FALL 2020



LTHS ALUMNI NEWS VITA PLENA

We are very disappointed about being unable to meet in person and to gather at Homecoming. So you can reconnect with your alma mater, we've created a virtual Homecoming. Please join us and refresh your memories of the people, places and experiences that make LTHS so special.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"It's a little bit overwhelming to see everybody here considering the things that have gone on the last few months since we've been off the planet," said NASA/SpaceX astronaut Doug Hurley at a Houston press conference upon his return from the International Space Station on August 2, 2020.

This quote would fit quite nicely at the start of a science fiction novel to urge the reader to read on to discover what horrible things happened to our planet Earth. Unfortunately, we have all been living in this non-fiction story the past six months. When Doug Hurley launched on March 30, our country was in the early stages of closing down due to the pandemic. LT had just closed its physical doors to students and teachers with the hopes of reopening in late April or early May. George Floyd was killed just five days prior and the resulting protests and very valid discussions for social and racial injustice were just beginning.

So, what did all this mean for LT and the Alumni Association? To answer this, I urge you all to go to the Lyons Township website at www.lths.net and browse around. You will find the administration, teachers and students

adapting to the events of the past six months. You will see LT started the year on a virtual basis. All but six IHSA approved fall sports and activities have been suspended. The summer reading list included books on social justice. The special Board of Education meeting of July 27 dealt exclusively with equity and social justice as it relates to our school and learning. You can also visit the Lyons Township Alumn Facebook group (not sanctioned by the school administration). This 8800-member group of alumni had such a vibrant discussion that it went from a public group to a private group with some content restrictions. Bottom line, the issues of the past six months had and will have a lasting effect on our students, staff and teachers - not to mention all of us who have graduated from LT.

Some good news. The South Campus electronic marquee is up and running thanks to a substantial donation from the Alumni Association. We also helped fund a Wall of Honor just outside the North Campus cafeteria which honors all of our LT military heroes. And, our annual scholarships were presented in a virtual awards ceremony.

Now for the bad news about Homecoming and reunions for 2020. There will be no Homecoming football game this fall. All eight 2020 reunions have been postponed or cancelled. On the flip side, we may welcome 15 reunions gathering at LT in 2021... hopefully. Now is the time to seek out your class Facebook and websites, join them and use them to keep together as a group.

Please go to the LTHS.net site and join/renew your membership to the Alumni Association. As a member, you will get all of our newsletters and communications. While you are there, send us an update. As always, check out our Hall of Fame site and consider nominating classmates you feel worthy of this great honor.

Stay healthy everybody! I hope I will see many of you at Homecoming 2021.

Jay Cozza Class of '75



President, Lyons Township Alumni Association jayfcozza@aol.com

ALUMNI BOARD



John Polacek 60



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Bush 63





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Charles

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'86



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McDougal



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Ivana Gentile **'07**

LTHS ALUMNI NEWS

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VIRTUAL HOMECOMING

Unfortunately, the coronavirus has forced LT and nearly every other district nationwide to cancel, postpone or re-imagine Homecoming festivities. Eight class reunions were also forced to cancel or postpone their celebrations this fall.

As disappointed as we are about missed opportunities to reconnect with classmates and with LT in person, the Alumni Association has created several virtual opportunities to help spark memories and reminisce.

Building Tours

The Alumni Association will welcome alumni back onto campus with virtual North Campus and South Campus building tours, including spaces few have ever seen, namely the bell tower and the inner workings of the tower clock. Stops in the Corral, renovated student cafeteria and Reber Center are also parts of the tour.

Audio Archive

Thanks to generous donations of graduates, the Alumni Association has collected a few dozen recordings of choirs, bands and plays of decades past. Log on to the website to see the

playlist and download a recording or two. Some recordings include, Class of '59 Soundtrack, 1964 Spring Music Fesival, Corral Show 69 - Wooden You and Jazz Band '79.



To help fill the sports gap during what would have been Homecoming weekend, WLTL Radio 88.1FM will host a Friday Night Lights Classic, a rebroadcast of one of LT's famed football games. Tune in to WLTL Friday, October 2, at 7pm to hear LT vs. Downers Grove North, the Homecoming football game from September 27, 2014. If you live locally, tune in to 88.1FM on your radio dial or online at www.wltl.net.

Virtual Parade

This fall would have marked LT's 90th Homecoming parade. While students and alumni will not be marching from North Campus to South Campus as they traditionally do, the Alumni Office has put together a slideshow of past and more recent Homecoming parades. View the tremendous paper floats that were painstakenly pieced together over weeks and the classic cars driven by classic alumni.



Sing along to the LT band as they play the school song, originally written by Thomas Weller Kimball, Class of 1909.

School Song

Lastly, be sure to don your best gold and blue and listen in and sing along to a recording of an LT band playing the school song.







VIRTUAL HOMECOMING

The 2020-2021 Home-coming festivities have been re-imagined and feature several virtual "events." Beginning on what would have been our Homecoming weekend - October 2-3 - be sure to visit the district website: www.lths.net/alum





ALUMNI NOTES...

FACULTY:

Nancy Gorman, retired jewelry and ceramic teacher, will be exhibiting her ceramic works at the 47th Annual Hinsdale Fine Arts Festival in Hinsdale, IL.

Paul Davis, MBA, CFP, CPCU, EA is proud to be a member of his class and felt like an underachiever in a class of giants while at LT, setting a standard that could not help but motivate. He appreciated the rigor of LT's academics and the inclusivity of the student body. He is seeking to add several of his classmates to the LT Hall of Fame.

Richard "Dick" Riley and '59 Karen (Lindberg) will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Richard is a retired Captain and Assistant

Chief

of the

Down-

Grove

Depart-

ment.

Fire

ers



Rileys at Prom 1959

grandparents to seven grandchildren and will

become great-grandparents

to a baby girl soon.



Rileys today



Class of '59! Nothing finer! (Left to right) Sue Schierholtz, Judy Susarrey Montgomery, Nancy Eustice Crown and Joe Parsons

670 Richard Jeffrey is an author, composer and Choral Director. His writings



include choral works for seven publishing companies and can be heard on You-Tube. He resides in Lemont with his wife, Susan.

Anne (Zoll)
Merino released
her first novel, Hawkesmoor.
She gives a huge shout out
to LTHS teachers Dr. Zalewsky (English) and Mike
Drake (Theatre) who taught
her so much about writing
and storytelling!

BODavid Callahan joined the brand communication team at KTH Royal Institute of

Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. He served as public information officer



at KTH since 2013. In this capacity he drove social media strategy for the university and supported communication for major events including Stephen Hawking's Hawking Radiation conference and U.S. President Barack Obama's state visit to Sweden. He lives in Uppsala with his wife, visual artist Anna Lilias, and his three children. A former musical performer and recording artist, he recently released new work under the moniker, Half Sky.

Box Dave Moravek became the Pres-

ident/CEO of the Colerain Chamber of Commerce in Cincinnati, Ohio.



82 Steven Darnall

is the current host of Those Were the Days on WDCB-FM. Now in his 11th year at the helm, the show about the Golden Age of Radio is about to celebrate its 50th anniversary, which means it's been on the air longer than the entire Golden Age of Radio.

Martha (Podhorn)
Engber published her second novel, Winter Light, a story of an at-risk teen set in a school and town similar to LT and LaGrange.

697 Christopher Chin opened
Beach Avenue BBQ restaurant in Brookfield, IL.

697 Kate (Reicher)
DeProsperis
competed in her second and
final US Olympic women's
marathon trials in Atlanta.
She considers reaching
the 2012 trials as the most
unbelievable experience in
her life.

O7 Daniel and '98 Caitlin (O'Mahoney) Spain opened The Elm restaurant in downtown LaGrange with an American and seafood fare.

ALUMNI NOTES CONTINUED...

Marc Abraham fixes lifted trucks and drives them in car shows.

601 Diane (Vesecky)
Michelini
became co-principal at

Komarek School in North Riverside, IL while continuing in her current role as dean of students.

6 11 Breana Williams is organizer and co-founder of Black N' Animated and a host of the "Black N' Animated" podcast promoting visibility for Black people working in the animation industry.

Madeline
Bernstein visited
LT and spoke to AP Physics
students about opportunities
in physics. She graduated
from Harvard with a degree
in physics and is now at the
University of California,
Berkley, working on her
Ph.D. in particle physics.

Vanessa Flaherty started Vanessa Flaherty Design, an online high-luxury retail clothing line. She believes her University of Illinois business background and 2019 internship with famed fashion designer Anna Sui's brand gives her a better grasp on upcoming trends.

Hannah Greving found success in Lacrosse at Marquette University and was named Big East Freshman of the Week.

IN MEMORIAM...

1941

Shirley (Armstrong)
Meneice

1942

John F. Hallgren

1943

Robert A. Hilton

1944

John F. Mangold II Leslie "Jerry" Swenson

1945

Barbara (Walker) Neader Mary (Bainbridge) Pederson

1946

Leslie Hyerdall Arlene (Ritter) Swenson

1947

Valerie (Lemper) Bullen

1949

Nancy (Bielby) Meko William "Bill" Prichard, Jr.

Betty (Katz) Stange

1950

Dorothy "Dode" (Bieler) Barker George A. Page, Jr.

Bruce R. Scott

Edward Tank, Jr, MD

1951

James G. Carr

1953

Nancy (Holmes) Sprague

1954

John "Jack" Lahvic Robert Taube, MD Sanford "Sandy" Young

1955

Joanne (Broggi) Glover

1956

Patricia (Walters) Healy Joseph "Skip" Pierce

1957

Gary Abrell Harold Stepinsky

1959

Joseph M. Pavich

1960

Anita (Lehnert) Jones Larry Stokes

1961

Lucille "Lucy" (Pavich)
Fettig
Dewey Lonnes
Kenneth R. Krejci
Sandra (Bell) ReimersMcLaughlin

1962

George Crapple
Thomas E. Pawley
Dennis Schaefer
Barbara (DeLair) Stamm
Stephen A. Wagoner

1963

Judith (Stout) Farrer

1964

George R. Ceferin

1966

John C. Bielenberg Robert "Scott" Brower Glenn "Buzz" Schuetz

1967

James A. Mahoney Constance "Connie" (Herbert) Santaniello Diane C. Sidebotham

1968

John F. Huebner

1969

Susan (Wehrmeister) Semeizer 1971

Kevin Sarring Vicki (Anderson) Slavik

1973

Allan Loudell

1974

Daniel Josephs Mary (Stocker) Spatz

1975

Jane Barnes Nathan Hawden

1976

Russell Voyta

1982

Jeanne (Rosenwinkel) DeBoer

1984

George J. Rainey

1987

Stephen J. Bucheleres Scott Harvey

2000

Christopher Firlit

2012

Nicole Hladik

2015

Stephanie Brennan

FACULTY

Teacher/Coach
Burdett E, Barrett

Student Assistant

Saranne Milano

Teacher/CoachGary Smith

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS MAKING

LTHS opened the 2020-21 school year under a remote learning plan, and while no one's first choice, the consensus is that remote learning is going very well. Despite some minor technological glitches with a few teachers and a few students computer, several students routinely forgetting to complete their daily attendance sheet, and a few Zoom meetings needing to be relinked, overall, teachers are excited and students are engaged.

According to Student Services Division Chair Leslie Owens, "Our veteran counselors are off and running and our new counselors are asking all the right questions." Language Arts Division Chair Karen Raino added, "Now that classes have finally begun, there is a sense of relief and teachers across the board are up and running."

First Day Jitters

Math teacher Kris Blachinski said after just the second day of school, "After a few anxious days of trying to create a game plan, learning about Zoom features, dealing with a suddenly broken camera on my computer, I am elated, absolutely thrilled with the outcome of the first few days of school! Each of my students arrived to class on time and participated actively. The Zoom format succeeded without a glitch, camera fixed just in time. I'm already receiving homework questions from students via email. I'm so. so happy with their engagement!"

Teacher Collaboration

In the Physical Welfare Division, Chair Kurt Johns is excited to see the collegiality of teachers helping fellow teachers, whether it be with lesson planning or technology. Physical Education teacher Susie Murphy said, "Remote learning is not anyone's first choice... however, the goals are the same. Generate interest and share knowledge of new topics to my students. I want to watch them develop and be excited to learn about the human body in Exercise Physiology and to experience a love for SCUBA diving, so when we get back in the water, they too have the experiences of a lifetime!"

In Tammy Miller's English class, South Campus Librarian Kristen Rigano joined via Zoom to share booktalks with students, highlight the library's curbside checkout system, information on LT's library catalog from home, and BOOKFLIX, like Netflix, but for books!

Hard work and planning continue in each division, especially in Special Education and elective courses where teachers are focusing on the complicated tasks of delivering instruction remotely.

Remote learning has required more creativity. PE teacher Cassie Niego prerecorded a workout video. During the live class, students worked out with her via the pre-recording while she monitored their form in order to provide feedback. She reported, "Each one of them had creatively devel-

"Even with the immense challenge of not being physically together, our students and teachers have risen to the task and are already forming community and diving into class content. Zoom sometimes feels impersonal, but I have found that it helps everyone in the class know everyone else's names and faces more quickly. It is also been very helpful for one on one teacher student tutor sessions." - Music teacher John Musick



"I was mourning the notion that I was not going to see my students face to face. I worried about them and was sadden by the missed opportunities of personal interactions amongst their peers and with me.

However, within just a few minutes of observing my students working out live on Zoom, I was brought to tears. Each one had creatively developed a workout space and were actively engaged in the workout. In a less than ideal situation they were not quitting but



actively engaged in the rather rolling up their sleeves and workout. In a less than strategically connecting with the ideal situation they content."

- Cassie Niego, PE teacher

THE BEST OF REMOTE LEARNING

oped a workout space and were all actively engaging in the workout. They were making it work!"

Chemistry teacher Bruce Falli isn't a fan of remote learning and would prefer to interact with students face to face, but he is committed to making rigorous, engaging lessons in block scheduling. He says, "We are blessed at LT to have a community that doesn't go to school for the credit they earn as much as the knowledge and education they receive. I want that expectation to be met every day."

Outside the classroom, more than 440 student-athletes are participating in fall sports. Athletes complete daily wellness checks and are thrilled to be back on campus, according to Athletic Director John Grundke.

Activities Re-Imagined

Student Activities hosted a virtual Activities Fair and many clubs began after Labor Day. A Virtual Open House included welcome messages from Superintendent Dr. Tim Kilrea and Principal Dr. Brian Waterman. Parents had an opportunity to go through an abbreviated form of their student's schedule by viewing a video of each of their student's teachers. Teachers described the course and their expectations of the class.

The district will continue to acquire the technology needed for remote learning, including headsets and closed caption capabilities. The administration will monitor delivery of instruction and keep a close eye on Zoom fatigue students may encounter as they acclimate to remote learning.

Superintendent Tim Kilrea said, "The launch of the 2020-21 school year in remote learning has gone well. I'm so proud of both our teachers and students for being prepared and flexible. Our plan will continue to improve and evolve. Remote instruction and learning is relatively new territory for all of us and I am confident we will tackle its challenges and exceed expectations."





Chemistry students were charged with making plastic (casein) from milk and vinegar and to analyze mixtures and compounds involved at home. "Hopefully this assignment rewarded students with a happy story to share at the dinner table and enriched their education."

- Bruce Falli, Science teacher

"Teaching remotely has been a challenging but fascinating journey. I'm tasked with completely rethinking and recreating my lesson plans to work within the parameters of remote learning. I'm constantly trying to think of ways to connect with my students and engage them throughout the process. Remote learning has inspired me to be more creative as an educator. As a TEC coach, I love helping other teachers find tools and learn how to use them to increase engagement and understanding."

- Science teacher Callie Salaymeh





"Remote learning has made both students and teachers look at learning in new ways. Especially in hands on classes I think many teachers are incorporating a lot of new technology and teaching methods to engage students and help them learn the skills at home that they would normally work on in the lab environment."

- Chris Bonifas, Applied Arts teacher

REUNIONS CANCELLED OR RESCHEDULED

Class of 1960

60th Reunion

Cancelled

Class of 1961

60th Reunion

Cancelled

Class of 1971

50th Reunion

Rescheduled to 2021 Homecoming

Class of 1972

50th Reunion

Homecoming 2021

Class of 1985

35th Reunion

Rescheduled to Homecoming 2021

Class of 1990

30th Reunion

Cancelled

Class of 1995

25th Reunion

Postponed TBA

Class of 2000

20th Reunion

Rescheduled to Homecoming 2021



Let your friends and former classmates know where you are and what you're doing. Take a moment to tell us what you've been up to. Mail updates to: LTHS Alumni Association, 100 S. Brainard Ave., LaGrange, IL 60525 or email your entry and photo to: jbialobok@lths.net.

NEW MARQUEE AT SC

The marquee at South Campus was purchased in 2002 and served LT well. However, after nearly two decades, it was beginning to show its age with technological glitches and bulbs that had to be manually replaced more and more frequently. The district was hesitant to spend money on a new marquee when other projects had a higher priority. The Alumni Assoication offered up to \$50,000 to help with the purchase and installation. "This long-lasting feature is exactly the type of project the Alumni Association is interested in.The Association is all about communication—whether that be with alumni or our current students. Making connections to LT is what we're all about," said Association President Jay Cozza.

OLD



NEW















BOARD OF ED MEMBER ROSINSKY RETIRES

LT is looking to fill a school board seat vacated by the resignation of Board member Barbara Rosinsky.

Rosinsky was selected to fill a 9-month Board vacancy in 2014. She ran and was elected to the Board in 2015 and again in 2019. Over her tenure on the Board, she served in many capacities. She served as Chair of the Policy and Human Resources committees and as Board Secretary since April 2019. She also served on the Technology, Curriculum, Facilities and Negotiations committees.

"Barb has provided distinguished service for more than six years. She is highly respected by her fellow Board members, which led her to be elected to an officer position. It has been a privilege to serve with Barb, and she will be missed. On behalf of the entire Board and district, we wish her well," said President of the Board Tom Cushing.

BUSINESS MENTORS NEEDED



LT's INCubator class is in need of committed community members, engaging business leaders, and enthusiastic entrepreneurs to spend a few hours each month to help virtually guide and mentor business INCubator students through the process of developing their business plans. There

are six teams of students enrolled in this year's class, and we need some additional coaches and mentors at this point.

INCubatoredu is a course designed to get students excited about becoming entrepreneurs by giving them the opportunity to create and fully develop their own product or service. Real-world entrepreneurs and business experts serve as coaches and mentors guiding student teams through the process of ideation, market research and business plan development. Student teams present in front of actual investors so they can pitch their innovative idea to win funding and turn their wishful thinking into a reality.

Interested?? Learn more at INCubatoredu – Uncharted Learning and INCubatoredu Volunteer Information. Please contact Krista Wilcox at kwilcox@lths.net for more information.

SHOW YOUR LT PRIDE!

School is on! Time to gear up with your favorite Alumi Wear items to show your LT pride from wherever you are! Shop for spirited masks along with back-to-school essential T's and sweatshirts. Shop anytime! Check out the options and order Alumni Wear at https://lyons-township-booster-club.square.site/shop/booster-wear/9











ALUMNI, REUNION SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of Alumni Association members, the Association was able to offer seven scholarships to recent graduates - one named after former superintendent Dr. Dennis G. Kelly in recognition of his 17 years of service to LT and another named the Alumni Association Presidential Scholarship, awarded each year by the sitting Association president. Several alumni donated modest amounts in memory of a classmate, which were combined and added to the Presidential Scholarship. Winning graduates also receive lifetime memberships to the Alumni Association. Excerpts from their winning essays accompany their photos below.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sam McGahay

"The culture of LT is unmatched by any community I have ever been a part of: whenever somebody asks me what school I go to, I proudly say "LT" with a huge smile on my face, knowing that just two simple letters, "L" and "T" mean so much more than just an education: those two letters represent family and diversity and creativity."



GENERAL ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

Cerys Egan

"Through LT's endless clubs, activities, and courses, I discovered what I want to do with my future. I plan to dedicate my future to researching and developing drugs and medical treatments that will allow everyone to live happy and fulfilling lives, a passion I never would've realized without participation in Best Buddies and Organic Chemistry, which is a unique course for a high school to offer."



John Ryan



"Despite never having played before, I decided to get involved in the football team's spring workouts, to see if it was for me. It didn't take long to realize it absolutely was. From those weightlifting spring workouts, to summer practices and training camp, and then to some actual playing time on the JV squad, I absorbed deeply what it meant to take pride in my school, in my team!"

Katherine Paras

"When I leave LT, I will take with me the confidence that my teachers and mentors have given me. Since I was always encouraged to set my standards high and take advantage of every opportunity given to me, I am ready to go to college and work in a career with extreme drive and ambition."



DR. DENNIS G. KELLY SCHOLARSHIP



Patrick King

"My teachers and staff always knew my potential and helped me realize it. They believed in me and gave me confidence even in my darkest times. Because of this, I will go to college. I wouldn't be here without the incredible support at LT. I will always be a proud LT Alum and LT will always have a special place in my heart."

ALUM	INI NOTE		
	o: LTHS Alumni Association, 1	nere you are and what you're doing 100 S. Brainard Ave., LaGrange, II	
First Name	(Maiden Name)	Last Name	Class Year
		our recent events: marriage, childr it or email it to jbialobok@lths.ne	

MULTIPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

If you or your class reunion would like to donate monies toward a scholar-ship for a graduating senior, several options are available. You can work with the Alumni Office and use the established scholarship process, whereby graduating seniors write an essay and the Alumni Board uses a rubric to decide on the recipient, or the College/Career Office can work to set up specific criteria that a student would need to meet in order for a scholarship to be awarded. Finally, a donation to the LT Scholarship Fund is always welcome.

Alumni Association Scholarship: Contact Jennifer Bialobok jbialobok@lths.net 708-579-6471

Scholarship w/specific criteria or the LT Scholarship Fund: Contact Lianne Musser Imusser@lths.net 708-579-6357

ARCHIVES ON DISPLAY

Select pieces of LT history are on display in the lower level of the North Campus library. Plans are in the works to expand the collection to the South Campus library as well. Visitors are welcome to view some of the items helping to preserve the history of the school.

Please be on the lookout for anything that might be of historical value to LT. Many treasures in our archives have been found as alums cleaned their closets or found old boxes or papers that someone discarded. If you have items you think might be of value to the archives, please contact the Alumni Association at 708-579-6483 or send them to LTHS, ATTN: Alumni Office, 100 S. Brainard Ave., LaGrange, IL 60525.

LTHS ALUMNI NEWS

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BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER TODAY!

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