

York High School

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Alumni Newsletter February 11, 2022

NEW Items:

- York News
 - Stock Market Game
 - The York Album Project
- Letter from the President of the Alumni Association
- Duke Spotlight

PRIOR Items:

- 2022 Dukes of Distinction Nominations Open
- York Community High School Alumni Association Landmark Throw
- Update your information
- Reunions

New Items

Stock Market Game

Congratulations to The Honors Personal Finance, Honors Management, and Career Internship classes at York Community High School who finished 1st and 2nd to win awards. The winning team's total equity of \$922,918, is astounding and has never before been eclipsed. York High School seniors Ryan Pajak, Ryan Marti, and Matthew Huffman finished in first place and Ryan Spaeth placed 2nd in the grade 9-12 division, in which 2,390 stock market teams competed.

The York Album Project

The York Album Project is celebrating the release of its 9th album today! This year's album, "Still in Pieces", features 12 different student artists from York that have written and recorded original songs during the fall semester. The album project is coordinated by York Music Teacher, Chris Gemkow, with audio engineering support by

Grant Mitchell of Boulevard Studio in Oak Park. The York Album Project continues to highlight the incredible musical talent and creativity that exists at York High School.

"Still in Pieces" is available to stream on Spotify, Apple Music, and all other streaming platforms under the artist name York Album Project (cover art by junior Alyssa Poli). You can also stream or download the album from Bandcamp here: yorkalbumproject.bandcamp.com.

A Letter from the President of the Alumni Association:

The York Community High School Alumni Association (YCHSAA) is constantly looking for interesting Alumni stories! Lisa Fanelli, our YCHSAA Secretary, and a York graduate of 1979 created our Duke Spotlight for the Alumni Newsletter. This month, Lisa spotlights five generations of York High School graduates, the Brodt-Fowich families. If you have a story you would like to share, please email alumni@elmhurst205.org. Congratulations to the many generations of York Dukes!

YCHSAA wishes to congratulate Gary Rydstrom, Class of 1977, and a 2014 York Dukes of Distinguished Honoree on his 2021 Academy Award nomination for the Best in Sound category for West Side Story. Gary won seven Academy Awards for Sound and Editing and was nominated twenty times. Let's wish him success on number eight!

Once A Duke, Always a Duke
Kathryn Wilson ('65)
President - YCHSAA

Duke Spotlight

Five Generations of Dukes

Kurt Fowich (class of 1963) is one of a long line of York Alumni that spans generations and he has agreed to share his family's history for this Duke Spotlight. The story begins with Professor Herman Brodt who taught German at Elmhurst College in the 1890s. Herman had a son, Hugo, who graduated from then Elmhurst High School (present-day site of Hawthorne Elementary School) in 1905 and went on to own the "icehouse" in town, supplying ice to residents before the existence of our go-to appliance, the refrigerator/freezer.

Elmhurst High School burned down in 1917, and according to Kurt, following the fire, the land where York is now located was sold by the local country club, Elmhurst Golf Club, where it was divided into land for a new high school and surrounding residential homes. Though the land for York was officially designated in 1918, the first class did not attend the finished school until 1920. During the construction, students

went to high school at St. Peter's Church, which still stands at Cottage Hill and Church Avenues near Wilder Park.

Hugo had a son, Burt, who attended the New York Community High School, where he met and married his eventual bride, Virginia Buelow, a member of another long-standing Elmhurst family. The two graduated in 1937, and Burt went on to become the Comptroller for Elmhurst National Bank. Burt and Virginia had a daughter, Carole, who captured the heart of Kurt Fowich and the two were eventually married. Kurt and Carole first met at Lincoln Elementary School, but the Brodts proceeded to move out of Elmhurst and so Carole did not attend York; instead, she graduated from the rival, Willowbrook High School. Kurt, of course, did attend York where he played basketball and graduated in 1963. Kurt and Carole resided in Elmhurst and raised three York graduates: Christine (class of 1985), Rick (class of 1987), and Andrew (class of 1997). Currently, Andrew's daughter, Cyra Fowich, is a junior at York and is set to graduate in 2023. When she crosses that stage to receive her diploma, she will be the fifth generation to do so. That's some legacy! Hugo would be proud.

Prior Items

Do You Know a Distinguished York Alum?

Nominations are open for the 2022 Dukes of Distinction program. Please fill out this [form](#) to nominate your 2022 Duke of Distinction! Applications are open to anyone who is a graduate of 5+ years and who has distinguished themselves through significant and/or extraordinary accomplishments, service, and/or an outstanding contribution to society.

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 throw today!](#)

Update your information!

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

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.