



**WELCOME TO THE**  
**2025 SCARLET**  
**CELEBRATION**

147<sup>TH</sup> ALL-ALUMNI EVENT

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025**  
**PRAIRIE MEADOWS EVENT CENTER**



Special thanks to our sponsor



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!

147<sup>TH</sup> EAST HIGH SCHOOL ALL-ALUMNI

SCARLET CELEBRATION

2025 CELEBRATION PROGRAM – 7:15 P.M

Welcome .....	Kathy Johnson Kahler
National Anthem .....	Randy Pressley, Class of 1973
EHS School Song and Fight Song .....	EHS Jazz Band and Cheerleaders <i>Samuel Anderson, Director of Bands</i>
Program Notes.....	Kathy Johnson Kahler <i>EHS Alumni Association President</i>
Masters of Ceremonies.....	Ross Peterson and Andy “Danger” Von Ahnen <i>1996 EHS graduates and local radio personalities</i>
DM Public Schools Report.....	Connie Fulk Boesen <i>Des Moines Mayor and EHS Class of 1969</i>
State of the School .....	EHS Principal Jill Versteeg
EHS Alumni Association Hall of Fame Inductions.....	Ross and Andy
Service of Humanity Recognition.....	Ross and Andy
EHS Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions .....	Ross and Andy
EHS Alumni Foundation Report.....	Jeff White <i>EHS Alumni Foundation President</i>
Recognition of the 2025 Scholarship Recipients .....	Jeff White
2025 Roll Call of Classes.....	Ross and Andy
Special Reunion Classes: 2015 (10th), 2005 (20th), 1995 (30th), 1985 (40th), 1975 (50th), 1965 (60th), 1955 (70th), and 1950 (75th) Oldest Attending Alum	
Closing Message .....	Jeff 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 and organizer  
Peter W. Rounds, 1959  
Gary H. Sheldon, 1962

## 2023

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

## 2024

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

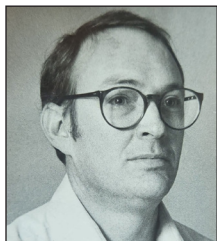
## 2025

Russ Junck, Retired Shop Teacher  
Doug Pearson, 1963

**Would you like to volunteer?** There are various committees that alumni can join! If you'd like to help with the Scarlet Celebration, EHS Golf Tourney and other alumni events, contact us at: [info@desmoinesehsalumni.com](mailto:info@desmoinesehsalumni.com)

*Retired East High School Industrial Arts Teacher (Auto Shop)*

*East High School, 1968–2002*



Russ Junck's teaching career at East High School ended the way it began: with a dedication to educating and inspiring students

through industrial arts—particularly auto shop. A trailblazer in hands-on education, Russ was a driving force behind the modernization of vocational programs at East. During his 34-year career, he was known not only for his technical knowledge but also for his unmatched commitment to connecting students with real-world opportunities.

Throughout his career, Russ forged impactful partnerships between East's shop classes and local businesses, such as Copy Systems, McFarland Auto Body, Townsend Engineering and A/E Dairy. These collaborations gave students invaluable exposure to industry practices and career paths. Working with East's Counseling Department, he brought in post-graduation programs and vocational representatives to help students understand how to align their class choices with their long-term goals.

Understanding the importance of celebrating achievement and community support, Russ launched the "Shop BBQ"—an

end-of-year tradition that honored East's innovative programs and the businesses that supported them. This highly anticipated event brought together students, local partners, school board members, Polk County supervisors, retired educators and post-secondary program representatives. It stood as a testament to the powerful network Russ built to support East's students.

Beyond the shop floor, Russ served on several school committees focused on data desegregation and improving education for East's diverse student body. He was a passionate advocate for equity, always seeking ways to enhance teaching and learning across the campus.

For thousands of students, Russ became more than a teacher. He was a mentor, a role model and a steady presence in their formative years. Whether or not they pursued careers in industrial technology, students carried with them the core principles he instilled: be on time, be trustworthy, be dependable, be accountable, do your best work, be polite and always keep learning. These "workforce job skills," as he called them, were lessons for life.

Russ Junck's legacy lives on not just in East High's programs, but in the success stories of the countless students he inspired. He is a true icon in East High School history.



Doug Pearson's remarkable journey began at East High School, where he graduated in 1963 as editor of the class newspaper and was widely regarded by peers

as "the smartest student in our class." That early promise blossomed into a life of academic distinction, groundbreaking work in economics and transformative community leadership.

Doug attended Grinnell College beginning in 1963, where he majored in applied economics and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1967. A true liberal arts scholar, his studies encompassed history, literature, philosophy and the social sciences. During his time at Grinnell, he was named a prestigious Woodrow Wilson National Fellow.

Following Grinnell, Doug entered the elite economics graduate program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. There, he earned his master's degree in financial economics and completed all PhD coursework. His scholarly work—especially on the Federal Reserve's role in the Great Depression—was groundbreaking and has been cited in numerous economic journals under "DC Pearson" and "ID Pearson 1970." Twice during his graduate studies, he was awarded a Ford Foundation National Fellowship. While teaching undergraduate economics courses, he developed a talent for connecting real-world applications to academic theory.

In 1970, Doug began a distinguished 40-year career in community development, starting with the City of Madison under the

renowned Sol Levin. He worked in multiple Wisconsin cities, creating over 6,000 new jobs and helping retain more than 5,000 others. He was instrumental in developing over 500,000 square feet of industrial space and crafting innovative tax and financing strategies to retain businesses. His work earned him a Ford Foundation Award for job creation and another for his pioneering work in low-income housing.

Doug's first housing project—providing supervised work for residents of the Winnebago School for Persons with Mental Challenges—led to the development of 250 low-rent housing units. The program's success and impact were so profound that it was replicated in cities across the United States, earning Doug a Ford Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award.

He was also honored by community and faith-based organizations, including a veterans association and his local church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he concluded his career.

Doug passed away peacefully on December 12, 2024, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife, Sheri; daughters Curly and Kandis; and five of his six siblings.

All the Pearson siblings—Diane Pearson Van Gundy (1953), Keith Pearson (1956, deceased), Cynthia Pearson Murray (1957), Ronald Pearson (1958), David Pearson (1961) and Timothy Pearson (1968) graduated from East. Doug joins Ron and Tim as a Hall of Fame inductee.

A brilliant thinker, compassionate leader, and proud Christian, Douglas Charles Pearson exemplified what it means to live a life of purpose, impact, and integrity.



2025 EHS **SERVICE OF HUMANITY** AWARD

## Dr. Neal N. Llewellyn

CLASS OF 1951, POSTHUMOUS RECIPIENT

Dr. Neal N. Llewellyn never forgot his roots at East High School, graduating with the Class of 1951. His lifelong loyalty to East was evident in both his generous philanthropy and his enduring advocacy for the school's mission: For the Service of Humanity.

When East High launched a capital campaign in the early 2000s for a major building expansion and renovation, Neal established a foundation that became a key supporter of the project. His generosity also extended to student success: He provided ongoing support for both the Class of 1951 Scholarship and the Neal N. Llewellyn Scholarship. Over the years, he contributed generously to the Heritage Club as well.

Born in 1933 in the coal-mining town of Spring Hill, Iowa, Neal was raised in Des Moines and proudly graduated from East High. He earned a degree in chemistry and mathematics from Drake University in 1955, then graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1959. After a rotating internship at Cincinnati General Hospital, he completed his general surgery residency in Iowa City in 1964 and became board certified in 1965.

Neal began his career with a year of service at the Veterans Administration Hospital before joining the surgical practice of

Scanlon, Dulin, and Yetter at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City. Known for his skilled hands and compassionate heart, Neal left lasting impressions on his patients. One former burn patient remembered him in a tribute: "Twenty years later, we met again, and he remembered me and asked how I was doing. I could see the kindness in his eyes. ...All I can say now is thank you."

In 1966, Neal answered the call to service and was commissioned in the U.S. Navy. He served aboard the U.S.S. Haven and at Long Beach Naval Hospital before being deployed to South Vietnam in 1968. There, he was assigned to the 1st Marine Division and stationed in Danang and Chu Lai. For his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star.

After his honorable discharge, he returned to Iowa City and resumed his surgical practice at Mercy Hospital, where he remained until his retirement in 1996.

Dr. Neal N. Llewellyn passed away at the age of 90 in June 2024 in Iowa City. He left behind a legacy of medical excellence, dedicated military service and unwavering commitment to his alma mater. The East High School Alumni Association is proud to honor Dr. Neal Llewellyn with the posthumous **Service of Humanity Award**.

# East High Student Athletic Hall of Fame Recipients

Alcala, Chino 2015	Darrah, DeMareo 2002	James, Xavier 2013
Anderson, Derrold 1943	Davis, Lunnon 1940	Jarnigan, Wes 1941
Ashby, Lucius 1917	Denning, Mike 1981	Jensen, Scott 2008
Ault, Earl 1949	Dilley, Ken 1940	Johnson, "Jock" 1967
Baethke, (Beckman) Elizabeth 1990	Dilley, Ray 1940	Jones, Bobby 1952
Baird, Rolla 1910	Doyle, (Nelson) Jodi 1981	Jordan, Aaron 2007
Baker, Ray 1948	Eaton, Nick 2006	Kaiser, Frank 1939
Barber, Donald 1950	Edmonds, Johnelle 1988	Kaiser, Ray 1951
Barker, Wayne 1960	Eisenlauer, Dick 1971	Kelly, John 1967
Bauman, Lorri 1980	Eldridge, George 1952	Kohlbusch, Bobe 1952
Baumeister, Angie 2005	Englund, John 1951	Kouri, Nicole 2005
Beener, Jackie 2000	Enochs, Connor 2015	Labus, Gene 1949
Bell, Steve 1965	Fevold, Keith 1976	Lamar, Sharnae 2011
Benshoof, Harlan 1945	Fields, LaVern 1950	Leuthauser, Dennis 1966
Betts, Clark 1960	Fisher, Riley 2012	Lewis, Chico 1977
Boatwright, Maynard 1944	Foresman, Ron 1981	Lingren, Rick 1981
Bowers, Cody 2008	Forest, Judy 1979	Link, Whitney 2006
Bradley, Sam 1954	Frakes, Dick 1956	Logan, Sean 2008
Brady, Gerald Lee 1948	Frakes, Randy 1982	Loyd, Harvey 1965
Brouwer, Ryan 2007	Frazier, Harry 1954	Lucas, Fred 1952
Brown, April 2013	Gaines, Nijay 2011	Maigaard, Ralph 1950
Burgett, Gayle 1952	Gatewood, Alfred 1950	Marble, Roichelle 2014
Burke, Bill 1953	Glenn, Marque 2003	Mash, William "Bill" 1940
Burnett, Kenneth 1956	Grandquist, Martin 1943	Mays, Tia 2008
Burrell, (Lowery) Opie 1982	Grant, Robert 1965	McDonald, Chad 1991
Burrell, Shareece 2014	Green, Sylvester 1953	McGriff, (Petty) Michelle 1990
Butts, Shronda 2011	Greenwood, (Sherman) Sue 1981	McQuerry, Chuck 1956
Byers, Dow 1913	Grochala, Jessica 2012	Metcalf, Watson 1912
Byers, William "Mac" 1916	Grochala, Steve 1937	Michelsen, Rob 1975
Caldwell, Antione 1980	Gustafson, David 1971	Miller, Glenn 1942
Campbell, Herk 1952	Hall, Jason 1992	Milligan, Shelly 1991
Carlson, Marty 1946	Hansen, Robert 2014	Morrow, Curtis 1982
Carlson, Shannon 1993	Hatchitt, Rob 1927	Murphy, Laurel 2008
Carmichael, Colby 2014	Hatfield, Carrie 2006	Murray, Don 1951
Carroll, Jennifer 1988	Hayes, London 2004	O'Boyle, Bill 1982
Chumbley, (Hickman) Missy 1992	Hearshman, Bill 1944	O'Boyle, Harry 1923
Clark, Ernest "Jim" 1955	Heath, (McGuire) Desiree "Desi" 1983	O'Boyle, Kevin 1971
Coleman, Kip 1989	Hecker-Geiger, Heidi 1983	O'Boyle, Tom 1950
Collins, Tracee 1995	Helverson, Scott 1981	Olls, Anthony "Tony" 1926
Contreras, Jose (Pepé) 2012	Hermann, William 1937	Orris, Bill 1956
Cook, Riley 1958	Howell, Kim 2004	Overturff, Vane 1916
Cronin, Bill 1971	Humphrey, Jr., Walter R. 1989	Patterson, John 1916
Crum, Anthony 1997	Hurley, Becca 2007	Penenger, Glen 1959
Dafney, (Williams) Lonnie 1988	Issa, Neil 2007	Peters, Howard 1949
	James, Joe 1989	Peters, William "Bill" 1951
		Phaydavong, Scott 2003
		Phipps, Richard 1949

Pierick, Thomas 1956	Shelton, Tom 1991	1929
Potter, Dick 1953	Shockley, Jack 1950	Tillman, Art 1953
Powell, Tom 1969	Shultice, Don 1982	Tuinstra, Ted 1962
Prettyman, Ashley 2011	Simon, (Gallagher) Micheale 1986	Tyler, Troy 1988
Radley, Jennifer 2007	Simpson, Alycia 1985	Van Dorn, Del 1941
Reed, Jermaine 1990	Sloan, Paul 1946	Vry, Kylie 2009
Reese, Jason 1986	Smith, Caesar 1982	Wade, Dick 1951
Reese, Rick 1975	Sorensen, Art 1944	Walters, Dr. E. Vance 1944
Renfro, James 1981	Standley, Chris 1997	Walters, Earl "Pete" 1920
Rider, Jack 1946	Steele, Lindsay 2002	Walters, Jim 1949
Riley, (Davis) DeVona 1990	Story, Robert "Bob" 1942	Waters, Samantha 2006
Robinson, Kim 2009	Stout, Jodi 1989	White, Bill 1942
Roland, Aubrey 2012	Swanson, Dick 1944	Whitmer, George 1916
Rook, Ralph 1945	Swanson, John 2009	Willis, (Edmonds) Lisa 1987
Roorda, (Reynolds) Diane 1982	Taylor, Jesse 1940	Wilson, Harold 1961
Rowat, Lynn 1968	Terrell, Henry "Hank" 1943	Wragge, (Kramme) Kari 1969
Sandon, Steve 1978	Terrell, Jack N. 1952	Wright, Markisha 2011
Sauls, Ashton 2005	Terrell, Kenneth 1948	Wyatt, Lucian 1958
Schultz, (Eyerly) Pam 1981	Thomas JR, Larry 1981	Young Jr., Larry 1986
Scully, (Ginther) Lorrie 1984	Thomas, Jim 1957	Zelenovich, Jeff 2003
Sellers, Mattison 2008	Thompson, Robert 2005	Ziegler, Malique 2014
Shade, Myke 2008	Thompson, Walter "Hauge"	Zust, Amanda 2006
		Zust, Bob 1951

## East High Coaching Athletic Hall of Fame Recipients

Augustine, Mike 1926 – 1955	Phipps, Richard Class of 1949, 1972 – 1982
Burgett, Gayle, Class of 1952, Assistant for several sports 1967 - 1998	Powell, Ric 1985 – 1992
Carlson, Marty 1954 – 1963	Powell, Sam 2002 – 2012
Graves, Don 1974 – 2000	Rice, Don 1973 – 1982
Hanson, Bob 1976 – 1982, 2003 - 2004	Russell, "Scotty" 1921 - 1957
Hanson, Sharon 1976 – 1982, 2003 - 2004	Savage, Bob 1951 – 2006
Hostetter, Alvyn G. (A.G.) 1921 - 1943	Sutherland, Chuck 1974 – 1996
Ligouri, Bob 2002 - 2012	Webb, Wendell 1946 – 1954

## Supporters of EHS Athletics

*The people listed below have made significant contributions to the athletic program other than coaching or participating in East Athletics.*

*Note – those without a graduation listed did not graduate from East High School.*

Anderson, Robert Dr. 1946	Johnson, Richard "Dick"
Clark, Mark 1976	Powell, Ric 1976
Hockensmith, Tom 1974	Saddoris, Woody 1963
Hurley, Mark	Whitney, Tom 1962

# Additional EHS Athletic Inductees

East High School athletes with significant accomplishments outside of East High Athletics

Name	Class	Accomplishment	HOF Induction
Atzeni, Tony	1974	Iowa Sports broadcaster recognized by the Iowa Broadcasters and News Association for Special-ty Shows in 2010. AM 1350 KRNT	Sept. 13, 2013
Baltzley, Frank	1962	Was named State Wrestling Coach of the Year in 1993. Named to Halls of Fame for Drake, IH-SAA, East Wrestling, and National Wrestling Coaches Hall of fame	Sept. 9, 2011
Coldiron, Bill	1950	Named National High School Golf Coach of the Year in 1995.	Sept. 18, 2009
Cronin, Jeff	1986	Jeff Played Professional Baseball for the Durham Bulls (Atlanta Braves organization) for 3 years.	Sept. 14, 2012
Kinzel, Warren	1954	Guided Ankeny to its first state Boys' Track Championship in 1969.	Sept. 9, 2011
O'Boyle, Mike	1969	Started the Wrestling Program in Fairfield, Illinois. Inducted into the Illinois High Schools Coaches Association HOF.	Sept. 9, 2011
Owens, Richard "Red"	1952	Inducted into National Wrestling Coaches HOF	Sept. 17, 2010
Peterson, Randy	1969	Sports writer for the DM Register for 37 years	Sept. 19, 2008
Schartner, Jerry	1956	Has been inducted into the Grand View College HOF and the Iowa Girls' Coaches Association HOF	Sept. 17, 2010
Sisam, Dave	1948	First inductee into the Grandview Hall of Fame	Sept. 17, 2010
Walling, Shari	1979	Coached Urbandale and Johnston swim teams and earned Conference Coach of the Year 14 times.	Sept. 17, 2010
Yacinich, Lou	1959	Hall of Fame Baseball Coach at Grandview University. Inductee of several Halls of Fame.	Sept. 19, 2014

ALLEN ASHBY - Class of 1925

2025 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Allen Ashby, who passed away in 1985, was a 1925 East High School graduate who excelled in football, basketball, wrestling and tennis.

Allen was a state champion

in tennis in 1925 (the first year tennis was recognized as a sport at East), and he is being inducted into the East High School Athletic Hall of Fame for his tennis

accomplishments in high school and beyond. Allen was inducted as the first Black member of the Iowa Tennis Association Hall of Fame in 1979.

He attended and played football at Grinnell College for one year. In 1929, Allen organized the Hilltop Tennis Tournament, primarily for Black players. He also conducted tennis clinics at Good Park and around Des Moines to draw more young Black players to the sport.

In addition to being a tennis player, tournament organizer and instructor, Allen was a sports columnist for the Iowa Bystander, and served on boards for the YMCA and Boys' Club of Iowa.

## **TOM HAND** - Wrestling Coach

## **2025 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE**

*East High School wrestling coach, 1956 - 1972*



Coach Tom Hand, who passed away in 2002, is being inducted into the East High School Athletic Hall of Fame for his overall contributions to high school wrestling. He is already a member of the Iowa High School

Athletic Association Wrestling Hall of Fame and considered a pioneer of the sport in Iowa.

When he began coaching at East in 1956, there were only 65 Iowa high schools with wrestling programs, so he became an ambassador for the sport. Tom often

invited other schools and coaches to the East wrestling room to learn more about the sport. Tom also took his team to other schools for demonstrations and often made TV appearances introducing wrestling to the public.

He coached at East High School for 17 years, qualifying many of his wrestlers for state competition, and several of his former athletes went on to be coaches as well.

Before becoming an East High School coach and teacher, Tom graduated from Emmetsburg High School, lettered in football at the University of Iowa and was even drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 1946. He served with the U.S. Marines for 22 months during WWII, taking a break from sports before his final year at Iowa.

## **BRIAN LUFT** - Baseball Coach

## **2025 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE**

*East High School baseball coach, 1998 - 2022*



Coach Brian Luft is being inducted into the East High School Athletic Hall of Fame for his overall accomplishments as an Iowa high school baseball coach, with his 24

years coaching at East as the centerpiece.

He was inducted into the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2022. Brian had a 30-year career coaching Iowa

high school baseball and logged his 600th win in 2019 against Clarke High School. At the time, he became one of only 50 high school baseball coaches in Iowa to reach 600 victories.

He led the Scarlets to several conference championships and made the Iowa High School State Baseball Tournament twice. He achieved 553 wins with East Baseball and 638 total victories in his career.

Although Brian Luft is no longer a baseball coach, he still teaches physical education at East.

# 2025 East High School Scholarship Recipients

*The East High Alumni Foundation awarded \$206,200 in scholarships to 57 deserving East High School graduates on April 24, 2025. Congratulations!*

Atong Agang	Anyeli Garcia Martinez	Angelynn Ly	Christopher Ramirez-
Cooper Baccam	Amarnauth Gobin	Nicole Marquez	Chavez
Alexander Beveridge	Yara Gomez	Yovani Marquez Lopez	Oscar Rangel
Hunter Christenson	Karen Gonzalez-	Kaylee Marquez	Marty Reed
Dexter Clark	Martinez	Mayorga	Jonathan Reyes
Kandi Colin-Ramirez	Yesenia Granados-	Jennifer Martinez-	Jason Rivas
Selena Constanza-	Martinez	Martinez	Lisbeth Rodriguez
Chavez	Emiliano Guzman	Karla Montero	Zander Ross
Evelyn Cruz Gregorio	Ansira Irakoza	Brandon Montes-	Esmeralda Saldana-
Hannah Dank	Deluck Irakoze	Rosales	Hernandez
Hope Davies	Nia Johnson	Leo Nguyen	Felipe Sánchez
Michelle De Santiago	Cora Knoop	Bach Nguyen	Rileigh Schillinger
Saldana	Emma Krumrey	Karla Nino-Villalobos	Aiden Smith
Landon Eam	Samantha Landeros-	Florance Nshimirimana	Mikayla Smith
Alfredo Espana	Contreras	Amaya Polk	Mikaela Treptow
Karlie Flam	Salu Lee	Prajai Rai	Jessica Valdez-Hidalgo
Emmanuel Garcia	Jomar Leon		Noralan Warsame

## 2025 EHS Scholarships by Class

*The following totals are as of 5/22/2025. Once a class reaches \$10,000, the annual amount awarded is 5% of the class total. Many thanks for the generosity.*

Class of 1925-1937 Legacy .....	\$13,311	Class of 1968 .....	\$18,362
Class of 1938.....	\$11,657	Class of 1969 .....	\$24,132
Class of 1939.....	\$35,022	Class of 1970.....	\$20,123
Class of 1940, 1942, 1943, 1944 WWII.....	\$24,075	Class of 1971.....	\$9,365
Class of 1941.....	\$34,273	Class of 1972.....	\$12,715
Class of 1945.....	\$11,320	Class of 1973.....	\$32,405
Class of 1946.....	\$58,576	Class of 1974.....	\$20,658
Class of 1947.....	\$109,590	Class of 1975.....	\$14,301
Class of 1948.....	\$47,879	Class of 1976.....	\$48,783
Class of 1949.....	\$46,033	Class of 1977.....	\$6,435
Class of 1950.....	\$22,973	Class of 1978.....	\$40,205
Class of 1951.....	\$638,773	Class of 1979.....	\$22,026
Class of 1952.....	\$32,736	Class of 1980 .....	\$1,867
Class of 1953 .....	\$23,039	Class of 1981.....	\$925
Class of 1954.....	\$11,390	Class of 1982.....	\$8,120
Class of 1955.....	\$13,427	Class of 1983 .....	\$5,421
Class of 1956.....	\$40,446	Class of 1984 .....	\$733
Class of 1957.....	\$15,975	Class of 1985 .....	\$11,065
Class of 1958.....	\$48,092	Class of 1986 .....	\$546
Class of 1959.....	\$17,973	Class of 1987.....	\$15,661
Class of 1960.....	\$69,947	Class of 1988 .....	\$15,000
Class of 1960 Paul F. Rieman Memorial		Class of 1989.....	\$1,150
Scholarship.....	\$5,000	Class of 1990 .....	\$537
Class of 1961.....	\$12,502	Class of 1991.....	\$400
Class of 1962.....	\$9,750	Class of 1992.....	\$2,825
Class of 1963.....	\$11,558	Class of 1993.....	\$1,811
Class of 1964.....	\$22,672	Class of 1994.....	\$2,059
Class of 1965.....	\$27,903	Class of 1995.....	\$6,777
Class of 1966.....	\$15,198	Class of 1996 .....	\$475
Class of 1967.....	\$25,334	Class of 1997.....	\$348

## 2025 EHS Scholarship by Class (continued)

Class of 1998 .....	\$159	Class of 2008 .....	\$397
Class of 1999 .....	\$1,222	Class of 2009 .....	\$20
Class of 2000 .....	\$1,030	Class of 2010 .....	\$60
Class of 2001 .....	\$495	Class of 2011 .....	\$10
Class of 2002 .....	\$8,161	Class of 2014 .....	\$50
Class of 2003 .....	\$365	Class of 2016 .....	\$20
Class of 2004 .....	\$950	Class of 2017 .....	\$15
Class of 2005 .....	\$34	Class of 2019 .....	\$499
Class of 2006 .....	\$2	Class of 2020 .....	\$180
Class of 2007 .....	\$125	Class of 2022 .....	\$332

## 2025 EHS Named Scholarships

*These individuals and groups are dedicated to East High graduates’ futures. Thank you!*

Alice Wolvek and Joseph Wolvek	Memorial	Mike Augustine Foundation- Male
Amend Family	EHS Cheerleader	Mildred Corey
Ben Witten John Wakefield	Florence Coughlan Sucher Jebe	Natali Justiniano Pahl
Bill and Billie Walling 2016 Memorial	Memorial	Opal Johnson Plummer Class of '29 Memorial
Bill Jensen 1949 Memorial	Formaro Family	Patrick Logan
Bob and Gayle Johnson	Franklin D Matzke Memorial	Paul Rogness EHS Golf Classic
Capital Campaign General Scholarship Designation	Friends for Life Class of 1985	Pearl Wakefield Memorial
Charles E Gregory Memorial	Gary and Jean Wistrom	Ralph Maigaard
Cindie Robinette and Kathy Pauscher	Memorial	Robert and Gayle Johnson
Clark Family	George W and Joan Coffey	Robert M and Mike Press Art
Clemenson-Pabon Stepper 1974	Sullivan	Robert Marion Rothfus
Cliff and Nadine Layton Memorial	Gilbert Rogers	Roger Tornell Memorial
Clinton Allan Woodard Memorial	Gladstone Rees	Rolland Rollstin
Clinton L Collins	Grete Lorraine Kramme	Ross Welsher
Dennis Lee Grant Memorial	Endowed	Rusty James Memorial
Dennis Sisters: Phoebe	Herbert Specker	Ruth Hunt
Margaret Betty and Marilyn	Ione Ball Edwards	Ruth Jeffries Memorial
Dick Johnson	Jack Hartung	Scarlet Strong - M/F
Don and Dolores Peterson Taylor	James and Maxine Stamos	Scott Waychott Memorial
Donald and Lois (Plummer) Hartline Classes '48 and '49	Memorial	Service of Humanity - M/F
Donald G Proudfit Memorial	Jeff Hall Memorial	Sharon Burris Howze
Donald G Proudfit Vocational	Jerrold A Wanek Memorial	Shirley Robinette Memorial
Donald McGillivray Memorial	Jerry Watters Memorial	Stephen and Susan Taylor
Donna Shoning Smith Memorial	Jim and Marilyn Dennis Wilson	Steven R Kaldenberg
Dorothy McDonough Memorial	Jim Boswell Memorial	Suzanne "Tudy" Mains 1960 Honorary
Dr Richard M and Ellen Sideman Caplan	Joe Woxell Memorial	Suzanne "Tudy" Mains 1960 Memorial
Dr. Betty Huffman 1964	John and Nadine Skinner	The Llewellyn Scholarship
Dr. Jack Hatchitt Memorial	John H Lethcoe	Thomas C. Anderson Memorial
Dr. Mark D. Kelly Scholarship '71	John M Airy Family	Vicki Carr Zelenovich 1970 Memorial
Dr. Mark D. Kelly Scholarship '71-II	Josephine Frey Memorial	Wakefield Scholar (Dr. John Wakefield)
Dr. Robert Denny Memorial	Joyce A Fife Memorial	Wendell T Webb
Eddie and Alberta Johnson	Leatha Neagle Torode Arthur Art Wartburg	Wetzel Family-Dorraine Wetzel Schuling-June '50, John (Jack) Wetzel Jan '53, Norma Wetzel Twohil-June
	Leslie Dahl	
	Leslie Simmons Meadows	
	Memorial	
	Lowell and Marilyn Bjork	
	Kramme	
	Luther James Rothfus Memorial	
	Marge Lankford	
	Maxine and James Stamos	
	Mike Augustine Foundation- Female	

# 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 and Manufacturing, Information Technology, Health Sciences, Business and Automotive and Transportation.

To learn more about Avenue Scholars, visit [www.avescholarsdesmoines.org](http://www.avescholarsdesmoines.org)



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

## OUR EMCEES

### Ross Peterson - Class of 1996



Ross Peterson 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. 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.

## THANK YOU

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

**Gail Baker**, Class of 1976, for copy editing and program assistance.

**Golf Cars of Iowa** 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. **Alexis Russal** for taking photos at tonight's Scarlet Celebration. **Kent Reed** (Class of 1982) for the custom Hall of Fame gift and driving the golf carts today.

Special thanks go to **Jill Versteeg**, EHS Principal, and **Natalie Madsen**, Alumni Foundation liaison counselor. Also, many thanks to **Kristen Borel**, **Lauren Brandt-Erickson**, **Ashlee Diumstra**, and **Jana McClelland**, 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 Peters** and **EHS baseball players**, and Football and Track Coach **Josh DeWaard** for their help and involvement in the Scarlet Celebration.

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## BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

### 2024-2025 EHS Alumni Foundation Board

Jeff White, 1987, President  
Joe Van Haalen, 1987, Vice President  
Brian Newton, 1992, Treasurer  
Connie Fulk Boesen, 1969  
Jay Fisher, 1982  
Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972, EHSAA President  
Leslie Bryant Mayo, 1987  
Kris Miller Young, 1969  
Dave Penake, 1997

### 2024-2025 EHS Alumni Association Board

Kathy Kahler, 1972, President  
Pam White Bradford, 1973, Vice President  
Brian Newton, 1992, Treasurer  
Tom Crawford, 1982  
Nancy Pike Elliott, 1968  
Tracey Gabriel Foley, 1987  
David Maxwell, 1989  
Michelle Petty McGriff, 1990  
Carla Simpson Ruble, 1988, Co-Treasurer  
Laura Luce Stewart, 2000

### 2025 Scholarship Committee

Jay Fisher, 1982, Chair  
Jeff White, 1987  
Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972  
Joe Van Haalen, 1987  
Nancy Pike Elliott, 1968  
Glenna Frank, 1998  
Kent Reed, 1982

### 2025 Scarlet Celebration Committee

Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972, Chair  
Tracey Gabriel Foley, 1987  
Connie Fulk Boesen 1969  
Jeff White, 1987

Julie Christiansen West, 1976  
Laura Luce Stewart, 2000  
Pam White Bradford, 1972  
Michelle Petty McGriff, 1990  
Carla Simpson Ruble, 1988  
Rosie Bly, 1967  
Kent Reed, 1982  
Joleen Weller, 1994  
Erin Lowe, 1995  
John Walling, 1982  
Kris Miller Young, 1969  
Nancy Pike Elliott, 1968

### 2025 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

### Alumni Hall of Fame Committee

Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972, Chair  
Jeff White, 1987

### Athletic Hall of Fame Committee

Retired Coach Mark Hurley  
Retired Coach Don Graves  
Shannon Carlson, 1993  
Kathy Johnson Kahler, 1972  
Michelle Petty McGriff, 1990  
JR Randall, EHS Activities Director  
Shari Walling, 1979  
Jeff White, 1987

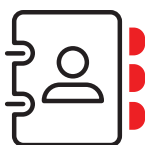


## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

148<sup>th</sup> All-Alumni Scarlet Celebration  
**JUNE 6, 2026**

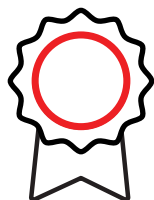
149<sup>th</sup> All-Alumni Scarlet Celebration  
**JUNE 12, 2027**

150<sup>th</sup> All-Alumni Scarlet Celebration  
**JUNE 10, 2028**



We want to stay in touch with you. Please help us update our database. Send us your current email and mailing addresses to:

[info@desmoinesehsalumni.com](mailto:info@desmoinesehsalumni.com)



We are accepting 2026 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/hof-nomination-form](https://desmoinesehsalumni.com/hof-nomination-form)



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

**East High Alumni Foundation**

**1415 28th St., Suite 400**

**West Des Moines, IA 50266**

Or donate online at [desmoinesehsalumni.com](https://desmoinesehsalumni.com).  
*Gifts over \$100 from Iowa residents are eligible to receive additional tax benefits through Endow Iowa.*



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