

STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWS

2023 Distinguished Alumni

The Edison Distinguished Alumni Award was first presented in 2010 to honor graduates for their personal achievements. The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is pleased to announce the two of the 2023 Distinguished Alumni. It is with great delight that we introduce two recent Distinguished Alumni:



Jay Johnson, 1976

Praise be to God I have grown up during a time of personal responsibility, boundless opportunity and the dawning of new technologies that would blossom for decades to come. My time at Edison was one of great

friendships, wonderful teachers, constant learning, sports and extracurricular activities that would serve me well over the years to accomplish many of my life goals. I was an active student participating in swimming, debate, marching band, water polo, and a year of cross country running. Thanks to my parents allowing me to experience this and their never-ending support through this continuous learning process.

As an athlete I was only average, but my dedication was equal to more successful team members who would achieve the pinnacles of state medals and deserved recognition. Alongside these teammates, I learned what was true dedication and commitment to accomplish athletic progress milestones and long-term goals. As an Edison swimmer we typically had two workouts a day, one before school and one after, in addition to Saturday mornings. During summer months a few of the swimmers joined our belated coach Steve Hersh's Amateur Athletic Union swim team "Danny's Dolphins" whereas a distance swimmer we would have three workouts a day. During this process you get to understand your limits, breaking points, how to pick yourself back up and get past them. This applies to everything in life.

As the son of a Standard Oil/Amoco service station owner (and mother who was a teacher before handling the finance & administration of the stations) I experienced a daily work environment

Peter Ostroushko

"Let's start with the word 'brilliant' and move on from there," said one reviewer. Acclaimed musician Norman Blake placed Peter among the greats of mandolinists.

Decade upon decade, arts critics, fellow performers, and fans worldwide sang the praises of Peter Ostroushko.

Best known as a mandolinist, fiddler, composer, arranger, and teacher, Peter had grown up listening to tunes played at family get-togethers in the Ukrainian community of Northeast Minneapolis. It's the music that provided the basis for many of his compositions. "When I first picked up my father's old bowl-back mandolin, around the age of three, little did I know that I was committing myself to a lifelong odyssey with the instrument," he said. Peter graduated from Edison High School in 1971.

His first recording session was an uncredited mandolin set on Bob Dylan's *Blood on the Tracks*. And he went on to release a string of critically acclaimed albums of his own, including *Postcards: Travels with a Great American Radio Show*, *Sliiz Düiz Music*; the three CDs that make up his Heartland Trilogy (*Heart of the Heartland*, *Pilgrims on the Heart Road*, and *Sacred Heart*); and *When the Last Morning Glory Blooms*.

Perhaps his most ambitious recording was *The Mando Chronicles*. The three-CD set is a wide-ranging compilation spanning musical genres from old-time and bluegrass to jazz, classical, American parlor standards, tunes from Brazil, Ireland, France,



2023 Hall of Fame Induction - Monday, October 16, 2023 at Murzyn Hall



The Edison Hall of Fame dinner will be held Monday, October 16, 2023 at Murzyn Hall in Columbia Heights. Happy Hour 5:30, Dinner at 6:00. Inductees include; Lowell Mielke (1965), Tim Schneider (1976) and the

1979 Baseball team. Championship teams from 1977 (Football, Wrestling, Skiing, Swimming Boys and Girls, and Gymnastics will be honored into the Circle of Champions.

The event is free with a cash bar. Join us to reunite with some of the great athletes from the past! Contact John Banisky at: edisonhof.com to RSVP or for more information.

2022 Hall of Fame Inductees

Dan Susick (1972)

Dan was a four-year participant in wrestling and golf and earned three letters in each sport. As a senior, Dan was a team captain and all-city selection in each sport. The Tommie's won three wrestling titles and two golf titles during his years at Edison. In golf, Dan was undefeated in match play for three seasons beating every school's number one golfer during his senior year.

Dawn Ginnaty (1976)

Dawn competed in four sports at Edison earning an amazing 11 varsity letters. During her sophomore year, basketball became a varsity sport. With doubles partner, Michelle McCabe, they qualified for the state tennis tournament in 1975. Dawn excelled in golf at Edison and that carried over to Winona State where she participated in golf and basketball. Working as an educator and coach after college, Dawn was able to work on her golf skills. This led to winning the Minnesota Women's PGA golf title four consecutive years, 1983-1986. Dawn played professional golf for four years on the Futures Tour

Steve Carlson (1978)

Steve participated in track (4) and basketball (3) receiving five varsity letters and eight medals in competition. He was a team captain in basketball his senior year. In track as a junior high jumper, Steve placed 2nd in the city and region meet qualifying for state where he placed 7th. As a senior, Steve set the school, city, and region record in high jump (6'7 1/4"). He placed 4th in the state meet. After high school, Steve attended the U.S. Coast Guard Academy where he continued playing basketball and track. Steve has given back to students by teaching and coaching at the USCGA. Steve served in the Coast Guard for 24 years achieving the rank of Captain.

Chris Aarseth (1993)

Chris was a 2-year swim team captain and selected as the teams' most valuable player twice. He was selected to the all-city team all four years and holds

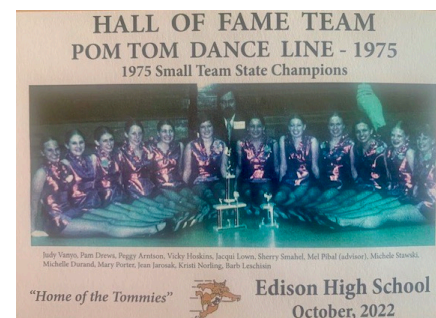


Edison school records in the 200 and 500 freestyle events. In 1994 after high school, Chris became a swim coach at Edison and currently coaches the Minneapolis city conference team. Chris has been selected a Minnesota and national swim coach of the year. Chris has coached 70 all city, 22 all state, and five all American swimmers in his coaching career.

Pom Tom Dance Line 1975

The 1975 squad started with 10 new members joining and two returning team members. The team practiced all summer getting in shape and developing routines to perform during the various team sporting events during the school year. They did their own fundraising, designed and sewed their own costumes, developed their own original work without direct adult mentorship, which would be unheard of in today's world. Mr. Mel Pibal was the faculty advisor, but had limited dance line experience, although he provided great leadership and friendship to the team which aided their success.

Cont on pg. 3....



2022 Hall of Fame Inductees cont...

Spring 1975 was the first year of a formal Minnesota State High School Dance line Competition. 32 teams performed in the preliminary round. Fifteen teams advanced to finals that evening where trophies would be given to the top four. Edison placed fourth in the competition with an asterisk. All of the other 15 teams had dance lines consisting of 24 members. Having more members allowed teams to incorporate more intricate formations which would impact the scoring totals received from the judges. Because of

this, the team felt that the fourth place finish was a first place finish in a yet to be defined division. The state competition now has divisions for small and large teams.

Seven of the twelve women along with Mr. Pibel were at the induction ceremony renewing their enduring friendships. Many pointed out that the life skills learned and friendships gained were worth more than the trophy won.

Distinguished Alumni cont...

Jay Johnson cont...

dealing with the fickle public and entertaining problem-solving challenges with automobiles. My parents service station allowed me the exposure to be hired by Burroughs Corporation (now Unisys) just prior to completing my education at Dunwoody College of Technology. The Burroughs District manager I help at the service station recognized my early electronic skills and opened the door to an interview and I was hired two weeks later as a Field Engineer assigned to the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank servicing their computer equipment. Here I would meet my future wife and discover how computers work, how to identify customers' needs and how to develop custom solutions to meet current and future needs. Solving customer problems leads to Discovery of Computer Security Flaws that opened the door to my Entrepreneurial career path.

Personal note - I Married Dawn M. Class in 1981 who was working at the Federal Reserve Bank in the high-speed check processing department. I usually had good customer relationships but this one was special. We moved to Fridley then Maple Grove, raised two children, and worked together hand in hand at work and play. Dawn has been intricacy involved with every business to make it successful. Still the same today.

Peter Ostroushko cont...

Italy, Ukraine, and more-plus are originals by Ostroushko himself. Jon Bream, longtime music critic for the *Star Tribune*, named it one of the 10 essential Minnesota albums of the past 40 years, a list that also included works by Bob Dylan and Prince.

Peter spent more than 40 years as a frequent performer on *A Prairie Home Companion*, and for a few seasons was Music Director for the popular public radio show. You may have caught him on TV too. He made appearances on *Austin City Limits*, *Late Night with David Letterman*, and even *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. His works have been performed by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Kremlin Chamber Orchestra, among others, and his music has been featured on public television specials such as Ken Burns's film *The National Parks* and the 2005 series *Minnesota: A History of the Land*, for which Peter won an Emmy.

Although a serious stroke in 2018 left him unable to play the instruments he once rarely put down, he continued to be heavily involved in music through projects including the release of a podcast titled "My Life and Time as a Radio Musician."

Unfortunately, Peter passed away in February of 2021 and is greatly missed. How better to recognize Peter's vast accomplishments than to honor him posthumously with the Distinguished Alumni Award!

Congratulations to both 2023 Distinguished Alumni!

The Distinguished Alumni Award Committee would like to reach out to all Edison Alumni to solicit candidates for future consideration of the award. With thousands of graduates over the years we know there are many deserving of this prestigious award, but we need your help to identify those candidates!

ECSF Board members help cook and serve at the Edison staff luncheon for over 100 people as they prepared for the Open House!



2023 Annual ECSF Golf Tournament

This year's scramble was held on July 31st at Columbia Golf Club and, by any measure, it was a success. Over 200 volunteers and golfers, alumni and friends came together to raise over \$14,000 for the foundation. As I've often said in the past, I've never seen the foundation send anyone away empty handed. This event helps to insure that ECSF doesn't have to.

This event, regardless of whether you are a good golfer, is a great opportunity to get together with the Tommie Community and catch up. You can golf in the tournament or, for a small fee, join everyone for dinner and awards. There are always opportunities to volunteer and participate that way as well. Stay tuned to this newsletter and <https://www.edisonsportsfoundation.org/golf-tournament/> for information about the 2024 tournament on **July 29, 2024**.

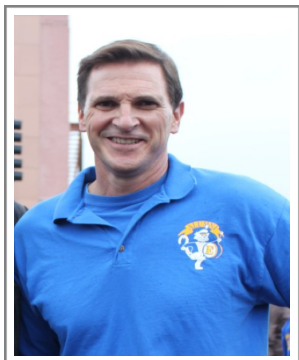
Next year we are going to offer SWAG sponsorships to our sponsors. This will provide the opportunity for us to put your logo onto promotional merchandise (towels, golf balls, divot repair tools, etc.) that will go into a SWAG bag (Which can also be branded) for the golfers. You can also contribute your own branded promotional merchandise for a fee. If interested in this level of sponsorship, reach out to Tom Johnson at Tomj4321@gmail.com or call or text at 612-750-5544.

ECSF wishes to extend a HUGE Tommie "Thank You!" to all of the sponsors of the event:

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Class of 1957	Jaros River Gardens	Moe's Tavern	
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Letter from President Iacarella



In Memory Of...

Marilyn (Born) Anderson, '49
Henry Basil, 44
Roger Cropper, '52
Chester Gacek, '44
Margaret (Ohlin) Hanson, '49
Arlyne (Haavig) Ingebretson, '55
Marilyn Franko Knutson
Gara (Hill) Ludwig
Linda (Gilbertson) Maxwell, '68
Tom Meyer, '72
Mike Neeb, '78
Marilyn "Rae" (Reidun) Newquist, '55
William (Bill) Northfield, '52
Ross Parker, '60
John Pearson, '78
Marie Churchward Peterson, '48
Randy Peterson, '78
Karen (Gerdin) Reed, '55
Robert (Bob) Sallman, '49
Keith L Slattery, '72
Luverne Velander

Greetings Fellow Tommie Alumni and Friends of Edison High School, Summer has gone by quickly as it usually does and the new school year is upon us. Year number 101 for Edison will see some big changes for the school. For personnel, on the sports side of things there is a new football coach and athletic director for the fall season. On the education side, there is a new assistant principal and several new teachers in various departments. On the structural side of change, the building will be having work done on the shop area to convert it in a new Career Tech-Ed (CTE) center, which will house business classes, Spark-Y and community service classes. The \$4.5 million renovation will be complete for the following school year of 2024-25. Edison over the summer had a much needed new sound system installed in the gym and a new scoreboard for the football field which also includes a new sound system.

We had a great time in July with our ECSF Golf Tournament at Columbia this year. Weather was phenomenal and we had a great turnout of golfers. The play finished in under 5 hours, which is hard to do with that many golfers and food was ready in the Columbia Manor for golfers as they finished up play. We also had a wonderful appearance by the Edison Alumni Band to cap off the festivities. I want to congratulate the entire Edison Golf Tournament committee for doing an outstanding job on the tournament. Tom Johnson, committee chair, committee members and volunteers did a fantastic job of running a well thought out tournament that ran smoothly and was profitable. This tournament allows us to be able to fund a large portion of scholarships that we give out in the spring, so we really appreciate everyone's participation in this event.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who came out for a little cheer for my retirement party at the end of the school year in June. In all, we had about 600 show up at Shaw's and what made it special for me was the range of classes from Edison spanning from the 1940's to 2020's. We all had a common bond of going to school at Edison and growing up Northeast. So that meant the conversations were long, loud and full of laughter. I can attest to that! I had no voice left on Saturday morning and had to give the commencement speech for the graduation on Monday. With some prayers, a few throat medicated things, and an excellent sound system I was able to muster up enough volume to make it through okay. Finally, I will be starting a new role at Edison as the Community Outreach Coordinator. I will be working with community partners, alumni and staff to provide resources and other services around scholarships and school improvements that will benefit and grow community relationships and school enrollment. So if any questions how you can help Edison in any way, feel free to reach out and I will see what I can do.

Go Tommies!
Mike Iacarella
ECSF President



TOMMIE SPIRIT

Special Thanks to all of our generous supporters.
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Ladies of 1981 Turning 60 (L81T60)!

A group of women from EHS Class of 1981 have been getting together annually for a Christmas Brunch since we graduated. The composition of attendees changes from year to year based on individual's availability. This group of women, and all those we graduated high school with, are simply PHENOMENAL Northeast, Edison High School and our parents are to be celebrated for raising good citizens. For our 50th Birth Year in 2013, a group of us trained and participated in the YWCA's Women's Triathlon. This year, for our 60th, we decided to plan monthly events in hopes that

individuals could pick and choose, and try to attend at least six of the events to celebrate six decades of life! It has been a blast reliving our youth, creating new memories and deepening our friendships. We coined the acronym L81T60 which Jax printed on match books for our Birthday Party event. So much fun has been had and we are talking about adding more than one event annually. We don't want to rush the sexagenarian (60-69) decade, but look forward to how we can top this for 70!

Events to date and planned through the remainder of the year: Jan-Psycho Suzi's Christmas Palace; Feb/Mar-Spring Flower Show Tea at the Arboretum; Apr-Volunteer to serve a meal at Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities (UGMTC) where one of our classmates is the CEO (Pam Stegora Axberg); May-UGMTC – Celebration of Hope – Annual Gala; May-L81T60 Birthday Celebration & Dinner at Jax Café; June-Cabin Weekend, Nisswa, MN; July-Boating on the St Croix; Aug-Trolley Excursion; Sep-Cocktails/Mocktails Game Night; Oct-Cabin Weekend; Nov-Friendsgiving; and, Dec-Annual Christmas Brunch.

CONTRIBUTORS CARRYING ON THE TOMMIE SPIRIT!**SUPER STAR**

Rog Family in memory of Frank Rog

GOLD

Gary Seelen, in memory of John Pearson and Randy Peterson, '78

Barbara Telander, in honor of Class of '54

BLUE

Onsrud Senior Health, in honor of the Class of 1963 and those who have gone ahead

Christopher Rog, in memory of Frank Rog

FRIEND OF EDISON

Dolores (Reavis) Kluwe

Dr. Kay Lubansky, in honor of my friend Donna (Polaski) Hansen, '69

Sharon Murins, in memory of Laurel Rath Anderson, Beverly Nordin Holmquist, Class of '58

Jeff Schrempp, in memory of Bruce Wojack

Diane Swanson, in memory of Brother Gordon Peterson, '52

David Yates, in memory of Tom Knutson, Sandra Wife of Tom Maxwell and Class of 1960

OTHER

James Becker, in memory of Ross Parker and Class of '60

Ron Bennett, in memory of Shirley Bennett, '53

Candee Carpentier, in honor of the Great Class of '68

Dan Carr, in honor of the Edison Alumni Band

Diane Daniels

Gigi Decker, in memory of Paul Anderson

Rick Glubke, in memory of Randy Peterson

Debbie Lance, in memory of Randy Peterson

Dan and Nancy Novack, in memory of Randy Peterson

John Palmquist, in memory of Bill Pielow, '71

Kim & John Pilarski, in memory of Randy Peterson

Robert & Barbara Roy, in memory of Tom Malone

Michael Salmonson, in memory of Randy Peterson,

Michael Salmonson, in memory of John Pearson, '78

Anthony Savage, Class of '77

Raeann Schultz, in memory of Randy Peterson

Mary Fran Schwartz, in Memory of Scott Sporlein

David Spano

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In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

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.

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.



The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is looking to expand 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



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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 NE Minneapolis. You can participate with the Foundation at the annual Hall of Fame Night, Distinguished Alumni Award Event, Niles Schulz Scholarship Dinner, Art Solz Memorial Golf Tournament, the Homecoming/Oktoberfest or with a scholarship contribution 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
Michael Iacarella, President
Beth Fairley, Vice President
Rick Eskola, Secretary
John Lawson, Treasurer

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION
WE'RE ON THE WEB WWW.EDISONSPORTSFUNDATION.ORG



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