



The KIT

The Keep in Touch Newsletter of Evanston Township High School's Alumni Association • Spring 2025

ETHS and the ETHS Advancement Office are pleased to announce the new Director of Alumni Relations, Nichole Boyd!

Nichole, an alum of the class of 1996, has served in multiple roles during her tenure at ETHS, including serving as a Transitional Learning Center Teacher, the Wildkit Academy Coordinator, the Director of Student Activi-



ties, and most recently as the Dean of Student Success, Safety & Well-Being. Nichole also was the coach of the ETHS PomKits for 15 years and has a current Wildkit in the class of 2026.

Nichole is excited to bring her school spirit and E-Town pride to this role to support and celebrate fellow alumni. Welcome Nichole!

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From the Alumni Association Executive Director

SO LONG, FAREWELL, AUF WIEDERSEH'N, GOODBYE

Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein's 1959 play *The Sound of Music* was filled with songs that many of us are familiar with. The song, "So Long, Farewell" appears twice in the show as the Von Trapp children exit from the stage.

It seems like the right title for this piece as it's time for me to "exit, stage right" after 37 years of being connected to ETHS, 25 years as a teacher and working with our Alumni. It's strange leaving "home" after all this time. So much has changed and so much has stayed the same.

The physical building was updated when I was a student, and for the most part, has not changed in all these years. My office was the Boltwood Student Activities Directors office in 1967-1969. Dave Tosh, who held that role then, recently came to visit. I was involved with Quadrangle and Student Council and those groups had spaces in the same office area where I have worked over the past decade.

What's changed? Curriculum and schedule. No more modular scheduling (mods) and we have moved from a traditional to a block schedule. 3600

students today vs. 5000+ students when I graduated in 1969. We've gone from an era of no denim in a "dress code" to no dress code. Combined Studies is long gone, AP has gone from a "beta test" program to now including over 30 offerings. Technology now plays a major role in everything we do. The computers that filled H hallway rooms were less powerful than the phones we all carry with us every day.

What's the same? Our commitment to students is the same or has grown. The importance of connecting with young people and treating them as individuals and people is the same. Our support for students at all levels has also grown, but at its core it is the same. ETHS believes that every student deserves the opportunity to achieve at the highest level possible. Our extra-curricular and co-curricular activities are world class. Our sports teams compete for championships.

In 1969, the Rolling Stones released the album *Let It Bleed* that contained an appropriate anthem for many of us: "You Can't Always Get What You Want." The song concludes that you do get what you need. In the intervening years since Jagger and Richards wrote those words, I've learned that ETHS was what I



(and many, many others) needed. The chance to learn how to learn has shaped us all. I don't think there are many places that do it better.

As a student, both the Civil Rights and anti-War movements were growing. Women's rights were coming to the forefront and Wildkits were awakened and involved.

My classmates, and alumni who were ahead of us and after us were prepared for our post-secondary experience both in and out of future classrooms in a way that many of our contemporaries were not. We all had some ideas about the differences between wants and needs.

I have been lucky enough to be a part of many different things as an adult at ETHS. I was able to learn so much as a teacher – both from my students and my colleagues in the History/Social Sciences

Department. I have had the opportunity to grow and work because people like Bill Branch and Nat Bilsky were willing to take a chance on a guy who had made a career change in his late 40s. Working with people like Allan Alson, Denise Martin (a fellow 1969 classmate), Eric Witherspoon, and Marcus Campbell has been both supportive and empowering.

As president of Teacher's Council, I was part of negotiating contracts that enabled ETHS to hire and retain the top teachers who make up our faculty. I am proud and humbled to have been a part of a group that encouraged ETHS to look at the relationship between equity and educational outcomes.

In working with our alums and the ETHS Foundation, the past decade has led us to be more supportive and inclusive in reaching our graduates. We're much better at helping to support classes as they hold reunions and other connection events. We have held regional gatherings for alumni, and we have been able to put out this newsletter that reaches so many of you. The ETHS Foundation has grown from its modest starts to raising over \$4,000,000 a year.

With the Foundation, the District has embarked on a unique capital campaign. Because of tax caps and other restraints, there is a strong need for private support for public institutions.

The campaign has started and is in the process of helping to bring 20th century spaces into the world of 21st century learning. It is only because we have such a strong alumni base

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Superintendent's Letter

IN DEFENSE OF EQUITY

This article, by *ETHS Superintendent Dr. Marcus Campbell*, appeared in *Newsweek* magazine on January 14, 2025.

With the incoming administration pledging to end federal diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs as a day-one priority, the implications for public education are profound, putting critical work at risk.

DEI has become a flash-point in public discourse, often distorted by political leaders and commentators to fuel narratives that it undermines merit and excellence. The co-opting of this language obscures the necessity of these initiatives.

As corporations roll back their DEI policies amid shifting tides of political discourse, I am reminded that, for educators, abandoning this work is not an option. We have a responsibility to our students whose futures are shaped by the education they receive today. Ensuring equal opportunity is a commitment we must uphold, no matter how challenging the political landscape becomes.

Our responsibility as educators is unequivocal—to ensure every student—regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or background—has the equal opportunity to succeed. I see this as my primary mandate as superintendent at Evanston Township High School (ETHS), a diverse public high school

serving nearly 4,000 students outside Chicago. Equity is neither a political agenda nor an attempt to enforce ideological conformity; it is the fundamental principle that every student deserves access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

Our students enter high school with a wide range of experiences and backgrounds. This is not a controversial idea; it is a fact of life. Treating them as though their needs are identical ignores challenges some must overcome and advantages others may be afforded—in either case, shaped by factors beyond their control.

To fulfill our promise to students that they will have the same opportunity to succeed—no matter

where they come from or what barriers stand in their way—we must acknowledge disparities that exist and fill gaps where we can.

Equity work is not intended to guarantee equal outcomes, but to ensure a fair starting point. Overlooking privilege while championing merit dismisses how disparities in opportunity shape outcomes—merit cannot be fairly assessed without accounting for these imbalances.

Equity is not a zero-sum game. Providing support to one student does not take away from another. While the extent of policies implemented by school districts will vary and should be debated, public education has an obligation to support every student according to their needs.



Supt. Dr. Marcus Campbell

Equity is not an abstract concept; it's the intentional design and implementation of policies, programs, and practices to meet students' needs. Providing multilingual education ensures students who are not native English speakers can keep up academically while developing language skills. Ensuring wheelchair-accessible facilities enables students with mobility challenges to fully navigate the school environment.

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DAVE FUTRANSKY Cont. from page 1

that we can even consider such an approach. None of this happens by itself or because of one person. While I have and will mention a few, I could fill this entire issue with the names of those who have been part of my journey at ETHS. I offer my thanks to the teachers and staff who were here from 1965-1969. I appreciate those who taught my children in the '90s and whom I was able to work with when I was a volunteer with the Booster's Club. Since I've been out of the classroom, I have been able to work with a team of people who all believe in the mission of ETHS and share the goal of providing support. These

include Sarah Schmidt, Nicole Jacob Marks, '85, and Jeff Hammock who are currently in the Advancement office. Thanks go to those who worked on advancement but are no longer working at ETHS. Pete Bavis and Bill Stafford have been a big part of the team. Kathy Miehl, 1964, has written, edited and produced *The KIT* since its inception. Kathy is also hanging up her keyboard currently. Kudos for all you have done. But the most important part of the team has been our alumni. I have been lucky to work with so many of you on your class reunion or other activities. From celebrating the Centennial of our current

building — 100 Years at Church and Dodge — to regional or affiliation gatherings, we could not have done any of the things we have done without you and your efforts and leadership. In 1969 the Beatles released their last studio album, *Abbey Road*. John Lennon and Paul McCartney placed the song "The End" after 15 other tracks. They left a message that shaped many of us from that generation. Recently, Saturday Night Live celebrated its 50th anniversary. The television show commemorating that event ended with this song as sung by Paul. To me, it sums up something that I feel for ETHS. I know that many of you share this sentiment for our alma mater and for many other things in our lives. I hope that future generations will also take these words to heart.



Alumni Director David Futransky '69 (at left) and Athletic Director Chris Livatino '91 walk off of Lazier Field after the coin toss to start the Homecoming football game. Futransky was asked to flip the coin to commemorate his 25 years working at ETHS

THE LOVE YOU TAKE IS EQUAL TO THE LOVE YOU MAKE. I am retiring filled with love – both for and from

ETHS. Thank you for all your support and your love for ETHS. It's always a great day to be a Wildkit.

The KIT

Newsletter of the ETHS Alumni Association

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Kathy Dalgety Miehl '64
Editor, *The KIT*

**ETHS Alumni Assn. • 1600 Dodge Ave.,
Evanston, IL 60201**

SUPT. CAMPBELL
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Our 1:1 technology program equips every student with a personal electronic device, enabling them to complete their coursework. These are not privileges or extras—they are essential measures ensuring potential is not limited by circumstance.

Such measures were never the subject of widespread debate. Only when the conversation expanded to include racial inequities did the concept of equity become polarizing. Once understood as practical way to create fairness, equity is now being reframed as

divisive though the underlying principle driving the work hasn't changed—only who stands to benefit.

Corporate giants may yield to pressure, but I cannot look at the racial achievement disparities in my own district and ignore the work that remains. These disparities are not a reflection of students' abilities or ambitions, but a symptom of systemic barriers and attitudes that have existed over time—barriers disproportionately impacting students of color. Addressing them isn't about blame; it's about taking responsibility to disrupt the predictability of outcomes tied to race or socioeconomic status.

Creating a more equitable, inclusive school environment requires more than theory or aspiration—it demands analysis, honesty, and a willingness to evolve. DEI work has led to measurable progress at our school, including increased access to advanced coursework and strengthened belonging among students from historically marginalized backgrounds. Most demographic groups at Evanston Township High School exceed the state-wide averages for their respective peers. Last year,

we achieved a significant milestone in increasing access to our most rigorous courses—50 percent of our Black graduates and 70 percent of our Hispanic/Latino graduates participated in advanced placement or dual credit courses—a change years in the making. There is also progress that's harder to quantify but no less transformative—when students see their identities and experiences mirrored in their learning.

These are the classroom moments that stay with

them—shaping who they are and inspiring who they can become.

Still, this progress lags behind our ambition as we continue to grapple with persistent disparities in outcomes. There is no playbook on how to recover from generations of injustice and exclusion in education, nor a simple roadmap for dismantling the structures and practices that perpetuate these disparities. But the absence of easy answers does not absolve us of responsibility. Neither does political pressure.

**UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
GET *THE KIT* BY EMAIL**

Starting in the Fall, *The KIT* will be published electronically for all alumni who graduated in 1965 or later. Make sure that we have your correct email address. Just copy the QR code and fill in the form.

**Questions – contact Nichole Boyd
at boydn@eths202.org.**



I'm excited to be working with Alumni!

Hey Wildkits! I am so incredibly excited to serve as ETHS's new Director of Alumni Relations! I know I have big shoes to fill, and I am so ready to connect with the tens of thousands of Wildkit alums across the globe! A proud Wildkit from the Class of 1996, I am no stranger to ETHS, Evanston, Skevanston, and Skokie. I have a deep-rooted passion for community and connection, and my heart bleeds orange and blue! Always has, always will!

I am on a mission to connect with E-Town alumni from across generations. I am eager to build and foster meaningful relationships that can last a lifetime. My goal is to strengthen the bonds between alumni and the high school by building vibrant and active networks, creating dynamic events, and celebrating the wonderful legacy of ETHS.

ETHS has shaped the woman I am today, and I will be forever grateful for its place in my heart. To now be in a position where I can help fellow alumni

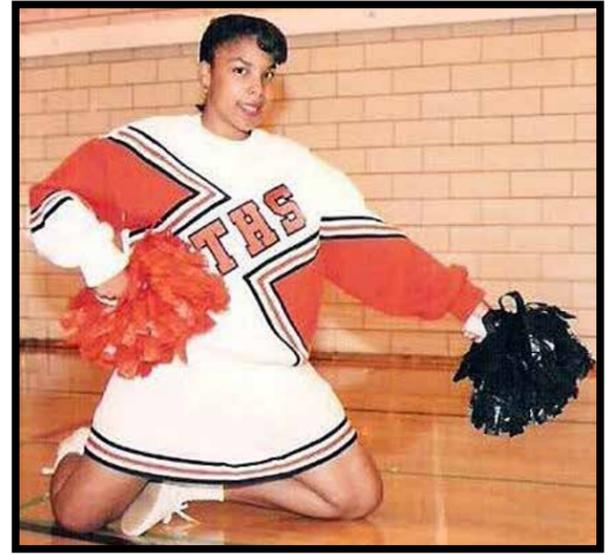
reconnect, reminisce, and engage with our school and community – this is truly a full-circle moment. I, enthusiastically, led my 10-year class reunion committee, and I cannot wait to celebrate 30 years of Wildkit Pride next year! The Class of 1996 were trendsetters. Remember, we were the FIRST class to hold prom at Navy Pier! It's still hosted there today!

I have so many fond memories of running from the bees in the stands at the football games (I may have thrown a hotdog or two), screaming and singing on the buses with airbrushed t-shirts on with pep club, eating bags of fries (with NO ketchup) with a fork from Gee's, hanging in the Student Center with my Lunch Table Posse, J3NAS, and Mr. Munro, having dance battles and playing double dutch at the Drop-Ins, calling my friends who were home sick on the pay phone at lunch time, hiding under tables from the food fights in Beardsley (now North) Cafeteria, and doing "The Tootsie Roll" at Pep Rally as a PomKit! (PomKits still crush it)!

I know each of us had a different ETHS experience. I cannot wait to meet more alumni, hear your stories and memories, and to find ways to bring us all together. Serving as the Director of Alumni Relations is more than a job – this is my passion.

I am grateful to be a part of generations of ETHS alums in my family. I am so proud of the work that ETHS is doing to provide equity AND excellence for all students. I am equally grateful for the friendships I still have today (shout out to my GNOC-Girls' Night Out Crew) from the Classes of 1995 and 1996. Coming from different backgrounds, different parts of town, and different middle schools, ETHS is the glue that connected us.

Speaking of connection, stay in touch with Alumni Relations. Please be sure we have your current contact information. Follow us on social media, and let's "Keep In Touch," "Kits!



Nichole's days at ETHS: (Above) PomKits my junior year (1994-95); (Below): Marching in the Evanston 4th of July Parade



Two key members of the Alumni Assn. team disconnect their keyboards

The ETHS Alumni Association and *The KIT* (Keep In Touch) newsletter have been around for over a decade longer than our graduating seniors in the class of 2025 have been alive. Two members of the Alumni Association Team, **Kathy Dalgety Miehl, 1964**, and **Nicole Jacob Marks, 1985**, have been at the heart and soul of maintaining relationships with our thousands of alumni.

Kathy, who retired as the Public/Alumni Relations Director of ETHS District 202 in 2010, stayed on as *KIT* editor until this year. She has been the only editor of *The KIT* since its first issue in 1996. She has researched, reported, edited, and managed the production of two issues a year for almost 30 years.

Kathy served tirelessly on the Alumni Associa-

tion board for many years, and has also written many other information pieces for the district since her retirement.

John Donohue, 1954, one of the founding members of the Alumni Association, former school board president and very long-time booster of ETHS, said that "Kathy has been the glue that held the Alumni Association together and her efforts have been beyond the call." He expressed his viewpoint that Kathy was the midwife of the association and *The KIT*. He said: "*The KIT* is an extraordinary alumni newspaper – the envy of many other schools. It has a distinctive form and demonstrates



(At left) Nicole Jacob Marks, 1985, (at rt.) Kathy Dalgety Miehl, 1964.

the professionalism that Kathy brought to her work. Without her efforts, ETHS would not be in the forefront of public high school alumni groups."

Retired Superintendent Eric Witherspoon added: "We often observe that a faithful Wildkit bleeds the orange and blue, and Kathy certainly is the iconic Wildkit who has devoted her energies and talents to

enhancing ETHS and striving to build our Alumni Association into a powerhouse. She retired from ETHS over a decade ago, and now she is retiring from writing and editing *The KIT*, but she will never retire from being our Wildkit extraordinaire."

We will miss Kathy's work, not just on *The KIT*, but on everything that we have done to grow and deepen the connections between our school, our community, and our former students.

Nicole Marks has been a part-time fixture in the Alumni and Advancement Office for almost a decade. She has been the lead person working with our data and keeping our database

up to date. From adding whole classes to the system as they graduate, to updating our information with new data about home and email addresses and contacts, and making sure that we properly record information about deaths, Nicole keeps our system working.

Nicole is a parent of four Wildkit alumni and an active member of the class of 1985. She has served on the Distinguished Alumni selection committee and on the Alumni Association Board. Always willing to help keep us organized, she too bleeds Orange and Blue. We will miss her as both the Alumni Association and the ETHS Foundation move forward.

Thanks to both Kathy and Nicole for all they have done.

Spring 2025 Sports

By Dennis Mahoney, ETHS Sports Information Director

A busy winter season for ETHS athletics began with the biggest headline, the hiring of a new head football coach following a 17-year tenure for Mike Burzawa.

Burzawa announced in December that he was stepping down from that post, while remaining as an assistant athletic director, and Miles Osei was hired to replace him in January.

And the winter climaxed with another trip to the Final Four for Evanston's boys' basketball team, the first since 2019, as the Wildkits brought home the third place Illinois High School Association (IHSA) state trophy in Class 4A.



FOOTBALL

At one point in his young coaching career, Miles Osei actually considered leaving a position he already had — as head football coach at Elk Grove — to become an assistant coach at Evanston. Circumstances for what would have been considered an unusual move never really worked out. But now, in one sense, Osei is coming “home” to Evanston.

Osei, who at age 32 already has a reputation as a program builder on and off the football field, was named as the new head coach at ETHS. He will join the special education department at the high school.

He's leaving a Kankakee program that he guided to a combined 21-3 record over the past two seasons and included back-to-back appearances in the IHSA state quarterfinals and back-to-back Southland Athletic Conference championships. The Kays recorded their first unbeaten regular season in school history in his first year as head coach.

Prior to that short tenure in Kankakee, Osei resurrected a floundering Elk Grove program that was 2-25 in the two years prior to his hiring at age 23. He led Elk Grove to the Class 7A state playoffs in 2022, the school's first post-season appearance since 2013, and coached there for six seasons before moving to Kankakee.

Now he's ready for another challenge at ETHS, succeeding a coach he almost ended up working for. Said Osei: “My wife Susie and I lived here for four years when I was at Wheeling (as an assistant coach) and at Elk Grove, and I've always felt the tug to move back here because it was something I wanted to do for my kids. This is where I wanted to raise them. So when the opportunity opened up, I felt it would be great for our family.”

He continued, “After I finished my student teaching I had an interest in teaching and coaching at Evanston and I talked to Coach Buzz (Burzawa) at one point about that. But it just didn't work out then.”

Osei's connection to Evanston actually goes all the way back to when he was a fifth grader living in Arlington Heights. He and one of his best friends were aspiring basketball players who wanted to play against the best competition available, so they joined the FAAM (Fellowship of Afro-American Men) organization and commuted to Evanston to play hoops for two years.

Osei was a two-time All-State selection playing quarterback for Prospect High School, where he was named the District 214 Male Athlete of the Year, and played four years at the U of Illinois while serving as a team captain for the Illini.

“I am thrilled to bring Coach Osei back to the Evanston community,” said ETHS Athletic Director **Chris Livatino, 1991**. He continued: “He has a brilliant football mind, with a keen ability to effectively

communicate and teach the Xs and Os as well as the important life lessons learned through the sport of football. His core values of courage, fight and sacrifice will help to shape our young men into the disciplined leaders we need on the field, in the classroom, and in our community.”



BOYS' BASKETBALL

Third-place games at any high school state tournament are more a test of character than of skill. For the last time in the 2024-25 season, Evanston's basketball team displayed the grit and tenacity that were staples for a squad that came together to register one of the best seasons in school history at the U of Illinois State Farm Center.

Bouncing back from a disappointing semifinal loss to the eventual state champions, Benet Academy, ETHS ended the season on a triumphant note by outlasting Rich Township 73-70 in overtime in the Class 4A third place game. The Wildkits finished 31-6 and fell just one win short of matching the school single season record for victories.

They're responsible for adding to the school's trophy case with the program's best State finish since 2019, when the 'Kits were state runner-up, and are part of a cage legacy that also includes the 1968 state championship, plus a second-place finish in 1984, third-place efforts in 2008 and 2018, and a fourth in 2003.

Evanston rose to the occasion despite the physical and mental wear and tear that comes after a semifinal loss. The 'Kits got their offense back on track after shooting 33% in a 56-47 loss to a Benet team they had defeated during the regular season, as seniors

Theo Rocca (18 points) and **George Richardson** (17) did most of the damage against Rich.

“It's so good to see them go out with a win today, because that's exactly what they are — winners on and off the court,” said a proud Evanston head coach, Mike Ellis.

“I've been so impressed with this group of guys from Day 1 and all the credit in the world goes to them. This team will be legendary for what they've done for the Evanston basketball program.”

Ellis added: “Only two teams in Class 4A get to win their last game and we wanted to be one of them. They've shown such resiliency all year long and it was such a thrill for me to coach them. The bonding they've done, and the character they've shown, extends to Coach (Mark) Feldner in the weight room, to their teachers in the classroom, and to their families at home. The entire town of Evanston can be proud of what they represent.”

“We didn't want to come to Champaign and leave here 0-2,” said Theo Rocca, one of four senior starters. “We knew it would be a battle today and I'm really proud of how we never gave up in that stretch run. We wanted to finish with a win, so we got up early this morning and got our work done.”

Freshman Ben Ojala netted 10 points and added to his reputation for sinking big shots when the 'Kits needed them most.

The Wildkits scored a regular season shootout win over Benet, and that meant they scored a unique “double” and became the first team in school history to score wins over TWO state champions in the same season. Evanston also defeated Class 2A champion Chicago Dyett back in December at the Centralia Holiday Tournament.

Evanston used the summer season to form the new

bonds for a team that embraced a brotherhood culture even though the roster was adding two transfers (Richardson from DePaul Prep, **Kaidan Chatham** from Niles North) and a freshman (Ojala) who figured to take away playing time from others already in the program.

But no one outside the team regarded the Wildkits as a threat to collect a State trophy in the pre-season, and they steadily built a successful run, including the championship at the Fenton Thanksgiving Tournament, a second-place finish at Centralia, and the Central Suburban League South division championship.

Ellis said his “ah ha” moment came in a preseason meeting in which some of the players shared their personal family stories at a players-and-coaches only gathering.

“That's when we got set on this track, talking about the (history) chapters they were going to write this season,” said the coach.

Said Ellis: “As a coach, you want the experience to be a good one and to me the satisfaction comes from the daily grind, not the outcome. It's the commitment they made to one another and the 11-month journey that was special, not the outcome.”

GIRLS' GYMNASTICS

Make room on that medal rack at the Eovaldi household. And make room for a new T-shirt, too.

Ella Eovaldi soared to new heights in her last hurrah as an Evanston gymnast at the IHSA state final at Palatine High School, claiming the program's highest ever individual finish with a fourth-place

You know that T-shirt that head coach Mike Spevack has been promising for a full year now, proclaiming Eovaldi as the school's GOAT — Greatest of All-Time? It's on its way.

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One year after earning the best finish as an all-around state qualifier for ETHS, Eovaldi captured an elusive medal to add to her bedroom collection. She is only the third Evanston female gymnast to bring home a state medal, joining **Liz Iacuzzi, 1999**, (fifth in 1999 on bars) and **Katie Laatsch, 1998**, (sixth in 1997 on bars) in that exclusive club.

Eovaldi is the only three-time state qualifier in program history and was the first ever to win a sectional championship. And she left no doubt about that GOAT status in front of an appreciative state finals crowd.

Said Spevack: "It's nothing short of spectacular, what she's been able to accomplish. At every meet, it's like she comes out of the bleachers and says 'now watch this' and she tops herself. She's so freaking talented and she's leaving a legacy here of the heights you can get to if you want it to happen."

Eovaldi scored a season best 9.5 on her finals routine after advancing out of the preliminaries with a score of 9.35. The senior standout wasn't feeling so hot physically — and she had to put the disappointment of failing to get out of the sectional round as an all-around qualifier behind her because she still had one more opportunity on the big stage on the final weekend of the season.

Said Eovaldi: "It's such a big deal to win a medal here at State. I feel like I've always wanted to get a place at State (since she started competing at age 7). When I watched the state finals in the past I wanted the attention, I wanted the pressure, I wanted to be in front of the crowds."

GIRLS' WRESTLING

If she had it to do all over again, maybe **Kennedy Murray** would have chosen wrestling instead of track as a freshman entering ETHS

But hindsight is always 20-20, and close didn't count for Murray at the IHSA

girls' individual state tournament held in Bloomington. The Evanston senior took the program's next step — becoming the first female grappler to score two victories at the state finals — but won't have a medal to show for it.

Murray fell one win short of a medal haul at 145 pounds, losing via second period pin to Dempsey Atkinson of Rochelle in a loaded weight class. The loss gave her a split of four matches at the two-day tournament test.

Murray, in only her second year competing in the sport, finished with a 28-7 record that included 24 triumphs via falls. But her crash course in the sport didn't leave her with enough experience under her belt to beat the state's elite.

Atkinson, who went on to place sixth, caught Murray with a headlock in the second period, flipped her on her back and pinned her in 3 minutes, 23 seconds.

"She was waiting for me to make a mistake, and because I'm new, I'm mistake-prone," admitted Murray through a veil of tears following the season-ending loss. "The small things matter when you get this far. So many of those small things really matter here. My biggest regret was that I didn't start earlier."



BOYS' SWIMMING

Swimmers in the Class of 2027 made up a new wave of elite competitors at the IHSA state swimming and diving finals. And **Hunter Kleinschmit** of Evanston proved conclusively that he ranks with the top sophomores in the state of Illinois.

At a highly competitive state finals where it's an accomplishment just to make it to Saturday — in either the championship or consolation heats — Kleinschmit earned a 14th place overall finish in the

200-yard individual medley with a time of 1 minute, 53.25 seconds. He also anchored Evanston's 200 freestyle relay team to a 15th place showing with an eye-catching split of 20.93.

Kleinschmit is a star on the rise in his sport. The only problem is, there were five other sophomores who scored top 16 finishes in the IM finals and moving up won't be easy, especially if they all stick to that event and don't focus on individual strokes.

College coaches already have their eyes on this group. "That sophomore class is very, very good and that includes us," said veteran Evanston head coach Kevin Auger. "You never know how they'll progress. But there's a lot to be excited about there. We've seen all of them growing up (starting as age group swimmers). Hunter took a big, big step for us this year and he still has a fair bit of room to improve on his technique."



GIRLS' BOWLING

Evanston's girls' bowling team finished the season one day earlier than hope for. But that didn't take away from the best year in program history.

The senior-dominated Wildkit squad didn't go out with a bang, but did secure the best team finish ever at the IHSA state tournament held in Rockford.

Evanston was eliminated with a score of 5,219 that was good for 18th place during the preliminary competition. That was a higher pinfall than the 'Kits mustered at either the sectional (4,990) or regional (5,115), but it fell short of advancing to the final round

Seniors **Nina Fischer** (1,073) and **Neva Whitcomb** (1,066) missed out on advancing as individuals by approximately 25 or 30 pins as well. Fischer's total included a high game of 219 in her six-game set and Whitcomb topped the 200 mark with games of 202 and 203.

The Wildkits also counted strong efforts from junior **Jordin Gibson** (220-1,058) and seniors **E.J. Bock** (1,041) and **Bridget Buelmann** (981).

It marked the second year in a row that the 'Kits reached State and the third year in a row they won the Central Suburban League tournament. Both achievements were unprecedented in the program until the current group of seniors started competing.

"After we scored 978 (as a team) in the second game, we were in the mix. But we couldn't keep it up," said Evanston coach Ray Austin. But they gave such a great effort and that's all any coach could ask. "It's our best finish ever at State, and they performed really well," he said.

BOYS' WRESTLING

Jeremy Marshall faced the toughest path to a medal in the toughest weight class at the IHSA individual wrestling state tournament held at the U of Illinois.

That's one reason the Evanston junior made a quick exit from the tournament, dropping his only two matches at 285 pounds and finishing a remarkable 36-10 on the season.

Marshall lost to the eventual unbeaten Class 3A state champion, Jonathan Rulo of Belleville West, by a pin in 2 minutes, 7 seconds in the first round, then was eliminated with a 1-0 loss to Fremd's Owen Jakubczak in the consolation. Jakubczak went on to finish fifth in the tournament.

Jakubczak earned his victory with a second period escape. Both Rulo and Jakubczak are juniors, like Marshall, and half of the loaded heavyweight finals bracket could return next year. How loaded was the bracket? Only three competitors in the 16-man bracket finished the season with fewer than 30 victories.

"I thought both of Jeremy's matches were winnable matches," said Wildkit head coach Rudy Salinas. But if you looked up and down the bracket, Jeremy is right up there with all of the placers. Finishing in the top 16 in the State (a rare accomplishment for an Evanston junior) is nothing to sneeze at. But in this sport, you have to have a good day every day (of the tournament) to be on the (awards) podium."



ETHS sophomore bowls perfect game

By **Dale Leibforth, 1993**, *ETHS Asst. Coach Boys' Bowling*

The Facebook post on the ETHS account on Dec. 21, 2024, was straightforward: “**Anthony Swanson, 2027** bowled a perfect 300 game for the 'Kits at today's Tom Cat Classic Tournament!” followed by an emoji of a bowling ball and two tiny pins.

In the video, Anthony positions himself in front of the lane. “As soon as I released the ball, I knew it was good,” he says as he celebrates with his coaches and teammates.

For those unfamiliar with bowling, each game lasts 10 frames. A frame is a single turn. Each player gets two chances within each frame to roll a ball down the lane to knock down 10 pins. A strike is when all 10 pins are knocked down with the first ball within that frame. A perfect game

is when a player rolls 12 strikes in a row.

The ETHS boys' bowling team practices at [Clas-sic Bowl](#) in Morton Grove. ETHS has bowling lanes in the basement of the school, but they are old and in disrepair. Sophomore Anthony is a member of the varsity team, which also includes **Kaelexx Oats, Augie Ommen, Miles Gieraltowski, Michael Conroy** and **Shane Asbra**.

The varsity team regularly practices with the junior varsity team, who also participated in the tourna-



Photo Credit: Dale Leibforth

ment. Harold Bailey is the team's head coach. **Dale Leibforth, 1993**, Steve Bridges, Mark Whitman and **Jake Rubin, 2018**, are assistant coaches.

The Tom Cat Classic is more commonly known as the Glenbard Boys Varsity Invitational Tournament.

Each team must complete six games using five players per game. The ETHS team won the tournament against 15 other boys' teams. Anthony's perfect game was in the second game.

Asst. coach Leibforth said: “This was the first regular season tournament win for the boys' varsity bowling team in the school's history. Currently the team has 10 wins and four losses. If we make it to state finals, the season could last until early February.”

This was Anthony's first perfect game in a tournament, but not his first perfect game ever. That game occurred in 2022 when he was 14.

At the Glenbard tournament, he came in first place out of 80 tournament players. His cumulative score was 1385 points for an average of 231 points per game. His teammate Michael Conroy came in second with a total cumulative score of 1367; his best score was 288 in the fifth game.

Anthony's perfect games is only the second perfect game bowled by a member of the boys' bowling team during a game or a tournament. (There have been a few in practices.) The first student to do so was Clayton Krasinski on Dec. 1, 2022.

ETHS varsity boys' golf team makes school, state history at state tournament

By **Jed Curtis, 1985**, *ETHS Head Coach Boys' Varsity Golf*

On October 18 and 19, 2024, ETHS made school history with its best-ever finish as the individual runner-up at the boys' golf state tournament.

The state tournament is a two-day event. After the first day, the ETHS team was 10 shots behind the leader, Hinsdale Central.

On the second day of the tournament, ETHS shot a single day state record of 285 (three under par) and finished the state tournament tied with Hinsdale Central with a final score of 588 to 588. A score-card tie breaker gave the first place trophy to Hinsdale. The 'Kits loss to Hinsdale by one stroke was

a heart-breaker, but ETHS was able to beat New Trier by one stroke, which came in third.

ETHS won the third best two-day team score in the history of the Illinois boys' golf state tournament and the best one-day team score.

Kieran Low, an ETHS junior, was the individual runner-up, shooting four under over the 36 holes. Said Coach Curtis: “I couldn't be prouder of the way these boys battled to the finish. They are a very talented group of golfers but they are even better people. They pushed each other all year. That was a lot of fun”



Police Chief Award

Evanston's Chief of Police, **Schenita Stewart, ETHS 1992**, has been named the Police Chief of the Year by the Illinois Association of Chief's of Police.

She was selected for her transformative leadership and unwavering commitment to public safety and community trust. Since joining the department, she has championed officer wellness, transparency, and inclusive community engagement, setting a new standard in modern policing.

Chief Stewart's resilience and compassion have guided the department



gracefully during challenging times. Under her leadership, officers have navigated difficult circumstances with strength and support, fostering a culture of respect, care, and collaboration.

Her impact extends beyond city limits. She is recognized statewide for her innovation, service, and leadership in law enforcement.

Author's Bookshelf

100 American Eagles by **Preston Cook, 1964** is a look at a Curated Ensemble of Eagle Memorabilia. It shows photos and serves as an exhibition guide to an exhibit at the National Eagle Center in Minnesota.

Dr. Jason (Jay) Conviser, 1973, has sent in several books for inclusion in our Alumni Author's Collection in East Library. Among them are **Try Fitness First** (with co-author Jenny H Conviser), **Handbook of Acceleration Training: Science, Principles, and Benefits of Tri-Planar Whole Body Vibration** (with Dr. David Jaimovich), **Exercise Testing and Program Design: A fitness professional's handbook** (with Cedric X Bryant and Barry A. Franklin), **The Health/Wellness Professional's Guide to Medical Fitness Exercise** (with Robyn Stuhr), **Ascend's Essential Guide to Exercise: How to Improve Your Health Through Exercise**, and, **Ascend's Guide to Nutrition and a Healthy Life: Arm Yourself with the Facts** (with Melissa Smith). All add to our collection of Health, Wellness and Fitness titles.

Looking for Grandma is a poignant children's book by **Winifred Anderson, 1952**, that describes the discovery by a child that love can be given to and received from all others.

Alicia Bjornson, 1984, was part of the team that created and produced the coffee table book, **Philadelphia Images** published by The University of the Arts, Philadelphia. These works of art show Philadelphia are ways that it is not seen before as it captures an urban character that is distinct to the City of Brotherly Love.

From my Father to my Son: the re-birth of a black warrior is a collection of poems by **Steven Lyons, 1970**. He offers poems that lead us to a place of deeper thinking and challenged perceptions and expands our current cultural conversation about race.

Mark Grochoncinski, 1973, has taken a serious hobby of 40-45 years and written a book. After reading much of the available literature about Jack the Ripper, Mark has noticed that by re-examining aspects of crimes in late 19th century London, we can see this story in a more nuanced way. His book, **Out of the Corner of the Eye: Averted Visions of Jack the Ripper**, brings us this outlook.

Dr. Robert W. Chandler, 1967, contributed an article to a book called **The Pfizer Papers**.

Good Jewish Girl: A Jerusalem Love Story

Bald eagles...the rest is history

On Christmas Eve, 2024, President Joseph Biden signed a bill into law to correct what had long gone unnoticed and designated the bald eagle as the national bird. It had never been officially designated to be what many had just assumed.

But, thanks to one man who discovered the omission, **Preston Cook, ETHS 1964**, Congress corrected that. It passed the bill, sent it to President Biden to sign into law, and formalized the bald eagle's national significance in one of Congress' last acts of the year.

Cook is obsessed with bald eagles. He began collecting them as a youngster and now oversees his collection of over 40,000 eagle-related items that outgrew his house in California. He discovered the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minnesota—the self-

designated "Eagle Capital of America." Cook's collection now lives in the Center on the Mississippi River and ranges from political pins to paintings and magazine covers to playing cards and more.

He also wrote a book and while researching the eagle's place in American history, he came to a realization. "We've never had a national bird," Cook said.

That was a shock to the staff at the National Eagle Center. Said Scott Mehus, education director of the Center: "Preston Cook brought that up to us years ago...and I've been talking in classes all of these years, telling [people] it's our nation's symbol and our national bird...I've been wrong all these years and so has everybody else in the country."



Cook wrote the bill and sent it to a bipartisan group of senators led by Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota, who brought it to Congress which unanimously passed the bill.

According to Cook: "It takes an act of Congress and the president's signature to designate any item with the national title; the rose got the honor in 1986 and the oak tree in 2004... No one has to change anything; it's just a correction. ...It was one of those little pieces of history that I felt should be taken care of."

The rest is history.

Gone Bad by **Liz Rose Shulman, 1988**, is a collection of essays about her point of view as an American Jewish Woman growing up in a world and household that merged Judaism and Zionism into a common idea. Her growth and change is described with humor and great honesty as she looks at both events of the past 18 months and occurrences in her teen and young adult years.

Frank E. Wrenick, 1957, sent in two books. **Automobile Manufacturers of Cleveland and Ohio, 1864-1942** is written with Elaine V. Wrenick. This is a comprehensive look at the heyday of automobile manufacturing in Ohio when the region was in prominence in a new industry. The book covers 550 Ohio manufacturing companies. **The Streamlined Era Greyhound Terminals: The Architecture of W.S. Arrasmith**, examines the evolution of design of Greyhound terminals that put adventure in travel into the reach of post-Depression America.

Created Worlds: A History of Science comes from research and seminars that were taught by **Philip M. Silverman, 1955**, on creativity and the history of science. This book captures the universal themes that underlie our compulsion to make sense of our surroundings. **Christine E (Cosmas) Miller, 1980**, has shared from the pages of her life practical steps for dealing with panic, anxiety and fear. **Uncontrolled: Conquering Anxiety, Fear and Depression** is her guidebook dealing with many of life's issues.

The Story of FIBArk: First in Boating on Arkansas is a history and record of Salida, Colorado's annual whitewater festival. Since 1949, a small mountain town in central Colorado has become a haven for sport boaters and enthusiasts. In its 75th year, the event has become an international destination for whitewater culture. Author and historian **Donna Kittleman Rhoads, 1967**, has collected FIBArk's evolution in historic photos and a richly told narrative.

Class of **1960's Malcolm McCollum** added three books to our collection. **A Loose Canon: Celebrating Mostly Forgotten Writers** is a collection of appreciations of a wide range of authors and writers. **Can You Hear Me Now? Essays on Literacy and Technology** collects over 50 years of observations on developments in media technology and their effects on literacy. His most recent, **Out-Hamming Our Ancestors: Antidotes to the Screening of America**, provides advice to parents and children on some of the basic skills of literacy and numeracy, including descriptions of other useful books.

Dan Peterson, 1954, has written a book about his experience coaching Milan Olympia, one of the top basketball teams in Italy. **La Mia Olympia in 100 Storie +1** was written with Umberto Zapelloni and has turned into the Number One best-selling book in Italy. The book is written in Italian, but it might inspire one of our basketball fans to learn another language.

80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe)



This photo was taken May 8, 1945, in downtown Evanston on Davis and Orrington. It commemorates Evanston's celebration of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) marking the end of World War II in Europe after Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender to the Allied forces.

While VE Day was a joyous occasion, it was primarily celebrated in Europe and not in America since the war was not yet over in the U.S. as Japan still continued to fight. That surrender took place on September 2, 1945.

This year, 2025, numerous European countries honored the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The UK held a massive parade in London, while France and Germany also celebrated. Canada sent a delegation to London and held a wreath-laying ceremony. VE Day celebrations were held in various communities across the U.S., notably in New York City, although the reaction across America was generally more muted than in Europe.

Distinguished Alumni Award 2025

The Distinguished Alumni Awards committee is 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 nominee is among the finalists, but not selected, it is held for an additional year.

Nominations are now open for 2025. You can use the form on the ETHS alumni website—[www:eths.k12.il.us/Page/515](http://www.eths.k12.il.us/Page/515). Nominations for 2025 are due July 1. If you have questions, contact the Alumni Office at 847-424-7704.

Reunion Roundup

Dinner in the Desert

For years, members of the ETHS Class of 1964 gather to party where it's warm. This year it was held on March 18 at the home of Mark Goldman in Cave Creek, Arizona.



Classmates, from L to Rt, are: Mark Goldman, Babs Drew Spiro, Hank Gideon, Phil Kaplan, Fred Brostoff

Mini-1964 gathering at Miromar Lakes, FL

At the other end of the country, Jay Siegall hosted a mini-reunion on February 5 for 1964 classmates at his home in Miromar Lakes, Florida. In attendance were (L to Rt.) Jay Siegall, Nancy Schroeder, Marty Schwartz, Karen Sitron, Mike Friedman, Neal Malow, Art Hallstrom, and Marty LaPidus.



Class of 1975 50th Reunion

Let's reunite and rekindle at the ETHS Class of '75's 50th Reunion!

Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 6:00-10:30 pm at Double Clutch Brewing Company, 2121 Ashland Ave., Evanston (Valet parking provided!).

Join us for heavy appetizers and more, a cash bar, and a whole lot of socializing!

There will be a Meet & Greet on the evening of Friday, September 26, and a tour of ETHS the morning of Saturday, September 27.

(More info to follow by the volunteers who will be spearheading these activities.)

Due to the generosity of some of our classmates, the cost of the Reunion is ZERO! FREE! NADA! ZILCH! (including your +1 should you choose to bring him/her.)

We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions or have not received a previous email, please reach out to **Brian (T-Bone) Tanenbaum** at brian@bitlaw.org or **Janice Kaplan** at jankaplan115@gmail.com.

Class of 1965 Reunion

September 20, 2025, at the Orrington Hotel in Evanston.

Please go to www.eths1965.org to let the planning committee know that you will attend!

Class of 2000 Reunion

The ETHS Class of 2000 celebrates its 25th on Saturday, June 21, 12:00pm - 5:00pm at James Park.

Free fun event! Bring food to share. Bring friends and family. Bring chairs, tables, games, and music.

Contact bettyalper@gmail.com with questions!

Class of 1985 40th Reunion

SAVE THE DATE! More information to come!

Saturday, July 5, 2025, 7:00pm-1:00am, American Legion Post 42 and Canal Shores Patio Food Truck, DJ and more!

Register at <https://myevent.com/eths1985reunion>.

Please contact eths1985reunion@gmail.com with any questions!

Class of 2005 Reunion

SAVE THE DATE! More information to follow!

Labor Day weekend (August 29-September 1, 2025)

Class of 1970 55th Reunion

September 6th, 2025.

School tour at 10:00am—meet in the ETHS Auditorium; lunch follows in the school cafeteria.

Main gathering at Moretti's Restaurant in Morton Grove. Questions? Contact **Steve Hoffenberg** joyven@mac.com or (847) 727-1443.

Class Notes

1930s



Alice (Hallstrom) Heerens, 1939, celebrated her 103 Birthday on Oct. 20, 2024, with her three children, their children, and her great grand children. One of our longer living ETHS alums, Alice was born in 1921. Her grandfather was one of Evanston's first firemen. Alice attended Haven and graduated from ETHS in 1939. Her husband, **Arthur H. Hallstrom**, also attended Haven and graduated from ETHS in 1937. They married in 1942 during World War II. Art was stationed at Ft. McCoy and ran many mess halls because he had owned a grocery store before the war and spoke German. (The mess hall staff were German POWs.) After the war, they returned to Evanston and had three children – all who became ETHS graduates. The oldest, **Arthur D. Hallstrom, 1964**, was Treasurer for his recent Class of 1964's 60th Reunion.

1940s

Betty Landin Knuepfer graduated from ETHS in 1942 and is now age 100. Her daughter, Pat Pettinger, wrote to say that she and her mother “always enjoy looking through your newsletter together. Thank you for all your efforts in this communication.” Pat's uncle, **Bill Landin, 1946**, was the Illinois state boys' tennis champ in 1945 and 1946.

1960s

Barbara Provus, 1967, and her husband Fred Wackerle attended an alumni event in Tucson, AZ, recently and ran into two ETHS grads. From Lt. to Rt.: myself; **Andy Kerr, class of '69**; and **F. Louise Wright** (married name **Doran**), class of '52! Thought you'd like to see how well we've held up!



1970s

Marc O. Goodman, 1978, shared info about his classmate **Dr. Ed Meyer, 1978**, who is a professor at Baldwin Wallace U in Ohio. Ed has been teaching a course on problem solving for many years (first college-level course of its kind in the US). He has a few corporate clients and also gets grants to teach inner-city kids at their schools and at summer camps. The class is a guided inquiry into the problem-solving process

1980s

Joey Garfield, 1987, shared this story about a beloved alum. “A group of ETHS alumni had a small ceremony outside of the high school to honor uber-athlete and ETHS friend **Bret Mason Kay, 1983**. Brett lettered in three varsity sports while at ETHS (football, wrestling, and track) and won the Bob Pickins Award. He was also one of the most energetic students at the high school's kiddy day-



Friends who gathered at the donation of the Bret Kay memorial bench (at the right) included Sara Dee – '83, Brian Finley – '83, Elena Garfield – '90, Craig Garfield – '85, Joey Garfield – '87, Jim Garfield – '82, Don Garfield-not ETHS, Lamont Frazier – '84, and Tina Frazier – '83.

to develop the ability of the student/employee to independently reach a new level of understanding – to have an AHA! moment. Ed has worked with corporations that need new and potential hires to problem-solve on their own and not rely on their manager to spoon-feed them.

2000s

David Doman, 2002, won his first two Grammys for producing a song titled “Tyrant” which was included in the Cowboy Carter album by Beyonce

that won Grammys for album-of-the-year and best country album. David had percussion and composition lessons when he was younger in the Evanston area. Then, he attended ETHS and took an Electronic Music class taught by Dr. David Fodor that he enjoyed and got him started on his music career. He now works and lives in LA and has produced songs, mostly in the hip-hop genre, for some well-known artists such as Eminem, Post Malone, Travis Scott, and others.

care program. He continued on to Indiana U and then to New York City, where he became a producer for HBO. Sadly his life was cut short in 1993, a victim of random violence. A believer in organ and tissue donation, his life gave new life to more than 75 people. To honor him and his connection to ETHS, my older brother and Bret's best friend, **Jim Garfield, 1982**, spearheaded the donation of a

bench outside the athletic entrance of the school. He gathered a handful of family and classmates to join in the dedication including fellow athlete and friends **Lamont Frazier, 1983**, **Sarah Dee, 1983**, and **Brian Finley, 1983**. Bret's family formed the Bret Kay Happiness Foundation, a series of 5K running races to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation.



The Sunrise at Lee Street Beach: Remembering Dr. Seidenbecker 38 Years Later

Current ETHS English teacher **Liz Shulman, 1988**, shared a memory of the late Dr. George Seidenbecker, a former ETHS English teacher. She'd stopped at Lee St. Beach on her way to work to enjoy the sunrise. It reminded her of a similar experience Seidenbecker had written about 38 years earlier. He'd assigned his students in the Creative Writing Club to write about “Every Moment is the First Time,” after having stopped at Lee St. Beach to see the sunrise himself.

He wrote: “Blinding beams filled the eastern sky and spread west over trees and houses on Lake Shore Boulevard. How blunt and excessive were those beams for which I had waited so long. How common in sunrise, sunset. How disappointing.”

Dr. Seidenbecker died in 2018. Liz wrote: “I can't tell him how moved I was to read this piece again—as a teacher at ETHS and also as a writer...I just didn't realize how much his beautiful piece of writing has stayed so deeply in my unconscious all these years.”

Liz still goes to see the sunrise. She said: “I go to remember Dr. Seidenbecker and everyone else who matters to me who's died, and wonder if my students will remember me. And I wonder, as Dr. Seidenbecker wondered at the end of his story, ‘whether the beach and the trees and the street would someday be washed away by the waves for no one to see thereafter.’”

In Memory

1930s

William M. Lee, 1939,
1/6/2025

1940s

Edward E. Westbrook,
1944, 7/11/2024
Viola "Vi" Van Zelst Orr,
1945, 10/19/2024
Howard Stillman, 1945,
11/24/2024
Robert E. Wieczorowski,
1945, 2/2/2025
Margaret Snyder Chandler,
1947, 10/16/2024
Margaret Lothrop Budd,
1947, 9/22/2024
Gerald Beiersdorf, 1947,
7/3/2024
Virginia Brown Beiersdorf,
1948, 5/5/2024
James J. Ingwersen, 1948,
3/30/2025
Vincent A. Ransom, 1949,
11/7/2024
Rosalie Amory Miller,
1949, 6/30/2024

1950s

Marilynn Sundquist
Arnoux, 1950, 3/19/2025
Jane Canning Ellis, 1951,
1/14/2025
James "Jim" King, 1951,
5/5/2024
Lois Kleinofen Mengarelli,
1951, 10/21/2024
Dorothy E. Brooks, 1952,
2/3/2025
Louis J. Weathers Jr., 1953,
10/24/2024
Bruce A. Cantrell, 1953,
4/11/2024
John Rogers, 1953,
1/1/2025
Joseph D. Croft Jr., 1954,
9/27/2024
Sharon Petersen Pierre,
1954, 12/23/2024
Carol Blashfield Frey
Rawlins, 1955, 8/14/2024
David F. Peterson, 1955,
10/4/2024
Richard H. Sloan, 1955,
12/18/2024
Richard "Rick" Phalen,
1955, 2/18/2025
Richard Foster, 1956,
4/17/2024
Delores Petway Holmes,
1957, 10/22/2024
Horace "Kris" F. Graves,
1958, 6/25/2024
Michael Allan Shaw, 1958,
1/23/2025
Thomas L. Bentley, 1959,
1/27/2025

1960s

Susan Drucker Kanar,
1960, 6/18/2024
Nancy Salamon Wagner,
1960, 10/10/2024
James E. Farney, 1960,
9/4/2024
Barbara Pettis Rheingans,
1962, 1/1/2025
Paul L. Hartman, 1962,
10/18/2024
Carol Ann Casey, 1962,
10/11/2024
John A. Severson, 1963,
10/23/2024
Stephen "Steve" Gerber,
1963, 10/12/2024
Olle Erik Saarinen, 1964,
5/24/2025
Holly Romans Green,
1964, 12/19/2024
Marty "Marty" Campbell,
1964, 1/2025
Virgil Hemphill, 1964,
12/5/2024
Victor Avery Brown, 1964,
8/4/2024
Thomas Mierzycki, 1964,
2/14/2025
Douglas C. Herbon, 1964,
2/17/2025
Kersti Persson, 1965,
1/28/2025
James "Jim" R. Goepel,
1965, 12/12/2024
George Dotson, 1965,
12/26/2024
Linnea Skogland
Netterstrom, 1966,
12/30/2024
Philip J. Nathanson, 1967,
11/11/2024
Paul Morrall Shrader, 1967,
1/18/2024
Farrell Jones, 1968,
11/20/2024
Gilford "Gil" Hoel, 1968,
9/26/2024
Thomas Eddy, 1968,
12/19/2024
Leticia Hickman Barge,
1968, 1/27/2025
Terry Gunnell, 1969,
11/18/2024
Charles "Chuck" Hesketh,
1969, 10/2024
Nicholas Potter, 1969,
12/2/2024
Michael J. Holby, 1969,
12/10/2024
Roger Franklin, 1969,
2/27/2025
James F. "Jim" Driscoll,
1969, 3/25/2025

1970s

David Garfield, 1970,
10/4/2024

Lowell Levin, 1970,
12/20/2024
James "Jim" Kinzer, 1970,
12/16/2024
Elna Wagoner Hamilton,
1970, 10/11/2024
Susan Leib Schmidt, 1971,
1/2/2024
Mark J. Schwartzhoff,
1972, 10/23/2024
Danny Cooper, 1972,
2/23/2025
Jane Coldren Devine,
1973, 1/14/2025
Harold D. Embry, 1974,
3/12/2025
John Tidwell, 1975,
3/10/2025
Aneeta Talwane Duva,
1978, 7/2024
Paul Adler, 1978,
2/24/2025
Lee A. Polakoff, 1979,
2/27/2025

1980s

Terry L. Poster, 1982,
9/30/2024
Kevin Hasch, 1984,
1/13/2025
Robert Shelley, 1984,
2/2025
Aubrey Scott Hunter, 1984,
1/26/2025
Mark A. Fitzgerald, 1985,
3/31/2025
Kelly L. Drumm, 1985,
10/21/2024
Kyle E. Benoit, 1988,
10/27/2024
Jeremy Eisen, 1988,
10/26/2021
Jennifer Tayes Marcelo,
1988, 6/12/2024
George Greaves, 1989,
1/26/2025

1990s

Claire Bryant White, 1990,
11/24/2024
Michael S. Gardner II,
1999, 2/2/2025

2000s

Etta Swartzfager Avila,
2000, 10/17/2024
LaToya Y. Miller, 2002,
12/11/2024
Kathleen O'Connell, 2003,
7/9/2024

2010s

Aremon L. Alagheband,
2014, 10/13/2024
Claire Dornbierer, 2019,
3/26/2025

2020s

Gabriela "Gaby" Ridings,
2022, 10/9/2024

STAFF

Janet Bauer, who taught speech arts and then English at ETHS (1964-1991) passed away on January 2, 2025. A Northwestern U graduate, she came to ETHS to teach speech arts and moved to the English Department in the 1970s. She retired in 1991. She was 95 when she passed.

Linda Ganser Selway, who worked at ETHS for 20 years (1986-2006) in the social services department as a social worker, and peer justice leader. She was an ETHS graduate, Class of 1965. She passed away on June 1, 2025, at age 77.

Eileen Fine, who worked at ETHS in Audio Visual services from 1971-1996, passed away in July 2024.

Dr. Robert Trevarthen died April 23, 2025, at age 94. He was both an administrator and coach at ETHS in the 1960s and early 1970s. Bob was the head Varsity track and field coach, achieving 10 Suburban League Championships, two State Championships, 3 State runner-ups and 5 District Championships. As the head Sophomore football coach, he achieved 5 Suburban League Championships. In 2016, Bob was into the ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame, based on his coaching successes and administrative leadership. He went on to be a school Superintendent in the late 1970s in Elmhurst, IL, and then became a lawyer.

George Lytle, former Drivers Ed teacher has recently passed away. His memorial service was held in Evanston in mid-May.

The ETHS Foundation held its most recent fundraiser “WILD FOR ETHS” in March 2024 at Sketchbook Brewing Co., in support of all ETHS Wildkits.

The Foundation shouts loud and strong “THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILD SUPPORT!”

We are incredibly thankful for the nearly 400 individuals, families, and businesses whose attendance, support, sponsorship, and in-kind contributions made this event a resounding success.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS WILD FOR ETHS SPONSORS!

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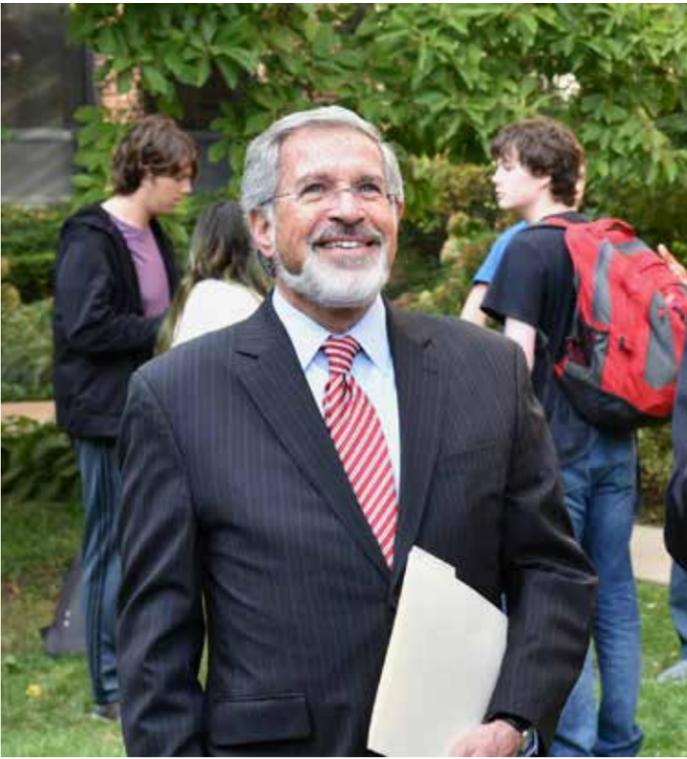


ETHS
FOUNDATION

ETHS Foundation celebrates historic year with \$9.5 Million in transformative gifts

Evanston Township High School and the ETHS Foundation are celebrating an unprecedented year of philanthropic support with two major contributions totaling \$9.5 million. These historic gifts will significantly advance the district's comprehensive five-year Capital Improvement Program aimed at enhancing school facilities, infrastructure, and learning spaces, including an expansion of the school's Arts and Innovation Wing. **To learn more about the work of the Foundation and upcoming events visit supporteths.org.**

Record-breaking \$7 million gift from distinguished alumnus



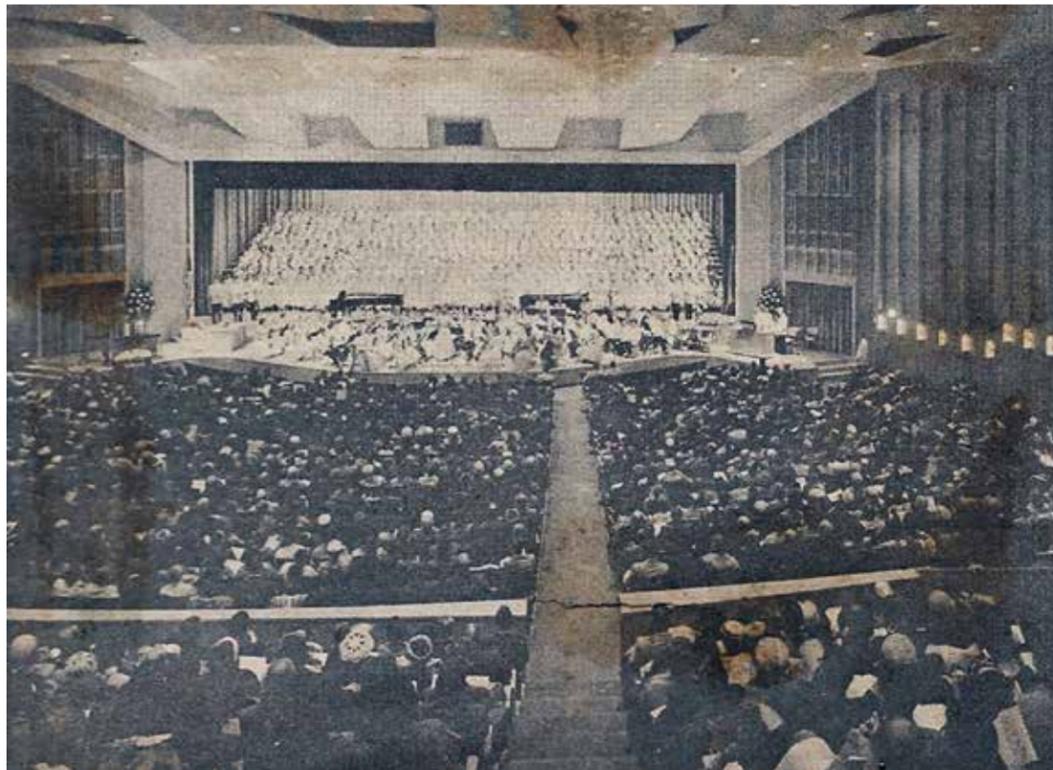
The largest gift in school history—a transformative \$7 million donation—comes from **Leonard D. Schaeffer, Class of 1963.**

“Reflecting on his time at ETHS, Mr. Schaeffer once shared that the people he had met and the education he received led to opportuni-

ties to shape his future,” highlights Supt. Dr. Marcus Campbell. “His enduring commitment to our school underscores the vital role of alumni and community support in advancing our vision for ETHS.”

In recognition of this extraordinary gift, the ETHS auditorium will be

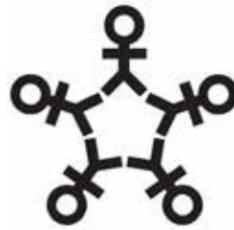
renamed the Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for the Performing Arts. This donation builds upon Mr. Schaeffer's legacy of philanthropy at ETHS, following his previous \$500,000 contribution that supported the creation of The Schaeffer Theater in the Michael Planetarium.



The ETHS Auditorium was added to the east side of the building in the late 1950s. It houses 1,400 people and is able to accommodate a full chorus above the stage level and orchestra in front of the stage. Dedicated handicapped seating has been installed. Over the years the lighting and sound systems have been completely replaced and upgraded, the counterweight fly system and acoustic baffle were renovated, and various paint jobs and curtain replacements have taken place. A new HVAC system was also installed. New seating is scheduled to be installed.



ETHS
FOUNDATION



LEWIS-SEBRING
FAMILY FOUNDATION

\$2.5 Million Gift from the Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation

Adding to this remarkable year, the ETHS Foundation has received a \$2.5 million gift from the Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation.

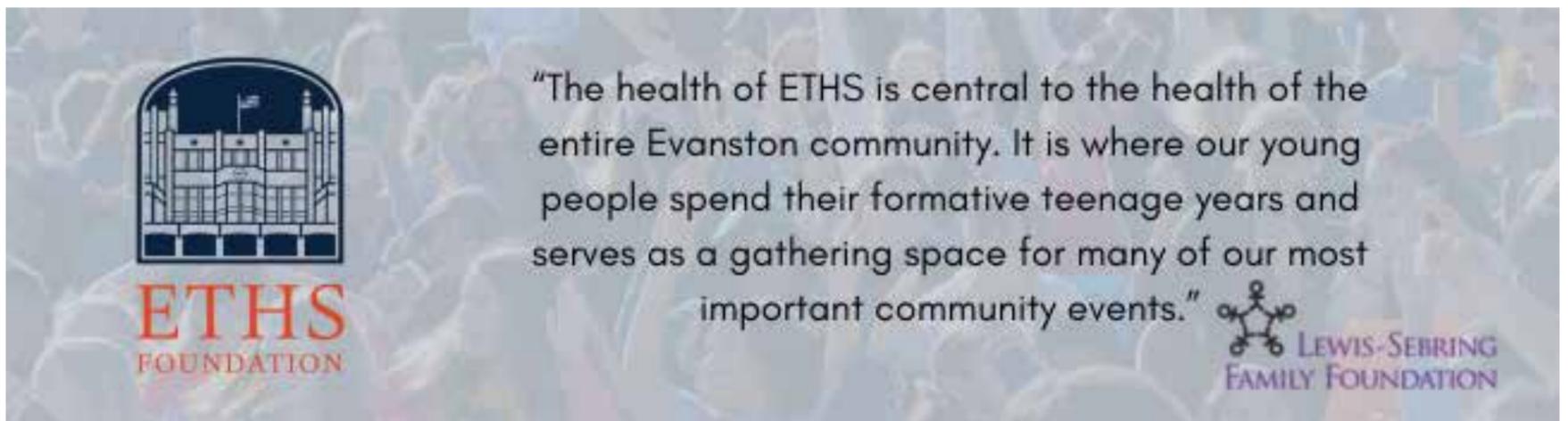
The Foundation, based in Evanston, has contributed to key projects over the years, and this \$2.5 million gift marks its largest contribution to the school to date.

The Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation shared the following statement: “The health of ETHS is central to the health of the entire Evanston community. It is where our young people spend their formative teenage years and serves as a gathering space for many of our most important community

events. Supt. Dr. Marcus Campbell’s leadership and commitment to creating an equitable and inclusive school community are more important now than ever. The campaign’s focus on improving our students’ exposure to career pathways and the arts will help propel this vision forward.”

In recognition of their generosity, the planned gallery space adjacent to the auditorium will be named the Lewis-Sebring Gallery. This revitalized facility will offer a dynamic setting for students to express their creativity, engage as a community, and host diverse exhibitions.

These contributions represent an investment in the future ETHS for the next generation of Wild-kits and exemplify how private philanthropy can complement public education funding to create exceptional educational opportunities.



The Social Hall in 1932 served as a student cafeteria and auditorium until the main Auditorium was built in 1958. The Social Hall and performance stage was completely renovated in the early 1970s and became the Upstairs Theatre.



Alumni Association
Evanston Twp. High School
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