

## EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWS



### EDISON FINE ARTS STRIVES TO BE A “MAIN WHIRL” AT NE’S ART – A-WHIRL INVEST IN THE THOMAS EDISON FINE ARTS LEGACY FUND

Edison is already part of the Art-A-Whirl event in May. However, our vision is for the Edison Fine Arts Program to be one of THE PREMIER TROLLEY STOPS of Art-A-Whirl- featuring elegant pottery (using a new kiln), a beautiful Mural (featuring day-to-day life in NE), and heart-stopping performances by our Choir and Instrumental programs.

The Edison Fine Arts department has grown tremendously in the last five years. The Edison Choir has grown from a single choir of 15 students to having 4 choirs – including a Varsity Choir. There are now 2-dimensional and 3 dimensional visual art offerings. Every spring the Edison Visual Arts Department sponsors an IB Visual Arts Show. Our instrumental program is dynamic and flexible. During one hour of an Instrumental Performance, the audience may hear

traditional music from Beethoven or John Philip Sousa, with the concert finale being our rock band performing a song from Imagine Dragons. The Theater Program (student governed) is thriving and gives 3 performances a year. In December 2016, Edison Students are producing *The Wiz* (includes a cast of 50 students). Previous play productions have included *Our Town*, *The Music Man*, and *Twelfth Night*.

The THOMAS EDISON FINE ARTS LEGACY FUND began at the Edison Community and Sports Foundation May Dinner last spring. We are so grateful for the many donations we received that evening. Through Edison Alumni donations, we were able to establish a fund of \$3,000. We hope to reach our goal of \$8,000.00 by March 31, 2017. Our goal is for the Edison Fine Arts Program to become THE TOP

ARTS HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM IN MINNEAPOLIS! Please consider making a financial gift to the THOMAS EDISON FINE ARTS LEGACY FUND and support our vision of “Whirling” among the best artists in Northeast Minneapolis.

To make a donation, send a check to Edison Fine Arts Legacy Fund /ECSF; C/O Edison Community and Sports Foundation; 700 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418. You may also donate through Go Fund Me Page: [www.gofundme.com/edison-high-arts-legacy-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/edison-high-arts-legacy-fund).

Jill Davis  
Co-Founder  
Edison Alumna  
Max Athorn  
Artistic Director, TEHS Theater  
Krista Marino  
Fine Arts Dept. Chair

### SAVE THE DATE!

This event sells out every year and in order to accommodate more guests we have selected a new venue – the Solar Arts Building at 711 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Solar Arts Building is more than 100 years old and has been modernized, while keeping its historic charm. From the third floor of the building, you are able to look out over much of Northeast and view our many landmarks.

One of the unique features of the space is a bar from the home of Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash. The story goes that a French artist handcrafted it in 1860 in France and it served as a bar in the Cash house for 16 years. It was donated

to the House of Cash Museum, which closed in 2009. It now sits in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Solar Arts Building. The carving on it is priceless - very ornate and mind blow<sup>ing</sup>.

Tickets go on sale in February. Watch our website and Facebook page to find out more information about the event and to purchase dinner or raffle tickets. For more information, email us at [edisoncsf@aol.com](mailto:edisoncsf@aol.com).

Hope to see you there!

## Edison made my transition to college easy

By Liam Temple Davis



My Grandfather graduated from Edison high school in 1938, one of my Aunts in 1970 and another in 1974, my Uncle in 1972, my mother in 1979, and a Cousin in 1996. I can say with absolute certainty that I was prepared to go to college, as were all of my relatives that graduated before me. It is Edison's mission to give every single student the skills necessary to excel in their post secondary aspirations. I'm not making that up, that is literally their mission statement.

Academically, Edison provides rigorous programs, such as the International Baccalaureate program, to prepare students for the workload they will receive in college. Since I have been in college, I have not at all been surprised or overwhelmed by the amount of work I have had to do because I was used to it at Edison. Edison taught me the study skills to be able to take on a college workload and, more importantly, gave me the skills to be able to advocate for myself when I need help or don't understand something. Edison also supports students, giving kids extra support when they are behind or need help. Teachers

are always willing to take time before or after school for students to ensure that they will not fall behind and will be prepared for college.

Edison provides resources such as the College and Career Center (CCC) that prepare students for what the college experience is like, and assists students with the process of applying to colleges and living on their own. They also provide information on career options for students that college is not the right path for them. Edison takes an individualized approach to every student. Counselors and the CCC coordinator, meet with each student one on one, and make a plan with them for what they will do after high school, checking in often along the way providing help and resources when needed and making sure each plan worked for each student along the way.

Edison prepares students very well financially for college. There are many scholarship opportunities for students at Edison. The Edison Community & Sports Foundation, along with Edison's memorial fund, gives out many scholarships each year to deserving students. Last year, between scholarships from colleges, Edison's memorial scholarships, the Edison Community & Sports Foundations, and other outside scholarships, my class of 2016 was offered over \$2 Million in scholarships, of which students accepted \$987,000. Edison is an inner-city school with a large number of students with limited financial resources. This generous financial support makes it possible for any deserving student to pursue post high school education.

Edison not only provides students with many opportunities in the classroom, but also provides many extra-curricular activities. At Edison, I had the opportunity to be the lead in the musical "Our Town" and captain of the baseball team. One of the best things about Edison is all the different activities you can do in your 4 years. Anywhere from sports, to Asian Culture Club, to National Honor Society, to Nerd Club, and anywhere in between. At many bigger schools, to be able to be really involved in an activity, you have to commit most of your time to that one activity. But, at Edison, there are so many different opportunities that you really can branch out and try new things. Students are really able to find themselves and what they're passionate about at Edison with all the different activities they can try.

The most important way in which Edison prepares students for college and for life, is by the culture of Edison. It is a very diverse school with a myriad of different cultures and languages. During orientation for college wherever you go, you will learn about diversity and accepting people with different cultures and ideas than you. This is nothing new for a student from Edison. Edison teaches you that it is okay to be different and that you need to accept and respect everyone. In my four years at Edison, I learned more about other cultures and other people's struggles than many learn in their whole life. With the current climate of our country, I am so grateful that I went to a place like Edison that has taught me the values of acceptance of all people, no matter their race, gender, or socio-economic status.

**Liam Temple Davis** is a recent Edison Alumni from the class of 2016. He is an all-around guy! He played Baseball (Captain & All-City), he participated in Theater (lead role "Our Town"), Band (1<sup>st</sup> chair), Math Team, Choir, and more. He will be a teacher and eventually a politician. He will enroll at Hamline University. His GPA was 3.84 and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in his class. He received 6 Scholarships including the **Bernie Kunza Scholarship** provided through ECSF.



**Did You Know—**

Edison Community & Sports Foundation may be Eligible for Company Matching Programs?

Many companies offer employees matching funds when donating to an eligible non-profit organization. Edison Community & Sports Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation, registered in the State of Minnesota and our FEIN is 36-3318601. If your company provides this benefit, please take advantage when donating to the Foundation.



**2016 Edison Oktoberfest at Indeed**

by Michael Iacarella

Northeast is blessed with a lot of special things: beautiful churches, unique bars, talented artists, and now craft breweries. One of those brewing establishments is Indeed Brewery located by 15th Ave. and Monroe in the Solar Arts building. They have wonderful business program focused at giving back to the neighborhood, which is called “Indeed We Can”. On certain Wednesday nights throughout the year, Indeed donates all of their profits from beer sales in the tasting room that night to a community non-profit organization of their choosing. The Edison Community and Sports Foundation were fortunate enough to be

selected for last October 26th and we decided to have what we called our “Oktoberfest”.

The turnout for the event was great with a wide array of Edison alumni, supporters of the school and ECSF board members enjoying handcrafted brews from one of the most decorated brewers in the upper Midwest. The night kept its ethnic flavor with Andy Zurbey and his distinct polka style and Dan Kuch with his magic trumpet for musical entertainment. We also were privileged to a rousing appearance from the Edison Alumni Marching Band to keep up with the Tommie feel in the tasting room. For the

night the ECSF and Indeed was able to raise \$2,597.40 for the ECSF, which has dedicated a large share of the funds for the Alumni band and their possible trip to Chicago for St. Patrick’s Day 2018.

Indeed Brewery was so happy with the Oktoberfest event that they have extended an invitation to the ECSF to have another “Indeed We Can” event next Wednesday October 4th, 2017. So set your calendars for another night of great beer, sharing memories and raising money for a great cause.

*Ziggy Zoggy Ziggy Zoggy  
Oiy Oiy Oiy!!!*

**CORRECTION:**

The “In Memory Of” section of the summer newsletter included “Richard “Dick” Blanski, ’52”. Upon receiving the following note, we extend our apologies for the error:

“Howdy, from deep in the heart of Texas. Can you imagine my shock when I opened my Edison C&S Foundation paper to find out I had passed. I can assure you I’m still here and plan on kicking until the fish stop biting. Sincerely & Quite Alive, Richard Blanski  
P.S. That was my cousin.”

In an effort to share information about fellow alumni, much of the information for this section of the newsletter comes from social media postings. Please Email [edisoncsf@aol.com](mailto:edisoncsf@aol.com) if you are aware of anything that should be included in the newsletter or memorials.



***In Memory Of***

- Lillian Bisbecos, Retired teacher
- Theodore J. (Ted) Cich, ‘43
- Stephanie S. "Stevie" Crooks, ‘69
- Kathleen (Anderson) Dame, ‘49
- Robert Walter Denison, ‘48
- Donald A. Drusch, ‘50
- Karen “Lovey” Lovestrand, Edison gym teacher and gymnastics coach
- Paul Ohlin, ECSF Board Member
- Donald L. Olson
- Leland “Lee” Johnson, ‘69
- Thomas Taylor, ‘49
- Donna Stoddard Triemert
- William Turpin, ‘49
- Roger Valentino Yates, ‘53

## Letter From President Iacarella



business class, an English class and a special science class called Spark-Y. Students have a scheduled block of the three classes together so they can have more time to work on special projects. The Spark-Y science class deals with the sustainable living ideas behind aquaponics

that will bring out the true rich history of Edison and the Northeast neighborhood it has served for close to 95 years. So if you have any old jerseys: football, baseball, basketball from whatever era that you would not mind parting with or artifacts that signified special events that happened during your school days that you don't have any need for, we'll have a place for them.

I want to thank everyone who showed up to our Oktoberfest "Indeed-We-Can" fundraiser last month at Indeed Brewery. We had a great turnout and had a wonderful time talking over some great beer and enjoying some polka music from Andy Zurbey and getting picked up onto your feet by the Edison Alumni Marching Band for Blue Gold. As of this writing there is no word on how much we made, however Indeed Brewery appreciated what we did so much that we have already been invited back for next year.

In closing I want to give a little plug in for Popbang band, a musical group of Edison grads from the mid 80's. Their annual Christmas party on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> will be their 30<sup>th</sup> together. They are a great mixture of talented people who play fun music and keep the spirit of the holidays alive along with memories of Edison and Northeast.

Have a merry Christmas and Happy New Years!

Greeting Fellow Tommies, Minnesota never lets you down, 60 degrees and sunny one weekend and by the next weekend we'll have enough snow to have a white holiday season. Bring on winter and it's best for us hardy folks in the north! Edison has been going through some fast changes itself this year. We have a new principal, Eryn Warne, who has transitioned nicely in taking over the reins from Carla Steinbach who enjoyed 10 years in that position. Ms. Warne was an assistant principal at Edison for the previous 3 years and is a northeast resident. Edison was very lucky to have someone with her talents and skills available to make the change over an easy one.

Edison also kicked off a new academic program called the Edison Entrepreneurship Academy (EEA). The EEA is a combination of a

and hydroponics for growing fish and produce in an urban environment. There is an entrepreneurial aspect to the class, which will be selling what they produce to the school's cafeteria and local restaurants. The class also features many guest instructors from the area in regard to science and business. Another unique piece to the class is the professionalism component in which part of the student's grade depends on how well they perform in the classroom with their partners.

I want to shout out to Mr. Kim Larson and his band of brothers who did such a great job in creating and installing our display case in the alumni room. They made it completely from scratch and you could not have asked for better craftsmanship in the final product. The completion of this however means that we have to now design and fill the room with artifacts



*Grab your friends!*

Support Edison Community and Sports Foundation and local businesses throughout the year and have fun too! Bingo, meat raffles and pull-tabs!

<b>Stanley's Northeast</b>	Sundays	Meat Raffle at 2:00 pm, Bingo at 3:30 pm
<b>Bar Room:</b>	Tuesdays	Meat Raffle at 5:00 pm, Bingo at 6:30 pm
<b>Gasthof's:</b>	Mondays	Bingo at 7:00 pm No Meat Raffle

**Broadway Pub & Grille:** Pull Tabs (No Meat Raffle or Bingo)

Rumor has it, a group of 12 Edison Alumni came to showed up recently at Gasthof's (grad years ranging from 1946 to 1987) to play bingo.

**A Change of Plans: TEHS Theater to produce an original work created by students**

By Max Athorn, Thomas Edison High School Artistic Director

Over the past few months I have wondered about whether it isn't the right time to try a different sort of theater project, one where we work more intentionally to engage a large number of students to create something that is truly ours.

At Edison, our motto is "Belong. Believe. Become." In turn, our theater company seeks to be a place where we find that sense of belonging in our community, believe in our potential as citizens, and work to use art to become agents of change in the world. In the aftermath of the presidential election, the desire to use this art form to embrace each other and our identity intensified. Suddenly there was a much greater need in our community to validate one another, celebrating our uniqueness and our diversity.

Therefore, we've decided to make a programming change to create a piece of student-derived work as our winter theater production, to be produced March 16-18, 2017. The working title is *Dear Mr. President*.

We envision the play as an open letter to our nation's new leader, introducing ourselves to him as a group of young people that he has never met before and weaving our stories together to show who we are and where we come from.

It will not be political commentary explicitly, nor will it emphasize a sustained expression of approval or disapproval of any particular politician.

Instead, it will be a celebration of our individual and collective identity, and an opportunity for our young artists to express how they view themselves in our fast-changing world.

This project is ambitious, it's unique, and it's a little scary. We've never tried anything like this before here, and above all we are excited to see where it takes us.

Thomas Edison High School Theater is just one part of the fine arts program at Edison that needs your support. We hope that you will plan to join us March 16-18, and we also hope you will consider donating to the Fine Arts Legacy Fund, the foundation-sponsored fund that directly benefits special projects and facilities needs for the TEHS Fine Arts department.

You can donate by sending a check to the Fine Arts Legacy Fund c/o Edison Community and Sports Foundation, or by visiting

[www.gofundme.com/edison-high-arts-legacy-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/edison-high-arts-legacy-fund).



**2016 Edison Hall of Fame**

by Michael Iacarella

On Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> at Edison in the new alumni room, the ECSF held their 2016 Hall of Fame induction ceremony for three very deserving candidates. Following a nice dinner, the night kicked off with the induction of Mark Drabczak (86). Mark was a three-sport athlete; however his standout achievements were in football. He was a tremendous lineman on both offense and defense. He won all-conference and all metro honors and went on to play football at the University of Minnesota and was drafted into the NFL by the Patriots. However, because of injuries he was never able to play.

The second induction was for Erica Rhodes (06). Erica was also a three sport excelling in soccer, basketball, and track. Erica's main emphasis was in track where she won city titles in the 100 and 200 yard sprints and long jump. She also placed in state in those events. At the ceremony, the ECSF presented her a letter jacket that she was never able to afford to purchase in high school. It was a very touching moment and she was so proud to finally be able to wear it. The last induction of the night was for Terrance Young (06). Terrance was four-sport

athlete competing in football, wrestling, tennis and golf. Terrance's main focus was in wrestling; he is arguably the best wrestler in Edison history. Terrance had a 98% match winning percentage, he was all city four years, he was a two time state champion and won a national championship his junior season. He went on to wrestle at Northern Iowa University. The packed room was touched by all three induction speeches and it nice to see how grateful the recipients were for being honored. It was truly a great night for the Edison community!

**CONTRIBUTORS...CARRYING ON THE TOMMIE SPIRIT!**

**GOLD LEVEL**

Lions Club of NE Minneapolis, in honor of the Edison Alumni Band

**BLUE LEVEL**

Robert & Mary Litterman  
Bill Newham, In memory of Helen "MA" Curry

**TOMMIE LEVEL**

Linda & Arthur Maillet  
James Anderson  
Rhino Tool Company, In memory of Paul Ohlin  
Laurie & George Zurbey, In honor of Zurbey/Felegy/Eskola Families  
Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Quarterly distribution of Lorraine Lindahl

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Del & Wendy Hammond, In memory of Paul Ohlin  
Roy & Aleda Jacobson, In honor of the Alumni Band  
Dr. Doug Kohlan, In memory of West Hendrickson  
North Central Electrical Manufacturers Club, In memory of Paul Ohlin  
Unipower Corp, In memory of Paul Ohlin  
David Bakun, In honor of class of 1977  
James Boatman, In honor of Class of '53

Joyce Daher, In memory of Jocye (Branca) Daher '54, her husband David (Toto) Daher  
Karen Reed  
HC Sonny Seratzki, In memory of Allan Haflund, '66  
Daniel Westphal, In honor of Edison Alumni Band

**Other Supporters**

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Kathleen Greenwood, In memory of Pamela Davis, '74, Sara Prow (McConn) '74, Richard Harmon '72  
Roger & Mary Ellen Johnson  
Sheila Leiter, In memory of Paul Ohlin  
Evelyn McNulty, In memory of Jim McNulty, '43  
Scott Meade  
Sharon Nelson, In honor of class of 1958  
Loren & Lillian Ortendahl  
Ed Roethke  
Susan Shaindlin  
Arlene & James Wedin

**Autumn Bazaar A Success**

**Thanks to all who attended the 4th Annual Autumn Bazaar sponsored by the Edison Tommie Booster Parent Group.** This event raises money for Edison High School Student activities. This year there were 45 vendors and over 400 folks attended the event. This event raised a little over \$3,000.

**Thank you to the many generous individuals and businesses that donate to the Edison Community & Sports Foundation year after year. Please support these businesses!**

Thank you to the families who name ECSF as a recipient of funds when their loved ones pass. We are very honored.

*Special Thanks to all of our generous supporters.*

*We Appreciate You!!*

Donate Online at:  
[www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com](http://www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com)  
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YOU Make A Difference!

Email your Class Reunion

**Announcement to [EdisonCSF@aol.com](mailto:EdisonCSF@aol.com)**  
*Help us get in contact with classes from the 80's -present. Class lists are no longer public information. We'd like to keep these Alumni informed of what's going on at Edison too.*

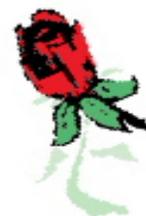


*If you know of someone who may be able to help us get in contact with these classes, pass on our contact information or have them contact us.*

**Di's Print**

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612-788-0044

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in Memory of : \_\_\_\_\_

in Honor of : \_\_\_\_\_

Contact me regarding our Legacy Giving Program \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions made to the Edison Community & Sports Foundation help support this newsletter, EHS athletics/activities/community and provide scholarships for Edison students who have shown excellence in academics, athletics and the arts.

All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Did you know you can make your contribution online? Check out our website and click donate now.

Donate online at [www.MplsEdsionAlumni.com](http://www.MplsEdsionAlumni.com)

Thank you for your support!!

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Edison Community & Sports Foundation is to engage students, staff, alumni and community to direct resources to support programs, facilities and opportunities that advance Edison.



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The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is looking to expand their Gambling Operations. If you have contacts with any local establishments please contact our Gambling Manager Lynn Miskowic at 612-296-7283 or email us at [EdisonCSF@aol.com](mailto:EdisonCSF@aol.com)

Edison Community & Sports Foundation

P.O Box 68032

Minneapolis, MN 55418

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The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is made up of 30 Board Directors who volunteer their time and efforts to support Edison High School students and organizations with scholarships and other charitable commitments. It started as a way to honor former teacher/coach and great athlete - Pete Guzy and has become a lasting tribute to his spirit and Edison's alumni's dedication to the school and Northeast Minneapolis.

You can participate with the Foundation at the annual Hall of Fame Night, Distinguished Alumni Award Event, May Dinner, or Art Solz Memorial Golf Tournament , the Homecoming/Oktoberfest or with a contribution directly to the scholarship fund, or Legacy Program.

Board of Director meetings are held at Edison High School on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Changes will be posted on our website [www.EdisonSportsFoundation.org](http://www.EdisonSportsFoundation.org)  
Michael Iacarella, President  
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Shaun Wakaruk, Treasurer

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
[WWW.EDISONSPORTSFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.EDISONSPORTSFOUNDATION.ORG)

EDISON COMMUNITY &  
SPORTS FOUNDATION



Do you have something to share? If you have an item of interest to Edison alumni, please send it to us and we will include it. Interesting historical photos, class reunion announcements, or anything to do with Edison school will be considered. The ECSF would also like to offer classes the opportunity to utilize our mailing services and non-profit mailing permit. Please contact us for more information.

Send your information to:  
Edison Community & Sports Foundation  
P. O. Box 68032  
Minneapolis, MN 55418