

2024 SCARLET CELEBRATION 146th All-Alumni Event

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

Special thanks to our sponsor

POLK COUNTY
Board of Supervisors

Download this program:



SCHOOL SONG

Dear East High,
you are the school for me.
You will always win the victory.
Red and Black,
to you we'll be true.
And we will bring
great honor to you.
Hip-hooray!
Here's to the Black and Red;
O'er the world your
fame is widely spread.
Onward, we will do or die
for Dear East High!

FIGHT SONG

We have the right to
fight for East High.

Our gallant teams will always try
to be the best teams
in the nation,
although the odds
are sometimes high.
Fight! Fight!

We love the Black and Red tradition
of fighting fair and square tonight.
We're going to fight,
fight, fight for victory.
A cheer for East! Fight! Fight!

146TH EAST HIGH SCHOOL ALL-ALUMNI SCARLET CELEBRATION

2024 CELEBRATION PROGRAM - 7:15 PM

WelcomeJulie Christiansen West
National AnthemEHS Jazz Band
EHS School Song & Fight SongEHS Jazz Band & Cheerleaders Samuel Anderson, Director of Bands
Program NotesJulie Christiansen West
Masters of CeremoniesRoss Peterson & Andy "Danger" Von Ahnen (1996 EHS graduates and local radio personalities)
Special GuestDr. lan Roberts, <i>DMPS Superintendent</i>
State of the SchoolEHS Principal Jill Versteeg
Avenue Scholars Noelle Nelson & Mark Core
2024 Hall of Fame Awards Ross & Andy
Golf Outing RecapRoss & Andy
Alumni Foundation & Scholarship NewsRoss & Andy
Cheerleading ScholarshipNancy Elliott
Special Group MentionsRoss & Andy
2024 Roll Call of ClassesRoss & Andy
Special Reunion Classes: 2014 (10th), 2004 (20th), 1994 (30th),
1984 (40th), 1974 (50th), 1964 (60th), 1954 (70th), and 1949 (75th)
Oldest Attending Alum
Closing MessageJeff White

EHS ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

1990

Edward Bird, 1934 Joy Hodges, 1933 Bertha Holt, 1921 Robert Houser, 1936 Marilyn Maye, 1946 Dr. Wilbur Miller, 1941 Justice C. Edwin Moore, 1922 Maj. Gen. Harry Chandler Olson, 1936

Margaret King Priebe, 1940 Vincent Starzinger, 1905 Dr. James A. Thomas, 1957 Tom Whitney, 1962

1991

Reinhold O. Carlson, 1922 Jacqueline Armstrong Day, 1936

1992

George Drennan Fischer, 1943 G. Wallace "Wally" Lundgren, 1928 Dic Youngs, 1959

1993

McCeil Frazier Clinton, 1934 Dr. Robert A. MacAskill, 1939 Ronald D. Pearson, 1958

1994

Dr. Robert Anderson, 1946 Jerry Bishop, 1947 Dr. Stephen "Steve" Gleason, 1964 Dr. John "Jack" Wakefield, 1937

1995

Sue Olls Luthens, 1951 Fred Mathis, 1918

1996

Joseph E. Borg, 1933 Dr. Gene A. Braught, 1937 Ronald E. Hays, 1964

1997

Steven Leo Anderson, 1971 Dr. Richard M. Caplan, 1945 Ray T. Townsend, 1930

1998

Bernard John "B.J." Baker, Jr., 1942 Gloria Spillers Hoffmann, 1946

1999

Dr. John E. Cisna, 1955 Russell E. Johnson, Jr., 1948

2000

Dr. Richard W. Shropshire, 1946 Robert A. Wright, Sr., 1943

2001

James W. Erickson, 1954 Jack Oxenrider, 1941

2002

John Burgeson, 1964 William Jensen, 1949

2003

Edwin "Lee" Allen, 1928 Robert Lord, 1946 Robert L. Mahaffey, 1952 Ellis E. Monk, 1945 Jim Williams, 1943

2004

Dr. R.J. "Dick" Fuller, 1948 Harvey "Jock" Johnson, 1967 Donald Taylor, Sr., 1941

2005

Udell Cason, 1960 Ralph Maigaard, 1950 Jean Anderson McKinney, 1954 William Paterson, 1963 Richard Tuller, 1952

2006

J.F. "Jack" Rider, 1946 John Skinner, 1936 Paul L. Sloan, 1946 George W. Sullivan, 1949

2007

Brig. Gen. Steve E. Bogle, 1975 Dr. John H. Dawson, 1944 John V. Hartung, 1958 Courtney Maxwell Greene, 1987 John Raymond, 1962 Benjamin "Babe" Witten, 1936

2008

Bill J. Boyer, 1948 Gerald LaBlanc, 1948 John A. McClintock, 1949 Dr. Steven R. Specker, 1963

2009

Connie Fulk Boesen, 1969 Carlton Peterson, 1959 Tom Hockensmith, 1974

2010

Dr. William "Nick" Palmer, Sr., 1972 Marsha Smith Yelick, 1962

2011

Dr. John Lingenfelter, 1946 Dennis C. Ross, 1956 Gary Wayne Rourke, 1971 Tom VanHon, 1951

2012

Paul N. Erickson, Sr., 1947 Garrett Martinus "John" Hol, EHS Custodian Timothy Hall Kelley, 1958

2013

Col. Richard "Dick" Desing, 1949 Dr. Jack W. Hatchitt, 1943

2014

Patrick "Pat" Logan, 1979 Martha Peterson Miller, 1946 Marcella Mack Wallace, 1943

2015

Eric Crowell, 1976 Dennis Cameron, 1975 Dr. John A. Williams, 1960

2016

Dr. Don C. Green, 1941 Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972 John Lethcoe, Jr., 1960 Dr. Vincent Lewis, 1967

2017

Judy Bennett Anderson, 1961 Sharon Tomlinson Link, 1978 Dr. Katherine "Katie" Murphy, 2001

2018

George Formaro, 1986 Brig. Gen. Randy E. Greenwood, 1978 Del "Saxman" Jones, 1968 Timothy Pearson, 1968 Dr. Ronald D. "Doc" Rietveld, 1955 Julie Christiansen West, 1976 Greg Alan Williams, 1973 Art Wittern, 1956

2019

Mark Clark, 1976 Lowell B. Kramme, 1952 Doris McCarty Merrill, 1939 Randy Peterson, 1969 Shari Walling, 1979

2020

Daniel P. Finney, 1993 Lowell A. Long, 1975 Lyle L. Simpson, 1956 Marilyn Dennis Wilson, 1950 (January) Marvin J. Wilson, 1970

2021

Ron Anderson, 1966 B.J. Baker, III, 1976 Bill Eisenlauer, 1971 Scott Helverson, 1981

2022

Paul Rogness, EHS Golf Classic founder & organizer Peter W. Rounds, 1959 Gary H. Sheldon, 1962

2023

J. Elder II, 1987 Robert Johnson, 1966 Dr. Steve Taylor, 1966 Brent Isenberger

2024

Anesa Gardner Buchanan, 1999 David Maxwell, 1989 Kris Miller Young, 1969 Marcia Leader Wanamaker, 1968 Mike Zelenovich

Anesa Buchanan - Class of 1999

2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



"For the Service of Humanity" was not just a motto that Anesa Buchanan, Class of 1999, lived by as a student at East High School. It has guided her life.

Healthcare in Des Moines is better because of Anesa. Eighteen years ago, she began her career at UnityPoint Health.

"Before diversity, equity and inclusion was a focus for many organizations, Anesa understood its significance and made it a priority to eliminate disparities for both her patients and staff," said Courtney Maxwell Green, UnityPoint director of external partnerships and community engagement and a 2007 EHS Hall of Fame inductee.

Seven years into her career at UnityPoint Clinic, Anesa was leading UnityPoint Clinic Family Medicine-East Des Moines/La Clinica de la Esperanza, the network's most diverse health clinic. Not only has Anesa looked out for her patients, but she has committed to supporting underrepresented team members by setting them up for success. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Anesa kept her clinic open for extended hours and on weekends to provide vaccines to at-risk patients. She was a trusted voice on vaccines for UnityPoint in Central lowa.

Currently, Anesa is leading the Enterprise Health Equity Council established to address health inequalities and eliminate healthcare disparities. Her passion for serving others comes from her Eastside ties. "East and the neighborhood surrounding East is very important to me. Everyone should have equal access to the ability to prosper, no matter what barriers are in their way. Being an alumna, I feel a responsibility to the East High neighborhood and to the students of East High to help them achieve their dreams and be in a place where they can thrive." Anesa said.

As an East student, Anesa has fond memories that include state Jazz Band, basketball, running track and participating in choir and show choir. These activities brought not only lifelong friends, but lifelong lessons.

"I have made lifelong friends and associates that I never would have made had I not attended East. I also developed a passion of serving those around me and wanting to help make my community a wonderful and safe place," Anesa said. "By having the experiences that I did in high school, I developed empathy for those around me who were struggling with things they had no control over. This has really shaped my life and career. The career path I have taken, of working on developing opportunities for those in the community to have equitable access to healthcare and healthcare-related services, was directly influenced by my time at EHS."

Anesa is married to Korey and has two children, Allen and Alesha Henderson. Being a single mom for most of her children's childhood instilled in her the strength to persevere against all hardships. Anesa has an extremely supportive family that have been by her side through it all including her parents and sister.

David Maxwell - Class of 1989

2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



From the hallways of East High School to the Blue Oval of the Drake Relays to the principal's office at West Des Moines Valley High School, David Maxwell.

Class of 1989, has been impacted by his experiences.

After considering other career paths, David followed his heart into education after being heavily influenced by East teacher Bill Ackerman.

"He created the fire that made me want to be a teacher," David said.

At the University of Iowa, David studied to be a secondary English teacher. It wasn't long until he found himself back in Des Moines, student-teaching at North High School before landing his first teaching job at Lincoln High School. In 2002 he became an administrator at Hoover High School after earning his master's degree from Iowa State University.

David took the leap to Valley in 2005, serving as associate principal before taking on the role of principal.

As an educator, David's career is decorated. He published a book, "The Soul of an Educator" in 2015. The book details how teachers can build relationships with students and the impact it has on education. David was also named the Mary McLeod Bethune Educator of the Year in 2011.

The Eastside adage "Lee Township against the world" resonates with David. He loves the underdog mentality. "I have so much pride being an Eastsider. I'm so thankful that I grew up on the Eastside," he said.

Service leadership is part of David's personal philosophy, tapping into East's motto, "For the Service of Humanity." He is currently an East High Alumni Board member. He is active on the Lutheran Church of Hope's church council. He was West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce's Co-Citizen of the Year for his efforts around equity and inclusion. David serves as the chief clerk of course for the Drake Relays.

If you can't find David at Valley High School, Lutheran Church of Hope or the Drake Relays, you may be able to find him rocking out on stage as the bass player for Faculty Lounge, a local funk band of educators from the metro.

Despite his busy schedule, David most enjoys time spent with his family: wife Kelly, daughters Alanna and Natalie, and son Joe.

Scarlet ties run deep in David's family. His three siblings also attended East. His sister Courtney Maxwell Greene, Class of 1987, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007.

Another source of pride for the Maxwell family is their membership in the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, Aquinnah, a federally recognized Native American Tribe located on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, where his mother was born and raised.

Marcia Wanamaker - Class of 1968

2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



A leader, actor, Realtor, and philanthropist. Marcia Wanamaker will now take her place in the Alumni Hall of Fame. This outstanding woman

is highly valued for her endless dedication toward East and her community.

Throughout life, Marcia has actively participated in various community services, often championing underrepresented groups in Des Moines. Even with years of committed service under her belt, Marcia modestly shies away from the limelight, driven by her innate desire to assist those facing challenges. She truly embodies the ethos of East High, as mirrored in its motto: "For the Service of Humanity."

Reflecting on her time at East High School as part of the Class of 1968, Marcia recalls that neither the school motto nor the notion of giving back to the community deeply resonated with her initially. However, with maturity came a deep understanding of their significance.

Following her graduation, Marcia ventured into sales roles before establishing herself as a Realtor at lowa Realty in 1988. Together with her husband, Rick, they have facilitated real estate transactions totaling \$1.3 billion over 36 years. Marcia's excellence in the field was recognized when she was named the 2002 Realtor of the Year by the Des Moines Association of Realtors. Moreover, Marcia and Rick's outstanding achievements resulted in their recognition as the premier Realtor Team in lowa for 2022, as voted by FastExpert.com.

In addition to her active professional life,
Marcia is easily moved by those in need.
Currently, she is actively mentoring an
immigrant family from Uganda, comprising
five orphaned children and their caregivers.
Marcia's efforts have helped unite the family
under one roof in Waukee, fostering a sense of
stability and belonging.

In her own words, Marcia articulates the profound satisfaction derived from both receiving and providing support. She acknowledges the impact of contributing to the well-being of others, a sentiment that fuels her sense of purpose.

Marcia's artistic talents extend to the stage, where she has been in several productions at the Des Moines Community Playhouse. Among her favorite roles was in "Tony and Tina's Wedding," a show characterized by interactive engagement with the audience.

Later in life, she also uncovered her athletic talents and picked up basketball skills. Interestingly, her husband took on the role of her coach teaching her the art of the game. She played on three basketball teams; one was an All-Star traveling team composed of former women college basketball players. Her husband scheduled exhibition games with colleges around central lowa.

A legacy of service runs deep in Marcia's family, with her sister Pat Leader Schneider (Class of 1969), brother Bob Leader (Class of 1970), and mother Marcella (Class of 1940) all alumni of East High.

Marcia and Rick take pride in their family, which includes their son, Kip, his wife, Maria Thompson, and their grandchildren, Nico and Luca, who call St. Louis home, and their daughter, Kristen Heitkotter, who lives in LA.

Kris Young - Class of 1969

2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



If you've heard of Miller the Driller, you're probably from Des Moines. Kris Miller Young, Class of 1969, used her foundation from East High School to contribute to and

further her family's successful business. In 1948, her father, Gene Miller, also an East graduate, started Miller the Driller. Kris joined her dad in 1974, later becoming president in 1982, then CEO in 1990.

"I learned the business, brought my skills in," Kris said.

This Eastside family business included her mom Martha (Peterson) Miller, class of 1946, and eventually her son and grandson.

"I was so blessed to be a part of what we did as a business," she said.

An opportunity provided at East helped Kris realize her talent for accounting. Through business courses offered at East, she worked during her senior year and graduated already employed.

"I was able to continue both working and adding more accounting courses postgraduation. In running my business, I always had that to help me even after I didn't do everything myself. Some of those skills I still use in retirement," Kris said.

Aside from her important work with Miller the Driller, Kris has worked as an accountant for other companies, as well as volunteering as treasurer for Rising Sun Church of Christ. For 13 years. Kris was also involved in Gideons Auxiliary State of Iowa, serving as the state president from 2017 to 2021 and as treasurer for three years before that.

East High roots run deep in Kris' family. Not only did her dad attend East, but her grandmother and aunts were East High students and grads.

Kris made the leap from a country school that included just 12 students in Pleasant Hill to Woodrow Wilson Middle School and then East. The move was big for her, but she appreciated how East help define her formative years.

"East was a defining time for me. I've always felt that being at East wasn't so much about who I was, but rather who I would become as an adult," Kris said.

One of Kris' proudest accomplishments is being a part of the Alumni Foundation. "We have grown, faced the challenges of life and been able to give back. Proud to be an East High alum," Kris said.

Mike Zelenovich | 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Hanging on the walls in the main office at East High School, you will find portraits of those who have served as principal. While all have been impactful,

few have left a legacy comparable to Mike Zelenovich, or as many lovingly call him "Mr. Z."

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. Z earned his bachelor's in education from Drake University in 1974. This was the beginning of his journey as a teacher, assistant activities director and coach at Proviso East High School in Maywood, Illinois. As the head football coach, he was twice named Coach of the Year.

Destined for administration, Mr. Z earned his master's degree in educational administration at Northern Illinois University.

In 1983, Mr. Z returned to Des Moines, where he remained for the rest of his career. Starting out as physical education teacher and varsity football coach at Roosevelt High School, he would be named Metro Coach of the Year in 1984. What made Mr. Z a successful coach also helped make him a better administrator.

"I believe that I tried my best to lead a building the same way I coached. Support your students and teachers, and have high expectations, and assist parents and community in any way you can," he said. "I tried to use common sense in any scenario that arose. Sometimes coaches and principals can make things too hard by not

using common sense. I learned that several times the hard way."

In 1988, Mr. Z made his way to the Eastside, serving as vice principal at East until 1994, when he became principal at May Goodrell Middle School. He was appointed principal at East High School in 2005, where he would make his home for the next five years.

As East's principal, Mr. Z was beloved by students and staff alike.

"As a former teacher and coach, he was able to relate to the staff at their level," said Lowell Long, Class of 1975, retired East teacher and Alumni Hall of Famer.

In 2010, Mr. Z was promoted to district director of athletics and activities. He retired in 2012. Despite not working for Des Moines Public Schools anymore, Mr. Z is still a fixture at East events, including the annual alumni golf outing.

"I think that East High sort of sticks with you after you leave. I believe that is one of the things that make her such a special place," he said. "I worked with a lot of great teachers over the years and served a lot of parents who remain friends today. Living on the Eastside and having all our children graduate from East certainly made it much easier to stay involved," Mr. Z said.

Mr. Z's wife, Vicki Carr, Class of 1970, and mother-in-law, Dorthea Norris, Class of 1950, also attended East.

It's not often that non-alumni are inducted into the East High School Alumni Hall of Fame, a fact not lost on Mr. Z.

"I am humbled and grateful to be honored by such an outstanding alumni association and the rich tradition that makes East High what she is," he said.

AVENUE SCHOLARS

Avenue Scholars provides comprehensive, individualized support services to help eligible students in Des Moines area high schools identify, prepare for, and ultimately enter financially sustaining, high-demand careers requiring an associate degree or less. Programming begins in the student's junior year of high school and continues uninterrupted through



postsecondary training and for six months following career entry. We take a holistic approach to career preparation to ensure our students are set up for success.

To maximize student employment opportunities and address area workforce needs, the program supports students pursuing careers in five high-demand industry sectors: Skilled Trades & Manufacturing, Information Technology, Health Sciences, Business and Automotive & Transportation.

To learn more about Avenue Scholars, visit www.avescholarsdesmoines.org

- Noelle Nelson, Executive Director and Mark Core, East High Career Coach

OUR EMCEES

Ross Peterson - Class of 1996



Ross Peterson was born and raised in central Iowa. He has lived in Des Moines his entire life and knows the communities of the metropolitan area as well as any person

you'll meet. Ross hosts an afternoon sports talk radio show on KXNO 106.3 and has built an incredible network of talented people in a variety of fields that he now uses to help clients through the process of buying and selling real estate. Ross is very involved with local nonprofit organizations around Des Moines. He's been named the volunteer of the month by Big Brothers Big Sisters. He currently is on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Iowa and is heavily involved with his alma mater East High School. Ross has two children, Eli and Audrey. When Ross isn't helping clients or hosting his radio show he enjoys the outdoors. Fishing and camping with his family are his favorite activities. He also enjoys golfing with his friends.

Andy "Danger" Von Ahnen - Class of 1996



Known in the Des Moines area as "Danger" for 97.3 The NASH, this radio host answers to a few different names, "I've gone by so many different names -

versions of Andrew, Andy, Drew, Danger - so depending on who's talking to me when, you never know what name you're gonna get," he said. No matter what you call him, Danger has been living it up in radio since he was a senior at East High School in Des Moines. He loves the newness each day has to offer in the industry, saying it's really hard to get bored. Danger has worked at the same radio group his entire career and said he's motivated by doing his best and enjoying it.

When he's not working, Danger said he likes to watch sports - specifically hockey and football — both on TV and live to support Des Moines' local teams. He tends to make it a family affair with his wife and two kids, but he also enjoys fishing and grilling in the summer.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

147th All-Alumni Scarlet Celebration

JUNE 7, 2025

148th All-Alumni Scarlet Celebration **JUNE 6, 2026**



We want to stay in touch with you. Please help us update our database by sending us your current email and mailing addresses to: info@desmoinesehsalumni.com



We are accepting 2025 East High School Hall of Fame nominations through the end of this year. If you have someone you'd like to nominate, visit desmoinesehsalumni.com/hofnomination-form/



All contributions are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible! You can mail donations to:

East High Alumni Foundation 6919 Vista Drive West Des Moines, IA 50266

or donate online at desmoinesEHSalumni.com. Gifts over \$100 from Iowa residents are eligible to receive additional tax benefits through Endow Iowa.



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More Facebook pages to check out: facebook.com/RememberingEHSClassmates facebook.com/dmEHSnewsneeds

THANK YOU

Connie Fulk Boesen and Boesen the Florist for providing the red roses for the Scarlet Celebration.

Warren Brown, EHS Technology Education Teacher, for providing the wooden plaques for our Hall of Fame inductees. Natalie Niemeyer Lorenz, Journalism Teacher, and Gail Baker, Class of 1976, for writing the biographies and program assistance.

Golf Cars of lowa for the golf carts for the Scarlet Celebration. Copy Systems for printing the Scarlet Celebration programs. George Hills (Class of 1967) for providing transportation requests.

Julie Christiansen West (Class of 1976) for her marketing expertise and to her husband, Brent Isenberger (Brent Isenberger Photography) for his video and photography talents for the Scarlet Celebration.

Laura Stewart (Class of 2000) for her graphic design work on various social media efforts and Scarlet Celebration collateral. Anthony Arroyo (Class of 2017) for taking photos at tonight's Scarlet Celebration. Kent Reed (Class of 1982) for the custom Hall of Fame gift.

Special thanks go to Jill Versteeg, EHS Principal, and Natalie Madsen, Alumni Foundation liaison counselor. Lauren Brandt-Erickson, and Mike Freund, EHS Counselors, for their dedicated help. We value our partnerships with them and all that they do to teach, guide and promote EHS students.

More thanks go to Samuel Anderson, Director of Bands, the EHS Jazz Band, Baseball Coach Justin Denham and EHS baseball players, and Football and Track Coach Josh DeWaard for their help and involvement in the Scarlet Celebration.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

2023-2024 EHS Alumni Foundation Board

Jeff White, 1987, President Dave Penake, 1997, Vice-President Carla Simpson Ruble, 1988, Treasurer Connie Fulk Boesen, 1969 Jav Fisher, 1982 Leslie Bryant Mayo, 1987 Kris Miller Young, 1969 Joe Van Haalen, 1987

2023-2024 EHS Alumni Association Board Tracey Gabriel Foley, 1987, President Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972, Vice-President Carla Simpson Ruble, 1988, Treasurer Pam White Bradford, 1972 Tom Crawford, 1982 David Maxwell, 1989 Michelle Petty McGriff, 1990 Julie Christiansen West, 1976, Marketing Chair Barrett Rogness, 1992

2024 Scholarship Committee

Laura Luce Stewart, 2000

Leslie Bryant Mayo, 1987, Chair Jeff White, 1987 Tracey Gabriel Foley, 1987 Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972 Joe Van Haalen, 1987 Tony Mills, 1996 Nancy Pike Elliott, 1968 Jay Fisher, 1982

2024 Scarlet Celebration Committee

Connie Fulk Boesen 1969 Jeff White, 1987 Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972 Julie Christiansen West, 1976 Laura Luce Stewart, 2000 Pam White Bradford, 1972 Michelle Petty McGriff, 1990 Carla Simpson Ruble, 1988 Rosie Blv. 1967

Tracey Gabriel Foley, 1987, Chair

2024 Marketing Committee

Julie Christiansen West, 1976, Chair Jeff White, 1987 Tracey Gabriel Foley, 1987 Gail Baker, 1976 Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972 Laura Luce Stewart, 2000 Pam White Bradford, 1972

Hall of Fame Committee

Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972, Chair Jeff White, 1987

Vould you like to volunteer? There are various committees alumni can join! If you'd like to help with the Scarlet Celebration, EHS Golf Tourney and other alumni events, contact us at: