

# York News

The York High School Alumni Office would like to extend its sincerest congratulations to the York High School Class of 2020!

York High School's Annual Awards Night celebrates our Duke's accomplishments across the board in academics, activities, athletics, and citizenship. The digital ceremony highlights the aforementioned awards and department highlights by the York High School Administration. Watch the ceremony [here!](#)

Watch York Community High School Commencement Ceremony 2020, [here!](#)

---

## Duke Spotlight

Information collected from the author.

### **Tarrence Williams, Class of 2009**

"Since graduating from York, I got my degree at Eastern Illinois University. I've also become a professional model. I am also a professional photographer as well working with American Idol, Roots Clothing and Miss Universe where I photographed 2019 Miss Universe winner Zozibini Tunzi. I've also written my own book called 'Model Who? Model You!' where I teach others not only how to become a model, but how to break out of their shells and go for what they want in life! It's available on [Amazon Kindle](#).

----

### **Thomas Thorson, Class of 1974**

Thomas Thorson's mystery novel "Heirs Apparent," the first of a series, was released in May 2020. He has one prior published work, *Serendipity: Seemingly Random Events, Insignificant Decisions, and Accidental Discoveries that Altered History*.

Thomas can be found online, [here!](#)

To submit your exciting news and accomplishments, [complete this form!](#)



*Jay Webb (Class of 75), Founding President of the York Community High School Alumni Association (YCHSAA) and President-Elect Kathryn Wilson (Class of 65). Webb has served as President since 2016 and Wilson assumed leadership in May 2020.*

----

### **A note from YCHSAA**

Lives are being lived a little differently this spring. One thing that's changed is high school graduation. To honor York's class of 2020 and celebrate their becoming York Alumni, here are a few York graduation facts you may not know.

Before there was York, there was Elmhurst High School, whose first graduating class of three students graduated in 1896. Elmhurst High School was in a building which also housed a grammar school and stood at South Cottage Hill Ave. and Arthur St., where Hawthorne School is today. In 1917 a devastating fire destroyed

the building and classes were moved to various temporary locations until new, permanent arrangements could be made. In 1918 a referendum was passed to build a new, four-year high school for students from a broad community including Elmhurst, Villa Park, Ardmore, Addison, parts of Bensenville and Oakbrook Terrace, and the name York Community High School was chosen. The class of 1919 was the first to receive diplomas that said “York Community High School” even though they had never set foot in the building, which didn’t open until the fall of 1920.

What does our class of 2020 have in common with these graduates of over 100 years ago? Rising above adversity. The classes of 1918, 1919 and 1920 weren’t able to be in their actual school, yet the Spirit of York began with these very people as they pushed on to do the best they could; in a makeshift situation, in the middle of a pandemic, the Great Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1917-1920.

York Class of 2020, the York Community High School Alumni Association (YCHSAA) is proud of you, proud of how you are triumphing, and proud to welcome you as Alumni. We wish you every success you wish for yourselves.

Once a Duke, Always a Duke!  
Debbie Leaton-Linhart ‘67, Vice President, YCHSAA

---

## **2020 York High School Dukes of Distinction**

2020 Dukes of Distinction Nominations are now closed. Thank you to all who submitted! Information regarding this year's celebration will be announced later this summer.

For more information, call the Communications/Alumni Relations Office at 630-941-471 or email [alumni@elmhurst205.org](mailto:alumni@elmhurst205.org).

---

## **Reunions**

During these uncertain times, we will be maintaining updated information on the [Reunion page](#), located on the District 205 website. Should your plans change, please reach out via email at [alumni@elmhurst205.org](mailto:alumni@elmhurst205.org).