

FALL/WINTER 2021

A Publication for Tiger Nation

THE HEIGHTS

MAGAZINE

·TIGERS COME·

SPORTS

★ **ROARING** ★

ARE BACK

·BACK!·

IN THIS ISSUE

ON THE COVER | Heights High girls soccer united for victory. Follow Heights High sports at HeightsTigers.com. Photo credit: Brian Fisher, Full Stop Photography

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We're set up to keep Tiger Nation connected! Reach us at info@heightsschoolsfoundation.org



THE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES COME BACK

Students in our schools have come roaring back and no place shows it more than the Heights High's extensive sports programming. Approximately 40 percent of Heights students are scholar-athletes, participating in 26 different varsity sports!

Whether it is soccer, cross country running, football, tennis or golf, the fall sports have come back in full force. Kids and families are grateful for the return to healthy activities that strengthen muscles, but also community and academic performance. Many alumni recall how sports activities shaped friendships and offered structure that helps teens stay on track. Further, special coaches offer guidance, motivation and support both on and off the field.

These things are all still true today and one only needs to see alumni coaches like Dan Budin '01 (swimming), Willie Newton '99 (football) and J.R. Bremer '98 (basketball) giving back to their alma mater! You can support today's athletes through our scholarship program, offering awards for scholar-athletes ready for their next steps.

Join us in thanking all of the alumni who give back to today's students in their teaching and staff roles at every level across the district.



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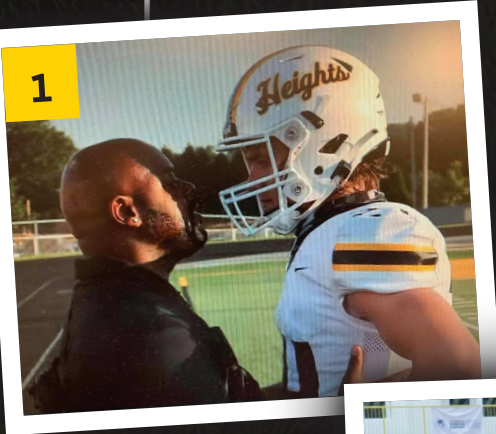
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TIGER NATION

SPORTS COME ROARING BACK

by Krissy Dietrich Gallagher '91



2

TIGER SWIMMING AND DIVING RECORDS

NAME	YEAR	EVENT	TIME
A. HARRINGTON, L. WILSON	1992-93	100 MIXED RELAY	1:41.20 1993
A. BAILEY, W. WOODS	1993-94	100 FREESTYLE	1:45.90 1993
A. BAILEY	1993-94	100 INDIVIDUAL MIXED	2:01.70 1996
A. BAILEY	1993-94	100 FREESTYLE	21.00 1993
A. BAILEY	1993-94	100 METER DIVING - 10 FEET	52.39 2003
A. BAILEY	1993-94	100 METER DIVING - 10 FEET	48.30 1990
A. BAILEY	1993-94	100 BUTTERFLY	4:48.90 1996
A. BAILEY	1993-94	100 FREESTYLE	1:31.00 1965
A. BAILEY	1993-94	100 FREESTYLE RELAY	1:29.52 2021
A. BAILEY	1993-94	100 BACKSTROKE	1:59.50 1990
A. BAILEY	1993-94	100 BREASTSTROKE	2:15.00 1990
A. BAILEY	1993-94	100 FREESTYLE RELAY	1:29.52 2021

A. PETERS, A. TEETS. 1:29.52 2021
E. FLUHARTY, J. HUFF



The Heights Tigers have indeed come roaring back... right onto the field, into the pool, and around the track. For the third year in a row, the Heights High Athletic Department was awarded the Principal's Cup, given to the school with the most championships in the Lake Erie League. During the 2020-21 school year, football, girls' soccer, boys' and girls' cross country, boys' track, baseball, and softball all won league championships.

There is also a strong connection between athletes of the past and athletes of the present in Tiger Nation. Last spring, track and field alumni from across the country attended a ceremony to unveil a Wall of Champions to honor all past individual and team State Champions and a Record Board featuring those who still hold records in everything from the cross country 5K to the 200-meter dash to the long jump. Coach Scott McNulty did not hide the fact that both displays are designed to motivate current and future students, many who have a shot of breaking records that have been standing for decades.

If Tiger runners need any motivation, they need look no further than the swim team. The relay team of then juniors Aidan Peters, Andrew Teets, Emmet Fluharty, and James Huff III broke school records in both the 200 Freestyle Relay and the 200 Medley Relay three times over the course of the last swim season, qualifying for the State Championship in the process. Peters also set a new school record for the 100 Freestyle while Huff broke the school record for the 100 Breaststroke two times in consecutive weeks.

Coach Dan Budin, himself a Heights alumnus from the class of 2001, said, "It is impossible to put into words the amount of pride I have in this team -- past and present -- and how honored I feel to be entrusted with these amazing student-athletes and the future of our program."

That pride as shared by Ron Grant, a swimmer from the class of 1965, who was present when the team replaced his name on the Record Board after 56 years.

That ceremony also included posting boys' and girls' pool records, for the fastest times swum in the new natatorium that opened in 2017.

No high school sport is more prominent than football and Heights High does not disappoint in that arena...

far from it in fact. In 2020, the team advanced to the playoffs for the first time in back-to-back years and closed the 2021 season with another LEL championship. "Our goal is always 10 and 0 and remain humble," said running back coach Willie Newton, another Heights alumnus (1999).

But even more important than winning games or breaking records are the relationships formed through training and competing together.

Newton, who works in the high school's Alternative Learning Center and as a mediator for Restorative Justice in addition to coaching, says that working with young people "is my passion, it's my calling. I know it sounds cliché, but it doesn't even feel like work, ever. That's how much I love it."

Coach Budin agrees, calling this his "dream job. Cleveland Heights is the only place I have ever wanted to coach. It is a privilege to be able to serve in this role as an alum and to help build this program." Deeply entwined in the community, Budin's wife Cassie is a 2002 graduate and now a math and engineering teacher at Heights High, and their daughter is a fourth generation Tiger at Fairfax School.

Coach Newton's wife is also a teacher at the high school. But it's legendary coach Larry Hoon who inspired him for this role. Having grown up without his real father, Newton says it was Hoon who showed him how to be a man. "I remember how Coach Hoon made me feel every time I was around him. I always said, 'I want to make other people feel that way.'" Now he gets that chance every sports season, either with the football, wrestling or track teams. "I want every young man or woman I work with to know that somebody cares, somebody loves them." 🐅



1. Football, wrestling and track coach Willie Newton, class of 1999, with junior running back Owen Bisker, September 2021. (Photo by B.O.F.A. Pictures)
2. Heights Swim Team members pose with alumnus Ron Grant, class of 1965, whose record was finally broken. (Photo by Dan Budin)
3. Football players celebrate in their 53-15 victory over Garfield, August 2021. (Photo by Full Stop Photography)
4. Class of 1998 graduate, former NBA player and Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame member, J.R. Bremer, with the boys' basketball team he's been coaching since 2018. (Photo by Joe D'Amato)

5. Girls' head basketball coach Karen Battle in a huddle with her players, February 2021. (Photo by Joe D'Amato)
6. Girls' tennis wins the 2021 Golden Racquet in its annual competition against Beaumont, handed to seniors by University Heights Mayor Michael D. Brennan, September 2021. (Photo by Kristy Minnillo)
7. Heights Baseball secures the 2021 LEL championship with a come-from-way-behind victory over Lorain followed by a win over Shaker, May 2021. (Photo by Sherri Bellini)
8. Boys' soccer players are announced in their game versus Twinsburg, September 2021. (Photo by Full Stop Photography)

41st Cleveland Heights High School DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

On October 16, 2021, the Heights Schools Foundation hosted the 41st induction of the Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame by honoring ten extraordinary alumni.

Notable among their peers, the Class of 2021 may be remembered as the class that was inducted both in person and virtually. Inductees that could attend in person. Other Inductees—as well as students, staff, alumni and community members—tuned into the CHUH YouTube channel to participate

in the induction ceremony, which included honoree speeches followed by a lively After-Show.

We will continue to look forward to future HOF celebrations that will be held in person where all inductees can fully mark the moment with their entire families, friends and community members inside the beautifully renovated Dina Rees Evans Center for the Performing Arts at Heights High. On these pages, members of the Hall of Fame Class of 2021 express profound gratitude for being selected for receiving this school honor and community-wide recognition. 🐾

by Abbie Sender



SHAY BILCHICK '71

Shay is among the nation's most influential leaders in the field of juvenile justice, child welfare and related youth-serving systems. Early in his career, Shay identified the need for a fundamental shift in how agencies worked together on behalf of youth and worked toward making that happen. After serving as a trial lawyer, Shay headed the US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and later the Child Welfare League of America.

"I credit all of my personal and career accomplishments to my years growing up in Cleveland Heights. I made lifelong friendships, met my wife, and gained the foundational knowledge that led to my successes in college and law school. My teachers at CHHS inspired me and as I moved on to college and law school I often reflected back on those inspirational conversations as motivation in my career and personal life. Being honored with this induction into the CHHS HOF brings so much of what I value in my life full circle!"



KRIS BILLIAR, PHD, '87

Kris shaped a remarkable career as a research scientist focusing on how mechanical forces influence the development and healing of biological tissues, particularly valves, skin, lungs and bones. A Fulbright scholar, his work is recognized around the world. At only 45, he was named full professor at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and was appointed Head of the Department the following year.

"I am honored that I was chosen by students (thank goodness it's a blind review!!). When I think of myself back at Heights High, I'm not sure I would have chosen a scientist or engineer for such an honor. I value the diversity of people and experiences at Heights High and the impact it's had on my life. Even though I live 600 miles away, I still feel a special connection to Cleveland Heights: my kids call it their second home, my closest friends are from here, and the best part, my wife is a Heights High grad!"

KENYON ROBERT BONNER, EDD '90

Rising to the challenge is the norm for Kenyon, who has been with the University of Pittsburgh since 2004. In his current position, Kenyon leads a complex team of 200 individuals serving 30,000 students. This past year, he guided his staff as they cared for the well-being of all undergraduate and graduate students through the pandemic while leading the University's response to address the pervasive and adverse effects of systemic racism.

"I am deeply humbled to be recognized by my alma mater, Cleveland Heights High School. As an educator, one of the greatest honors is to be recognized by students. I stand on the shoulders of the people in my life, both at Heights and beyond, who sacrificed, mentored, taught, and challenged me to strive to be the best version of myself. I am grateful and appreciative and will honor them by continuing to lift as I climb."



KAREN ZAUDER BRASS '82

As a Second-Generation Holocaust Survivor, Karen is dedicated to educating children and adults about taking responsibility for their actions, and encouraging them to rise up and take action in the face of human cruelty. She created Standupsters®, an international anti-bullying and Holocaust education program, and a company, Can I Count on You, to make the material she teaches more accessible. She presents nationally and internationally and recently published her third book.

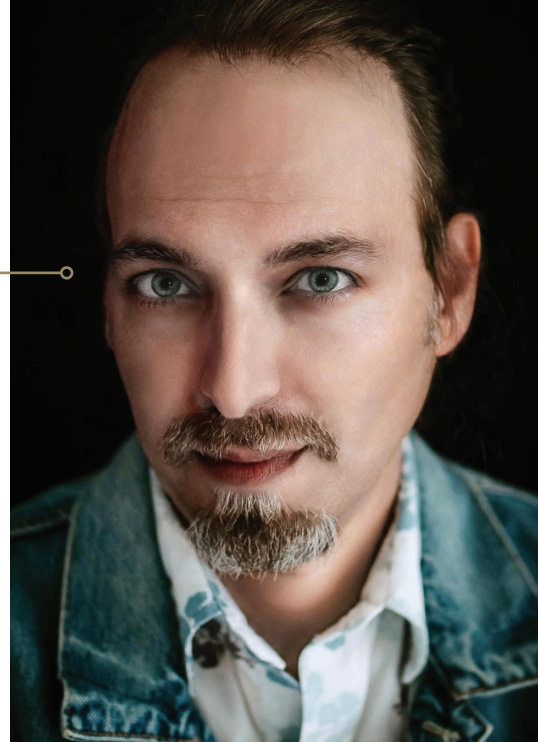
"It is both an honor and a dream to be recognized and inducted into the CHHS Hall of Fame. I always hoped to make something of my dream, which was to honor my heritage while making a positive difference in the world. I found my voice at CHHS, and it is wonderful to be able to share that my roots are from here, in Black and Gold country."

HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2021

BRIAN GOLD '91

Brian began his military career after graduating from CHHS by volunteering in the US Navy's submarine fleet as a paramedic, becoming one of the few Americans to qualify for this service. Educated as an attorney, Brian went on to become a Naval Officer, working as an intelligence analyst in Europe.

"I am honored and truly humbled to be inducted into the CHHS Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. During my time at Heights, I learned three important lessons that sustained me throughout my personal and professional life. First, we are all more infinitely capable than we believe we are. Second, at the end of the day, the only person's verdict that truly matters is the person looking back at you in the mirror. Lastly, help is always available to those who seek it. Teachers, mentors and peers at Heights endowed me with tools and mentoring, as well as the space to practice new skills without fear of failure, which became the springboard for a life worth living. I am forever indebted to Heights, and I am honored to momentarily carry, and then pass, the baton to the next generation of Tigers."



DENITRA ISLER-LELUCKE '89

Denitra developed the "acting bug" after moving to Atlanta and becoming the make-up artist for Nancy Grace (the *Nancy Grace Show*). She has since created a successful career appearing in films, television and theater. Denitra's most notable film role to date may be in the movie *Just Mercy*, which debuted December 2019 and featured Michael B. Jordan. When she's not acting, Denitra is the lead singer in a rock band and she makes time to care for the least fortunate in her adopted city.

"I've always been proud of the fact that I went to a school that was extremely diverse. Having the exposure to different cultures contributed to the person that I am today. I am extremely honored to be recognized by a school that knows the importance of supporting and encouraging differences."

CHRISTOPHER STITT '91

In his 24-year career with the US Department of State, Chris has served abroad in Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama and Iraq. Domestically, he has served our country through diplomatic security as an Officer with the US Capital Police and as an Agent with the South East Counties of Ohio Narcotics Task Force. Credentialed as a Certified Emergency Manager, Chris joined the faculty of George Mason University to teach Homeland Security and Law Enforcement.

"I have always valued my time at Heights and I am proud of my Tiger roots. To be inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame is one of the greatest honors I have received, especially knowing the caliber and accomplishments of the other inductees. I sincerely hope that my journey can be used to inspire others to explore the world in service to our country."





KEITH A. WALKER, PHD '67

Keith has had a brilliant career in the agriculture biotechnology industry. He was one of the first persons to effectively use plant genetics to modify seeds at a molecular level. His scholarship and diligence resulted in significant enhancements to breeding techniques and metabolic processes in plants leading to improved shelf lives for everyday foods, such as tomatoes, cooking oils and candy. Keith holds 240 patents, including two for techniques to edit the DNA of crops (CRISPR).

"Aware though I was of the application, the call about the award was unexpected. I hope that it means that not only did I know my 'setup', along the way I discovered my punchline. I am honored and deeply humbled. Clearly, no one ever does this alone."

PATRICE WILLOUGHBY '82

As a veteran of Capitol Hill and the Obama Administration, Patrice brings an equity lens to work across all spectrums of her professional, civic and personal life. With a profound understanding of critical work and life issues revolving around Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, technology and financial independence (particularly for women), Patrice focuses on "lifting others" as she climbs. And yes, she still ice skates, often sharing her love of the sport while teaching life-skills to underserved children.

"I was a student at Heights High as the Hall of Fame was created. I am grateful to officials and leaders like Dr. Patricia Ackerman and English teacher Betty Schwartz who opened the door to help me realize my own potential. Public education is essential to the function of an effective society. The Heights Schools are a critical link in shaping our future and I am honored to associate with the district and its graduates."



JUDY JACKSON WINSTON '87

Judy, the first in her family to attend and graduate from college, often credits the education she received from CHHS as the foundation of both her academic and personal success. To help improve the lives of Cuyahoga County's most vulnerable citizens, Judy became a licensed social worker and attorney. Currently serving our county as a Magistrate Judge, Judy also shares her personal voice as an author.

"When I was a Junior at Cleveland Heights High, I had the opportunity to hear Joel Hyatt, who was a well-known attorney speak, as he was being inducted into the Cleveland Heights Distinguished Hall of Fame. I was moved by his speech and his words helped to spur me to do my part to help change the world and to truly make my community better. It is my hope that the work that I have done as a mental health advocate, attorney and author will motivate future leaders to do their part to make a difference in the world. It is an honor to be included in Hall of Fame with other great alumni. It is a lifelong dream come true and what I have been working my whole professional and personal life to achieve."

MAKING IT THROUGH PANDEMIC COLLEGE LIFE

RECENT GRADUATES SHARE THEIR STORIES

By Jillian White

This summer, Heights Schools Foundation reached out to some of the most recent graduates and scholarship recipients of Heights High. While we were not surprised to learn that such a talented group of young people were excelling in their collegiate and early-professional lives, it was a delight to see new alumni thriving. Here's what they had to tell us.

Kris Lyons '20

Baldwin Wallace Class of 2024
Music Theater



"I am doing amazing right now. I am so excited to go into my sophomore year! Freshman year was tough to get through but now that we are finally on the other side of the pandemic, I am going to take more time to get involved at my university. This summer, I was hired to perform in two shows in Iowa, it being my second paid summer-stock. It was an amazing experience that I got from my school which makes me even more excited for the next three years."

Advice: "Academics is not everything. Focus on finding yourself and your true passion."

Damari Loretz '20

Eastern Michigan University Class of 2024
Interior Design



"My path has remained the same, I started as an interior design major and still am!"

Advice: "Explore all career options before deciding upon one. You can always change your mind, nothing is permanent!"

Sylvie Crowell '19

Case Western Reserve University Class of 2023
Materials Science & Engineering



"I've been preparing for an engineering career by participating in undergraduate research in biomedical implants as well as working as a fabrication technician at the Think[box] Maker Space. This summer, I have been working full time as an engineering intern at Parker Hannifin. This year I'll be a junior at Case Western beginning the accelerated dual degree program toward getting my Masters Degree in Materials Engineering. I'd like to specifically thank Mr. O'Deens, Mr. Nachman, and Mr. Mrazek for inspiring me to study engineering!"

Advice: "Apply to as many scholarships as you can find, especially the ones specifically for Cleveland students offered through the Heights High Scholarship Office. You never know when they could lead toward an amazing opportunity."

Cullen Martin '20

Tufts University Class of 2024
Undecided



"Originally I was planning on doing pre-med to become a psychiatrist. . . [but now] I'm leaning towards a dual major in economics and international relations. Before summer I created an invention that I now have a patent status pending for, as well as my own business, "Theory of Divergence Solutions." The device I created aims to assist with traffic safety and decrease traffic congestion. I have plans with the city of Euclid to pilot it once I am finished prototyping."

Advice: "Take some deep breaths! It's good to be serious about your future but not to the extent that it's damaging your present. Life is unpredictable and you never know when an opportunity will come your way. And in that sense, stay positive and treat everyone with respect. You'll find that a smile goes a long way in the world!"

Jamya Terry '18

Bowling Green State University Class of 2021
BBA in Business Administration, Specialization in International Business



"Initially going into college I majored in Biology thinking I would go into forensics. My path has changed as I am starting law school next month in August of 2021."

Advice: "Everything you want is attainable, never stop believing in yourself."

David Fleischer '17

University of Texas-Austin Class of 2021
BBA in Accounting



"Life has been great. My path certainly changed. I was planning to attend law school after undergrad, then I decided to become an accountant. Ended up not working in accounting but still obtaining the degree. I am spending the summer working in Houston. After which, I will return to Austin to complete my masters in accounting and take the CPA exam."

Advice: "Do not let failure define you and steer you off track. Some of my greatest opportunities came after times of failure and I'd say I walk away wiser and stronger each time."

Sahil Angdembe '19

Miami University Class of 2023
Biology/Pre-Med, Bioinformatics & Supply Chain Mgmt. Minor



"Upon graduating from Heights High, I have been working in the healthcare field as a nursing aide on my summer breaks. Without the Clinical Health Careers offered through the Heights Career Tech, I wouldn't be able to work with patients and provide care that is pertinent to their needs. Furthermore, while at Miami, I have held internships

at Virginia Commonwealth University and Keck Graduate Institute, where I researched genetics and presented my findings weekly."

Advice: "My piece of advice to Heights Class of 2022 would be to treasure the time that they have left at Heights - they are golden days. As an old saying goes, 'Time and tide wait for none.'"

Paris Colbert '17

Howard University Class of 2021
BS in Psychology & BA in History



"I planned to go into medical school for psychiatry but now that I've graduated from undergrad I'm focusing more on finding paths that are more community based and less institutional. This year I am taking a gap year and working as a research associate for the education consulting firm EAB."

Advice: "Focus less on finding a path/career right away and more on finding things that you like and/or are good at. Work on sharpening those skills and then try to find opportunities that align."

Kylie Armstead '19

Cleveland State University Class of 2022
Speech & Hearing



"I've been great since graduating. I've been able to figure out my general path in life, develop friendships, and go to school. I'm part of multiple programs on campus and preparing to apply to graduate school to become a speech therapist."

Advice: "Take advantage of the resources provided for you in any setting and some of the best opportunities are in unexpected places."

Ben Schuster '17

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor Class of 2021
BBA in Business Administration & BA in Public Policy



"I think it's inevitable that my expectations of life have changed. I've stuck to my passion for public service and I'd love to run for public office someday. I will be moving to Denver this September to work with DaVita Kidney Care on healthcare policy affecting Medicare and Medicaid

patients. I also serve as Co-Lead for the LGBTQ Victory Fund NextGen Network and as an alumni board member for the University of Michigan Community Scholars Program. In the coming years, I hope to earn a dual MPP/MBA and continue making a difference in my communities, wherever they are."

Advice: "It's okay to be ambitious, everyone else is. In fact, I think Heights taught me that. With the need to seek out opportunities on my own as a student, I built a lot of maturity and resilience."

Hannah Teets '20

University of Rochester Class of 2024
Environmental Health & Biology, Chemistry Minor



"I've been great, I love college! I didn't originally go into freshman year with the goal of being pre-med, but definitely on the STEM track in some way. I didn't really know what to expect from college, but I have loved how interesting and deep some of the classes are"

Advice: "Don't overthink college too much; the right place, major, etc will fall into place when it is supposed to. Enjoy your youth!"

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Join us in congratulating these exceptional students. In their own words, students shared their thoughts about their experiences at Heights High and future aspirations.



AARON COLSTON



ALEXIS DIXON



ADELE DOONER



ALYA ESMAIL



SOPHIA FORNITI



CHRISTIAN HALL



CLAIRE HALL



ARI INWOOD



G'AVONN JACKSON



SHANNON KILLBRIDE



CHARLIE KING



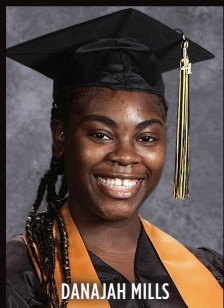
DANIELLA KIRABO-MAFGIRI



GREYTON MANNE



JACKSON MARSHALL



DANAIAH MILLS



SAMUEL MITCHELL



ETHAN QUILL



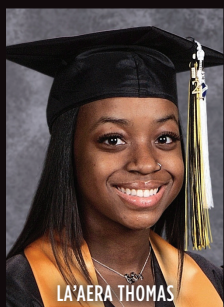
ARIANNA RICHARDS



XAVIER ROUTH



ZELDA THAYER-HANSON



LA'AERA THOMAS



ANNA TURNER



EMMA VAIL



MARISSA VECCIA

Deb Deslile Scholarship

"A college education gives people the advantage to conduct themselves in any direction they choose for themselves in life." - **Danajah Mills**

Dr. Sydney J. Goldstein June Class of 1952 Scholarship, Deb Deslile Scholarship, Jimmie Thomas II Memorial Scholarship, AVI Community Excellence Scholarship

"I hope to bring the skills I acquired here into my future outside of Heights and be able to give back to my community after graduation."

- **Arianna Richards**

Deb Deslile Scholarship, George F. Strickling Memorial Scholarship, Molly Manring Memorial Award for Vocal Music

"I feel so proud to be in the position I am in right now and I feel as if Heights has allowed me to grow into the human I am today." - **Jackson Marshall**

Legacy Award

"When I think about walking across that stage and receiving my diploma, my thoughts immediately transport me back to all my years spent in this district. I will treasure the memories made here for the rest of my life."

- **Sophia Forniti**

"Heights has produced so many successful and productive members of society who have given countless advancements to our world. I will forever be grateful I have been a part of this band of wonderful people for as long as I can remember." - **Claire Hall**

"The Heights community has supported me through a great K-12 Experience and I can't wait to be able to give that back to others." - **Emma Vail**

"Being a member of Tiger Nation gives me the confidence to leave the nest and pursue my endeavors while knowing that I will always have a home to return to." - **Marissa Veccia**

"Heights has prepared me to go out into the world with a positive attitude and a determination to help others. I'm thankful to Heights for teaching me the importance of a strong community." - **Adele Dooner**

Johnson-Scott Scholarship, Geneva Family Memorial Scholarship

"I have learned that when I am using my creativity to make others happy, I myself am happy. I dream of a job where I get to create something new every day and where whatever I produce will have a positive impact on people all over the world."

- **Greyton Manne**

Dr. Michael Arnold Glueck Memorial Scholarship for Writers Finding Their Voice

"I grew up going to all public schools and am forever grateful for my experience. I've grown up around people of all kinds of racial, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds, which is a lesson that can not be taught in a classroom, yet in my opinion, is the most educational lesson a school can offer." - **Ethan Quill**

AVI Community Excellence Scholarship

"With the Barbershoppers, every year I have performed in celebration of MLK Day at the Cleveland Rec Center. This has always been fun for me as it is another way to give back to the community who have supported us."

- **Samuel Mitchell**

"Since I was little, I have always been told 'if you have it, give it; the universe will reward you.' Volunteering from a young age taught me not to be selfish but to seek improvement within the world." - **La'Aera Thomas**

"Through my volunteer work and school leadership, I've hopefully inspired others to take on responsibility at the school and beyond." - **Anna Turner**

Molly Manring Award for Vocal Music

"From the musicals to the choir concerts to the school trips, Heights had so much to give me. I have learned so much from the staff and faculty, things I will take with me through the years. I am more than proud to call myself a Heights Tiger." - **Christian Hall**

Johnson-Scott Scholarship

"At Heights, I learned that the difference between the good teams and the great teams is teamwork." - **Aaron Colston**

"Art exists to create a conversation; it exists to make people uncomfortable to the point where some things must be addressed. I hope to keep and improve that standard."

- **Zelda Thayer-Hanson**

Marian Katz Magid Memorial Scholarship for Creative Writing, Career Technical Education Scholarship

"I plan on going to college to start my study to become an Oncologist. After going through the loss of a loved one due to cancer, I want to help other people with cancer so they can be with their loved ones, and not have to not experience the pain that cancer causes." - **Alya Esmail**

CHHS Graduating Class Academic Scholar Award

"I am honored to be a member of the Class of 2021 and now the Heights High Alumni community. I will always cherish my time at Heights High." - **Xavier Routh**

Career Technical Education Scholarship

"The day the Pharmacy Technician course instructor came into my class and spoke on behalf of her course, there was suddenly a flame in my head; a flame of potential and newfound passion."

- **Daniella Kirabo-Mafigiri**

Molly Manring Memorial Award for Vocal Music, Legacy Award

"Being a life-long member of the Heights Community, I am proud of the young woman that it has made me. I was given a part in the fall musical as a Freshman. As I listened to the orchestral overture on opening night, I immediately knew that I had found my place." - **Alexis Dixon**

Coach Jim Cappelletti Memorial Scholarship

"Swimming literally saved me. The discipline, the friends, the dedication and the expectations placed on me allowed me to keep my head above water, and I will always be grateful by giving back to the community and by continuing to always help others to become their best selves." - **Ari Inwood**

Jimmie Thomas II Memorial Scholarship

"It fascinates me how technology can go from a thought in someone's head and become something that can change how we live life. I would like to develop something that can help make the world a better place." - **G'avonn Jackson**

Marian Katz Magid Memorial Scholarship for Creative Writing

"Although I have not started my college experience, I know a career in computer programming is the perfect path for me. I have enjoyed creating things my whole life, and computer programs I have created brought a prideful joy within me." - **Shannon Killbride**

Donna Cherin Kurit Memorial Scholarship

"Regardless of where I end up in the future, I will always think back on my time growing up in Cleveland Heights with very fond memories. I wouldn't be who I am today without the warmth, enthusiasm, and encouragement of our incredible community."

- **Charlie King**

Learn more about all of our scholarships at HeightsSchoolsFoundation.org



THE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS FOUNDATION FUND

at The Cleveland Foundation

by Julianna Johnston Senturia '87

Working together, we can provide resources to support today's students as well as the students of tomorrow. We're proud to announce the formation of "**The Heights Schools Foundation Fund**" at The Cleveland Foundation. Our new partnership with The Cleveland Foundation builds on our early work with donors who were among the first to begin to plan for the future with endowed gifts.

We offer special thanks to families who created endowed gifts in memory of dear loved ones over the last few years. Among the first funds was The Geneva Family Memorial Scholarship. The award was established by the Geneva family in memory of **Keith Edward Cody Geneva '96**, successful CFO, husband and father whose life was cut tragically short due to an aggressive form of melanoma in 2018. The scholarship has already been awarded to five deserving Heights High scholar-athletes.

A new scholarship will be offered for the first time in Spring, 2022 - The Lewitt Music Scholarship - thanks to the generosity of **Lainie (Leni Lewitt) Veenstra '67**, who created this scholarship in loving memory of her brother, **Ralph Lewitt January '65**. Ralph was a highly talented, dedicated student director of the Heights Madrigals, the vocal a cappella choir, and was inducted into the Heights Vocal Music Hall of Fame. The award was also created in memory of **Kaarlo Mackey**, the former Heights Band and Orchestra Director, who inspired and encouraged Lainie, a flutist, throughout her participation in all the Heights instrumental programs.

As Veenstra recently noted, "I remember the exceptionally talented musicians who went on to illustrious music careers. Heights High has always encouraged the arts as an important addition to their academic programs."

Endowed scholarships will make awards every year in perpetuity, based on returns on investments in the Heights Schools Foundation Fund. Both of the scholarships highlighted here accept donations. Learn more about our full scholarship program on our website, HeightsSchoolsFoundation.org. 🐾



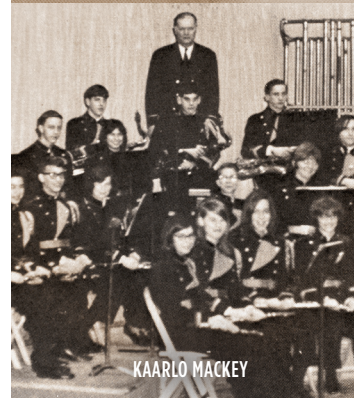
KEITH EDWARD CODY GENEVA '96



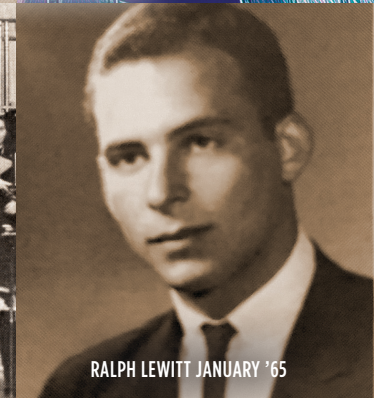
1996 HEIGHTS SWIM TEAM
KEITH GENEVA TOP RIGHT



LANIE (LENI LEWITT) VEENSTRA '67



KAARLO MACKEY



RALPH LEWITT JANUARY '65

LEGACY & LEGENDS SOCIETY

at Heights Schools Foundation



Generous donors who make a current or multi-year gift or who notify us that they have provided for the Heights Schools Foundation in their estate planning at the \$10,000 level and above are welcomed as members in the Legacy & Legends Society. In partnership with the Cleveland Foundation, we manage legacy gifts with special care. The Heights Schools Foundation gratefully accepts both unrestricted contributions as well as designated gifts for our “Heights Schools Foundation Fund.”

Heights Schools Foundation Fund provides resources to students through enhancing the classroom experience, expansion of opportunities for all students, and scholarships for graduating seniors. Bequests, gifts from trusts, other future gifts, and lifetime outright gifts (such as appreciated stock or Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs) are accepted in this ongoing program.

If you are considering a bequest for a specific purpose, please discuss your plans with us. We can work with you to help you identify ways to give that meet your charitable objectives and our guidelines. Please contact us if you have any questions about how to make a bequest or to request any additional information that might be helpful to you as you consider making a planned gift. As our partner, the Cleveland Foundation can also work with you and your professional advisors to help you choose the best approach for your charitable goals.

If you have already included Heights Schools Foundation in your estate plan, kindly let us know. We would love to thank you and recognize you for your gift. If you'd like to tell your story about giving, we know it may inspire others, making an even bigger impact!

Please contact:

Julianna Johnston Senturia | Executive Director
Heights Schools Foundation
JJS@heightsschoolsfoundation.org | 216.320.2203

HEIGHTS HIGH CONNECTION

URNS COLLEAGUES INTO FRIENDS

We met in 2019, randomly, on an awkward business phone call. Lois was Associate Director of Inclusion and Engagement at Leo Burnett, and Lisa was a Creative Director and Certified Diversity Executive in the midst of launching New & Improved LLC, a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) consultancy.

Neither of us was totally clear on the agenda. Although the call felt a little strange, it was the beginning of a professional connection that quickly turned personal.

Lisa: Lois was pretty quiet on the call, as her co-worker was leading the conversation. But when she spoke, her comments were thoughtful and insightful, and I left the call really wishing that I had been able to hear more about Lois's ideas.

Lois: I wasn't sure what the call was about, but I could tell Lisa was serious about DEI and doing the work.

Lisa: A couple weeks later, I was invited to sit on a Swim panel at the 3% Conference, an organization dedicated to advancing all women and furthering the mission of DEI in the advertising industry. Women account for just 29% of Creative Directors, and even fewer are women of color. They asked if I could recommend other panelists, and I immediately thought of Lois.

Lois: I was flattered that you thought of me, and I knew it was genuine, so I said yes. In an industry that has less than 24% people of color (US Bureau of Labor & Statistics, 2019-20), I'm always happy to share my thoughts on how we can bring in more diversity and inclusion.

We met for lunch before the panel and had an immediate connection and meaningful conversation. We bonded over a shared drive to create cultures of inclusion and belonging, and to ensure that the work we do in the advertising industry reflects the real world we live in. (In a Morning Consult survey, 45% of Black Generation Z said that they are not reflected in ad campaigns.)

When you're talking about issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, conversations tend to get real, fast, and somewhere along the line, our professional relationship became a friendship.

Last summer, we were talking about how our lived experiences drive us to do DEI work and realized that we were both from Cleveland. Then we realized we both went to Heights!

Reminiscing about our days at Heights, we agreed that our unique high school experience shaped us and gave us an appreciation for — and understanding of — a variety of cultures where our differences and commonalities are all celebrated.

We both felt Heights was magical.



Lois: I knew Heights was magical because this was my first educational experience where everyone belonged regardless of their ethnic, religious, or racial backgrounds.

Lisa: I loved Heights and took for granted that people could — and should — embrace friendships with people who don't look the same. Because of my upbringing, until I got to college, I didn't realize that this was not the norm. We've had lots of conversations about white privilege in this context.

THESE ARE SOME OF OUR SHARED THOUGHTS:

- There was truly a place for everyone — there were so many choices of activities — from sports to music to art to vocational training — you could always find your crew.
- Teachers, faculty, and staff played an integral role in baking inclusion into the DNA of Heights, from the curriculum, to how they managed classrooms and discussions, to extracurricular activities.
- We all made friends and got invited to cultural celebrations that were different from our own, fostering respect for other cultures and practices.
- You were accepted for who you were and felt like you belonged.

Whatever you wanted to do or be, Heights gave you the tools to do it. Even decades after graduation, Heights is a part of who we are personally and professionally. We're so grateful for the high school experiences that gave us a foundation to impact our families, our world, and our efforts to affect real change in the ad industry. 🐾



THE GREAT HEIGHTS GIVE BACK

A Friendly Competition Amongst Graduates



The Great Heights Give Back is a friendly giving competition amongst graduates. Throughout the year, we are tracking all individual alumni and Class donations to Heights Schools Foundation's "Highest Need Fund" that supports today's students. Your donations will go to the top priorities that help kids thrive in Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools. Whether it is classroom grants to make teaching more effective and engaging, transportation to increase equity and access to programs after school, or scholarships for graduating seniors - the fund is there to meet those strategic needs.

Besides the generosity glow, and feeling good that your donations help students today have the same kinds of impactful experiences that you did as a student, winning classes will get special social media and E-News shout outs. To help boost your class, make a donation and indicate it is designated for the Great Heights Give Back, along with class year and month. In addition to monthly winners, at the close of 2021, we'll announce overall winning classes!

2021 Leaderboard - 1st Place Monthly Winners

February Class of '86
March Class of '76
April Class of '71

May Class of '55
June Class of '56
July Class of '48

August Class of '78
September ... Class of '65
October Classes of '61 & '65



MAKE A DONATION TODAY IN HONOR OF YOUR CLASS! \$ _____

Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City / State / Zip _____ Email _____

Mail your donation to: Heights Schools Foundation - 2155 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, Ohio 44118
or make your donation online at: HeightsSchoolsFoundation.org

DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT WIDE

Tiger Camp Enriches Campers with Arts & Academics



As home to the district's Tiger Camp, Heights High School was buzzing with activity this summer hosting nearly 560 K-8 grade students. The camp was designed to address some of the learning loss that inevitably took place during remote school, as well as help children reconnect with their peers while engaged in supervised fun summer activities. Two hours of each morning

were dedicated to academic enrichment taught by district teachers, while the rest of the day included more traditional summer camp activities. Campers learned to swim, played African drums, mastered yoga moves and played games both inside the classrooms and on the outdoor athletic fields. CH-UH partnered with community organizations to give the children as broad and varied an experience as possible.

BOULEVARD ELEMENTARY

Boulevard Ends Year with Countdown Celebration



The final 26 days of last school year at Boulevard Elementary were all part of an 'ABC Countdown to Summer,' that incorporated learning and celebrating community. Daily themes invited special clothing and accessories, everything from Crazy Hair Day to Inside Out Day to Rainbow Day. There were also activities

to accompany each day, whether it was sharing an appropriate joke for Joke Day, bringing a favorite book to read on Quiet Day or making a new friend at recess on Friendship Day. Some special themes involved complimenting classmates and teachers on Uplifting Day and writing letters to younger students on Letter Day. In the final days of the very unusual school year, Boulevard students took a class walk and exchanged autographs before zipping up their backpacks and zooming into summer.

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY

FOX 8 Features Student Entrepreneur



Autumn Daniel is only 9 but knows her purpose. The fourth grader was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when she was 3 years old. But born out of her diagnosis came the idea to bring awareness through 'TIDLooksGoodonMe,' an organization she started building at age 6. Autumn and her mom have designed several clothing and home items through the organization to celebrate the strength

in those having to manage their blood sugar levels every single day. All proceeds go to serving this community with things like sponsoring a kid to go to diabetes camp, and their free "Sweet Life Essential" kits for newly diagnosed families. The kits include insulin pen needles, syringes, measuring cups and a calculator to help carb count along with helpful recipes, snacks, and a water bottle. Kits also include a letter from a friend, "Don't be afraid. You got this. Xoxo, Autumn."

FAIRFAX ELEMENTARY

Fairfax Elementary Unveils Long Awaited School Garden



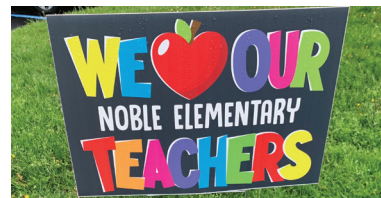
School gardens can provide all kinds of benefits to students: real-world application of science and math concepts, building community among students from different classrooms and grade levels as they work toward a

common goal, inspiration for trying new healthy foods, the responsibility for caring for something living and growing, and, in the case of Fairfax's new student garden, an opportunity for incorporating art into a permanent installation.

A project that was set to be launched prior to the COVID shutdowns, the garden has finally been opened. The garden was installed on an unused portion of the school's property facing Lee Road. It includes multiple raised wooden beds for vegetables and herbs, a picnic table and several whimsical pieces of collaborative student art. Every class had the opportunity to explore the garden itself as well as enjoy outdoor activities.

NOBLE ELEMENTARY

Noble Elementary - PTA National School of Excellence



Noble Elementary approached this new school year with extra pride, having just been recognized as a PTA National School of Excellence. The two-year distinction is bestowed on schools after they demonstrate a

partnership between the PTA and school that "enriches the educational experience and overall well-being for all students," according to the National PTA website.

Noble PTA President Nadiyah Freeman said the recognition "symbolizes our incredible work as national leaders in developing strong family-school partnerships." The PTA executive committee worked hard to maintain connection with families during the long school closure, creating a sense of community even without face-to-face contact.

ROXBORO ELEMENTARY

Rox Read-a-Thon Features 'Amazing Race' Style Event



The entire student body at Roxboro Elementary School engaged in a 10-day Read-a-thon in September, with every child logging minutes and vying to read more than their classmates. It was a friendly competition, where everyone had the chance to be a winner. To kick-off the event, every student visited the school's book

vending machine (nicknamed Rita Story) to choose their own new book to take home and add to their libraries.

A highlight was the Amazing Reading Race in Coventry Village. With families competing as teams, the event included clues for stops at various local businesses, with each stop featuring a literacy activity for children and their families to complete together.

OXFORD ELEMENTARY

One School, One Book: Oxford Reads Hidden Figures



Oxford students, staff and families all took a deep dive into the history of the Space Race and the critical role that African American women played in getting the United States into outer space as they read grade appropriate variations of Hidden Figures for a One School, One Book experience. The combination of science, math, history and great storytelling made this a perfect selection. Students learned about everything from the Cold War and Sputnik to Mach 5 and breaking the sound barrier, tied in with the personal stories of Black women making it in a field largely reserved for white men. It didn't hurt that their principal Jackie Taylor, has a science background and used to work for NASA.

Classroom teachers, community leaders, Heights alumni, and district administrators including Superintendent Elizabeth Kirby stepped up to participate and read chapters aloud for students. Teachers also set up two Google classrooms for students (one for K-2 and another for 3-5) to access chapter read-alouds, links to related materials, explicit vocabulary words and so on. The One School, One Book experience concluded in an outdoor Literacy Night for students and their families, with a drive-in movie viewing of the award-winning Hidden Figures motion picture.

GEARITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL

Parents Experience Student Learning at Literacy Night



Teachers and staff at Gearity worked hard to create Gearity Professional Development School's first ever virtual Math and Literacy Night. The evening consisted of two rounds with four concurrent sessions so parents could select

what they most wanted to learn. There were breakout rooms for K-2 parents and 3-5 parents on both math strategies and literacy. The sessions provided explicit instruction and sample lessons using reciprocal teaching, which is Gearity's primary literacy strategy as outlined in their Building Level Action Plan. "We wanted to make sure that parents understood what their kids are experiencing in the classroom each day," said Title I Lead Literacy Teacher Mr. Lausche.

Every student who attended had the opportunity to choose one book or learning game from a schoolwide collection to keep at home. The evening also included the distribution of copies of the book *Who Is Kamala Harris?* to every student for Gearity's One School One Book.

MONTICELLO MIDDLE

Monticello Student Attends Space Academy

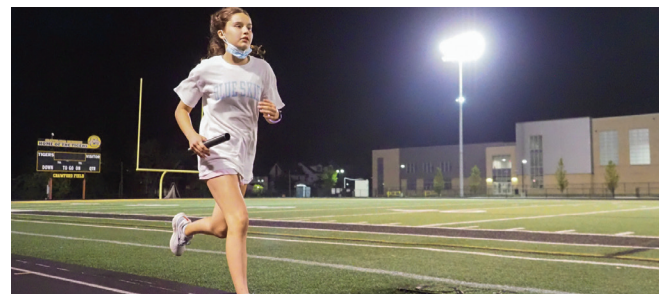


Eighth grader Abby Burkle had an out of this world summer experience when she attended the weeklong Space Academy at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The camp provides hands-on science, technology, engineering and math enrichment and activities designed for young people interested in space exploration. Campers slept in quarters designed to mimic the International Space Station (ISS) and spent their days training with their team to fly a simulated space mission to the ISS, moon or Mars. Abby's crew participated in experiments and successfully completed an extra-vehicular activity or spacewalk.

Abby had so much fun that she's shifted her career expectations: "Originally I was planning to work as a National Park Service historian but at camp I discovered that there are people at NASA who look at the history of space exploration," a perfect way to combine her many passions.

HEIGHTS HIGH & MIDDLE

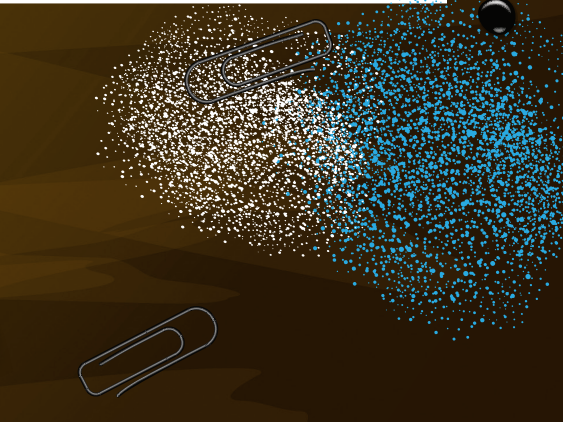
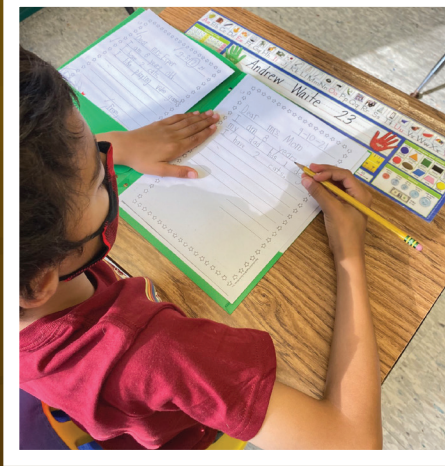
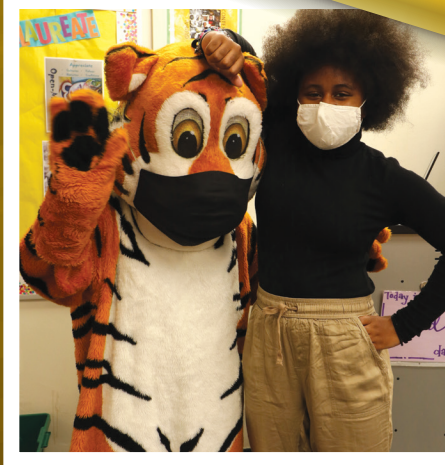
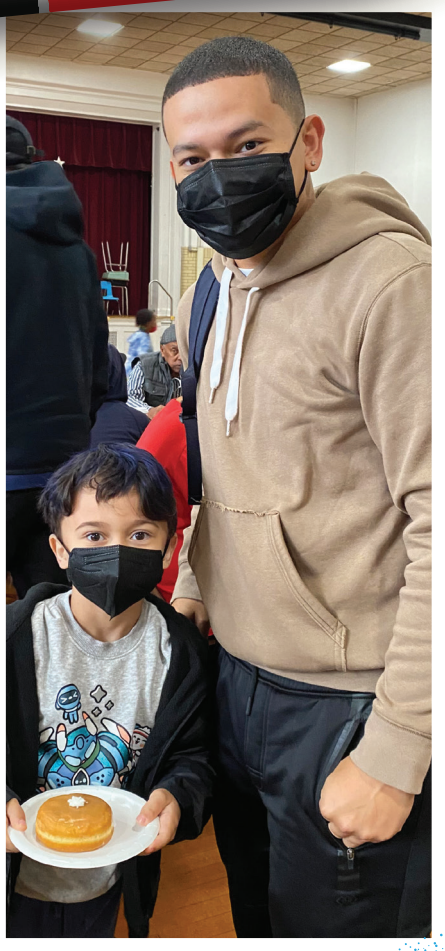
Runners Raise \$17,000 After Completing 24-Hour Relay



The Heights High cross country and track teams, joined by runners from Monticello and Roxboro middle schools, completed their first annual 24-Hour Relay at Heights High School on August 7 and 8. They arrived at the track on Saturday morning, carrying tents and sleeping bags, foam rollers and stretch bands. All participants ran more miles than they ever had before and some ran faster than they ever had before. And it wasn't only students running; they were joined by alumni, parents, teachers, administrators and community members. Heights High science teacher and cross country and track coach Steph Buda ran an entire marathon on the track, 104 laps. The student athletes ran 250 consecutive miles over a 24-hour period and raised \$17,000 for the Cleveland Heights Running Boosters. The runners could never have done it without the support of the community, including countless parents who volunteered for overnight shifts and local businesses who donated food.

BACK TO SCHOOL





ALUMNI & COMMUNITY MEMBERS GIVING BACK

Thank you for supporting our students and staff during this challenging time. Especially now, we gratefully acknowledge the following contributors* who made an impact with their donations through supporting scholarships, classroom projects and enrichment activities, emergency needs related to pandemic/ remote learning, alumni and community engagement and more.



Scholarships Gifts

Suzanne Adel
Monica Allen
James Allyn
Chandra Billiar
Andersson
AVI Food Systems
Debbie Bartels
Marsha Birnbaum
Dr. Christopher Brandt
Lloyd Brown
Joanne Burech
Cathy Cappelletti
Vincent Carbone
Dr. Susan Carver
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Rita Chabler
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Unrestricted Gifts for the Top Strategic Priorities that Help Kids Thrive

Bread & Roses Fund
Class of June 1948

Class of June 1956
Class of June 1957
Class of June 1961
Class of June 1967
Dr. Donald Abrams
Alexis Abramson
Jessie Adler
Tiffany Amos
Gail Anderson
Ms. Barbara Andrews
Cantor Perryne Anker
Merle Apel
Dr. Bernard Arons
Robert Barkley
Karen Bauer-Blazer
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Gina Klick
Deborah Kohn
Martin Kohn



Let's help the resilient and strong Class of 2022 launch into their next steps with a record level of scholarship funding! It has been tough for Heights students as they have found their way through online learning, hybrid learning and then finally coming back together. They are working hard and ready to soar! You can help make the difference today with a contribution to "The Tiger Fund for Graduating Seniors".

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE CLASS OF 2022 WITH SCHOLARSHIPS! \$ _____

Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City / State / Zip _____ Email _____

Mail your donation to: Heights Schools Foundation - 2155 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, Ohio 44118
or make your donation online at: HeightsSchoolsFoundation.org

*Donations made between September 1, 2020 and September 15, 2021. We apologize if there are any errors and welcome your corrections.

REUNIONS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED, BUT RECONNECTION DOESN'T NEED TO BE!

Consider new ways to “see” old classmates.

Hank Kornblut
 Jeffrey Kraus
 Jacob Lebowitz
 Dr. Reva Leizman
 Dr. Allan Lerner
 Steven Lesser
 Sharon Levey
 Meg Levinson
 Steven Lewis
 Lawrence Lindberg
 David Link
 Charles Lissauer
 Edward Long
 Angelique Lynch
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 Peter Shriver
 Eric Simon

Dr. Wendy Sims
 Thomas Skove
 Margaret Slesnick
 Steven Sloan
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 Faye Willen
 Lawrence Willen
 Henry Winter
 Betty Wolfe
 Debra Yelsky
 Kirk Zehnder
 Benjamin Zelman
 David Zelman
 Laura Zoller
 Peter Zucker

**Opportunity Grants/
 Special Projects**

Sandra Alexander
 Kathy Blackman
 Steve Bottorff
 Rupa Datta
 Anne Donnelly
 Sara Dougherty
 Melvyn Durchslag
 Loren Grossman
 Fairmount Presbyterian Church
 Daniel Heintz
 Deborah Hoffman
 Dr. Robert Katz
 Dr. Tovah Klein
 William Nichols
 Nancy Pepler
 Liza Pollock
 Harris & Julianna Senturia
 Ashley Sparks
 Dr. Eugenia Vanek
 Marlyce Yoder

CLASS of JAN. & JUNE 1960 60TH REUNION +2 80TH BIRTHDAY REUNION

June 25, 2022

For more information

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Email agoodman@aiglaw.com

Sharon Leiberman

Email Levey shrnlev@aol.com

CLASS of 1961 60TH REUNION

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David Bunkin

Email 0042rbd@gmail.com

CLASS of 1965 75TH BIRTHDAY REUNION

August 12-13, 2022

For more information

Elaine Silver

Email esilverRN@roadrunner.com

Website clevelandheights65.com

CLASS of 1970 50TH REUNION

July 30, 2022

Pinstripes Cleveland

For more information

Enid Gurney

Email enidgurney7@gmail.com

CLASS of 1971 50TH REUNION

July 1-2, 2022

For more information

David Bonder

Email dbonder@beaconplanners.com

CLASS of 1975 45TH + 2 REUNION

September 10, 2022

Beachwood Embassy Suites

For more information

Website clevelandheights1975.com

CLASS of 1980 & 1981 40TH REUNION

November 27, 2021

Ariel International Center

For more information

Website chhsreunion.net

CLASS of 1982 40TH REUNION

June 10-12, 2022

Pinstripes Cleveland

For more information

Facebook ../groups/759248388083441

CLASS of 1991 30TH REUNION

Homecoming Weekend 2022

For more information

Facebook ../groups/CHHS1991





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CELEBRATING OUR 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Our founding, in October of 2016, was a turning point. Building on the base of decades of alumni work before us, Heights Schools Foundation was founded with the support of Heights Schools, community partners and past alumni leaders.

The idea was simple: support the top strategic needs that **help kids thrive**. Your support, ideas, donations and engagement have made it all possible - and together we have soared!
We've **raised over one million dollars** so far, and we're just getting started. Visit our brand new website, heightsschoolsfoundation.org to celebrate our past, embrace our present and to support our future.



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CELEBRATE OUR PAST
EMBRACE OUR PRESENT
SUPPORT OUR FUTURE