

York High School

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Alumni Newsletter March 2022

NEW Items:

- Letter from the President of the Alumni Association
- York News
- Duke Spotlight

PRIOR Items:

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

New Items

Letter from the President of the Alumni Association,

Dear Alumni,

Many of our York High School Alumni are busy scheduling class reunions for 2022! The Alumni Office can help you by providing:

- An Excel file containing information about your classmate's last known phone, and e-mail address. Address available upon request. Please contact alumni@elmhurst205.org.
- A tour of York High School for your group. Tours are offered for a nominal fee. Contact Val Stewart at valstewart557@gmail.com for more information on a tour of the high school.

- Schedule a member of the York High School Alumni Association to attend your reunion with YCHSAA Merchandise for sale.

Your committee can help the Alumni Office by:

- Ask members of your class to provide their information to the Office of Alumni Relations [via this form](#).

Class of 1965 Hawthorne grade school attendees (50th Reunion)



Class of 1979 Bryan Junior high attendees (45th reunion)



Class of 1962 --55th reunion



We hope the information provided above will be helpful as you begin planning your York Community High School Class Reunion.

Kathy Wilson
President of the York Alumni Association
Once a Duke Always a Duke

York News:



State Speech Champions Honored

During the 2021-2022 season, the York High School team earned the title of 2022 Regional Champions, they made history by placing in the top five at seven Tournament Championships. Nathan Lee placed 2nd in Humorous Interpretation, Owen Espinosa placed 4th in Original Comedy, Rosie Kungl placed 4th in Prose Reading, Grace Stewart placed 4th in Oratory, Regan Wright placed 6th in Oratorical Declamation.



Girls All-State Bowling Honored

Katharine Svehla, York Community High School senior, earned a medal at the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Girls State Bowling Finals, finishing third in the Individuals with a total pin count of 2587, which is a 215.6 average over 12 games in two days. During the 2021-2022 season, Katharine had 12 top 10 finishes with the team finishing first in 8 tournaments, second place in three, and two third-place finishes, and were undefeated Conference champions, as well as finished 1st at regionals and sectionals. She is the first All-State Athlete for Bowling in the history of York and led the team to a 5th place finish, which is also the highest finish in York history.

Duke Spotlight:

Carol O'Keefe- class of 1981

Carol O'Keefe's story shows us that life's path is not always direct, but with a bit of luck and a willingness to try new things, we can get to where we are meant to be. Carol attended Immaculate Conception Grade School and then York Community High School, class of 1981. Carol was a member of the yearbook staff and took honors level academic courses. Carol worked a part time job throughout high school and did so while still earning a place in National Honor Society. Carol enjoyed her time in Mr. Cloud's English class, and fondly recalls him telling her that she would make a great English teacher. That was never a consideration for her, and at the time, she believed that to be the last thing she wanted to do with her life! After graduation, Carol attended the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana and graduated with a major in Accounting. She proceeded to work the next nine years in prestigious corporate settings, such as the big eight accounting firm, Arthur Anderson, in the areas of audit and finance. While she enjoyed her work initially and the travel it afforded her, eventually, she felt unfulfilled and ultimately concluded that the world of corporate business might not be for her. Since travel and foreign places intrigued her, at age thirty, Carol applied and was accepted into the Peace Corps. Because she was not bilingual, she was sent to Western Samoa, which uses the British education system. She was assigned to teach subjects such as accounting, economics and English. This two year commitment made her realize how much she truly enjoyed working with children. Carol traveled for a few months before returning to the States. She landed in Seattle where she got another corporate job in finance with good earning potential to make up for the lean years of the Peace Corps. However, she really missed working with children and after four years decided it was time to go back to it. With the help of a Peace Corps friend, she found work in Arizona teaching and living on a Hopi Indian Reservation. It was a really remote area outside of Flagstaff in the high desert and a completely new experience for Carol. Over the course of eight years there, she learned to love the landscape, the peace and quiet and the Native American students she taught. Carol also knew that she needed further education to continue in this field, so while teaching during the day she attended school at night and during her summers off, and received a Masters in Education from Northern Arizona University. Currently, Carol is teaching at the Santa Fe Indian School in New Mexico. The school is a boarding school with someday students and has about seven hundred middle school and high school students from nineteen Pueblo communities and several other Native tribes. Carol lives in an adobe home in the small village of Cerrillos, about half an hour outside of Santa Fe. Carol loves teaching these students whose culture and traditions are a major part of their lives. She describes them as creative, artistic, resilient, respectful, and committed to family and community. The school has a high graduation rate, and while college proves difficult for some students due to finances or cultural challenges, many do get their college degrees and go on to help their communities. The school staff is more than 50% Native American, and several of Carol's students have returned to teach at the school. Lastly, it is important to note that Carol teaches English at Santa Fe Indian School and loves it! In his infinite teacher wisdom, York's Mr. Cloud saw something in her that she did not yet see in herself. Carol's journey brought her to her destiny, and both she and the students whom she is so devoted to are better off for it.

Carol and some of her students



The main street of Carol's village, Cerrillos, after a donkey race.

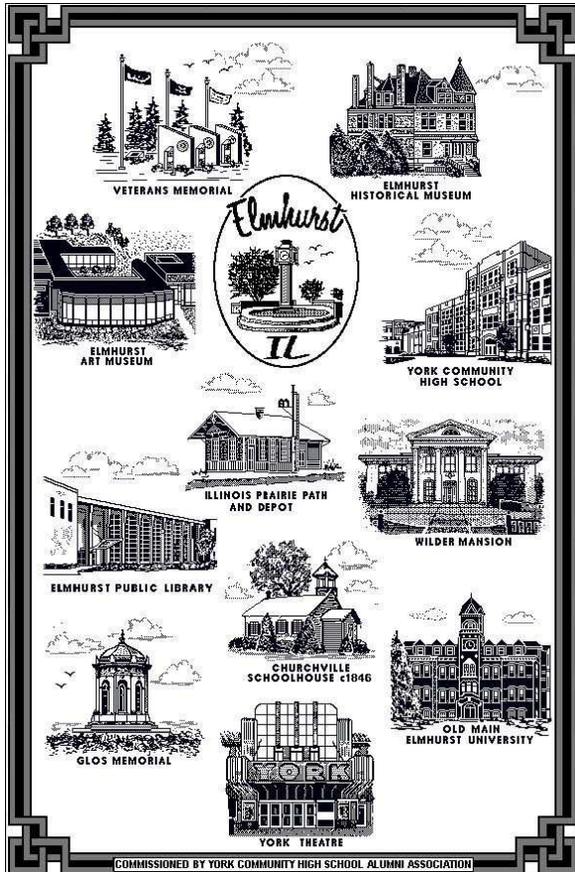


Prior Items

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 and Cream or Green and Cream which 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.