been recognized with prestigious awards in Oregon and from the American Bar Association.



**Karley Kupferberg 2003** is currently working in Ukraine following her efforts in various African and Middle Eastern countries that are experiencing war, or in post-conflict settings where explosive threats (mines, rockets/missiles, and air-dropped bombs) prohibit children from playing or for agencies to have livelihood activities. Karly gives risk-awareness sessions to communities (including children) on what items to avoid, how

to report explosive items, and how to seek victim assistance if they have lost a limb due to an unexploded ordnance accident. Recently, she obtained her International Mine Action Standards, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (Level 3) certification. As one of very few women in this field, Karly hopes to inspire more women to become deminers and work with area-clearance teams, as well as join Global Peace-keeping Operations. She has worked around the world to clear areas from explosive threats so children can play safely and schools and hospitals can be rebuilt.



**Helen Cromer Cooper 1924** was one of the first African American women to attend Northwestern University. She worked for several years after graduating ETHS and studied to become a social worker at NU. She won a fellowship that allowed her to gain a master's degree at the New York School of Social Work. Her skill and leadership led her to management positions in both New York and then as the first person of color to be appointed Assistant Regional Representative of the Bureau of Public Assistance of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In 1958, she returned to Evanston in a leadership role with HEW. Helen was a leader in her AKA sorority on a national level, as well as serving as President of the New York chapter and national treasurer.



**Dr. Alvin Keith 1941** was a great athlete and student at ETHS. As a student, he set a record in track that was not broken for over 20 years, and he was a state champion. After graduating, he attended Xavier U in New Orleans but returned home and entered Loyola U in Chicago as a pre-med student. The Army Air Corps asked medical students to enroll and even though he scored the highest on the entrance exam, he was not allowed to join the program as all the accepted students were white. He did join the Tuskegee Airmen as part of the 477 Bombardment Squadron and trained on B-25 planes and qualified for gunnery. After the war, Alvin was accepted at the Illinois College of Podiatry and graduated in 1949. He was a mainstay of service to the Evanston community and was very involved in the leadership of the Evanston NAACP.



**Dr. Florence Winfield 1944** served both the Evanston and Chicago communities as a physician and pediatrician. She earned her MD at the U of Wisconsin and built a practice in Evanston, working with Dr. Hill and supporting the Evanston Community Hospital. She was approached by Children's Memorial Hospital to help provide services to the underserved Black community which led to

the eventual creation of the Winfield Moody Clinic in the Cabrini Green neighborhood. Florence was a leader in community health services and in Evanston.



**Mike Wynn 1965** lettered in three sports at ETHS —football, basketball, and track. He was also recognized as an exemplary student leader and earned one of the school's top awards for citizenship. After high school, he played football for the U of Nebraska and went on to play professionally with the NFL. He coached football at multiple universities throughout the Big Ten and Big Eight and then returned to continue his career at his alma mater, where he was a dedicated member of the ETHS educational staff. Mike held many roles, including football coach, wrestling coach, driver education instructor, Dean of Students, and Dean of Night School. As an educator, he worked extremely hard to make a difference in the lives of his students. Nowhere is his legacy more profound than through his founding of the Justin Wynn Leadership Academy, which was created in memory of his son who died in a swimming accident. There are hundreds of "Wynners" who have grown in their leadership and lives from their participation in this program.



# Reunion Roundup

## Class of 1974 planning for 50th

The ETHS Class of 1974 is starting to plan the 50th class reunion, to be held IN PERSON in 2024! For more information or to join the Reunion Committee, please contact us at our website ([www.eths1974.com](http://www.eths1974.com)) or via email with any of the following committee members:

Kate Morand, [kate@eths1975.com](mailto:kate@eths1975.com)  
Bob Gold, [bob@eths1974.com](mailto:bob@eths1974.com)  
Debra Richman Trachtenberg, [debra@eths1974.com](mailto:debra@eths1974.com)  
Diane Altschuler Hermanek, [Diane@eths1974.com](mailto:Diane@eths1974.com)  
Jada Robitaille, [jada@eths1974.com](mailto:jada@eths1974.com)  
Jim Powell, [jim@eths1974.com](mailto:jim@eths1974.com)  
John O'Connor, [oc@eths1974.com](mailto:oc@eths1974.com)  
Mark Lipowicz, [mark@eths1974.com](mailto:mark@eths1974.com)  
Maria Svolos Gebhard, [maria@eths1974.com](mailto:maria@eths1974.com)

## 1964 — Then and Now



In fall of 1963, **Rommie Taylor '64**, captain of the ETHS varsity football team, presented a football autographed by team members to **Helga (Zirkel) Swarten '64**, elected by the student body from eight candidates to be Homecoming Queen. (Both are members of the ETHS Class of 1964.) She was crowned at a pep rally.



This summer, Rommie went to Lake Bluff, IL, to visit Helga and her husband **Tom Swarten '63**. Hoping to re-enact the Homecoming presentation, Helga scoured her house but couldn't find the original signed football. Tom came up with a ball of his own, and the re-enactment took place. Smiles all around.

## Class of 1964 mini-reunion this fall



These 1964 classmates and spouses met at Perry's Steakhouse & Grille in Oak Brook, IL, on September 3, 2022. All had a good time catching up, telling tall tales of their ETHS days, and eating good food. Standing L to Rt: Steve Brehn '64 with wife Carol, Norm Swanson '64 and wife Deb; Seated L to Rt: Chuck Thompson '64 and wife Barb, and Jerri (Engeln) and Jack McCabe, both '64.

## Class of 1967 gathers at Hackney's



The Class of 1967 planned to gather at Hackneys this summer. But, according to Cheri Kemp Silver, "Half the people who were coming copped out." These hardy classmates came together: Joyce Garel Sacks, Erica Karp, Janet Felsher Rosenbloom, Cheri Kemp Silver, Cale Carvel, Paul Hasskarl, Claire Haring Golan, and David Jones. "It's been 55 years since we graduated," said Silver.



## Class of 1992's 30th

As part of the Class of 1992's 30th reunion in late July, several members took a campus tour led by the ETHS Foundation Executive Director, Joanne Bertsche. Highlights included the new band tower and the Arrington Wellness and Performance Center. The weekend-long reunion also included a Friday evening event at Mr. Brown's Lounge, owned by several '92 classmates, a family picnic at Lovelace Park, and the main event at Palmhouse, a new space on Howard St. in Evanston.



# Class of 1971 50th/51st Reunion

## Class of 1971 50th/51s Reunion September 9-10, 2022

The memories poured in as over 150 members of the Class of 1971 gathered to celebrate 51 years! After two years of hard work and “zoom” meetings, and a postponement of one year, the weekend started with an informal gathering at Hackney’s. A perfect mix of background music allowed old friends to reminisce and catch up. Groups gathered in front of **Willie Miller’s** “ETHS Class of 1971 50th Reunion” banner for pictures at the Doubletree. A fun game of trivia got people enthusiastic (and very serious) and added a fun twist!

**Saturday** started with a tour of ETHS and a wonderful lunch in the Michael/East cafeteria. It was so much fun to not only recall our years at the high school, but also to reflect on how very fortunate we



were to attend such an amazing school that was filled with alternatives, a wide array of offerings, and excellence. To see how the school has grown and maintained its sense of purpose was exciting.

Saturday evening, we all gathered at the Doubletree Hotel in Skokie for more sharing of stories and memories, catching up with each other, photo ops, and music provided by **John Nance**. It is hard to believe that 50 years have passed since we were in high school. For many, those years faded away quickly when we saw an old friend across the room. For others, being given the opportunity to talk about our “younger days” and catch up with everything that’s happened over the last half-century, the time together was a gift. A “Zoom” gathering enabled classmates who were unable to attend the festivities to join in from as far

away as Denmark! A table filled with a wide variety of memorabilia provided by classmates was another way for people to connect and reminisce.

**A huge** “Thank You” to our committee, led by Cheri Irons-Rubin and Mary Rothschild, for planning such a memorable event. And yes, your committee is talking about ideas for future get-togethers! Keep in touch through our Facebook group (ETHS Class of 1971 Reunion) and our class page (eths1971.org). More photos and a link to the “In Memory” presentation can be found in both locations. For updates to our “In Memory” section, please share information with livingmemorial1971@gmail.com. Go Wildkits!!

# Class of 1990’s 30th (32nd) Reunion



The Class of 1990 held its 30<sup>th</sup> reunion Sept. 30-Oct. 1. (This was actually their 32<sup>nd</sup> reunion as Covid cancelled out their 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> gatherings.) Well over 125 classmates attended each event. The first night’s party was held at the Evanston American Legion Post 42; Saturday they went to Five & Dime Restaurant in downtown Evanston. On Saturday, the class did a tour of ETHS, including this aerial shot in the library. Smiles tell it all for ’90 classmates (L to Rt) Michael Brown, Dornette Cater-Ashley, Shelly Yogev, Patrick Gayle, and Jared Davis.



# ’71 alumni join Jr. Wildkits at ETHS



Last August, members from the 1971 football team joined the Jr. Wildkits in their inaugural Football Family Fun Day. To be able to celebrate their on-field success and emphasize the values of academics, character, and teamwork that made them so special had a big impact on the 50+ children that participated in this event designed to grow the game of football in Evanston. The ’71 team members look forward to working with the Jr. Wildkits to make this an annual tradition. In front, from L. to Rt.: Julian Coleman, Ray “Jet” Austin, Gary Stajduhar, Shawn Lazier, and Emery Moorehead.



## Alumni mini-grants boost student learning

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

**Academic-related** grants went to Science, English, and Fine Arts teachers.

- One grant supported a new initiative for ETHS: the first E-Town Community Literacy Fest that will provide the Evanston community with a fun, engaging opportunity to build their home libraries, play literacy games, participate in writing activities, and learn more about the

- importance and joy of literacy.
- **Another grant** will add a new skill to the school's forensics program by purchasing several drones and training the students how to use them in crime scene investigations.
- A third mini-grant will allow the Fine Arts Department to purchase equipment to outfit a variety of previously donated cameras and make them functional for the students in the Photography, Video Production, and AP art courses.
- A final grant will help an English teacher

augment her classroom library with books of LGBTQTA+ interests, sports, visual arts, and titles recommended by former students. This will continue to help develop independent readers among her students.

**The mini-grants**, each approximately \$1,000, sometimes more depending on the need, come from the Alumni Association'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.

## Mini-grant teaches fingerprinting



Students in ETHS science teacher Neil Reimer's General Chemistry class learned the science behind fingerprinting using filtration apparatuses purchased with a mini-grant from the ETHS Alumni Association.

chloride using the apparatus. They then expose the silver chloride to UV light and observe a color change. They will attempt to use this chemistry to develop their own latent fingerprints."

**Because of** these reusable materials, Reimer will be able to conduct similar labs year after year.

**Said Reimer:** "This lab is based on the chemistry of fingerprinting and students are collecting silver

## 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:

- **In Memory:** Do you know of a fellow ETHS alum who has recently passed? Please let us know the name and date of passing.
- **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.
- **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.

All information may be sent via email to [alumni@eths202.org](mailto:alumni@eths202.org) or to David Futransky, Alumni Association Director, at [futranskyd@eths202.org](mailto:futranskyd@eths202.org). Questions? Call 847-424-7704.

## Attention 1993 Alumni!



Danielle Young, Jen Bosworth, Yahna Awazu, Dwayne Logan, Amber Brutzkus, Lynet Payne, Kathy Benson, Amanda Sims Ngola, Nikki Shephard, Dreanna Cummings, Kirk Bias, Lisa Spillman

### Attention 1993 Alumni!

Our 30th Reunion will be next year! It's hard to believe we've been out of high school for 30 years! But since it's been 30 years, let's get together and celebrate!

The reunion committee is planning a weekend full of activities during Homecoming weekend 2023. ETHS hasn't decided when Homecoming will be next year, so keep an eye out for more information! You can always join our Facebook page, ETHS Class of 1993, email us at [ethsreunion1993@gmail.com](mailto:ethsreunion1993@gmail.com), or keep an eye out in *The KIT*.

We plan on having a school tour and attending the Homecoming game on Friday,



# Class Notes

## 1950s

After ETHS, **Jon Lundeen '59** attended Kendall College, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Northwestern U. Says Jon: “My career as a professional student ended with the birth of my daughter Diane (now a judge in Louisiana) and I entered the advertising profession in Chicago.” He and his family moved to Oklahoma in the early 1970s, where he is executive vice president of BealsCunningham Strategic Services...and is now considering retirement. BTW, says Lundeen, “**George Miley '59** also wound up in Oklahoma and is an Anglican priest.”

## 1960s

An article by noted historian **Jack Rakove '64** ran in the July 2-3 issue of *The Wall Street Journal Review*: “What remains of Thomas Jefferson?” Read it here: [www.wsj.com/articles/what-remains-of-thomas-jefferson-11656687364](http://www.wsj.com/articles/what-remains-of-thomas-jefferson-11656687364)

## 1970s

**Russel Winick '73** sold his law practice and retired in 2019. Since then he has written over 3,000 poems, hundreds of which have been published in journals worldwide. He receives valuable editorial advice from **Herbert Stephens '73**.

**Dr. Milton Blackmon '72** has been named Lead Academic Dean and Senior Associate Dean in the undergraduate college at Duke University. In addition to working with students, he supervises several Academic Deans. He is the first African American to hold this position. Dr. Blackmon has been at Duke for almost 25 years and has also been a volunteer Chaplain at Duke University Hospital for over 20 years.

**Terra Ziporyn Snider '76**, a self-employed freelance writer and editor, recently received the 2022 Public Service Award from the Sleep Research Society in recognition of significant contributions to the mission of the SRS and the field of sleep and circadian rhythms. Terra earned her

Masters and PhD degrees at the U of Chicago and her BA at Yale. She lives in Maryland.

## 1980s

**Sarah Harvick McHolland '89**, interior designer and Co-owner of Paperwhite Florals, has been named to the Board of Directors of Evanston's McGaw YMCA. Sarah brings a deep understanding of the Evanston community as a lifelong resident, parent, spouse, business owner, ETHS graduate, and McGaw Y Camp Echo alum. She studied art at Loyola University Chicago and has held leadership roles on several community-focused boards, including Covenant Nursery School, Highland School PTA in Skokie, the ETHS Booster Club, and The Garden Club of Evanston.

In August, **Justin Schwartz '82**, Harold and Inge Marcus Dean in the College of Engineering at Penn State was named the university's interim executive vice president and provost. He will serve as the school seeks a permanent leader by spring 2023. Schwartz now oversees Penn State's academic units—including colleges and campuses—and major academic support units, serves on the President's Council, chairs the Council of Academic Deans and the Academic Leadership Council, and is an ex officio member of the University Faculty Senate and Senate Council. He has served as dean at Penn State since 2017, has a 30+-year career in higher education as an academic administrator, researcher and faculty member, and is a leader in the interdisciplinary field of applied superconductivity. At Penn State, he has increased the College of Engineering's tenured faculty by approximately 30% over four years and has helped to grow the college's endowments to \$400 million.

## 1990s

**Ellen Schleicher Pliska '99** is Senior Director of Family and Child Health of the Association of State and Territorial Health Of-

ficials, in Washington, DC. In May, she was interviewed by *Politico* about how states are beginning to incorporate broader definitions of pregnancy-associated mortality. “It's bigger than just health,” said Pliska. “Until fairly recently, a lot of what has been dealt with has been those health things like sepsis, or infection, cardiovascular issues ... or hemorrhage. We're starting to see...there are things that aren't just purely medical that are oftentimes causing a lot of these untimely deaths.”

## 2000s

**Alex Rubin '01** wrote a rap inspired by the Utah Jazz's involvement with the “5 for the Fight” foundation which was then featured during each game of the 2021-2022 season. The rap, titled “Shine a Light,” highlights the fight against cancer. According to Rubin: “The team wears patches for the foundation on their jersey's and has a tradition where they turn off the lights during a third quarter time out. All the fans then shine a light on their phones. It's a ritual during every game to shine a light for the fight against cancer. People are then urged to text a certain number and make a \$5 donation to the foundation.” Rubin said he began rapping when he attended ETHS.

This fall, in honor of the 50th anniversary of Title IX, **Cassidy Hubbarth '03** joined a list of 20 women who have made an impact in Chicago sports media history. Cassidy joined ESPN in 2010 as an NBA host and reporter. She is the lead host of “Hoop Streams,” ESPN's NBA pregame show for digital and social media, and has hosted “NBA Tonight” and “NBA Coast to Coast.” She started as a traffic reporter and worked for CSN Chicago, the Big Ten Network and Intersport. She was a state champion soccer player at ETHS.

## Two ETHS grads join City leadership



Schenita Stewart

Two Evanston natives and ETHS alumnae—**Schenita Stewart '92** and **Kristian “Krissie” Harris '87**—were recently appointed to leadership positions in Evanston.

### Schenita Stewart

Stewart previously served as deputy chief of police for the East Dundee Police Department. She brings 23 years of law enforcement experience to Evanston, including 15 years in police leadership roles. She began her law enforcement career in 1998 as a probation officer with the Cook County Adult Probation Department. She became a patrol officer with the Lincolnwood Police Department in 1999, and rose through the ranks to become deputy chief in 2018. She joined the Village of East Dundee police department in January 2021.

Stewart served on the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force from 2008 to 2018, including four years as team leader, and was twice honored as the Village of Lincolnwood's “Police Officer



Krissie Harris

of the Year” in 2000 and 2005. She holds a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Chicago State and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Illinois State. She is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and Executive Management Program.

### Krissie Harris

After a public search for the next 2nd Ward city council member, Harris was appointed to fill the position. A 49-year Evanston resident, she has lived in the 2nd Ward for 23 years. Her strong track record of community service includes serving as a trustee of 2nd Baptist Church, volunteering at C&W's weekly food giveaway program, and being an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Harris has also served on the boards of YWCA Evanston/North Shore, the Dajae Coleman Foundation, Family Focus Auxiliary Board, and others. She currently works as manager of student life and campus inclusion at Oakton Community College.

## ETHS alumni in the arts

**George Weisz '69** is Chair of the Board of Directors of Scottsdale (AZ) Community Bank—the first community bank to open in Arizona in over 14 years. George is also a co-producer of the new musical *Americano*, which made it to off-Broadway in NYC. Says Weisz: “This is the true story of a Dreamer who wanted to become a Marine despite his status as an undocumented immigrant. This is the first Arizona born-and-bred musical to make it to NYC, and it has received rave reviews including from Lin-Manuel Miranda.”

With the release of Hulu's *Mike* in August, interest has revived in **Laura Harrier '08**, who portrays an essential role in the Mike Tyson biopic. Laura's big break came through the soap opera *One Life to Live* (2013). She made her film debut with *The Last Five Years* (2014). After this, Marvel's *Spider-Man Homecoming* (2017) shot her to global fame when she portrayed Liz Allan, Peter's love interest in high school. She also played a major role in the critically acclaimed *BlackKkKlansman* (2018).

Continued on page 14



# In Memory

This fall, Chicago’s Black Ensemble Theater’s opened its premiere of *My Brother Langston* about the Harlem Renaissance luminary Langston Hughes. **Nolan Robinson ’17** played Gwyn, Hughes’ younger, devoted step-brother, who provided a grounding influence for Hughes. Nolan, an actor, singer, dancer, writer, journalist and filmmaker, is known for *Grief Night Club* (2021), *Where’s Noah?* (2019) and *A Light Beneath Their Feet* (2015). A graduate of Northwestern U, he holds a Bachelor’s in Communication, with honors, and a certificate in Music Theatre.

**Steve Pink ’84** is an American actor, director and writer who helmed the *Hot Tub Time Machine* movies, *Accepted*, and directed *The Wheel*, which opened in July. He also co-wrote the original *High Fidelity*. Pink, **John Cusack ’84** and D.V. DeVincentis formed a production company, New Crime Productions, which produced *Grosse Pointe Blank* and *High Fidelity*. He was also a producer on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox release *Knight and Day*, starring Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz.

On January 14, 2023, Broadway star **Jessie Mueller ’01** will return for a hometown concert at Steppenwolf Theatre, hosted and music directed by Sirius XM radio star Seth Rudetsky. Jessie starred as Carole King in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* for which she won Tony, Drama Desk, Grammy Awards, and received those three award nominations for the revival of *Carousel* and the original production of *Waitress*. She recently appeared on Broadway and at Steppenwolf in Tracy Letts’s new play *The Minutes*. Other Broadway credits include *Nice Work If You Can Get It* and *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*. This fall, she will appear at the Kennedy Center this fall in *Guys And Dolls*.

- 1930s**  
Virginia Oas Shannon, 1936, 2012  
Philip H. Dodd, 1939, 9/19/2012
- 1940s**  
William “Bill” Norman Edwards Jr., 1942, 5/11/2022  
Marjorie Mogg Steiger, 1942, 10/19/2020  
Donald C. Ashcroft, 1944, 4/22/2022  
Betty Larson Carlson, 1945, 9/11/2008  
William T. “Bill” Moller, 1945, 7/21/2020  
Russell E. Trauth, 1947, 1/21/2022  
John E. “Jack” Taylor, 1948, 7/21/2016  
Barbara Bear Alseth, 1949, 7/2/2022  
Vivian Lilly Gleason Taylor, 1949, 12/8/2021
- 1950s**  
Dr. John Huffman, 1950, 5/14/2022  
Duane Shrout, 1952, 12/28/2021  
Norbert Kwiecinski, 1952, 5/4/2016  
Leotis Frazier Jr., 1952, 1/2022  
Charles “Chuck” E. Schroeder, 1953, 9/16/2022  
Michael Libman, 1953, 6/11/2022  
Vincent Garnett, 1953, 7/21/2022  
Hon. John E. Porter, 1953, 6/3/2022 (Former U.S. Representative)  
Thomas G Soper MD, 1953, 12/17/2021  
Barbara Konieczka Kwiecinski, 1954, 7/20/2019  
James S. “Jim” Van Pelt Jr., 1954, 7/2/2022  
Earl R. Fell, 1954, 1/29/2019  
John Franke, 1954, 3/28/2022  
Denis A. Snook, 1954, 2/10/2022  
Robert Sandercock, 1954, 3/27/2022  
AnnRita Levis Hader, 1954, 12/15/2021  
Theodore G. “Ted” Bratsolias, 1955, 4/2022  
Barbara Oetjen Adamson, 1955, 8/17/2021  
Margo Copeland Goode, 1955, 3/1/2021  
David Warfield Brown, 1955, 12/1/2020  
Willard “Bill” Langhenry, 1955, 12/12/2021  
Karin “Kari” Scott Gunn Gale, 1955, 6/5/2021

- George Robert “Bob” Levison, 1955, 8/28/2021  
Richard “Dick” Hanley, 1955, 5/11/2022  
Helene F. McGowen Williamson, 1955, 2016  
Robert Charles Williamson, 1955, 2021  
Parker E. Landin Jr., 1956, 3/6/2022  
James S. Billian, 1957, 11/2021  
Priscilla List, 1957, 4/3/2021  
Linda Labahn Slavensky, 1957, 8/28/2022  
Martha Schuetz Bjorkman, 1957, 5/28/2021  
Cheryl Satterthwaite Johanson, 1958, 2/2022  
Helene Wagner, Harrison, 1958, 11/24/2020
- 1960s**  
Patricia Craig Friedner, 1960, 10/16/2020  
Charles Christian “Chris” Dapples, 1960, 7/9/2022  
Arthur R. Sutton, 1960, 8/7/2022  
Merilee LaPota Curtis, 1961, 7/15/2018  
David A. Smart, 1961, 11/3/2020  
Gregg Skalinder, 1961, 9/18/2022  
Martin Greenhalgh, 1961, 11/11/2014  
Bishop Lorenzo Kelly, 1961, 9/25/2016  
William Lee, 1961, 1/20/2018  
William Moore, 1961, 5/6/2022  
Neal Tokowitz, 1961, 4/23/2021  
Robert C. Nash, 1962, 9/12/2022  
Patricia Veness Herschberger, 1962, 8/18/2022  
Arthur Pearson, 1962, 8/18/2021  
Nancy Watson Adams, 1962, 9/3/2021  
Marsha Goodman Evaskus, 1962, 3/3/2022  
Louis Charles “Chip” Blair, 1964, 3/8/2021  
Richard T. Garfield 1964, 10/20/2020  
Sandra “Sandy” Bullen Saunders, 1965, 11/17/21  
Jeffrey Allen, 1965, 7/7/2022  
Horace L. Kennedy, 1966, 12/28/2020  
Matthew Mallory, 1967, 4/26/2020

- Valentine Devlin, 1969, 3/8/2022  
Nancy Hutchinson, 1969, 7/5/2021  
Robert “Bob” Oldeen, 1969, 8/2022  
Delores Blackmon Mason, 1969, 9/2022
- 1970s**  
Nancy Espenshade, 1970, 3/5/2020  
Patricia Richardson Zimonja, 1970, 3/21/2021  
Carol J. Slott, 1970, 6/20/2021  
Mimi Watkins, 1970, 2/9/2019  
Mary Jo Wilson Wisniewski, 1970, 4/21/2021  
Peter Wroblewski, 1970, 4/8/2021  
Jeffrey Tyler Warmington, 1971, 4/28/2021  
Kathryn Paps Govas, 1972, 6/2/2022  
Melvin Kennedy, 1974, 12/15/2020  
Kirk A. Hile, 1974, 1/17/2021  
Elizabeth “Betsy” Reifler Insko, 1974, 9/6/2021  
Jonathan V. Higgins, 1976, 7/24/2022  
Debby Vaness, 1972, 11/15/1978  
Carla Burnett, 1979, 5/17/2022
- 1980s**  
Carl Parker, 1983, 7/7/2022  
Malcolm S. Brown, 1983, 12/27/2021  
Greg Waitley, 1985, 4/25/2022  
German Reyther, 1989, 5/7/2022
- 1990s**  
Scott Gardner, 1994, 5/10/2022  
Alex P. Thomas, 1998, 8/12/2022
- 2000s**  
Simon R. O’Donnell, 2016, 5/10/2022

## FACULTY/STAFF

**Dr. Clyde Slocum**, formerly principal of West (Boltwood) School in the late 1960s and 1970s, died on July 3, 2022, in Downers Grove. Donations can be made to the Slocum Scholarship Fund, Carleton College, Northfield, MN.

**Dr. Malcolm E. “Gene” Stern**, former ETHS English teacher and department chair, died on June 18, 2022, in Bloomington, IN. He was 89 years old. Gene began working at ETHS in 1967 and became English Department chair in 1976. He retired in 1995. Donations can be made in his name to the charity of your choice.

**Gunther Kolb**  
Retired science teacher and science department chair, he died in 2019. As a teacher, he taught chemistry and AP Biology.

**Charles Bircham**, ETHS custodian from 1981-1994, died 11/21/2021.





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click on the QR code



*The ETHS Foundation is the development department for ETHS. In partnership with District 202 and the Alumni Association, it is the primary funding source for advancement at ETHS. It is through the generosity of alumni that we are able to sustain the EQUITY and EXCELLENCE that Wildkits everywhere value.*

Dear Wildkit Nation,

At ETHS, we celebrate and value our distinct diversity and are committed to educating all students to their fullest potential. We know you share our vision to impact and shape the lives of our 3700+ Wildkits and put them on a path to success.

The reality is that there are needs, disparities, and gaps in education exacerbated by the pandemic. AND there is a gap between conventional public funding and what we need to provide the highest quality, well-rounded education for today's students.

We can't fill the gap alone. It is because of alumni like you that the ETHS Foundation has invested over \$11.4M since 2008 in innovative learning spaces and equitable resources that increase student access, engagement, and achievement.

Please support ETHS with an annual gift today, donate online at [supporteths.org](https://supporteths.org), or by calling 847/424-7158 to learn about the many ways to invest in ETHS.

Thank you for making ETHS a transformational experience for students like Ava (see her story below). When you invest in ETHS, such as for the new band instructional tower, you are empowering students like her to unlock their potential and become the leaders of tomorrow.

**Casey Lewis Varela '92      Chair, ETHS Foundation**



According to Ava Kamae '26: "ETHS really cares about students. They want to support everyone in what they are interested in, no matter what their circumstances are. We have so many choices here and that helps make our time at ETHS the best it can be."

Already a proud Wildkit, Ava is excited to embark on her ETHS journey and looking forward to her classes and exposure to help her figure out her next step. She gained confidence and made new friends in band camp over the summer and is now a member of the drumline. While she thoroughly enjoys her geometry and Japanese classes, she has found her "community" in band. She imagines a career in music or marine biology, but know, as a freshman, she has time to discover her future.

This fall, Ava and the marching band are the first to experience the new 40-foot band instruction tower on the campus. "For the first time, our band director, Mr. Bufis, has a clear view of all of us and we can see him, too. The tower is really amazing and it has already improved our performances."

Ava has a bright future ahead of her, and your investments are helping to pave the way.

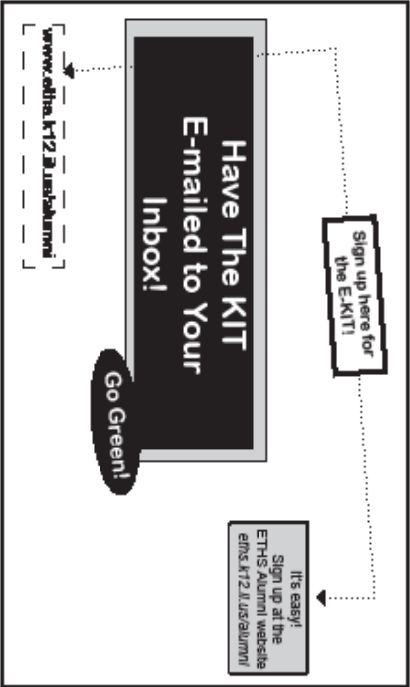




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