

STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWS

2025 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 2025 Distinguished Alumni. It is with great delight that we introduce two recent Distinguished Alumni:

Beth Fairley



Beth Fairley, a 1982 graduate of Edison High School, embodied the values of dedication, resilience, and community spirit throughout her life. Her professional achievements, extensive contributions to Edison High School, and deep involvement in community service demonstrate her unwavering commitment to

making a difference. It is with great honor the Edison High School Community & Sports Foundation posthumously award Beth Fairley the Edison Distinguished Alumni Award.

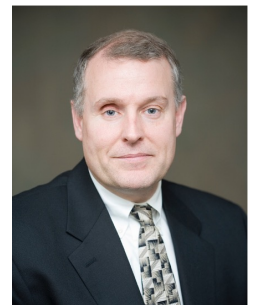
Beth's journey began in Northeast Minneapolis where she attended Edison High School and continued her education at St. Catherine University and Augsburg University. She furthered her expertise by earning a marketing certificate from the University of St. Thomas, exemplifying her commitment to lifelong learning and self-improvement.

Beth achieved significant success in her professional career, holding prominent roles such as Director of Marketing at Antena Consulting for eight years and Manager of Marketing Strategy at Medica. She also excelled at notable employers, including Green Tree Financial, Shop NBC, Department 56, American Express, and United Healthcare. Known by her colleagues for her intelligence, tenacity, loyalty, and strategic thinking, Beth was admired as a gifted collaborator who consistently brought innovation and dedication to her work.

Beth's love for Edison High School never wavered. As an active board member of the Edison Community & Sports Foundation for over a decade, she played a key role in supporting students and alumni. Her contributions included assisting in the creation of the Edison Alumni Room and tirelessly working to strengthen the school's legacy. Beth also volunteered for Edison Baseball, further emphasizing her

Tim Kraskey

Tim Kraskey grew up in an area of Northeast Minneapolis called "Lower Town." It was a great location for a kid in the 60's and 70's. Every neighbor household had 5-8 kids and everyone looked out for each other. Your parents didn't worry where you were. You were either on your bike, at the park, playing sports, etc.



Tim attended Catholic schools until 10th grade before going to Edison which was a great change. There were so many activities to get involved with at Edison, sports, newspaper, yearbook, clubs, etc. as Tim says, "It was hard to get bored in high school". Graduating from Edison in 1978 he attended the U of MN graduating with his BA in Economics in 1982. Tim began working for First Bank Minneapolis. Finding limited career opportunities, he left the world of finance and entered the high-tech industry when he joined ADC Telecom as an inside sales administrator. Through a series of promotions, he moved to Boston, then New York City. Spending nearly 10 years in New York City Tim described the area as "really eye awakening and an awesome experience". He spent nearly 10 years in the area.

After ADC Telecom he went to work for his first startup company, Newbridge Networks as an Account Manager and later promoted to the Director of International Sales. It was here he got his entrepreneurial experience and knew what it meant to be an owner of a company. Tim was the top salesperson every year while at Newbridge. Tim eventually left Newbridge to join General Datacom, Inc. where he oversaw sales, marketing and operations for ATM based products group. While there he met two colleagues, and they decided to start their own company Sahara Networks, Inc. a developer of scalable, high-speed broadband access products. He helped secure the initial funding for the Company raising 12 million dollars. Eighteen months later Sahara was acquired by Cascade Communications, highlighted as the best strategic merger

Distinguished Alumni continued on pg. 3...

2025 Edison Athletes Honored - Monday, October 20, 2025

The 2025 Edison Hall of Fame inductees will be honored at our annual dinner. This year's event will be on Monday, October 20, 2025 at Elsie's Entertainment Center. The event is free to attend with donations welcome. The event will start at 6:00 p.m., with social time and appetizers. Dinner will follow (chicken pasta). Inductions will follow and include the following honorees:

Tim Kraskey (1978)

Tim was an outstanding Track and Cross Country runner holding school records during his time at Edison.

Jake Herlofsky (1991)

Jake was an outstanding wrestler who competed in two state tournaments taking second place in his weight class his senior year.

Sophia Grey (2000)

Sophia was a track phenom winning many city titles in her events. She participated and placed in the state meet.

Edison Hockey Team (1993-94)

The team won the city title and region 3A title becoming the first and only team from Edison to qualify for the state tournament.

Circle of Champions:

Championship teams from 1979 (Football, Wrestling, Swimming and Baseball) and 1980 (Swimming and Baseball) will be honored.

Join us for this fun event to honor some of the finest athletes to wear the blue and gold! Text John Banisky at 651-285-3618 to express your interest in attending.

Hockey team members – plaques will be made for your honor but only for those who contact John Banisky to requesting one. Text John at 651-285-3618 or email edisonhof@gmail.com.



Reunion Announcements

Class of 1975 - Save the Date!

October 3, 2025 at Murzyn Hall, Columbia Heights. 6 PM cocktail hour, 7 PM dinner. Call Mary Dalbec with questions 763-245-0299.

Golf Tournament fun!



Distinguished Alumni cont...

Fairley cont...

commitment to supporting Edison students and programs.

Beth's life was dedicated to giving back to the community, with her volunteerism leaving an indelible mark on countless lives. She continuously looked for opportunities to help individuals and organizations thrive. She participated in Youth Mentorship where she tutored at Brooklyn Center High School, Robbinsdale Cooper High School, and Hennepin Technical College. She also mentored immigrant students, helping with language and college preparation, donating warm clothing, and providing prom attire for underprivileged students. Beth volunteered her marketing expertise for Make-A-Wish as a wish granter, fundraiser, event planner and helping them expand their marketing. Beth fostered dogs with Ruff Start Rescue, adopting one her own in the process. Her dedication to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation showcased her passion for wildlife conservation and education. For 17 years, Beth volunteered at an annual Halloween party for underprivileged children. She also supported Mick Sterling's 30-Day Foundation. Beth planned or participated in countless fundraisers for individuals in need.

Beth Fairley's life was marked by extraordinary courage and resilience. Despite significant health challenges, including living with Polycystic Kidney Disease and battling multiple terminal illnesses, she remained steadfast in her commitment to helping others. Even in her most difficult moments, Beth continued to support her community in any way she could. Whether it was organizing donations, offering mentorship, or coordinating charitable efforts, she found ways to contribute—even while sitting in bed, typing with only one hand. Her determination to give back, regardless of her circumstances, was a true testament to her selflessness and strength.

Beth Fairley exemplifies what it means to be an Edison High School Distinguished Alumni through her professional accomplishments, dedication to community service, and unwavering commitment to making the world a better place. Beth left a lasting impact on everyone she encountered. Her life serves as a reminder to us all to "be more like Beth, compassionate, courageous, and endlessly generous". Honoring Beth with the Edison High School Distinguished Alumni Award is truly a tribute to her extraordinary legacy and we believe will inspire others to follow in her footsteps.



Kraskey cont...

for 1997 by Venture Market East.

Cascade moved Tim back to Boston as Vice President of Marketing, and was acquired by Ascend Communications where he managed the Eastern Marketing operations for 6 months till acquired by Lucent.

At this point, Tim met up with Howard Anderson (Founder of Yankee Group and Charles River Ventures) and joined him as a partner and Managing Director in YankeeTek Ventures in Cambridge, MA a private equity venture capital firm specializing in spinout technology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology ("MIT").

When in Boston, Tim co-authored the first Sales and Salesforce Management course at MIT-Sloan School of Management. This was the first dedicated sales class at a top 50 business school in the country. Tim was a Senior Lecturer teaching courses he developed and continues to assist as visiting lecturer for other Professors at MIT Sloan School of Management on sales and marketing topics. The Sales and Salesforce Management course continues to be offered and is one of the highest rated courses at MIT.

Tim has been an angel investor and held investments in Sirocco Systems, Pingtel, BroadSoft, Access 360 & Softricity.

9/11 was a life changing event for Tim, his wife Dawn and daughter Olivia. They came back to the Midwest to be closer to family. While back in Minnesota, Tim joined a company called Spanlink from which he co-founded Calabrio where he was Vice President of Marketing. Calabrio develops and markets customer interaction, workforce optimization and performance management software for unified communications and call centers.

Tim's last professional position was Sr. Vice President of Operations at Calabrio where he managed a large staff including Customer Support, Professional Services, Implementation Engineers, Sales Administration and IT staff until retirement, September 2016. Prior to leaving he also developed and trained a new inside sales force. The Sales and Salesforce Management course Tim developed for MIT was introduced at the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management. Tim also serves as a volunteer advisor to the Holmes School for Entrepreneurship at the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management.

Tim is retired but incredibly active and applying his entrepreneurial spirit to farming his habitat lands and participating as a member of Brown County Pheasants Forever Board. He served as the Brown County Pheasants Forever chapter President until April 2025. His passion for the outdoors lead him to author a wild game cookbook titled, "Red, White & Everything Else". He has a firm belief in protecting our hunting heritage and the conservation of all wild things. In 2025 Tim received the "2025 MN Chapter Volunteer of the Year Award" from Pheasants Forever.

Welcome to Tim Kraskey as an Edison High School Distinguished Alumni!

2025 Annual ECSF Golf Scramble

We had another great event this year with great weather and Tommy fellowship. 128 golfers and many volunteers converged on Columbia Golf Club on July 28th to golf, reconnect and enjoy a beautiful day!

Among the many volunteers for the event were many of the students which benefit from the foundation and what the tournament raises. The foundation would like to extend a special "Thank You" to the following Edison teams for volunteering to help make the tournament a success: ***Baseball *Boys Volleyball *Cheerleading *Swimming *Foundation Scholarship Awardees.**

As I've often said in the past, I've never seen the foundation send anyone away empty handed. This event helps to ensure that ECSF doesn't have to. These are among the many teams that the foundation supports and are helping us help them. \$11,471.91 was raised through the support of our golfers and our amazing sponsors listed below. This year we provided branded SWAG to all of our golfers from our largest sponsors. We provided all golfers a sleeve of golf balls branded with the Access Mechanical logo. They are our first "Tommy Champion" sponsor. We also provided to every golfer a golf bag towel from our Gold sponsors, Switchback Foods and The Sluck Foundation. If you have branded marketing items that you would like to provide for next year's tournament, stay tuned to this newsletter for sponsorship opportunities. We can also produce items for you.

The foundation would also like to thank **Rosen's Diversified Inc.** for providing the bratwurst for the golfers.

We are always looking for ways to increase our sponsorship opportunities. If you're interested in sponsoring the tournament in any way, please contact Samantha Axt at princess.axt@gmail.com.

Regardless of your golfing ability, this event is a great opportunity to get together with the Tommy Community and catch up. You can golf in the tournament or, for a small fee, join everyone for dinner and awards after the tournament.

There are always opportunities to volunteer and participate. Stay tuned to this newsletter and <https://www.edisonsportsfoundation.org/golf-tournament/> for information about next year's tournament on 7/26/2026. If you're interested in participating in the planning or execution of the tournament, please contact Tom Johnson at: Tomj4321@gmail.com. Or call or text at 612-750-5544



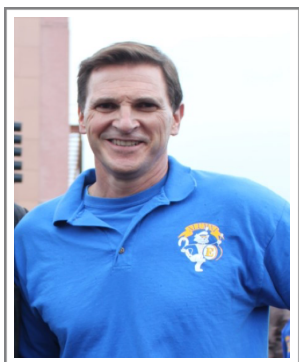
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Letter from President Iacarella



In Memory Of...

Patricia (Burns, Anderson)
Davis, '56
Margie Halvorsen, '56
Russell Ingebretson, '52
Lester Kephart, '50
David Nystron, '61
Jean (Dzzubay) Parson, '50
Marlene Ponsonby
Roden, '73
Janyce (Graham) Vatne, '55



Greetings Tommies and Friends of Edison,

I just wanted to take a moment to share my love for this wonderful community we call Northeast. Having lived my whole life at 19th and McKinley St., I knew when I sold my house this summer that I wanted to stay close to the place that has shaped who I am. So, I'm delighted to say I bought a condo just two blocks away from Edison, where I spent nearly 30 years teaching and coaching.

Even though I've called Northeast home for so long, I'm discovering that there's still so much more to explore! There are countless fascinating and unique spots in what we used to call the "valley" that have deepened my appreciation for this special place we live in.

Recently, I decided to take a break and play some tennis at Logan Park. While I was trying to play my best game, I noticed two young gentlemen on the next court. They were tall, fit, and clearly serious about their tennis! As they played, they kept glancing over at me. When one of my tennis balls accidentally rolled into their area, I went to retrieve it, and to my surprise, one of them called out, "Mr. Ike?" As I looked closer, I realized I knew both of them from my time at Edison! I had taught them just two years ago when they were sophomores, and they had grown at least six inches since then. We had a good chat, and I learned that they are both heading off to college—one to Brown and the other to the University of Minnesota. They expressed their gratitude for the scholarships they received from Edison and wanted to thank the ECSF for all

the support we provide to the school and our community.

Later that same day, I had the honor of performing with the Edison Alumni Marching Band at the Class of '70 reunion at the Hollywood Theater. It was a heartwarming event with a fantastic turnout of alumni, and we were thrilled to have the Rockin' Hollywoods perform after us! Among the attendees was Stan Freese, the band director for that class and a world-class tuba player who has spent 50 years directing music for Disney. We asked Stan to lead us in a song he introduced at Edison, "Land of 1,000 Dances." After conducting, he shared a few words with the group, saying that despite his many travels and experiences around the globe, nothing could compare to the spirit and culture of Northeast.

His words truly resonated with me and everyone in the Edison alumni band, reminding us all of how special our school and neighborhood are. It's such a privilege to grow up here and to be inspired by our community. I am so proud to be part of the ECSF, which plays a vital role in keeping Edison a vibrant and relevant part of our unique world!

Go Tommies!
Mike Iacarella, President



Special Thanks to our generous supporters.
We Appreciate You!! Donate Online at:
www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com
Click Donate Now, YOU Make A Difference!

TOMMIE SPIRIT



Martin Leo Zaworski, 69, also known as “Marty the Meat Man” and the “Northeast Legend,” died in a car accident on April 9, 2025.

More than 400 people attended his memorial service April 15 at the Ukrainian American Community Center. “He wasn’t a perfect person, but he was the perfect Marty,” daughter Emily Lowry said.

Family members and others recounted his life as a family man, leader of the Northeast Lions Club, bingo caller, meat market employee at Cub Foods, proud Northeaster and lover of loud music and loud shirts.

Zaworski was the emcee of the recent Edison High School centennial event, and he was a 1974 graduate of the school.

“He was the kingpin of the Lions Club,” Past President John Hoyny said. “I think he got most of our donations through the years.”

Mike Iacarella, president of the Edison Community and Sports Foundation, said he worked with Zaworski for 30 years in the Lions Club, and they had grown up in the same neighborhood, a block away.

Iacarella said Zaworski was a key figure in the recent purchase of new uniforms for the Edison band. “Losing him so abruptly is like a gut punch to the whole community.”

Family members painted a picture of a loving and fun father, grandfather, uncle and friend who would cruise down the street with the radio blasting the Beatles while he and others in the car sang as loud as they could and Marty pounded on the steering wheel.

His wife, Heidi, also a super-active Lion, said, “He was the glue that held so many lives together.”

Daughter Jennifer Mendoza told of how he entertained customers at Cub Foods for 43 years. “He always made people laugh at the meat market, but his heart was the biggest cut of meat he ever showed.”

Grandson Caleb Mendoza said, “He had a special gift for bringing out the good in everyone. He had a love that didn’t seem to tire.”

Family members observed Zaworski had a penchant for stealing food off other people’s plates, but nobody complained. Others mentioned his love for candy. Daughter Mindy Myers said, “He was our legend. He brought sweetness to our lives.”

Credit, Northeaster Newspaper, Al Zdon

Link to the original story at <https://www.mynortheaster.com/news/car-crash-claims-marty-zaworskis-life/>

CONTRIBUTORS CARRYING ON THE TOMMIE SPIRIT!

BLUE

Barbara J. Telander/Telander Family Fund

TOMMIE

Margaret Brandes, in memory of Niles Schulz

FRIEND OF EDISON

Heidi Zaworski, in honor of the Edison Alumni Band

Dennis Cichy, in memory of Victoria Cichy

Joan and Jean Kvidera, Wes Hendrickson Scholarship

Kathy Young, in memory of Joan Andresick

OTHER

Jeffrey Johnson, in memory of Marty Zaworski, '74

Emily's Lebanese Deli, Niles Schulz fundraiser

Curtis and Sook Lypeck, in memory of Ronald Thomas Abdo, class of '50

Joseph Kruse, in memory of Dick Burns

Sharon Hanson, in memory of Carol and Susan Geotz

Mark Harris, in memory of Marty Zaworski

David & Jen Schweikert, in memory of Marty Zaworski

Sandy, Severson Spore, Wes Hendrickson scholarship

Roger Peterson

Mary Nelson, in memory of Joan Andresick

Dick Anderson, in memory of Marty Zaworski

Anthony Savage

James Wedin, in memory of Liz, Pat, Barb, Jerry & Larry Wedin

Nancy Novack, in honor of the Edison Alumni Band

Cherie Becchetti

Shirley Erickson

Carl Kevlin, in memory of Beverly Kevlin

Leann Denee Meservy, in memory of Marty Zaworski

David Yates, in honor of Class of '60

Rebecca Ridge

James Terry

Beverly Gillespie, Beth Fairley Scholarship

Michael Kukielka, in memory of Jerry Sognesand

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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.



Announcements

Nominations Needed for the Distinguished Alumni Award!

The Distinguished Alumni Award was first presented by the Edison Community & Sports Foundation in 2010 to honor living Edison graduates for their personal achievements. Edison High School has a rich, vibrant, and diverse heritage and has produced **THOUSANDS** of graduates over the years. Many of these Alumni have achieved remarkable accomplishments that are deserving of recognition. Without your help we may never know!

Please take a moment to drop an email with the name and brief background of someone you think should be considered for the award. The ECSF goal is to recognize living alumni for accomplishments and it starts with your assistance! For more information, visit our web site for nomination criteria and forms at: www.edisonsportsfoundation.org/distinguished-alumni-award

Email us at: EdisonCSF@aol.com or robhovde1954@gmail.com. Thank you!

Hall of Fame Plaques

Since the hall of fame plaques were taken down from the gym walls, they have been sitting in my basement waiting to be claimed by anyone interested. As some of the plaques were faded past recognition, and to make requests more efficient, a list of names will be posted to our website under the hall of fame section.

If the plaque that interests you is available, you can request it at: edisonhof@gmail.com and we can arrange delivery. The space in my basements thanks you in advance! John Banisky

STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

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 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
Mary Dalbec, 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 contact us at edisoncsf@aol.com and we will try to include it. 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 information to:

Edison Community & Sports Foundation
P. O. Box 68032
Minneapolis, MN 55418