

| April 2021 |

# York High School ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of York High School Alumni



## York News

Congratulations to the York Speech Team for placing 4th at the virtual IHSA State Finals on Friday, February 19 - Saturday, February 20, 2021! This team had the best season winning 10 tournaments!

James Golen, a senior, was a double State Champion in Extemp and Impromptu Speaking. James made history by becoming the first York Speechie who made three straight appearances in the State Finals. CeCe Lampa, a senior, joined the team this year and finished 2nd in Oratory. CeCe tied for first place but got 2nd by judge's preference. Charlie Kungl and Olivia Rosenberg, seniors, placed 3rd in Dramatic Duet Acting. Nathan Lee, junior, finished 4th in Humorous Interpretation.

The coaching staff includes Kevin C. Martin, John Forsythe, Mike Kolodziej, Justin Ali, Kate Dowling, as well as York alums Joey Hansel and Laura Thoresen.

Congratulations to the York Speech Team and coaches on a successful season.

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## York Drama 'The Laramie Project' Encore Performance April 4th and 5th

Tickets are on sale now at [www.ticketpeak.co/yorkdrama](http://www.ticketpeak.co/yorkdrama) and are \$5 per viewing link plus \$1.50 service charge. Donations are welcome and much appreciated, as York Drama continues to create art during this unprecedented year.

This is presented in on-demand streaming with viewing links active between 5:00pm CST – Midnight CST each day of the show. Each day will require a new code if you want to watch multiple days.

[Click here for more information about The Laramie Project](#)

Stay tuned for the York Musical, Theory of Relativity, airing in May! This stunning musical reflects on how we are all connected, and how we are nothing without each other.

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### **Watch York Sports Live!**

To stream most York games on your computer or mobile device, [create an account here](#) and then [visit York's page here!](#)

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### **Duke Spotlight**

#### **Jay Webb, Class of 1975**

Jay Webb believes that recovery from addiction can be a gateway to an incredible, creative, and productive life. His personal journey is a living testament to that belief.

Jay moved to Elmhurst in middle school and attended Sandburg before entering York as a member of the class of 1975. At York, Jay played baseball and football, enjoyed student counsel, and coursework in drafting/design. He also worked as a delivery boy at Pfund & Clint, the local floral and gift shop that was responsible for most of the homecoming and prom boutonnieres and corsages that were worn by dance going Elmhurst high school students.

After graduation, Jay attended Southern Illinois University studying industrial technology. He left college after a couple of years, opting to turn summer employment into a career in drafting and design during the dawn of the new CAD-CAM technology. He eventually moved into sales where his likable personality served him well but also provided constant opportunities for business outings that included social drinking. That lifestyle combined with the pressure of meeting quotas leads him down the difficult and dangerous path of alcohol addiction.

Jay was generally able to maintain things so he could function as a father and community member but eventually, his alcoholism became problematic. He made numerous attempts at sobriety over many years, and finally, in 2005, all the pieces fell into place and he has lived a successful sober life ever since. He embraces his faith, the 12-step process, wears his sobriety on his sleeve, and is committed to shining a light on the stigma associated with addiction. He has devoted himself to making sobriety a goal for others.

In 2015 he became an independent contractor working as a sober companion for Sober Escorts based in Florida. In 2018 he received further intervention training, and in 2019 founded First Step Addiction Consultants. Along with his intervention work, he accompanies addicts to and from treatment, often staying with them upon discharge to help them initiate a new life of sobriety. He keeps

a packed bag at the ready and must leave at a moment's notice. This work has taken him to Helsinki Finland with a corporate executive and to the great outdoors of northern Canada with a client that could not miss his annual moose hunt. The interesting travel is a bonus, but the job often requires helping people held up in hotel rooms that have hit rock bottom and living in deplorable conditions. He handles several clients a month, with assignments that can last hours to several weeks.

In addition to his professional work, he remains quite active with his AA service work. Jay co-hosts Perspectives, a weekly meeting that assists families and individuals dealing with addicted loved ones to set boundaries and share experiences. In 2018, Jay also opened a local men's three-quarter sober living home, offering men an opportunity for continued growth by applying what was learned in treatment into real life to help solidify long-term sobriety.

Through his career and volunteer endeavors, Jay proves to be passionate about making a difference. We thank Jay for sharing his story and for the important work that defines his life. For more information visit [firstaddictionconsultants.com](http://firstaddictionconsultants.com).

**Read more Duke Spotlights, [here!](#)**

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**York Community High School Alumni Association Landmark Throw!**  
YCHSAA's newly redesigned Landmark Elmhurst woven throw is available for local delivery or pickup. The throw is available in Black & Cream or Green & Cream and makes a great gift or keepsake!

[Order your throw today!](#)

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### **2021 Distinguished Alumni**

Do you know a York graduate of 5+ years who have distinguished themselves through significant and/or extraordinary accomplishments, service, and/or an outstanding contribution to society? Nominate them today! [Click here for more information!](#)

**Nominations must be received by May 31, 2021**, to be considered for Fall 2021. Those received after May 31, 2021, will be considered for the following year.

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### **Update your information!**

Have you moved or changed your phone number, [visit us online](#) and update your information!

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### **Reunions**

During these uncertain times, we will be maintaining updated information on the [Reunion page](#), located on the District 205 website.

If your reunion has been postponed or canceled due to COVID-19, please email your updates to [alumni@elmhurst205.org](mailto:alumni@elmhurst205.org).

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