

## Superintendent's Letter

### Creating Our New Normal at ETHS

ETHS has a long history of being an innovative, cutting-edge school, always improving, always staying out front by creating educational delivery models based on sound research and best practices. Today is no exception. I can attest to the past 15 years that we have been transforming ETHS into a 21<sup>st</sup> century school.

**This fall, ETHS** will reopen to full in-person learning. Time will tell how the pandemic has changed our lives going forward, but we already know ETHS is going to be a changed place.

The pandemic has created time and opportunities to rethink some of the challenges our school and students faced long before the pandemic, and we are taking these opportunities to make big improvements.

For starters, students will begin with a clean slate—all tardy detentions and social probation that accumulated for some students in the past and carried over into the next school year have been removed with a total amnesty.

**Tardy procedures** will also change. Instead of students who are late for class having to get a pass from Safety Staff to enter, students will go directly to class and the teacher will record the tardy. The focus is being in class to maximize learning time.

Student behavior will be addressed far less by punishments and much more by restorative practices and helping students develop better self-regulation and behavior modification skills. Students with the highest recidivism in the dean's office will continue to meet with social workers but also engage in mindfulness practices as a tool for learning.

**We are eliminating** semester exams. Semester exams require two weeks to administer each year, and an additional two weeks to review and prepare students for those exams. Imagine what teachers can do with an additional month of instruction each year: go deeper into content, develop more skills, provide more feedback, and better assess student learning.

There will still be assessments: assignments, research papers, culminating projects, presentations, and more. But, the emphasis will be on authentic assessments that measure intellectual growth with accomplishments that are meaningful and apply students' learning.

**In our actual** careers, few people ever sit for final exams. Still, most of us get evaluated on our performance and must demonstrate competency in authentic settings. Real-life tasks require complex thinking, problem-solving, application, team solutions, and creativity.

Trends in higher education reflect a move away from final exams and toward project-based assessments, research projects, portfolios, and other alternative assessments, a trend that pre-dates Covid. That said, students here will continue to take college-level exams during high school, including Advanced Placement (AP) exams. More importantly, eliminating semester exams allows students to better focus on the courses taught by ETHS teachers who are skilled in preparing students for college and career.

**To continue** our commitment to deeper learning, we will implement a block schedule in the fall. The block schedule provides

larger chunks of instructional time for more experiential, in-depth, hands-on learning in all classes, and provides a break in the pace of the school day with 10-minute passing periods between classes and fewer transitions each day. While we will have the same amount of instructional time weekly, the key is about intensifying instruction. There will be more time for meaningful collaboration and teaming.

**At the same** time, we are adopting a schedule that maintains the same number of opportunities to take courses as the 9-period day has provided for decades. Electives will remain a strong feature of the ETHS experience.

Freshmen and sophomores will have a study hall to provide time to keep up with their homework as they adjust to the academic demands of this high-powered high school, develop good study habits, and benefit from guidance in using school resources.

The block will also provide time for counselors, social workers, and deans to work with individual students and small groups and facilitate lessons on succeeding in high school, developing post-secondary plans, enhancing personal well-being, and more.

**Allowing ample** time for hands-on lab experiences, freshman and sophomore biology and chemistry courses will utilize the 85-minute block. AP science classes will meet in two blocks. The schedule change allows us to offer more sections of popular



**Supt. Eric Witherspoon**

science electives, which means more students will be able to engage in these highly sought-after learning experiences.

The Special Education service delivery model is being completely redesigned, moving away from the traditional model where Special Education teachers have had a caseload, learning strategies courses, instructional classes, and/or co-teaching responsibilities. The new delivery model will now have designated roles for teachers.

These new roles will include case managers, instructional facilitators, transition specialists, articulation specialists, diagnostic case managers, and specialized program teachers who will have specific assignments to best serve students with special needs. Plus, our day school is being revised to clearly provide a therapeutic setting to better serve students and meet their needs.

**Not only will** this fall opening be exciting to finally return to normal after a year of alternative learning models caused by a pandemic, but it will be hugely exciting to return to the new ETHS, the new normal as part of continuing our transformation into a 21<sup>st</sup> century high school.

It's a great day to be a Wildkit.

*Related article:*

**Steps taken to return ETHS to in-person school full time, on p. 2**

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Steps taken to return ETHS to in-person school full time

On Monday, April 12, the ETHS school board received a comprehensive update on how ETHS has been coping with student learning during the Covid pandemic—and the multi-stage transition that will open ETHS to full in-person learning beginning in August for the 2021-22 school year.

In March 2020, due to the pandemic, all Illinois schools had to switch to remote learning from home. With COVID surging in Illinois, particularly in Cook County, in fall 2020, ETHS administrators determined to follow the Covid science and chose to continue with e-learning throughout first semester and into spring 2021.

ETHS learned a great deal about teaching and student learning during the initial experience with remote learning. In Fall 2020, ETHS kept the 70-minute remote-learning block schedule, but academics were strengthened, grading went back to letter grades, expectations for attendance and participation were tightened,

daily/weekly routines were firmed up, and semester exams were replaced with multi-media or individualized projects that pulled together what students learned in class. Social-emotional connections between teachers and students were a particular focus.

Now, a year later from going remote, the Covid metrics have improved and the CDC and state health department have encouraged schools to offer in-person learning. So, on April 14, ETHS opened with a hybrid model—part remote, part in-person—for the rest of the school year. Most important, all teachers and staff have all had the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Students and families picked if they would attend school in person or remain on remote learning for the fourth quarter. About 46% of the students said they wanted to go hybrid; everyone else wanted to stay home on remote. All got the same instruction. Supt. Eric Witherspoon stressed there is no academic benefit to in-person learning, and the academic expectations would be the same for all.

Four cohorts, each one-quarter of those who signed up, rotated in attendance over a two-week period. If they were not in school, they were learning remotely. Mondays were all asynchronous remote learning. Students and staff completed a Covid self-certification before entering the building including a temperature check. Masks and social distancing rules had to be followed at all times.

The Instructional/Informational Technology staff worked overtime to set up each classroom. For example, since teachers taught simultaneously to students in person as well as remotely, large computer screens allowed them to see students at home via Zoom. Desks were set in rows, six-feet apart in classrooms, and faced forward, and staff cleaned rooms after classes ended. Hand sanitizers and new MERV 13 air filters were installed throughout the building. New signage pointed out social distancing, one-way stairways, and stay-on-the-right-side hallways.

of improving local health metrics, they developed “in-person experiences” to lift students’ feelings of isolation, get them into school, and get them off the computer screen.

From February 17 to late-March, students chose to enroll in a broad array of small-group, non-graded, interesting and fun activities (e.g., yoga, tie-dying), fine arts opportunities, hands-on enrichment, athletic experiences, outdoor activities on campus, mindfulness resources, freshmen introduction to ETHS, and capstone experiences for seniors, among many other activities. Staffed by teacher volunteers, all experiences were held on off-hours before and after remote-learning classes and on asynchronous Mondays.

Students will be able to continue their education this summer. From June 3 to July 14, courses will

either be in-person OR fully remote; no hybrid classes will be held. As with everything else, in-person instruction may be adjusted depending on public health requirements this summer. According to Bill Farmer, ETHS Director of Summer School, course offerings will include academic recovery courses, enrichment courses, and academic advancement (elective) courses for students in grades 9-12.

The next and last step is fully opening school in August. According to Asst. Supt., Curriculum/Instruction Peter Bavis: “Hybrid is a good transition from remote to fully in-person learning within classrooms and within the school itself. We realize, it’s a chance for a fresh start, a New Normal with everything we’ve learned from the pandemic.”

Asst. Supt./Principal Marcus Campbell explained the pending changes to the 2021-22 school year. “We will not return to ‘business as usual,’” he said. “We want to make sure we seized the opportunity to address some of the challenges ETHS and our students have faced even before the pandemic. We want to be thoughtful, compassionate, and student-centered as we think about how to reintegrate our students back into ETHS after surviving a global pandemic.”

So, come this August, life will change at ETHS. It’s been a long-time a-coming.



ETHS Class Notes

Let your friends and former classmates know where you are and what you are doing.

Please provide your contact information (print clearly):

First name	(Maiden name)	Last name	Class year
Spouse's first name		(Maiden Name)	
Is spouse an ETHS alum? ____ No ____ Yes ____ If yes, class year			
Street address		City, State	ZIP + 4 Home phone
Is this a new address? ____ No ____ Yes			
Home phone		Work phone	
Email address			
Job Title		Business name	
Business street address		City, State	ZIP + 4

When returning this form, please include a separate sheet providing additional information (marriage, children, awards, memberships, etc.) and a recent photo of yourself (we will return it unharmed if you ask us to).

Please return this form, additional information, and photo to:  
ETHS Alumni Association  
1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201

How to Submit News to The KIT

We love to hear from alums. Let us know what you are up to!

**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. We love pictures too!

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

• **In Memory:** Do you know of a fellow ETHS alum who has recently passed? Please let us know the name, class, 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 alumni can purchase your book.

All information may be sent via email to David Futransky, Alumni Assn. Director, at futranskyd@eths.k12.il.us. Questions? Call 847-424-7704.

# The KIT

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# From the Alumni Association Executive Director

## WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT?

As I start to write this letter to the ETHS alumni in the middle of March, I have been thinking about the past year. Twelve months ago, I was on vacation with my wife in Southern California. We were traveling to celebrate a family occasion and did not know what to expect or do.

Conversation about the virus was starting to change the world. Questions were flying around us—was it safe to fly home or should we rent a car? Where should we stay? What did we need to do to protect ourselves? How long would we be safe or stuck away from home? Were masks a good idea?

**Questions** were being asked at ETHS and around the globe. ETHS followed the Illinois mandate and shut down on-site learning while I was away. The initial thought was that we would reopen by April... and then by May. For sure we would go back to normal in August when school was scheduled to reopen with in-person learning, as it always had been at the corner of Church and Dodge. How would we

handle remote learning? Could everyone connect from home?

Those questions and many others have been in front of us ever since. Now, a year has gone by. ETHS planned to open for some students on a hybrid model after spring break. Freshmen could have the opportunity to set foot in the building for the first time ever. Seniors could have a few days to come in and refresh their connections to their alma mater before they graduate.

**And the Class** of 2021 was to join the Class of 2020 in celebrating their commencement in a virtual manner. These two classes will not have had a traditional prom or graduation ceremony. It is only one of the many examples of things that have been missed by our current students.

Our alums have also missed out on a number of events. You will note in the Reunion Roundup section that most classes that would have celebrated a reunion in 2021 are joining those that had reunions planned for 2020 and are now looking forward to rescheduled events in 2022.



David Futransky '69

The past few years have brought an average of over 300 alumni back for 50<sup>th</sup> reunions and we expect to see close to 1,000 alumni return for the 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations for the classes of 1970, 1971 and 1972. These were three of the largest classes in ETHS history and the Alumni Office hopes we can all join in tours and parties in September and October of 2022. We also look forward to 60% of our graduates celebrating a return to normal by having a 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, etc. gathering next calendar year.

**We have missed** so much this year. Who would have thought there would be **none** of our over 3,700 students in the building

for a 12-month period? Who would have thought classes would go remote with each student working from outside of the building and connecting with their teachers via electronic means? Who would have thought the ETHS Nutrition Services Department would be feeding students who could not come to classes in the building? Who would have thought we would be viewing concerts and performances online instead of in person? Who would have thought football was a spring sport or that athletes would be competing while wearing face masks in many sports? Who would have thought parent conferences would be Zoom meetings? Who knew a year ago what Zoom was?

**These are just** a few examples of the resiliency of ETHS. Our faculty, staff and administrators have done amazing and outstanding work to connect with our students and our community.

Our bell schedules have changed (no, not back to the MOD system that some of you will remember). The stairwells are one-way up or down. Ventilation has been upgraded.

Students and staff can safely be in the building, and we look forward to some sort of New Normal in the fall.

The ETHS Foundation held a virtual fund-raising event that was a phenomenal success. The Alumni Association has spent time connecting with Class Reunion Planners and providing what assistance we can to help make those 2022 reunions a success.

**We have also** started a video series, *Coming Together*, which can be found on YouTube or on the ETHS website. These once-a-month conversations among some of our alums have ranged from topics such as: Reparations in Evanston, Basketball, The Electoral College, Public Health Policy in a time of Pandemic, the Role of the Press, and Space: The Final Frontier. Other topics are planned for coming months. It is a way we can connect some of our alumni in their fields of expertise with other alumni and with our current students.

I hope this Fall 2021 issue of *The KIT* will highlight our "return." Who would have thought I would ever be writing that sentence? Stay well.

## Authors' Bookshelf



**Martin Sternstein, PhD, '62** has submitted two books. The Professor Emeritus at Ithaca College in New York has written *Barron's AP Statistics with six practice tests*, which provides review and practice for high school students in AP Statistics classes. With his wife, Faith Sternstein, he has also written *Ten African American Presidents*. Faith was born in Liberia and the Sternsteins met when he was a Fulbright Professor at the University of Liberia. This volume looks at 10 men who were born as slaves or to freed-slave families in the US. Each of them immigrated to Liberia and served as presidents of that nation.

**Pam Logan '77**, recently published *Compassion Mandala: The Odyssey of an American Charity in Contemporary Tibet* about the 14 years she led an NGO doing development work in a historically Tibetan region of western Sichuan Province, China, supporting education, health care, job training, disaster relief, reforestation, and cul-

tural heritage. The book, her third, tells about the diverse Tibetans she knew, the many obstacles they face as ethnic minorities in China, and the impact of Chinese migrants pouring into their homeland. She is now working as an aerospace engineer for the Department of Defense, as well as teaching Shotokan karate, which she has been doing for 35 years.

**Rev. Dr. Leonidas Johnson '77** has combined his two fields of interest into one book: *Phenomeal Vision: Eyesight to Life Sight*. Both an ordained minister and a licensed optometrist, Rev. Dr. Johnson compares physical vision to spiritual vision and discusses how our mind bridges the two.

The Routledge Guides to the Great Books teamed with **Frances Chiu '81**, for *The Routledge Guidebook to Paine's Right of Man*. This volume takes a comprehensive and fully contextualized introduction to this foundational text from 1791-92. She looks at Paine's arguments

and proposals and also discusses the reception and reactions to this book.

*Walking the Steel Beam: An Autobiography* by **Gary F. Shearer '13** tells the story of a successful and formidable international businessman and engineer. Gary writes that in his junior year he "visualized myself wearing a hard hat and steel-toed construction boots, work gloves, construction pants and shirt, with a rolled-up engineering drawing under my arm, walking a steel beam a hundred feet above the ground." His book talks about how he turned this vision into a reality.

Another memoir is *The Unplanned Life: The Journey of Roger Badesch* written by **Roger Badesch '70**. Roger not only tells his tale of growing up but takes us through careers in Chicago's City Hall, public relations, teaching, and radio. He also talks about dealing with medical issues and brings his wonderful sense of humor to the tale.

**Scott Eberhardt '76**, with co-author David Anderson shared two editions of their book *Understanding Flight*. They have been described as the simplest, most intuitive texts on the toughest lessons of flight. They address the science of flying in terms, explanations, and illustrations that make sense to those who most need to understand, those who fly. Not-to-be missed insights for pilots, instructors, flight students, aeronautical engineering students, and flight enthusiasts. Scott is the Worldwide Tech Lead for Aerospace at Amazon Web Services and has been the Chief Technologist at Analytical Methods for Boeing and has taught at the U of Washington and around the world. He says that the ETHS Chem-Phys program was pivotal in leading him into aeronautical engineering and that MIT was easier than ETHS.

**Dr. William E. Cross Jr. '59** has published *Black Identity Viewed from a Barber's Chair: Nigrescence and Eudaimonia*. Throughout

his career, Cross has tried to reconcile how Black men he met in the barber-shop "seemed so normal," but are portrayed in college textbooks of Black people in general—and the Black working class in particular—as self-hating and pathological. Here Cross revisits his groundbreaking model on Black identity awakening known as Nigrescence, connects W. E. B. DuBois's concept of double consciousness to an analysis of how Black identity is performed in everyday life, and traces the deficit perspective on Black culture to scholarship dating back to the 1930s, showing such deficit tropes were based on extremely weak evidence.

Cross is Professor Emeritus of Higher Education and Counseling Philosophy at the U of Denver. He received the 2020 Gold Medal Award for Life Achievement in the Applications of Psychology from the American Psychological Assn., and the ETHS Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012.





The ETHS Alumni Association premiered a new, virtual speaker series last fall highlighting the work of ETHS alumni, students, and staff. *Coming Together: Conversations with ETHS Alumni* looks at the challenges of the turbulence of 2020 and beyond, as program guests offer perspectives on “where we go from here.”

“It’s tough to strengthen our sense of community when we can’t hold events that bring alums together, such as reunions, sports games and theater events,” said **David Futransky ’69**, Executive Director of the ETHS Alumni Association. “We hope these virtual *Coming Together* sessions can provide a way for us to come together as one Evanston family to be reminded why ETHS is such a special place.”

The *Coming Together* events include interviews with an individual or group of ETHS alumni and are moderated by an ETHS alum or past/present ETHS staff members. The series will air monthly online and will be archived on the ETHS YouTube page.

To date, six episodes have been taped and can be seen on the ETHS YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJgkhxwnKyneFx20YfDtQvFEXl-ko1n-Q>.

**Episode 1: Reparations in Evanston**

Featuring Evanston Ald. **Robin Rue Simmons ’94** and interviewed by **Adam Newman ’09**, this episode answers all of your questions about reparations in Evanston. This spring, after months of discussion about reparations, the Evanston City Council adopted the Restorative Housing Program, which aims to increase Black home ownership and build wealth among Black residents by providing mortgage and down payment assistance as well as funding for home improvements. This is the first such reparations program in the U.S. and has received nationwide attention.

**Episode 2: Basketball 2021—Where are we going?**

A look at what is ahead for basketball in a conversation with ETHS coaches and some of our illustrious basketball alumni. All four alums are in the ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame.

This discussion is moderated by ETHS men’s basketball coach Mike Ellis and features the following panelists:

- **Austin Brown ’03** – Sports Agent and co-head of CAA Sports’ basketball division; 2019 Distinguished Alum

- **Cassidy Hubbarth ’03** – ESPN anchor and reporter; 2015 Distinguished Alum
- **Brittany Johnson** - ETHS Women’s Basketball Coach
- **Walter “Pookie” Perrin ’68** – Assistant General Manager, New York Knicks
- **Dan Peterson ’53** – former American and Italian professional basketball head coach; 2007 Distinguished Alum

**Episode 3: The Electoral College—Past, Present, and Future**

On January 20 (Inauguration Day), the next episode about the Electoral College was aired. This most timely conversation features Arch Bryant, retired ETHS history teacher, and **Jack Rakove ’64**, professor of political science at Stanford University, winner of the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for History, and a 2015 Distinguished Alum.

**Episode 4: Medicine and Public Health in a Global Pandemic**

As we approached the one-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic, we interviewed several experts about this important issue affecting all of us. The discussion is moderated by **Willie Miller ’71**, with the following panelists, who are all Distinguished Alumni Award recipients:

- **Dr. George Bridgeforth ’72** is an Internal Medicine doctor specializing in public health and preventative medicine. Director of Sports Medicine for the VA in Chicago.

- **Scott Burris, J.D., ’75** is a Professor of Law at Temple Law School, where he directs the Center for Public Health Law Research. He is also a Professor of public health in Temple’s School of Public Health.
- **Dr. Alan Kaplan ’61** is a cardiologist and medical school instructor at Harvard and Dartmouth, and Medical Director for New Hampshire Boy Scouts and Union for Reform Judaism camping programs. He runs an aviation medical/legal consulting business, and also directs and produces professional and community theater.

**Episode 5: The Role of the Press in a Modern Society**

The discussion is moderated by ABC Chicago’s news anchor **Karen Jordan ’90** with the following Pulitzer Prize-winning panelists:

- **Jeffrey Gettleman ’89** is the South Asia Bureau chief for the *New York Times* and was awarded a Pulitzer in 2012 for coverage of East Africa.
- **Rick Tulsky ’68** is the co-founder of Injustice Watch and earned his Pulitzer in 1987 for investigative reporting with the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.
- **Megan Twohey ’94** is also at the *New York Times* and was awarded a Pulitzer in 2018 for explosive, impactful journalism that exposed powerful and wealthy sexual predators, including allegations against one of Hollywood’s most influential producers.

**Episode 6: Space—The Final Frontier**

ETHS alumni discuss why space exploration is important in the 21st century, the importance of the recent Perseverance landing on Mars, discuss whether we can go “where no man or woman has gone before” and more. The discussion is moderated by ETHS Astronomy teacher **GionMatthias Schelbert ’90** with the following panelists:

- **Julia CrowleyFarenga ’12**, Systems Engineer, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- **Faith Vilas ’69**, Senior Scientist, Planetary Science Institute and Editor, *The Planetary Science Journal*
- **Michael Werner ’59**, Project Scientist, NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope and Chief Scientist for Astronomy and Physics, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

*Coming Together* will continue through the summer and into the fall. Upcoming topics will include: May – Mental Health, June – Peace Corps, July – ETHS Olympians, August – Back to School. According to Futransky, future topics being considered include changes in the job market and work force, music, and others to be named later. Stay tuned!

**ETHS students plant trees in the Evanston community to counteract school’s paper usage**

By **Sarah Parisien ’20**

ETHS is one of the 85 schools to be working with Tree-Plenish to plant trees in the community to foster sustainability in schools. Tree-Plenish is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization whose mission is “to create more sustainable schools by replenishing the environment with these lost resources.”

Each planting event involves a three-step process led by student mentors. In Evanston, it took place during Earth Month, on April 24.

First, students calculate their high school’s approximate paper usage and come up with a target number they want to plant.

Student leader **Maggie Finneran ’23** wrote to ETHS Supt. Eric Witherspoon and Principal Marcus Campbell to get information about paper usage at the high school. Each tree can approximately generate 10,000 pieces of paper, and Evanston’s goal is to plant 280 trees.

“The paper that ETHS uses during a normal school year is about ... 5.8 million pieces, so we decided to try to replenish half of that to make it more of a reasonable goal,” said Maggie. “If we get beyond that, it would be awesome.”



According to Mary Rodino, ETHS Chief Financial Officer: “During the 2018-19 school year, we bought 28 skids of paper. That works out to 5.6 million pieces of paper in total (each skid has 40 boxes and each box has 5,000 pieces of paper... 28x40x5000 = 5,600,000). FYI, we are working to try and reduce this usage when we are back in person.”

In addition to Maggie, there are two other student mentors, **Sarika Waikar** and **Mia Houseworth**, both ETHS Class of 2021.

Next, members of the community either sign up to volunteer to plant trees on the day of the event or volunteer their yard to have a tree planted in it. The deadline to order a tree is on March 24 on the Tree-Plenish website made specifically for ETHS. If community members are not able to volunteer their time or yard, there is the option to donate to the organization.

“Right now we’re getting the word out to people to say, ‘Hey we’re doing this project. Would you be willing to have a tree planted in your yard?’ Later on in the process, we’re going to get volunteers of all ages to help us plant,” Maggie said.

The last step will be the event itself, where volunteers plant trees in the yards of residents who have requested them. The organization has created guidelines to ensure the safety of its volunteers and participants in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**[Editor’s Note:** This article, written by Sarah Parisien, ran in the March 4, 2021, Evanston RoundTable, which has given permission to run the story in The KIT. Sarah is currently a freshman at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has written occasional articles for the RoundTable’s Fresh Voices of Evanston series, sponsored by Evanston Community Bank and Trust.]



# Performance arts reinvent themselves during the pandemic

Remote learning at home during the pandemic has been challenging for students and staff in the performance arts. Plays and concerts had to be rethought because they could not be rehearsed or performed in the school building. Auditions were held over Zoom, not in person.

According to Tim Herbert, Theater teacher, even choosing a show was difficult. Last fall 2020, he and Aaron Carney, Theater Technical Director, selected a radio play, *Twisted Tales of Poe*, which was broken into four stories, allowing for smaller groups of students (15 actors, seven tech crew members) to rehearse together—all masked and maintaining social distancing. They began rehearsing over Zoom, but the fall weather was nice enough to allow for working outside. (See below.)

**According to Herbert:** “We filmed the entire piece over the course of a week, all at night—so darkness is spookier—right out on the lawn by the auditorium. We set up mics and used phones as cameras and cut live between them like we were directing a live television broadcast.”

The Boosters Club provided funds for 12 tripods used to mount scripts, “which are definitely needed as long as we are out of the theatre and filming in the world,” added Herbert.

**Herbert and Carney** then pulled the show together on the computer—editing, adding titles, fixing the sound—to create a two-day, live-stream video released through YouTube in time for Halloween.

Creating band performances was equally challenging last fall. To help put people in the holiday spirit, more



Supt. Eric Witherspoon narrated the band production of *’Twas the Night Before Christmas* involving 220 students filmed singing in their homes via Zoom.



Students in the Percussion Ensemble played their concert outside the music department in the fall.

faces. Locations include the beach, in front of the former movie theatre, etc.,” he added. “We cast 30, plus 12 each orchestra/dance, 16 kids on YAMO board, and 25-30 doing some sort of technical theatre work.” The show will be put up on YouTube in mid-May.

**Band has found** new outlets, as well. The pep band played at five double-header basketball games in Beardsley gym—50 band members on one side of the gym, 50 fans on the other side, all socially distanced. The pep band also played at three home football games in March and April in Lazier Field with up to 20% capacity on the home side and on the visitor side.

Said Bufis: “We intend to invite families to ‘open rehearsals’ on our practice field on the corner of Lake and Dodge in place of Jazz Concerts, and will likely do the same for our final concert band rehearsal of the year so as to give seniors their plaques.” Due to Covid restrictions, open Jazz Band rehearsals and the outdoor band concert in May have to be limited to families only.



William Donovan Photo



William Donovan Photo

Students, staff worked the Tech crew for the Poe show outside with masks on.

than 220 ETHS band students rehearsed and performed a virtual recording of Clement Clarke Moore’s classic tale *’Twas the Night Before Christmas*. According to Matthew Bufis, ETHS Band Director, “all of the students worked from home—coached over Zoom—during the Covid quarantine in fall of 2020.”

**Narrated by** ETHS Superintendent Eric Witherspoon, the holiday performance was filmed and digitally assembled by ETHS Instructional/Informational Tech staff members William Jenkins and Chris May, and the ETHS Band staff. It was shown on YouTube.

ETHS’s Percussion Ensemble students recorded performances outside for the 2nd Annual Bachtober-

fest to celebrate the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. They were aired Oct. 28 and 30, 2020, and can be seen on YouTube.

Doing work-arounds to offer performance opportunities for theater and band continued during the spring (2021) semester. The Theater department produced a 45-minute video of YAMO, the school’s popular student revue.

Titled “YAMO Just Sent You the Link,” the show’s content included music videos, commercials, silent films, public service announcements, even claymation. “We plan on filming all over school and the campus,” said Herbert.

**“Obviously doing** more outside is better, because we can see the actors’



## ETHS Advanced Placement success at all-time high

High school students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses take AP final exams in the spring. Their score(s), ranging from 1 to 5, can earn them credit in college, which can reduce their college course load and potentially save them thousands of dollars in tuition.

ETHS offers 26 AP courses across most academic areas and has gained national recognition for its diverse program, for its growing student participation, and its growing student success rate.

Recently, Dr. Peter Bavis, ETHS Asst. Supt./Curriculum/Instruction, gave an update on the 2020 AP results. Due to COVID, the College Board, which administers the AP program, gave the AP exams remotely.

“Our teachers and students worked extraordinarily hard during this unprecedented time and as a re-

sult, ETHS is at an all-time high for student success on AP exams,” said Bavis. He added, “this is significant because nationally, success on AP exams show a decline from previous years.”

ETHS’s success is also significant because the College Board is not acknowledging the stressful influence of COVID on students learning remotely. While last spring it reduced the content covered on the exams, this year it will continue to hold spring exams as usual. “In a perfect world, in this imperfect time, the College Board would award credit based on the grades earned in AP classes, not on the end-of-course exams,” said Bavis in a March 10 article he wrote for *Education Week* magazine.

Last year, AP enrollment at ETHS increased, as did the number of exams taken and the amount of scores of 3 or more. The

percentage of AP students who didn’t take the exam decreased from the previous year, but that is not surprising given the sudden shift to remote learning and testing. Of the 1,226 students enrolled in AP courses, 989 of them (81%) took one or more AP exams. And of those students, over two-thirds earned a score of 3+ on at least one exam.

This growth in enrollment is significant, said Bavis, because research shows that “even attempting an AP class increases a student’s academic trajectory and those who earned an AP exam score of 2 had better college performance and higher four-year graduation rates than students who didn’t take an AP course.”

Also significant were the gains shown by each racial subgroup. In 2020, 127 Black/African-American students took 127 AP

exams, a 28% jump in AP students since 2012, while overall Black enrollment at ETHS increased by only 7%. And there has been a 97% increase in the number of Black students earning 3 or higher scores.

Last spring, 103 Latinx students took AP exams, a 29% increase since 2012, while overall Latinx enrollment grew by 44%. There was a 53% increase in Latinx students earning a 3.

Over these same nine years, 645 White students took AP exams, a 24% increase since 2012, and 35% of them earned a 3 or better. The increased White enrollment in AP courses is consistent with the 25% growth in overall enrollment since 2012.

The most popular AP course at ETHS is English Language & Composition for juniors, which began in 2009-10 with 117 students.

Since then, enrollment in that course has grown 232% with a 163% increase in students scoring 3+. Other popular courses include AB Calculus, Psychology, US History, and Biology.

One major reason for the overall increase in AP enrollment and student success is teamASAP, a wide-ranging series of support programs started by ETHS students to help peers succeed in AP, even before they enter the class.

Offering the programs was harder last year because of the transition to remote learning, so the organizers moved to online events and resources—and program attendance jumped because students could attend remotely. Now about 600 students are involved in teamASAP.

## Extracurricular activity high during 2019-20 school year before Covid

Last school year (2019-20), despite the pandemic, student participation in extracurricular activities was high and successful—76% of the students joined at least one activity. At a recent school board meeting, four activities directors described the highlights that took place under their watch.

Each noted that students who joined in activities outside of class academically outperformed their peers (earned an average GPA over 3.65), had higher attendance rates (95.1%, 1<sup>st</sup> semester; 89.5%, 2<sup>nd</sup> semester), and 86% had no behavior referrals compared to students not involved in extracurricular activities.

Chris Livatino ’91, Athletic Director, said the total number of students in ETHS athletics reached an all-time high (44%), increasing almost 12% since the previous year and 28.1% over the past four years, particularly for Hispanic females (26.9% in one year and by 61% over the past three years).

Ninety-two percent of the varsity teams earned a team GPA over 3.5. In particular, both boys’ and girls’ basketball teams had winning seasons and ranked highly (boys, 5<sup>th</sup> in state; girls, 8<sup>th</sup> in Chicago area) before Covid took over.

In Fine Arts, department chair Nick Gehl noted the Artist-in-Residence collaborations that took place,

the \$1.8 million in scholarships given to ETHS art students at a state art exhibition, the 13 sold-out theater performances and a music concert—all performed virtually—among other achievements earned by students active in fine arts.

Students were also active in community service raising \$22,000 through a variety of events for and with local non-profits. Several clubs placed well in local and state competitions (Math Team, Chess Team, DECA, Mock Trial, and HOSA/Future Health Professionals).

While overall student participation was high last year, directors are concerned that Hispanic (54%) and Black (64%)

participation lags behind that for White (85%), Asian (82%), and Multi-Racial (81%) students.

It is possible that many of these students participate in community-based activities (e.g., church) and don’t record those hours with the school. Also, students from low-income families may not join fee-based activities (e.g. sports) in grade school, so they don’t come ready to continue or even try these activities when they get to ETHS.

Looking ahead, in an effort to increase student partici-



pation in extracurriculars, the directors plan to work with more students of color, identify and remove barriers to participation, increase exposure to activities before the students come to ETHS, and work through the FASH program to expand opportunities for freshmen.

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# 2020-21 Fall and Winter Sports

By Dennis Mahoney, ETHS Sports Information Director

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) to wipe out the entire spring sports season in 2020, as well as halting a possible run to the Final Four again for Evanston’s boys’ basketball team. It also caused the state organization to change the sports calendar and cancel state tournament series in a variety of sports for the first time in history.

Competitions normally held during the fall in football, girls’ volleyball, girls’ field hockey, and boys’ soccer were pushed back and didn’t start until March. Other sports faced condensed seasons and tried to cram in as many games as possible during a 6-week season.

Masks and virtual competitions became part of the “new norm” as athletes and coaches tried to make the best of an unusual situation. And with no state tournaments at stake, the focus shifted to simply trying to win conference championships for most of the teams at Evanston.

The IHSA finally did restore state series for baseball, softball, boys’ gymnastics, boys’ and girls’ water polo, girls’ soccer, boys’ tennis, boys’ volleyball and boys’ and girls’ track/field. Badminton—normally a spring sport—was switched to an earlier start in March and also conducted a state series.

## FALL SPORTS

### GIRLS’ SWIMMING

Very few high school swimmers, girls or boys, fully embrace dry-land training. It’s a necessary part of the sport, an attempt to build your body and strength to the point where you can compete with the best.

Nobody will suggest that **Samantha Rhodes** became a “workout warrior” over the summer. But the Evanston senior made the best of the coronavirus situation and all that work paid off at the Glenbrook South Sectional meet.

Rhodes earned the first individual sectional title in her stellar career – in the 500-yard freestyle – and led the Wildkit girls to 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the team standings in an atmosphere that was strange, to say the least. Following a season of

“virtual” competition only – via computer, with times compared to determine winners in dual meets – the IHSA allowed “actual” sectional meets. Strict protocols were in effect for the 10-team meet. Swimmers waited in the GBS field house (not on the pool deck) until it was time to race. Only head coaches were allowed on deck.

No spectators were present, the number of timers was limited to one per lane, and award winners weren’t directly given their medals at the starting blocks. Instead, the medals were left on the blocks for the top finishers to pick up after they waited in the pool for the final results.

Since no relay races were conducted, Rhodes became the first swimmer in school history to “qualify” for state in three individual events in the same season. She turned in career best times in all three races, winning the 500 freestyle, placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100 breaststroke, and taking 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200 individual medley. She beat the IHSA qualifying standards in all three events.

Senior **Erin Long** (2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100 freestyle) and junior **Lily Consiglio** (2<sup>nd</sup> in the 50 freestyle) also turned in what would have been state-qualifying performances.

Rhodes knocked 10 seconds off her 500 effort at the Central Suburban League (CSL) South division meet the previous week, and credited dry-land training, which includes running and weight-lifting, for making a difference in what turned out to be a truncated off-season and regular season.

Long captured a pair of gold medals at the CSL South “virtual” competition, turning in the best times in both the 200 freestyle, where she earned the title for the second straight year, and in the 100 freestyle. She also won the 100 freestyle as a sophomore.

### CROSS COUNTRY

**Essay Tolosa** started the season wondering if he’d even crack Evanston’s starting varsity lineup. He wound up ranking with the state’s elite runners. Tolosa’s 7<sup>th</sup>-place finish at the Class 3A Hoffman Estates Sectional meet cemented his status as a runner who might have

been the most improved racer in the state. Competing in what is arguably the state’s toughest sectional field, Tolosa earned 7<sup>th</sup> place over a course that measured just over three miles and “qualified” for the IHSA state finals (that were never held). He was one of seven runners who would have qualified for at-large berths.

On the girls’ side for ETHS, senior **Hope Leman** placed 21<sup>st</sup> but fell short in an effort for a state-qualifying bid for the third time in her career. She advanced as a freshman (competing at Deerfield) and as a junior.

Tolosa, a junior who didn’t compete in cross country last year, just kept dropping time all fall. He placed an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> at the CSL South division meet, and one week later became the first Evanston male runner since **Alex Robin** in 2003 to win a regional individual championship.

According to ETHS head coach **Donald Michelin Jr.**: “We really don’t know what Essay can do at this point. He continues to amaze us all.”

Tolosa had to go all-out at the regional meet in a thrilling photo finish with Stephen Barretto of Rolling Meadows, edging his rival by the closest margin possible – one hundredth of a second – to rule that race. Tolosa’s photo finish win wasn’t clear until at least 30 minutes after the race and a video replay confirmed the first-place finish.

## WINTER SPORTS

### GIRLS’ BADMINTON

Forced to start their season earlier than usual, and then share gym space for practice time, the Wildkit girls felt like the season was over when it had just barely begun. But senior **Emily Ho** made the best of the season that was available and split four singles matches at the state finals held at Hinsdale South High School. Ho finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the sectional, earning an automatic state berth and extending the program’s remarkable streak. The Wildkits have qualified for state in either singles or doubles every year since 1984!

The entire badminton season was wiped out by the virus last spring and

no one, from the Wildkit coaching staff on down the list of players, knew what to expect because ETHS didn’t play in any tournaments except the CSL tourney and only competed against conference schools in a half dozen dual meets.

Ho wasn’t certain she’d come back and wear a Wildkit uniform as a senior. It took several heart-to-heart talks with her doubles partner, classmate **Becky Arden**, to convince each other that it was worth the COVID-19 risk to play again.

At state, Ho scored victories over Maggie Cutrara of Homewood-Flossmoor and Emmie Sathy of Glenbard East while bowing to the eventual 3<sup>rd</sup>-place finisher Maggie Chen of Hinsdale South. The ETHS standout was eliminated by a foe she also lost to in the sectional tournament, Alexandra Berns of Libertyville, in a hard-fought three-set battle by a margin of 23-21, 18-21, 17-21.

### BOYS’ SWIMMING

With no state series in their wake, ETHS’s boys’ swimmers were among those rested for the season-ending CSL South division meet that helped in a record assault in the pool. Evanston established two school records at a championship meet where seven records were smashed overall by conference schools.

How fast was the 100-yard breaststroke field? Evanston junior **Caden Hardy** broke the school record with a time of 58.03 seconds – and finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the race. Glenbrook South’s Max Iida shattered the league record by 3 seconds, winning in 53.29. Evanston’s other record effort came in the 200-yard medley relay. The Wildkits lowered the school mark for the second straight year with the foursome of Hardy, **Charlie Herrick**, **Alex Johnson** and **Charlie Duffy** earning 3<sup>rd</sup>-place in 1:35.36, better than the old mark of 1:35.56. Evanston also counted a pair of runner-up efforts from junior **Aaron Martin** in the 200-freestyle and 100-freestyle. Both of his times would have ranked among the top eight state-wide. The Wildkits placed third in the team standings.

### BOYS’ BASKETBALL

Senior **Blake Peters** climbed to the top of the all-time scoring list at ETHS, passing former standouts **Nojel Eastern** and **Juvon McGarry** while leading the Wildkits to an overall record of 17-3. Peters, who was named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association All-State team, was a rare four-year starter in the program, and despite missing out on a chance to play at least 10 more games in his career due to the restricted schedule, finished with 1,585 points.

He passed McGarry in a dramatic three-overtime victory at Maine South, converting a pair of free throws with 1.5 seconds left to finish with 23 points in a 54-52 triumph. Peters’ last two free throws capped his perfect 10-for-10 showing at the free throw line as the Wildkits, who missed out on opportunities to win the game in regulation and in the first and second OTs as well, were holding the ball for a final shot. He drove into the teeth of the South matchup zone defense on the last possession, drew contact, then ended one of the longest games in school history.

Peters, who played on the same AAU team with ex-Wildkit star **Jaylin Gibson** and moved to Evanston from Highland Park before entering high school, is well versed in the program’s history and appreciated the historic moment even as drained as he was physically. Giving maximum effort, however, is the norm for No. 15 who is now No. 1.

“I came to this school because of the basketball program’s reputation throughout the state of Illinois as a powerful program,” explained the Princeton University recruit. “I just wanted to win. I worked hard every day and I had a lot of great teammates who assisted me, screened for me and believed in me.”

Peters and his teammates did have a postseason of sorts to play for, but almost didn’t qualify. The Wildkits were invited to participate in an eight-team tournament at the end of the year involving several top-ranked teams in the Chicago area.

*Continued on page 8*



Sports, continued from page 6

But Head Coach Mike Ellis, in a classy move, decided the only way the 'Kits would play would be if they repeated as CSL South division champions. Otherwise, the new champ could take their place at the invitational.

As it turned out, ETHS tied both New Trier and Glenbrook South for the title and earned at least a share of the crown for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Ellis' 400<sup>th</sup> victory as head coach in the final conference

game versus Maine South clinched a tie, and the 'Kits went on to defeat both Notre Dame and Chicago Simeon, on a last second three-pointer by Peters, of course, before losing to a taller DePaul Prep team in the championship game of the Chipotle Clash of Champions.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL**

Graduation wiped out one of the most talented girls' rosters in ETHS history, but the Wildkits regrouped

in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year and posted a 13-6 won-loss record behind senior guard **Rashele Olantunbosun** and All-State junior **Lola Lesmond**.

A highlight for the Wildkits was head coach Brittany Johnson's 100<sup>th</sup> career victory, all of them coming at ETHS. Evanston downed Maine East 61-33 as Lesmond netted 17 points to help the coach achieve a milestone win.

Although Johnson's father has coached at Morgan Park in Chicago, Johnson, a former Fenwick star, never considered coaching until injuries cut short her own playing career at Boston College.

"My goal then was to be in an NBA front office and be the best general manager ever," Johnson recalled. "Then one day I was over at Morgan Park watching a practice, and I spotted a

couple of things the girls were doing wrong, so I told them so. The coach said you're right, why don't you come out and help us some more? I tried it — and it became a passion for me."

Johnson helped out a couple of seasons at Morgan Park, then coached college basketball at Kennedy-King for three years before being hired at ETHS for the 2016-17 season.

ETHS Kudos

STUDENTS

National Merit

Eight ETHS seniors were named semifinalists and 37 more were named Commended Students in the 66th annual 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. The semi-finalists scored in the top 16,000 scorers in the same competition. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2021 competition by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT).

eSports Team National Champs

The ETHS eSports Overwatch six-member team took home the High School ESports League (HSEL) Fall Major Championship. The team competed in HSEL's national competition involving the fantasy game *Overwatch*, where two teams of six go head-to-head and fight over various map locations in the game—from a futuristic African city to a research station on the moon—in an attempt to gain control of these areas and claim victory. With their championship win, each ETHS student received a \$1,000 scholarship.

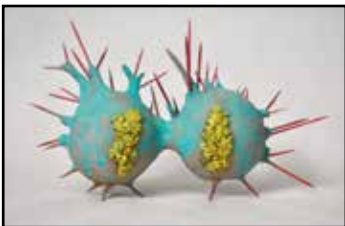
ETHS chess

ETHS's Chess Team took first place in the 18-and-under age division of the U.S. Junior Chess Congress. The national online event, sponsored by the U.S. Chess Federation, had more than 800 competitors across five age divisions. Earlier in the season, the team placed 12th in the IHSA's state tournament after winning all of their games.

DECA state wins

Students from ETHS competed in the virtual Illinois DECA Career Development Conference, which hosted more than 1,500 high school students. Out of the 32 ETHS team members, 23 earned Top 10 medals, 17 placed among the Top 3 for their respective events and earned a bid to go to International competition.

Art Connected



Kristen Stocks's sculpture won a Bronze Award.

Artwork from 11 ETHS students has been selected for a virtual showcase in the 2021 General Exhibition of the Art Connected Exhibition, one of Illinois' premier high school art exhibitions featuring student visual artworks from more than 100 public and private high schools. The program receives over 2,500 submissions for consideration for the General Exhibition, considered a "Best of the Best" competition developed by teachers to recognize high school students for their artistic excellence.

COMAP math contest

Two ETHS math teams achieved Finalist and Honorable Mention ranking in the 23rd annual International Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications (COMAP) High School Mathematical Contest in Modeling (HiMCM).

Editorial contest

Three ETHS juniors were recognized in *The New York Times* 7th Annual Student Editorial Contest. The worldwide contest involved more than 7,300 submissions. **Anna Grant-Bolton** was named runner-up for the editorial, "Redefining a Life: Changing the Conversation About Gun Violence." **Asher Baron's** editorial "Body and Soul," and **Noah Goldstein's** editorial "Becoming Math People" were both recognized as finalists.

Academic Challenge state finals

Two ETHS seniors finished in the top three at the 2021 Academic Challenge State Finals. It is a test-based competition for high school students on subjects such as biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering graphics, English, mathematics and physics.

HOSA qualifiers

Twenty-seven ETHS students qualified for the Health Occupation Students of America state competition after taking an exam and submitting content that highlighted their knowledge of the health field. Five students went on to place in the top 10 in their category at the State Leadership Conference.

IJAS qualifiers

ETHS students **Emily Hauser** and **Alexis Kaiser** won gold medals at the Illinois Junior Academy of Science (IJAS) Regional Science Fair and qualified for state finals. Hauser's research centers on fluid dynamics. Kaiser researched weather conditions affecting efficiencies of using wireless devices for contact tracing during the COVID pandemic.

African-American Youth Achievement Awards

On March 18, ETHS virtually hosted the 24th annual African-American Youth Achievement Awards to honor 38 African-American students from Evanston/Skokie public schools. The students were recognized for their daily actions that pay homage to the visions

and legacy of African-American pioneers. Eight of the award winners attend ETHS: **China Archie, Lena Augusta, Naiyah Bryant, Javade Jones, Aliya Leach, Jemari Moore, Bennie Ruffin**, and **Douglas Wood**.

ETHS Mock Trial team is STATE CHAMP



On March 12-14, the Mock Trial Team from ETHS won the Illinois State Bar Association State Competition and clinched their seat for Nationals in May. This is the first time in ETHS history that Mock Trial has won state! The competition was held virtually, also for the first time.

The ISBA event provides an opportunity for students to learn what it is like to prepare and present a legal case before the Illinois Courts. Through the mock trial experience, students learn to work as a team, develop oral presentation skills, set goals, plan effectively, think on their feet, and face challenging obstacles with enthusiasm and confidence.

This is the case the team debated:

**Statement of the Case**  
On June 5, 2020 Riley Russell, Blake Stevens, and Jordan Markson decided

to spend the night drinking, playing video games and eating pizza at Jordan's grandmother's house while she was on vacation. At some point, Riley ingested prescription medication belonging to Jordan's grandmother, became unconscious, and was unable to be revived by paramedics. The state has charged Jordan Markson with providing the drugs that killed Riley Russell and for possessing a controlled substance. Jordan has pleaded not guilty to both charges.

Team members include: **India Aaron '21, Rory Behm '22, Kitty Colton '22, Josie Hansen '21, Clive Harvey '22, Jessie Kaiser '23, Grace McGinley '22, Sydney Ter Molen '22, Eloisa Tirres '21, and Coco Walker '21.**

Coach: Kevin Kappock (middle row: 2<sup>nd</sup> from rt.)



ETHS Staff and Alumni

Guillebeaux-Arceneaux Spirit Award

Three ETHS support staff members—**Evelyn Chatman** (Special Education), **Emily Sosa** (Fine Arts), and **Veronica McKinney** (Administration), and—received the 2020-21 Guillebeaux-Arceneaux Spirit Award at the start of the school year.



**Dr. Marcus Campbell**, Asst. Supt./Principal was honored in November by the Evanston/North Shore NAACP with an award for his service in education. The local NAACP chapter recognized Campbell at the 56th Freedom Fund Banquet. “Dr. Campbell exemplifies excellence in leadership and service to students,” said Rev. Michael Nabors, President of Evanston/North Shore NAACP. “In particular, he also serves as an outstanding role model for Black students and the Black community in Evanston.”



**Corey Winchester**, History/Social Sciences teacher, was named the 2020 Illinois History Teacher of the year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Winchester was recognized for his work teaching US



In October 2020, ETHS physics teacher **Mark Vondracek** was selected for the U of Chicago’s Outstanding Educator Award. U of C students in the Class of 2024 were asked to nominate an educator whose guidance helped them along the path toward intellectual growth. Vondracek was nominated by ETHS graduate **Joshua Ahn ’20**.

Vondracek is also among five high school teachers who received the Distinguished Secondary School Teacher Award (DSTA) given by Northwestern U seniors to a high school teacher who had a lasting impact on his/her life. “Doc V,” as his students call him, was nominated by **Noah DeMar ’17**, who credits his decision to study mechanical engineering at NU to Vondracek. The honor grants \$5,000 to Vondracek and \$5,000 to ETHS.

History and Sociology of Class, Gender, and Race at ETHS, where he also serves as the coordinator of Students Organized Against Racism (SOAR).

Since joining ETHS in 2010, he has received a number of professional accolades that speak to his dedication to the education and learning experiences of students. In 2019, Winchester received the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. As part of the award recognition, ETHS will receive a core archive of American history books and Gilder Lehrman educational materials.

Golden Apple Finalists

In February, two ETHS graduates—**Margaret Burke ’05**, and **Lisa Washington Kuzel ’85**—were named Finalists in the prestigious Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching competition. Golden Apple is the leading Illinois nonprofit committed to preparing, honoring and supporting educators who advance educational opportunities for students. A highly competitive award process resulted in the selection of 32 Pre-K–3rd grade finalists—just 4.5% of a record-setting 708 nominations received



from 67 counties in Illinois. Burke teaches first grade at John Middleton Elementary School in Skokie, IL, and Kuzel teaches kindergarten at The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools in Chicago. The 2021 Golden Apple Award recipients were

to be announced later in the spring. Northwestern University generously provides a spring sabbatical to award recipients at no cost. Each recipient receives a \$5,000 cash award. Award recipients become Fellows of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, a community of educators who play an important role in preparing the next generation of teachers in the Golden Apple Scholars and Accelerators programs - which are dedicated to addressing the teacher shortage in Illinois.

President Biden adds ETHS alumni to administration

Two ETHS alumni—**Andy Slavitt ’84** and **Ra Joy ’91**—have been appointed to prominent positions in the federal government by President Joseph Biden.

Slavitt, the former acting chief of Medicare and Medicaid under the Obama administration, has been named White House Advisor for COVID Response by Biden. Notably, prior to being named acting head of the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services, Slavitt had been brought on to help the Obama administration fix the botched rollout of its healthcare.gov website.

Biden appointed Joy as Chief of Staff at the



Ra Joy

National Endowment for the Arts. Previously, he served as executive director for CHANGE Illinois, a nonpartisan coalition leading systemic political and government reform. From 2007 to 2015, he served as executive director of Arts Alliance Illinois, championing the arts as



Andy Slavitt

a public policy asset and civic priority at all levels of government. From 2001 to 2007, he served as a senior staffer for U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL).

City honors Dino Robinson with street name

In February 2021, the Evanston City Council named a portion of Church St. after **Morris “Dino” Robinson Jr. ’85**, longtime Evanston historian and documentarian of Black history on Chicago’s North Shore.

The street will be named Morris “Dino” Robinson Jr. Way and will stretch along Church St. between Hartrey and Grey Avenues. Honorary street name signs are displayed for 10 years.



Robinson founded the Shorefront Legacy Center, which preserves comprehensive archives on Black life in Evanston and on the North Shore, and which has received global recognition. According to the

City resolution, he has also “established Evanston’s African American Heritage Program to honor historical spots around town with insights on their significance available to the public.” He co-established the annual Evanston History Makers event, served as a past-president of the Evanston History Center, and the Evanston Neighborhood Conference. ETHS honored Robinson with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019.



Nominate someone for the 2021 ETHS Distinguished Alumni Award



ETHS and the ETHS Alumni Association are seeking nominations for the annual Distinguished Alumni Award.

This program annually honors alumni who are noted in their field of endeavor and/or recognized for their expertise and good works by their peers and others. These Distinguished Alumni are people who exemplify the tradition of excellence fostered at Evanston Township High School. The awardees will be recognized sometime in the fall.

Due to the onset of the Covid pandemic in March 2020, ETHS postponed the 2020 awards program. Now that life at ETHS seems to be returning to semi-normal by fall, and Zoom has become our connector, we feel we can resume the program for 2021.

To be nominated, alumni must have distinguished themselves through achievement, service, and/or contributions to society. Nominees must have graduated from or been enrolled at ETHS at least 10 years ago.

Anyone may submit a nomination, whether or not you attended ETHS.

Alumni may not nominate themselves. Posthumous nominations will be accepted.

To nominate someone, go to the ETHS alumni web site (www.eths.k12.il.us/alumni) and fill out the online form listing the nominee’s “vitals” and explain—in 500 words or less—why this person should receive the Distinguished Alumni Award. Include your own contact information.

Once the nomination is received, the candidate will be asked to provide additional personal information. For multiple nominations, you must fill out a separate form for each candidate.

A Selection Committee will evaluate the nominations and select the recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards. All nominations will be kept on file and re-considered for three years. After three years, a candidate must be re-nominated for consideration.

The deadline for 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award nominations is JUNE 15, 2021.

Distinguished Alumni Award Winners

March 2003

- George W. Ball, 1926, Undersec’y of State for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson
- George Conn, 1951, advocate for disabled
- Dr. John Bryson Eulenberg, 1960, Developed artificial-language technology for the disabled
- Nancy Gustafson, 1974, Opera singer, philanthropist
- Dr. Charles Johnson, 1966, Award-winning author, educator
- Gordon Segal, 1956, Founder/CEO of Crate & Barrel
- Dr. Charles R. Thomas, 1952, 1st ETHS Black educator, among 1990’s Top 100 School Executives

December 2003

- Dr. David Burge, 1947, Composer-pianist
- Delores Petway Holmes, 1957, Co-founder, Family Focus
- William H. Logan, Jr., 1951, Evanston Police Chief, founded Nat’l. Org. of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- Dr. Robert M. Nerem, 1955, Expert in cellular/tissue bioengineering
- John Edward Porter, 1953, Award-winning Congressman
- Fredric N. Tulskey, 1968, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist

December 2004

- Dr. Fred H. Geisler, 1964, Neurosurgeon
- Pam McAllister Johnson, 1963, journalist, 1st Black female newspaper publisher
- Julian “Junior” Mance, 1945, Jazz pianist, composer
- David A. Mount, 1961, Entertainment industry leader, philanthropist
- Thomas Eddy Tallmadge, 1894, Prairie-style architect

December 2005

- Dr. Barbara Brauer, 1955, Deaf educator/advocate
- Lester Crown, 1943, Businessman, philanthropist
- Robert Galvin, 1940, Business leader
- The late Dr. Barbara Sizemore, left ETHS in 1944, 1st Black female supt. of a major school district
- Robert Wiczorowski, 1945, Investment banker, Executive Director of the World Bank

December 2006

- Dr. Michael Chamberlin, 1955, Biochemist, educator
- David Cole, 1976, Attorney, civil rights defender
- Gene Nora Stumbough Jessen, 1955, Aviator, member of “Mercury 13” training program for female astronauts
- Arthur McZier, 1954, Advocate for minority-owned businesses, humanitarian
- Major Gen. Mitchell J. Waters, USMCR, 1953, “Father of the Modern Marine Corps Reserve”

December 2007

- Dr. Alan D. Kaplan, 1961, Cardiologist, theater owner
- Daniel L. Peterson, 1953, Basketball coach, sports writer, TV commentator
- Leonard Schaeffer, 1963, Healthcare industry administrator/CEO

December 2008

- Dame Libby Komaiko, 1967, dancer, choreographer, founder of Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theatre, honored by King of Spain

- Denise Guillebeaux Martin, 1969, Educator, ETHS administrator, community volunteer
- Dr. Michael Werner, 1959, Astrophysicist, Project Scientist/NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope/Jet Propulsion Lab.

December 2009

- Dr. Philip B. Gorelick, 1970, Neurologist, leader in stroke prevention
- Thomas G. Murdough, 1957, Entrepreneur, philanthropist
- Dr. Edward S. Traisman, 1975, Pediatrician

December 2010

- Barbara A. Boyd, 1947, Award-winning journalist and news anchor
- Dr. George M. Bridgeforth, M.D., 1972, Medical doctor, author
- Eddie Doucette, 1955, Sports broadcaster/marketing ambassador
- George Weisz, 1969, Legislator, governors’/mayor’s policy advisor

December 2011

- Scott Burris, 1975, Lawyer, public health policy advocate
- Bob Cranshaw, 1952, Renowned jazz bassist
- Dr. Joseph D. Croft, 1954, M.D., advocate for patients with rheumatic diseases
- Rita Sallis, 1972, Principal/Yucaipa Companies, Deputy Comptroller-Chief Investment Officer/City of New York, philanthropist

December 2012

- Gene Bell, 1950, Helped found sports league Fellowship of Afro-American Men (FAAM)
- Dr. William Cross, 1959, Theorist on black identity development
- Jeffrey Gettleman, 1989, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist
- The Hon. James Zagel, 1958, Federal judge, attorney
- Dr. Faith Vilas, 1969, Chief Scientist/NASA Planetary Data System

December 2013

- Dr. Iva Elaine Johnson Carruthers, 1963, Educator, educational software innovator, social justice leader
- The Hon. John M. Ferren, 1965, Sr. Appeals Court Judge, civil rights advocate
- Jeremy Piven, 1983, Actor, philanthropist
- Joseph Saunders, 1963, Retired CEO of VISA, Chair of Teach for All
- Eric (Astro) Teller, 1988, Technology industry phenom, science/technology innovator

January 2015

- Cleopatra Bugelas Alexander, 1966, Community leader, philanthropist, arts/education advocate
- Henry Engelhardt, 1975, Admiral Group CEO, UK insurance industry leader, Moondance Fdn. founder

- David Epstein, 1998, Reporter/author focused on science/sports,

- Willie Miller, 1971, Attorney, corporate/community leader with FAAM, ETHS school board member

- Jack Rakove, 1964, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, constitutional law/American history expert

- Neal Wolin, 1979, Corporate/government leader, served as Sec’y of U.S. Treasury

December 2016

- Steven Gilford, 1970, Attorney, Vice-Chair of IL State Board of Education, ETHS school board member

- Tanika Island. 1991, Managing Director at U of Chicago Urban Education Inst., education leader

- Gregory Klaiber, 1978, Retired Evanston Fire Chief, community leader, Northwestern U’s emergency mgmt. director

- Megan Twohey, 1994, Award-winning investigative journalist

- Lynne Williams Twist, 1963, Global visionary fighting hunger/poverty, social justice supporter

December 2017

- Ken Arlen, 1971, Internat’ly known saxophonist/band leader, philanthropist, music industry leader

- Edwin (Skip) Gage, 1959, Marketing/travel/hospitality world leader

- Roberta Gassman, 1966, Government labor leader at federal/state level, community leader

- Donald Rubin, 1961, Noted Harvard U statistics professor, World-cited/prolific author

- Amie Wilkinson, 1985, World-recognized math dynamical systems expert, U of Chicago math professor

- Dr. Isabella Garnett, born in Evanston 1872, one of 1<sup>st</sup> African-American female physicians in IL, founded Evanston’s Community Hospital for African-Americans

- Elizabeth “Betsy” Wood Knapp, 1960, Pioneer in online interactive computer software, angel investor, philanthropist

December 2018

- David Baskin, 2008, Founder/CEO of Ani Shlishi, used-clothing and vocational training enterprise for Israeli at-risk youth

- Pam Cytrynbaum, 1984, journalist, educator focused on criminal justice and wrongful conviction

- Anna Lembke, 1985, medical doctor, Stanford Asst. Professor of Psychiatry/Behavioral Science, opioid addiction expert

- Robert Reece, 1964, businessman; key, award-winning community leader in Evanston

- Fred Hutcherson Jr., 1932, self-taught aviator, trainer of Black military cadets at Tuskegee for WWII service, Congressional Gold Medal awardee

- Dr. Warren Frank Spencer, 1939, medical doctor, one of first African Americans to earn M.D. degree from Northwestern U, practiced in Evanston and Chicago

November 2019

- Josephine Allen, 1991, Cardio-vascular researcher on impact of space travel on the human heart

- Austin Brown, 2003, Co-Head of Basketball/CAA Sports, fosters professional athletes to do community involvement

- Martin Cohen, 1969, Leading expert on energy policy, artist, political activist

- Morris “Dino” Robinson Jr., 1985, Founder of Shorefront Legacy Center, historian, community archivist, artist

- Frances Tietov, 1962, Principal harpist/St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, leader for women’s equal rights in orchestras



# Reunion Roundup

Classes moving reunions to next year

## 45th class reunion for '76ers gets "Green Light" for August



With optimistic predictions about COVID vaccines available to all adults by the end of May, the ETHS class of '76 reunion is a "GO" for the weekend of **August 20-22, 2021**.

Every reunion offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reconnect with high school mates and catch up on life. So if you haven't attended previous reunions, or feel nebulous about your high school experience, keep in mind, that was then, and this is now.

**Be in the "now"** and join the growing group of '76ers from across the country who meet on Zoom monthly. We laugh, brainstorm, concoct clever ways to find more classmates, and continue to propagate! The current planning committee comprises approximately 15-20 people. You'll love the quality time spent with this fantastic group, and even if you don't know everyone, you'll meet in person in August!

**Craig Sieben** (craig@craigsieben.com) and **Marissa Zwick Hopkins** (Marissa@marissahopkins.com) are co-chairing the reunion weekend. Contact Craig or Marissa to reserve your "square" in the next monthly Zoom. Your input can help finalize the details for an unforgettable weekend!

**The annual** ETHS Marty Leoni Scholarship Fund Golf Outing kicks off the weekend, Friday, August 20. Proceeds from this event get awarded to an eligible ETHS senior athlete towards college. For more details, contributions, or to reserve your tee time, contact **Jonathan Salk** (jonathansalk@gmail.com).

Access to registrations for reunion activities is on the official website, [www.eths76ers.com](http://www.eths76ers.com). Check that your contact details are up to date! You can email **Gerald Johnson** (gerondew01@mac.com) with any updates you have regarding yourself or your classmates.

Join more conversations and catch up with classmates on the '76ers Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/>

have Zoom meetings, usually twice a month, to keep up with each other making sure we are all safe and well. We also started a monthly Book Club.

**It's been a joy** to reconnect with friends from high school; some who have known each other since elementary school.

*By Karen Kominsky  
Fetman '62*

## 1971's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion moves to 2022

The ETHS 1971 graduating class has rescheduled its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion celebration to Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, as a result of pandemic restrictions on gatherings.

**All location** and pricing arrangements and schedules for the reunion will remain as planned. The Saturday night reunion will be held from 6:30 p.m. to midnight in the Monaco Ballroom of the Double-Tree Hotel in Skokie, and will feature appetizers, dessert, our own John Nance as DJ, and a cash bar.

Other events being planned for the weekend

include a Saturday morning tour and lunch at ETHS, a Friday night get-together at Hackney's, and possible grammar-school reunions.

The hotel has blocked 15 rooms for Friday night and 25 rooms for Saturday night at rates beginning at \$99 for alums attending the reunion.

**The reunion** committee is hopeful that Covid will be long gone by 2022, but in the event the reunion must be cancelled due to Covid or other risks, the hotel and the committee will return all funds or reapply them to a future date.

The reunion committee, co-chaired by **Cheri Irons Rubin** and **Mary Catardi Rothschild**, has begun contacting members of the class via mail, email, and phone. Class of 1971 grads who haven't been contacted are encouraged to send their preferred email address to the reunion gmail address: [eths50th71@gmail.com](mailto:eths50th71@gmail.com). A new Class of '71 website is under construction to provide information and registration.

**Meanwhile**, class news and memories are already being posted on the reunion's Facebook page: ETHS Class of 1971 Reunion.

## Class of 1970 moves 50<sup>th</sup> to 2022

October, 2018: It started out like a typical 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. A committee was formed. A date was set (September, 2020). A ballroom was booked. An invitation was sent to the Class of '70.

### And then, COVID-19 struck...

April, 2020: The Reunion Committee met. A new date was set, a year later (September, 2021). The ballroom was booked (again). Invitations were sent (again). Surely the pandemic will be history by then. The Countdown began.

### "Help!" Several Zoom meetings later...

January, 2021: The Committee met. A new date was set, another year later (September, 2022). The ballroom was booked (again). Invitations were sent (again). The Countdown was adjusted.

### "Getting Better all the Time"...

As part of the Committee's effort to generate excitement while awaiting the Reunion, a Musical Countdown of Top 40 hits of June 1970 was created. Not only can you see this nostalgic list evolving on the Class of '70 website, (<http://www.eths1970.org>) you can see and hear the bands playing the hits that we were dancing to 50+ years ago. Ironically, the #1 song in June of our graduating year was the Beatles' classic, "The Long and Winding Road." (We didn't want to leave you guessing!) How appropriate.

### "Here, There & Everywhere"...

For the Reunion Committee, what started out as a sprint has turned into a marathon. But it's really been more like a Fun Run. We now have more opportunities to connect with long-time friends as well as meet new classmates from all over the country. Grammar and Jr. High School mini-Zoom reunions are already taking place. It's true, "Yes it Is". After a couple of false starts, The Class of '70 will "Come Together" to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

**"Tomorrow Never Knows"...** And we learned "Something" along the way. We can adjust our sails to whatever winds, worries and winding roads come our way. It doesn't really matter when we gather together, as long as we (eventually) do. If necessary, we will reset and reschedule again (and again.)

### Mark your 2022 Calendar Now! The ETHS 1970 Reunion September 3rd Weekend Worth the Wait.

## Covid ramps up class gatherings

At the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Class of '62, 15 female classmates reacquainted with each other and have been meeting on a regular basis since 2012.

**Prior to the** Coronavirus, we met once a month for lunch at a neighborhood restaurant and celebrated our yearly birthdays collectively, at a home of one of our classmates. Since Covid -19, we

## Class of 1980 moves to 2022

The 1980 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion is being pushed back to 2022. No exact date has been set.



Trevarthan birthday celebration



Coach Trevarthan when he was inducted into the ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016.

On February 26, 2021, well over 100 ETHS alumni athletes and friends gathered online (and many in person) to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Coach Robert “Bob” Trevarthen.

From 1961 to 1967, Trevarthan was ETHS’s Head Coach Varsity Track & Field, as well as Head Sophomore Football Coach (record 73-6-1). His storied coaching career claimed six Illinois Top 10 State track/field rankings, two state track champion wins (1964-65, 1965-66), twice second-place state runner ups (1962-63, 1966-67), four successive district championships, nine Sub-urban League indoor/out-

door championships, and 14 state champion individual medalists (8 in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place). He was inducted into the ETHS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016.

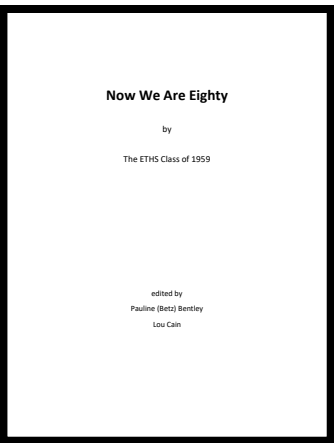
In 1967, the Coach switched to administration, where at ETHS he served as South Hall Principal/Asst. Principal until 1972; Principal of York Community High School from 1973-75; and Superintendent for Illinois Districts 205 and 200 from 1974-84. During that time, he also served on the Glenview district school board and as an adjunct professor at the U of IL and Northern IL U.

Class of 1959 E-Book — Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

All the members of our Class, for which we had an e-mail address, were asked to contribute to an E-Book celebrating our 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The result was that 105 members of the class contributed a paragraph or a page to the 86-page E-Book, sharing whatever they chose about their lives after ETHS. The

contributions included, for example, memories of school days, friendships, occupations, hobbies, and even a poem about our recent days. The responses were compiled and sent as a PDF to everyone on our e-mail distribution list. The E-Book has been a huge success!

By **Pauline Bentley ’59**



Dinner in the AZ Desert

An ETHS Class of ’64 mini-reunion was held on April 13, 2021, in northern Scottsdale, AZ. The 2021 Dinner in the Desert was held at the home of Hank & Jackie Gideon and included six classmates and four supportive spouses. Hank & Jackie provided a wonderful assortment of appetizers, drinks and dinner, as well as by offerings from several attendees.

We had a good time reminiscing about our days

at ETHS, recalling some of the pranks we pulled (we were so cool), and thinking about some of our classmates who have recently passed away. We managed to avoid politics, so we all left looking forward to seeing each other at the 2022 Dinner in the Desert.

By **Fred Brostoff**



The AZ Wildkit gang, from l. to rt.: Phil Kaplan, Babs Drew Spero, Mark Goldm-an, Suzi Schor Revill, Hank Gideon, and Fred Brostoff—all from 1964

ETHS Class Notes

1950s

On Sept.26, 2020, PBS showed a one-hour documentary about **Richard Estes ’50**, a well-recognized modern artist of the photorealist movement. During the interviews with Richard, he speaks of his experience at ETHS and shows a photo of the school as it was in the 1950s. To see the documentary, go to [www.floatingstone.com](http://www.floatingstone.com).

**John Sand ’54** has moved from Colorado to Arizona.

1960s

**Rev. Dr. Abigail Albert (formerly Gail Estabrooke) ’64** is the Co-Minister, All Faith Center, and Executive Director of the Poway Interfaith Team. She is also on the Board of Advisors for the Association for Global New Thought, and an online Professor for Emerson Theological Institute. Last year, she and her husband, Steve, officiated at

two virtual weddings and helped organize a Virtual Interfaith Awareness Week. They have also become first-time grandparents. She is the author of *Empowered Women of Faith*.



**Keith Dougherty ’64** writes: “I missed the 55th due to my surgery—sub-deral hematoma— and my stay in the ICU for 12 days at Christiana Care hospital near Wilmington, DE. I was fortunate to find such a great hospital. I have been able to resume playing the trumpet, and I play sometimes every 8 days then 6 days then 4 days and I am at about every 3 days. I have a channel and my compostiion “Fanfare for Latin America” is on YouTube.”



**Glenn Gilbert ’60)** admires **Rusty Pallas’s ’61 newly acquired Citroen 2 CV in Corte Madera, CA.** Glenn is the Zoom moderator for a small group of ETHS graduates who meet bi-monthly.

1970s

**Norman Hilliard ’75** wanted us to know that he has just completed 35 years working at TJMaxx. His current address is 1061 Johnnie Dobbs Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464, and cell phone is 757-837-1021.

1980s



Last October, the virtual Levy Lecture Series welcomed **Dr. Kenneth Schaeffle ’86** to talk about his experiences treating patients and teaching medical students while working at a clinic in Kiso-ro, Uganda, the unofficial “campus” of the Global Health Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine located in the Bronx, where he is an Asst Professor. Schaeffle is profoundly grateful to Evanston and the community organizations his parents exposed him to, such as the McGaw YMCA and scouting, but most of all to have attend-

ed such a fine high school—and grateful for the people paying the high property taxes that support ETHS.

2000s

**Julia Crawley-Farenga ’12** is an aerospace engineer at the Jet Propulsion Lab. She helped build the launch system for NASA’s Mars Perseverance rover and got a front-row seat working on the rover’s successful landing on Mars on Feb. 18.

**Donna Lee ’01** is the founder and CEO of Brown Bag Seafood, a restaurant chain in Chicago. It only serves guests seafood approved by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood, a leading sustainable seafood regulator. The quick-service spot, which has eight locations in Chicago, provides design-your-own meals that can range from crispy shrimp tacos to a grilled salmon Veggiebox. [brownbagseafood.com](http://brownbagseafood.com)

Continued on page 13



Class Notes,  
cont. from p. 12

This spring, actor **Lucy Godinez '14** was featured on Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Facebook and YouTube sites solo singing "The Spark of Creation" to help the theater raise funds while it is closed due to the pandemic. Lucy earned her BA in Theater from Northwestern University.



**Oliver Leopold '20**, who graduated early from ETHS this past December, developed a cloud-based software application that firefighters and incident commanders can use on the emergency scene to access critical information such as EMS and technical rescue procedures. Leopold began developing the application, called Primary Search, in 2019, and he is currently conducting beta testing of the software over the next six months with Evanston firefighters to gather their feedback and identify possible improvement areas. After the test, Leopold intends to make the application available to fire departments, public service agencies, and EMS systems across the United States. Leopold has been a Fire Explorer since 2018. He plans on attending college in the fall, and since he recently obtained his Emergency Medical Technician license, hopes to be working in a local hospital emergency room as an EMT until classes begin.

**Everett Coleman '15**, an active member of the ETHS Filmmakers Club when he was a student, had an entry in the Short Film category chosen for screening at the Capital City Black Film Festival. The title of the film is *Charlottesville*, and the festival was held in December 2020.

In Memory

1940s

- Ralph O. Mulder, 1942, 7/30/2020
- Marjorie Mogg Steiger, 1942, 10/19/2020
- William W. Bissell, 1944, 3/17/2020
- James R. Dowdall, 1945, 10/17/2020
- Junior Mance, 1945, 1/17/2021
- Sondra D'Arncourt Fargo, 1946, 9/27/2020
- Roy Grundy, 1947, 11/20/2020

1950s

- Dick Saslow, 1950, December 2020
- Thomas Kuehne, 1951, 5/6/2020
- Ginfer Grant Lafaire, 1953, 3/29/2021
- David William Albers, 1952, 2/7/2021
- Patti Pollock James, 1954, 10/27/2020
- Marilyn Powers Simpson, 1954, 2/6/2021
- Alvin Karsten, 1955, 8/23/2020
- Dr. Robert "Bob" Nerem, 1955, 3/6/2020 \*\*
- Donald Frey, 1955, 9/20/2020
- Sally Soper Gray, 1955, 1/2/2021
- Barbara Cyrus Martin, 1956, 3/14/2021
- Mary Jo Steinmetz Hunsberger, 1957, 2/9/2021\*
- Ann Bender Veatch, 1957, 12/29/2020
- Donald D. Boodel Jr., 1957, 1/13/2021
- Robert Veatch, 1957, 11/9/2020
- Susan Brauer Greiling, 1959, RN, MSN, FNP-C, 11/2/2020

1960s

- James F. Schaefer, 1960, 1/18/2021
- Marsha Camras, 1960, 1/10/2021
- Robert Richard White, 1960, 2/22/2021
- Rochelle Sari Berg Schermer, 1962, 12/2/2020
- Merry McCorkle Brady, 1963, sometime in 2020
- Ann Lloyd Roberts, 1963, 1/5/2021
- William Bunce, 1964, 2/13/2021

- Jim Deerfield, 1964, 3/13/2021
- Barbara Levin Green, 1964, March 2000
- Jo Preskitt Maxson, 1964, 2020
- Jeffrey H. Cullerton, 1964, 11/27/2020
- Emilie E. G. Ott, 1964, 9/26/2020
- Judy Epstein, 1964, 1/16/2021
- Carolyn Barr Swoboda, 1964, 11/13/2020
- Kermit Westerberg, 1964, 4/2/2021
- Scott Miller, 1966, 8/25/2020
- Judy Ann Edelen, 1967, 9/29/2020
- Eric J. Lieberman, 1968, 5/8/2018

1970s

- Penny Brown Gilbert, 1971, 1/4/2021
- Janeen Whalen, 1971, 2/6/2017
- Virginia Marie May, 1971, 3/28/2021
- Jacki Zuckerman, 1973; now known as Mary Elizabeth; 7/20/2020
- Mark Orloff, 1978, 7/20/2020

1980s

- Heather Rodelius, 1980, 9/17/2019
- Joel Orloff, 1981, 3/5/2015
- Bruce H. Reynolds Jr., 1981, 1/14/2021
- Paul Robert Stein, 1981, 5/27/2019
- Albert DeVaul, 1983, 3/9/2021
- Devon Lewis, 1985, 3/31/2021
- Eddie Stevens IV, 1988, 9/28/2019

2000s

- Matthew Bussey, 2020, 3/7/2021
- Dyrek William Coleman, 2005, 1/19/2021
- SSG Joseph Edward Howard, 2009, 3/26/2021
- Ryan Bost, 2019, 11/9/2020

\* **Mary Jo Steinmetz Hunsberger** served as a board member of the ETHS Alumni Association for many years.

\*\* **Dr. Robert Nerem** was named an ETHS Distinguished Alumni in 2003.

*Editor's note: In the previous KIT, I listed Scott A. Miller, class of 1977, as deceased. That was a mistake. Scott Alan Miller is fine and currently resides at 45454 Pebble Beach Ct., Northville, Michigan. It should have been Scott Miller, Class of 1966, who passed away 8/25/2020. I apologize for the error.*

Faculty/Staff

**Anita Robinson Cooper**, ETHS Department Chair of Guidance and Counseling passes away on November 10, 2020. She was 88 years old. Born in Chicago, IL, she received her Bachelor of Science degree from Northwestern University in 1950. She earned her Master's in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Illinois just before coming to ETHS in 1976. She retired in 1996.

Science teacher **Dr. Douglas Halsted** passed away this winter. He taught Chemistry at ETHS for 38 years and retired in 1997. He served as the sponsor of the award-winning ETHS JETS Team and was a Teacher Excellence Award winner. He had been living independently in Arizona.

**Earle W. Carlson** died November 4, 2020, at age 91. He taught Combined Studies at ETHS for 24 years and retired in 1987. He was an enthusiastic archeologist and sponsor of summer archeological study trips for ETHS students.

**Linda Kaplan Kraines, ETHS '63**, passed away April 3, 2021. A talented linguist who spoke multiple languages, she taught French at ETHS from 1967 to 1981 and led many student trips to France as well as Colorado.

Retiring Faculty/  
Staff Members

Three teachers and 13 members of the the Support Staff will be honored in late May for retiring from ETHS.

The teachers are English teacher **Lisa Oberman**, after 36 years; World Languages/ESL teacher **Patricia Payne**, after 32 years; and Visual Arts teacher **Marla Seibold**, after 33 years.

Support Staff members include **Patricia Edwards** (Athletics and Safety Secretary, 28 years); **Susan Eggers** (Science Secretary, 17 years); **June McClain** (Attendance/Registrar, 23 years); **Lalita Pettigree** (Study Hall Specialist, 21 years); **Gloria Sexton** (Mailroom Specialist, 34 years); **Gail Simmons-Childress** (Student Management Employee, 20 years), **Cynthia Wilson** (Asst. to the Registrar, 18 years); **Jean Claude Valme** (Custodian, 18 years); **Ken Wenzel** (Science Paraprofessional, 11 years); **Madge Marriott** (Orthopedic Aide, 19 years); and **Dianne Magiera** (PE teacher, PE Paraprofessional, and Head Girls' Swim Coach, 25 years).





ETHS  
FOUNDATION

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous and enthusiastic support of ETHS. Amidst a year of unparalleled challenges, our Wildkit family responded with qualities of RESILIENCE, care, and compassion to meet our students' emerging needs. After ETHS moved to remote learning on March 13, 2020, alumni, parents, and corporations contributed over \$50,000 to our Student and Family Covid Response Fund, and that outpouring continued into the next fiscal year. At the same time, we exceeded our goal for the FY2020 priority project, providing a grant of \$550,000 for upgraded lighting and sound enhancements in the ETHS Auditorium.

Alumni generosity allowed the ETHS Foundation to remain steadfast in our mission to guarantee access to excellence and also to serve the unique student needs brought on by the pandemic. We understood that to be successful this past year, we had to take a two-prong approach.

While it was imperative that we bolstered the high school's efforts to provide a robust virtual experience and ensure every student had access to it, we knew we couldn't lose sight of tomorrow. When students bring life and vibrancy back to the halls of ETHS, we want them to be greeted with a facility worthy of their aspirations.

We owe our success to you, our Wildkit alumni – you help us sustain equity in education and advance our campus toward the future. Your investments create and construct cutting-edge facilities and allow us to respond to innovative education and a myriad of student needs. Thank you so much for staying CONNECTED to ETHS.

We are deeply GRATEFUL.  
Kevin Mack '95 President, 2020-21  
Joanne Bertsche, ETHS parent '12, '13, '17 Executive Director

P.S. Our fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't made your alumni gift this year, please go to **supporteths.org**. Be sure to include your graduation year so your class gets credit!



**My gift in the following amount is enclosed:** (Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized at the Champions for ETHS Giving Levels.)

☐ \$10,000    ☐ \$5,000    ☐ \$2,500    ☐ \$1,000    ☐ \$500    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$150    ☐ \$50    ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ETHS GRAD YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED DONOR LISTING \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I/WE PREFER TO BE ANONYMOUS

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☐ My check payable to the ETHS Foundation is enclosed

☐ Please charge my:    ☐ Visa    ☐ Master Card    ☐ American Express

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Please contact me regarding:    ☐ making a planned gift    ☐ making a stock gift

**Questions:** Contact the ETHS Foundation at (847) 424-7158 or [foundation@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:foundation@eths.k12.il.us)

The ETHS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Donate online at [supporteths.org](https://supporteths.org). THANK YOU!**

**This gift is:**

☐ To be matched by my employer.  
A matching form is enclosed or in process

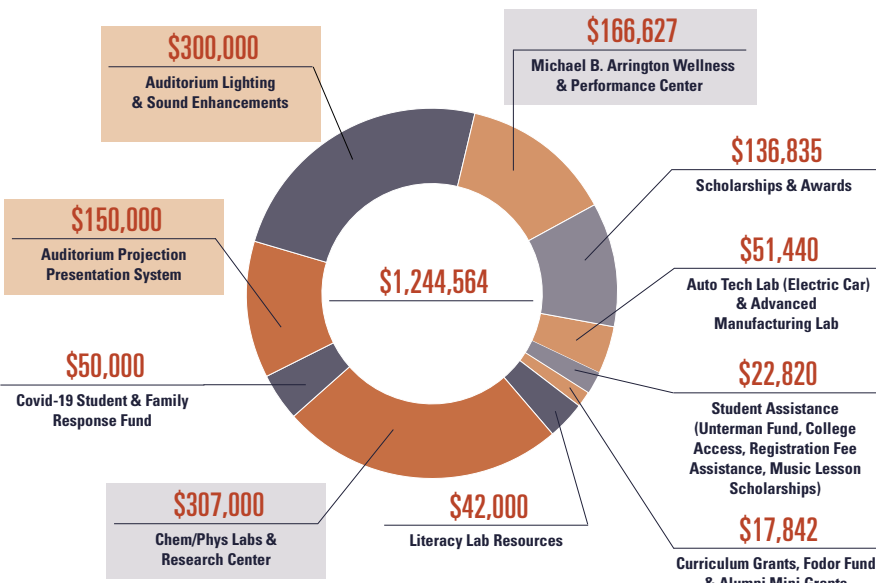
☐ In honor or memory of

Please email [foundation@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:foundation@eths.k12.il.us) to provide us additional information if you would like us to notify the honoree or their family.



Thank you ETHS Alums, Parents, and Donors — You make a Difference for our Wildkits!

Funding Impact – Grants to ETHS FY2020



**\$8.3M**  
Total Foundation grants in 13+ year history; over \$6.7M for new learning spaces and campus advancements



On Saturday, February 27th, the ETHS Foundation hosted its first-ever virtual WILD for ETHS fundraiser: a WILD Night In. Guests from all over the country tuned in for a wonderful program hosted by **Sebastian Cheeks '22** and ETHS Foundation Board President **Kevin Mack '95**. Guest appearances included alumni, current students, teachers, parents, and even Willie Wildkit himself. Alumni participation in this unique celebration helped create a memorable and impactful evening. Attendees were treated to an exclusive arrangement and performance by **Matthew Hunter '05** and **Ian Weinberger '05**, an engaging interview with actor **Lecy Goranson '92**, and a performance of “Beautiful” featuring Tony Award-winning alum **Jessie Mueller '01** and the ETHS choirs.

Through generous sponsorships, donations, raffle, and paddle raise via text, over \$110,000 was raised to support the renovation of the ETHS girls’ locker room and a new all-gender locker room and the expansion of the band practice field and new outdoor conductor tower. We thank you for your support and look forward seeing everyone in person for next year’s event!



Matthew Hunter '05 & Ian Weinberger '05 record a live musical medley performance on the ETHS stage.

Tony Award Winner Jessie Mueller '01 rehearses with students for a virtual performance of the song "Beautiful".



Lecy Goranson '92, actress in TV sitcom *The Conners*, speaks with ETHS Senior Noam

Hosts Kevin Mack '95 & Sebastian Cheeks '22 emceed WILD for ETHS 2021, the Foundation's

**WILD FOR ETHS**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**  
**Corcoran Family Foundation, Gerry Corcoran '73**  
**Jeanne & David Husain**  
**Larry Mages '61**  
**LEWIS-SEBRING FAMILY FOUNDATION**  
**Byline Bank** **Alicia "Lecy" Goranson '92**  
Ken & Nancy Arlen '71  
Elizabeth Nolan Buzard '77  
Anne Churchill '74 & Sean Coffey  
Mort & Reva Denlow Family  
Christopher Fiegen & Sarah Darnton  
Sarah '87 & Rod Gardner  
Susan '68 & Albert Gobel  
Dennis Lopatin '66  
Mark & Nancy Nelson '65  
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**WHY IS MY KIT COMING TO “WILDKIT ALUM”?**

You may have looked at the addressee on this issue (and the Spring issue) of *The KIT* and wondered, why is my KIT coming to Wildkit Alum and not to me? The Alumni Office has found we have several thousand duplicate addresses in our 50,000+ data base. In an effort to reduce postage costs, and keep people from getting 2, 3 or more copies of *The KIT* cluttering up their mail, we decided to try and be more efficient. This cuts the paper printing cost as well as postage and allows us to still be able to send the ETHS Alumni newsletter to you.

**NEWS FLASH: You can help us further reduce costs by having your KIT emailed to you!**

We publish a full-color electronic version (fall and spring), and you can change how you receive your subscription—print or email—by completing the short form at <https://announcements.wufoo.com/forms/kit-by-email-request-form/>