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# Banquet and Induction Ceremony

## Physical Education and Sports Center

### Saturday, March 14, 2009

#### **Welcome**

*Ms. Ginger Fletcher, Director  
Community Relations & Development Office*

#### **Introductions**

*Dr. David Damerall, Superintendent*

#### **Invocation**

*Alvin Miller, Inductee  
Kirkwood '83*

#### **Remarks**

*Dr. Dave Holley, Principal  
Kirkwood '67*

*Jim Velten, Athletic Director*

#### **Induction Ceremony**

*Doug Vaughn, Master of Ceremonies  
KMOV Sports Anchor and Reporter  
Kirkwood '74*

#### **Concluding Remarks**

*Dr. Dave Holley*

*— Alma Mater —*

*Special Note: Honorees with an asterisk (\*) by their names are being honored posthumously.*



**K I R K W O O D**  
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

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## Sherwood Hughes, Class of 1937

In addition to his football prowess, Hughes lettered in track and field and in basketball. At 5'4", he was captain of the Pioneers basketball team. Hughes was president of his senior class, and a member of both the Student Council and National Honor Society. Hughes was named a member of the Kirkwood High School All-Century Football Team in 2007. Upon graduation, Hughes ran track as a freshman at University of Missouri-Columbia. He then attended night school for two years at St. Louis University before being drafted into the U.S. Navy. He served in the Navy for four years during World War II, and then spent a 40-year career in commercial construction. Two local projects included the West County Mall in Des Peres and Grace Episcopal Church in Kirkwood. He served as a member of the Kirkwood Park Board in the late 1950s.



He and his late wife, Marion, reared four children: Marilyn, Robert, Frank and Tim (deceased). He has 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## Jimmy Jackson, Class of 1940\*

Jackson is considered one of the finest golfers from the state of Missouri. While attending Kirkwood High School, Jackson excelled in golf and basketball. He was the Missouri State High School Golf Champion in 1939 and District Junior Golf Champion in 1940, both of which jumpstarted his six-decade career as an amateur champion at the state level and beyond.

While attending Washington University, Jackson played basketball and continued to golf at the amateur level. Following graduation, he went on to gain acclaim throughout Missouri and the nation. He is believed to be the first St. Louis-area golfer to be named to the U.S. Walker Cup team. During his lifelong amateur career, he won the Missouri Amateur Championship four times, qualified for 18 U.S. Amateur Championships and played in the U.S. Open in 1952 and 1976. He also won the prestigious Trans-Mississippi Championship in 1954 and 1955. His career included five Masters Tournaments. Jackson was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 1983.



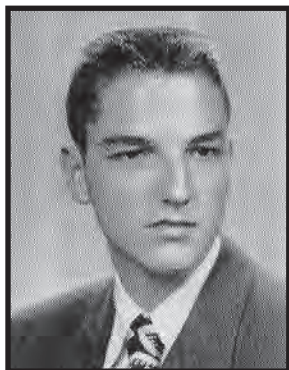
Jackson and his wife, Helen, reared two children, Beau and Betsy. When not playing golf, Jackson was a salesman for the Bemis Bag Company.



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## Dan Finch, Class of 1950\*



Finch was a two-sport athlete at Kirkwood High School, competing in basketball (1948-49, 1949-50) and golf (1948-49, 1949-50). He earned All-District basketball honors in 1949 and 1950. Additionally, he was named Prep Player of the Year and was voted to the All-State basketball team. At Vanderbilt University, he was a three year letter winner for the Commodores (1951-52, 1952-53, 1953-54). At Vandy, Finch was named Second Team All-Southeastern Conference in 1953, and First Team All-SEC in 1954. He was selected team captain during the 1953-54 season when the Commodores went 12-10. Finch was the team's leading scorer and remains 34th in Vandy's scoring history with 1,045 points.

Finch and his wife, Sarah, reared two children: Michael and Patrick.



## Bob Cannon, Class of 1957\*



As a sophomore, Cannon was a starter for the former Douglas High School in Webster Groves, Missouri, championship football team in 1955. Before the 1954 landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education, African-American students throughout St. Louis County attended Douglass from 1925 to 1956. Cannon transferred to Kirkwood in 1956, and earned two varsity football letters (1955-56, 1956-57) and one varsity baseball letter (1956-57). Cannon's accomplishments on the field and in the classroom earned him a scholarship to Texas Southern University. In 2007, Cannon was named to the Kirkwood High School All-Century Football Team.

Cannon was drafted into the Army while attending Texas Southern University. After serving his country, he settled in St. Louis and worked for 25 years for the Nestle Company. He had one child, Robin.



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## Paul Henley, Class of 1958

Henley earned six varsity letters for the Pioneers, including three in football (1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58), and three in track and field (1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58). He was named co-captain of the 1957-58 football team. He was named to the Kirkwood High School All-Century Football Team in 2007. Henley attended the University of Missouri-Columbia, and was a three year letter-winner for the Tigers (1959-1961). At Mizzou, he played on teams that competed in two Orange Bowls and won one Big Eight Championship. Henley was named an All Big Eight Conference guard in 1960, and earned Big Eight All-Academic Team honors in 1959 and 1960. He also was named in Who's Who in American Colleges. Chemical Engineering News named Henley as one of top 12 chemical engineering students in the nation while he attended Mizzou.



As a professional chemical engineer, Henley is vice president at Ethyl Corporation. He and his wife, Judie, have two children, Martha and Paul.

## Del Campbell, Class of 1959

Campbell was a three-sport athlete at Kirkwood High School, earning nine varsity letters in football (1958-59), wrestling (1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59), and tennis (1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59). He was a team captain in both wrestling and tennis during his junior and senior years. At the University of Kansas, Campbell was a three-time letter winner in tennis, as well as captain of the KU tennis team. He won the Big Eight Conference doubles championship, and was an All Big Eight performer

In 2006, Campbell won the National Men's 65 Doubles Championship.

In 2007, he won the National Men's 65 Singles Championship and was ranked eighth in the world in his division. In 2008, he ranked first in the USA in the Men's 65. Campbell represented the USA in International Cup Play in Turkey in 2006, and in New Zealand in 2007.



He served for 30 years in the U.S. Army, and achieved the rank of Colonel. Del and his wife, Pat, KHS Class of 1959, have three children: Scott, Chris and Kelly.





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## David Theriot, Class of 1959\*



An outstanding track and field athlete, Theriot earned three varsity letters (1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59) for the Pioneers. When he was team captain in 1959, he won individual state championships in the 120 Hurdles (:14.5) and 180 Hurdles (:19.6). Theriot also earned two varsity basketball letters (1957-58, 1958-59), and was the 1958-59 team captain.

After graduation, Theriot attended the University of Michigan with an academic scholarship from McDonnell. He also ran track but decided after a semester to leave college and join the Air Force. Airman David Ronald Theriot died at the age of twenty-three while serving his country.



## Roger Schurig, Class of 1960



Schurig earned varsity letters in both basketball (1958-59, 1959-60) and track and field (1958-59, 1959-60). He was captain of the 1959-60 basketball team, and was named First Team All-State in 1960. He holds the all-time school record for points in a season (680), and second for points in a game (45). Schurig went on to play collegiate basketball at Vanderbilt University, and was a three-year letterman for the Commodores (1963-1965). He led Vandy in scoring, field goal percentage, and free throw percentage in 1963.

After graduating from Vanderbilt, Schurig played for the Houston Mavericks of the American Basketball Association in 1967. Schurig worked for Maritz Travel Company for 36 years. He and his wife, Jill, are retired and live in Town and Country and have a home in Georgia.



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## Phil Landes, Class of 1961

Landes was a three-sport star for the Pioneers, and earned varsity letters in football (1960-61), basketball (1960-61), and baseball (1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61). His senior year, Landes earned All-Conference and All-District football honors, and was honorable mention All-District in basketball. He was also co-captain of the football squad. Landes is best known for his performances on the baseball diamond, as he pitched the Pioneers to the Missouri State Baseball Championship in 1961. Landes was an All-State baseball selection, and a member of the New York Yankees organization from 1962-1966.

He pursued a career in retail after his baseball career. Landes and his wife, Tina, have three children: Darrin, Kim and Kirstin.



## Jim Waller, Class of 1961

A three-sport athlete for the Pioneers, Waller earned varsity letters in football (1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61), basketball (1959-60, 1960-61), and baseball (1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61). As a senior, he was captain of the basketball team and co-captain of the football and baseball teams. Waller earned All-Conference and All-District football honors, and was a First Team All-State basketball selection.

After graduating, Waller attended the University of Missouri-Columbia, and was a two-time football letter winner for the Tigers (1964-1965) while earning his bachelor's degree. Football honors include being named to the Second Team All Big Eight as a junior and senior. As a senior, he was named to the university's secret honor society, QEBH. He also earned an MBA from Xavier University. Upon graduation, he signed a pro contract with the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was named to the Kirkwood High School All-Century Football Team in 2007.



Waller worked for Proctor and Gamble for 27 years and PepsiCo for 10 years. He and his wife, Jane, have three children: Wendi, Kimberly and Kenneth. They also are proud grandparents of eight grandchildren.



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## Tom Wood, Class of 1963



Wood earned varsity letters in three different sports, including football (1961-62, 1962-63), basketball (1961-62, 1962-63), and baseball (1961-62, 1962-63). As a senior, Wood received First Team All-District football honors, and Second Team All-District basketball honors. He also led the basketball team in scoring and rebounding his senior year.

Following high school, Wood played football for Hutchinson Junior College, where he earned an Honorable Mention as an All-American. He lettered in football at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He also tried out for the Minnesota Vikings.

Wood was owner of Stevens Flooring for 30 years until he retired in 2007. He and his wife, Becky, have four children: Brian, Travis, Ben and Alexis.



## Jim Olson, Class of 1965



Although only attending Kirkwood High School for one year, Olson earned two varsity letters. He lettered in cross country and track and field, and was the 1964 Missouri State Cross Country Champion. Olson followed his outstanding cross country season with Missouri State Track and Field Championships in both the 880 Meter (1:54.1) and the Mile (4:08.4) in the spring of 1965. Olson also was named to the Scholastic Magazine All-American High School Track and Field Team in 1965. He still holds school records in the 800 and 1,600 Meter events.





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## Chester Jackson, Class of 1968

Jackson was a tremendous three-sport athlete for the Pioneers, earning varsity letters in football (1966-67, 1967-68), basketball (1966-67, 1967-68), and baseball (1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68). He earned All-Conference and All-Metro honors as a wide receiver for the football team, and was the star of the 1968 baseball team that finished third in state. He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in 1968. Jackson attended St. Louis Community College at Meramec and the University of Missouri in St. Louis. Jackson was named to the Kirkwood High School All-Century Football Team in 2007.



Jackson worked for GMAC as an insurance adjuster for 32 years. He and his wife, Audrey, have two children: Leland and Tina.



## Art Miller, Class of 1968

Miller was a three-time varsity letter winner for the Pioneers in football (1966-67, 1967-68) and track and field (1966-67, 1967-68). He was co-captain of the 1967-68 football and track and field squads. He won state championships in the 180 Hurdles (:19.5) and the 4x400 Meter Relay in 1968. Miller was named to the 1968 Scholastic Magazine All-American Track and Field Team.



He went on to be a four-year letterman in football and track at Southeast Missouri State University, where he was named to the All-Conference MIAA Football team and All-American Track team. After graduation, Miller played professionally for the Houston Oilers and the Denver Broncos. Miller was named to the Kirkwood High School All-Century Football Team in 2007.

Miller has spent his career as a teacher and coach for more than 30 years. His accomplishments as a coach include coaching the 1983 Kirkwood boys track team, led by his brother Alvin, that won the State Championship. Additionally, he was named the Ferguson-Florissant School District 1977 Junior High Coach of the Year and the Kirkwood School District 1983 Coach of the Year. Miller is a teacher and coach in the Ritenour School District and plans to retire at the end of the 2008-09 school year. He has two children, Keenan and Alexis.



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## George Thornton, Class of 1968



Thornton excelled in both basketball and track and field as a Pioneer. He earned five varsity letters, including three for basketball (1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68) and two for track and field (1966-67, 1967-68). As a senior, Thornton was team captain of the basketball squad, and co-captain of the track and field team. In basketball, he earned All-District, All-State and All-American titles. For 41 years, Thornton's high jump record of 6 feet 10 inches has remained untouched.

He attended Louisiana Tech University, and was a four-year letterman for the Bulldogs basketball team (1969-1972). His legacy continues at Louisiana Tech with a street named after him on campus.

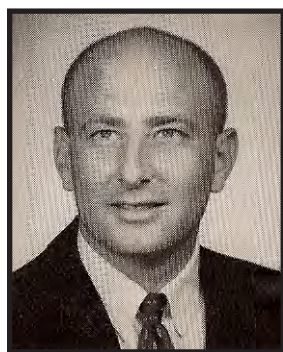
He currently is a successful St. Louis businessman. Thornton and his wife, Judith, own the Metal Service on St. Louis Avenue, a metal processing plant.



## 1969 Boys Cross Country Team

Coached by Ron Rushen, the 1969 boys cross country team captured both the Missouri State and National Championship titles. State and National Championship team members included Doug Ashcraft, Don Axt, Jim Benkert, Lennie Harrison, Robert Nellums, and Cecil Jones.

## 1969 Boys Cross Country Team — Coach Ron Rushen\*



Rushen was a 1954 graduate of Center High School, Kansas City, Missouri. He graduated from Kansas University in 1961 with a bachelor of science degree. Rushen taught social studies, health and physical education and coached track and field and cross country at Kirkwood High School for thirteen years.



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## Douglas Ashcraft, Class of 1970

Ashcraft was a part of the only Kirkwood High School boys cross country team to capture the title of State Champion 3 years in a row and win the National Championship. Ashcraft also participated in track and freshmen football.

He graduated from Rice University with a degree in Engineering. At Rice, Ashcraft participated in track and cross country his freshmen year and was voted Alumni Student of the Year. He was a member of the Engineering Honor Society.

Ashcraft has worked as a structural engineer in St. Louis and Houston, Texas. He is an elder of his church and coached softball and YMCA baseball. Doug and his wife, Julia, have three children: Amy, Aaron and Keith.



## Don D. Axt, Class of 1970

As co-captain of the 1969 boys cross country team, Don Axt helped lead his team to a Missouri State title. He placed seventh at State in 1969. He also was part of the State Championship teams in 1967 and 1968. Axt attended Western Illinois University where he participated in track and cross country. Axt ran with the Western Cross Country Team that placed fifth in the nation in 1973 and 1974. He lettered in track all four years at Western. He earned a degree in medical technology. In 1984 Axt earned a degree in health sciences from St. Louis University and works as a physician's assistant.



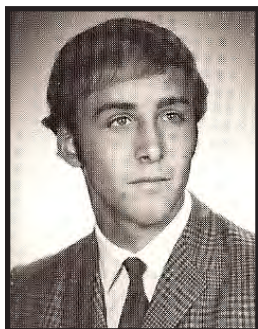
Axt and his wife, Brenda, have three children, Katie, Amy and Jason. He still runs today and participated in the Indianapolis Marathon in 2006, and in 2007 he ran the Lakefront in Milwaukee.



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## Jim Benkert, Class of 1970



Benkert as co-captain helped lead the 1969 cross country team to Missouri and National Championship titles. As a junior in 1968, he finished fourth in State for cross country and first in State for the 2-mile run. As a senior in 1969, he finished second in State in cross country and again came in first in State for the 2-mile.

Benkert ran cross country for St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley.



## Robert Nellums, Class of 1970



As a three-sport athlete, Nellums starred as a Pioneers runner on the cross country (1967, 1968, 1969), track and field (1968, 1969, 1970) and soccer teams (1968-69, 1969-70). As co-captain his senior year, Nellums led the cross country team to state and national titles. In his final cross country season as a Pioneer, Nellums placed fifth in State and fourteenth in the Nation. As a junior, he placed second in State. On the soccer field, his squad took second in State in 1968. He was named to the Southwest Conference Soccer Team in 1969. In track, he placed first in State in the 880 in 1970 while helping lead his team to an overall second place finish. Nellums placed fourth in the Golden Midwest in 1970, while also earning kudos by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as Scholar Athlete of the Year. Academically, Nellums was a National Merit Scholar. In 1968, he placed fourth in the St. Louis High School Chemistry Contest.

At Rice University, Nellums continued his athletic prowess in cross country, soccer and track. He helped lead the track team to the 1970 Southwest Conference Team Track Championship. In the 800M at the Conference Championships in track, he took sixth place as a freshman and finished fourth place as a sophomore, junior and senior. He was on the All-Conference soccer team in 1974.

Nellums earned his master's in mechanical engineering from Rice and an MBA from Harvard University. He has focused his career in research and development at Sandia National Laboratories. He and his wife, Sarah, have a daughter, Laura, and a son, Ross.





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## Cecil Jones, Class of 1970

Jones ran on the Pioneer cross country (1967, 1968, 1969) and track and field teams (1968, 1969, 1970). As co-captain of cross country, he led the team to the 1969 state and national titles. He placed 10th in State and 15th in the Nation in his final season as a Pioneer. He also was a member of the football squad as a sophomore while at KHS.

Upon graduation, he played on the basketball squad for St. Louis Community College at Meramec and helped bring home Region 16 and Conference Champion titles in 1972. He also attended Lincoln University.

Jones has worked as a mentor and counselor with Hope Unlimited, a non profit Christian youth ministry program that focuses its service in southeast Kirkwood. He continues sharing his athletic talents by coordinating six basketball teams for youth ages 8 to 14 through Hope Unlimited. His under-14 team won the AAU State Championship in 2003.

Jones has three children: Cecil, Courtney and Erica.



## Lennie Harrison, Class of 1971

Harrison's talent as a runner on the cross country and track and field teams earned him accolades throughout his career as a Pioneer. He ran on two State Cross Country Championship teams. In 1968, he finished 14th in state. In 1970, he placed fourth as an individual at the State Cross Country Championship and placed second in the mile and fourth in the 880-yard dash at the State High School Track and Field Championship. In 1971, he earned the state Indoor Mile Championship. He was ranked fourth in the nation for the 3-mile run, making him an All-American while his team captured the Missouri State and National Championship titles.



At Butler County Junior College in Kansas, Harrison was a two-time National Champion and two-time All-American. In addition to earning an associate's degree, he was inducted into school's Track and Field Hall of Fame. While earning a bachelor's from Kansas State University, he was a three-time track and field All-American and also earned a spot in the school's Track and Field Hall of Fame.

For the last 20 years, Harrison has been an award-winning State Farm Insurance agent in the St. Louis area. He has been a dedicated high school cross country and track coach since 1977, with the last two years at Kirkwood High School. Harrison has two children, Lennie IV and Lindsey, and one granddaughter.





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## Kevin Handlan, Class of 1973



Handlan was a four-year varsity letterman in soccer (1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73) for the Pioneers. He was a team tri-captain in 1972-73, and went on to play soccer at St. Louis University (SLU). While at SLU, Handlan scored 22 goals, added 18 assists, and totaled 62 points. He earned letters from 1973-1976, and was a member of the 1973 National Championship team. SLU's 1974 team made it to the NCAA Final Four, while the 1975 and 1976 teams qualified for the NCAA Tournament.

After college, Handlan played nine years at the professional soccer level, both on indoor and outdoor teams in seven different cities, including the St. Louis Steamers and Kansas City Comets.

For the last 24 years, Handlan has been a senior benefits consultant for a Kansas City regional brokerage firm that handles insurance and investments. An avid golfer, he competes in amateur events across Kansas and Missouri.

Handlan is the father of Drew and Ashley. He and his life partner, Kathy Parsons, live in Leaword, Kansas.

## Tom Kenyon, Class of 1973



Regarded by many as the best diver in school history, Kenyon was a four-year varsity letterman for the Pioneers (1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73). He was named team captain the 1972-73 season, and was a Missouri State Champion in 1970 (415.65 total score), 1972 (489.30 total score), and 1973 (504.20 total score). Kenyon was named a National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches of America All-American in 1972 and 1973. He still holds the KHS boys diving record.

While pursuing his bachelor's at Indiana University, Kenyon was an All-American diver in 1974, 1975 and 1976 and was a Big Ten Champion in the 3 Meter dive (1976). Also in 1976, he placed seventh in the U.S. Olympic Diving trials. He earned his medical degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia (1981) and master's in public health from Johns Hopkins University in 1993.

Kenyon's career as a pediatrician has brought him global notoriety as Principal Deputy Global AIDS Coordinator and Chief Medical Officer. He leads the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. He currently is the CDC Director of Ethiopia. Kenyon and his wife, Sibol (Laurie) Bopp, KHS Class of 1974, are the parents of Austin and Jess.



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## Debbie (Carter) Graves-Manns, Class of 1976

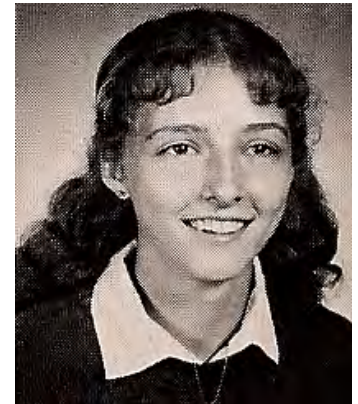
Graves-Manns was a standout performer in track and field. She was the original record holder for the girl's track program and remains the third place record holder in school history in both the 200 Meter (:24.9) and the 100 Meter (:11.8). She attended Truman State University, and competed in track and field from 1976-79. Records indicate she was the first university female athlete to receive a scholarship and earn a varsity letter. While at Truman State, Graves-Manns was an All-American, and won the 60-yards dash at the 1978 AIAW Indoor Championships. She finished fifth in the 100 Meter at the 1978 AIAW Outdoor Championships, and fourth in the 100 at the 1979 AIAW Outdoor Championships. Graves-Manns was inducted into the Truman State University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993.



After earning a degree in teaching from Truman State, Graves-Manns dedicated the next 29 years serving children of the Kirkwood School District. She was a resource teacher, a guidance counselor and a track and field coach. Graves-Manns and her husband, Hurel, have two daughters, Shayla and Diona, both of whom were KHS graduates and standouts in track and field.

## Christine (Ridenour) Vanatta, Class of 1982

Considered the best female distance runner in school history, Ridenour earned varsity letters in both cross country and track and field. She was the first female Missouri State Cross Country Champion in 1979, and earned individual track and field state championships in the 1600 Meter (5:05.5) in 1980, and the 1600 Meter (4:56.91) and 3200 Meter (10:44.37) in 1982. Ridenour excelled as a distance runner at Southeast Missouri State University, and remains in the SEMO record book for: second all-time in the 1500 Meter (4:27.96 – 1983), third all-time 3000 Meter (9:33.91 – 1984), third all-time 5000m (16:55.34 – 1983), and fourth all-time distance relay team (12:01.79 – 1984). She was a three-time All-American at SEMO and 1984 NCAA Cross Country Champion.



While attending Kansas State University, Ridenour was a two-time All-American. She earned a degree in secondary education and has taught science for 17 years. She currently teaches at a middle school in Lakewood, CO. She and her husband, Michael Vanatta, have two children: Kurt and Kaitlyn.



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## Gary Conner, Class of 1983



Conner is regarded by many as one of the best soccer players in school history. He was named First Team All-State in 1982, and is the only First Team All-State soccer player in school history. Conner still holds school records for goals in a game (4), goals in a season (30), and goals in a career (75).

He played collegiate soccer at the University of Clemson, and was a four-time letter-winner (1983-1986). His Clemson career stats include 67 goals, 20 assists, and 154 points. He was a member of the 1984 National Championship team. Conner earned First Team All-South honors in 1985, and First Team All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors in 1985 and 1986. He was named a Second Team NSCAA All-American, ACC Player of the Year, and team MVP in 1985.

Conner has four children: Abby, Courtney, Sydney and Cameron.



## Alvin Miller, Class of 1983



Regarded as the best athlete in school history, Miller earned four varsity letters in basketball, three in football and two in track and field. He earned First Team All-State football honors in both 1981 and 1982, and was named the number one football player in the country by Parade Magazine in 1982. Miller was selected to the All-Adidas and Bally's All-American football teams in 1982, National High School Football All-American 1982, USA TODAY All-American Football Team, and American Academy of Achievement Outstanding Student Athlete Gold Plate Winner.

As a member of the 1983 Kirkwood Track and Field State Championship Team, he captured four individual track and field state championships in 1983, including the 100 Meter (:10.7), 110 Hurdles (:14.0), 300 Hurdles (:37.8), and 200 Meter (:21.6). He was named a National High School Track and Field All-American in 1983 and Hertz No. 1 Performing Athlete of Missouri in 1983. Miller holds the Kirkwood High School Track records in the 100 Meters (10.5), 200 Meters (21.3), 110 High Hurdles 13.6.

Miller played varsity basketball for the Pioneers from 1979-1983, and earned All-Conference, All-District, All-County, and All-Metro Honors. He still holds school records for career points (1,606) and career rebounds (815).

After graduating in 1983, Miller attended the University of Notre Dame, and earned varsity football letters for the Fighting Irish from 1983-86. He was an Irish Track Team Member from 1983-85 and holds the Indoor Record in 60 Meter Dash (6.1). He was named to the Kirkwood High School All-Century Football Team in 2007.

Miller and his wife, Romona, have three children, Scotty, Ariel, and Lauryn.



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## Angela Mueller Pfeifer, Class of 1986

A strong swimmer, Mueller won individual state championships in the 200 Free (1:57.5) and 500 Free (5:14.4) in 1985. She also earned National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches of America All-American honors in 1985.

After graduation, Mueller attended Louisiana State University, and was a varsity letter winner for the Tigers in 1988 and an All-American. She still holds Kirkwood High School records in both the 200 Free (1:57.52) and 500 Free (5:13.98), both set in 1985. Mueller earned a bachelor's from University of Missouri- St. Louis, where she was a University Scholar and on the Dean's List.

She is an early childhood special education teacher in the Parkway School District. Mueller has been active as a stroke development coach for the Parkway Swim Club. She was the head coach for the girls' and boys' swim teams at Stroman High School in Victoria Texas.

Mueller and her husband, Peter, have two daughters, Genevieve and Abigail.



## Jay Leeuwenburg, Class of 1987

Leeuwenburg played football and basketball, and wrestled for the Pioneers. He was an extremely talented football offensive lineman, and received First Team All-State honors in 1986. While earning a bachelor's, he continued his football career at the University of Colorado-Boulder, and was a three-time letter winner for the Buffalos at center (1989-1991). He was a member of the 1990 National Championship team, and was a three-time First Team All-Big Eight Conference selection. Leeuwenburg was a two-time First Team All-American center. During his senior year, he was named to the Walter Kamp, Kodak, and Coaches AP and UP All-American Teams.

He was drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in 1992, and played 137 games in the NFL with the Chicago Bears, Indianapolis Colts, Cincinnati Bengals, and Washington Redskins. Leeuwenburg was inducted into the University of Colorado Hall of Fame in 1998 and was named to the Kirkwood High School All-Century Football Team in 2007.

Leeuwenburg is a third grade teacher at Colorado Academy. He was named the 2008 Frances Newton Faculty Award recipient for 2008 for teaching excellence. Leeuwenburg is currently the Colorado Academy's Men's JV Tennis coach. He has written and published an autobiography as a professional football player coping with Type-1 diabetes entitled, Yes I Can! Yes You Can! Tackle Diabetes and Win!

He lives in Littleton, CO with his wife, Ingher, and two daughters, Cora and Kate Louise.





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## David Mirikitani, Class of 1988



Mirikitani is considered by many as the finest wrestler in school history. He earned state championships in 1985-86 (119 lbs.) with a record of 34-1; in 1986-87 (135 lbs.) with a record of 35-0; in 1987-88 (135 lbs.) with a record of 36-0.

Mirikitani continued his wrestling career at St. Louis Community College-Meramec, where he was a two-time NJCAA All-American in 1991 and 1992. He finished first in the Region and second at the Nationals with a 42-3-1 record during his second season. He was inducted into the NJCAA Coaches Association Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2007.

After wrestling at Meramec, he earned a bachelor of science in business administration with a focus in finance from Washington University. Mirikitani and his wife, Julia, live in St. Louis and own a financial planning firm, Mirikitani & Associates.



## Penny Parham, Class of 1994



Parham was a three-sport athlete for the Pioneers, earning varsity letters in swimming (1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94), basketball (1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94), and softball (1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93). She won three individual state championships for the Pioneers, including the 100 Free (:53.8) and 50 Free (:24.4) in 1992, and the 100 Free (:53.6) in 1993. She still holds the school record in the 50 and 100 Free and the 200 Free Relay (1:42.40). She was Second Team All-Conference in basketball in 1993-94.

After high school, Parham earned a bachelor's at Samford University in Alabama and a master's in accountancy at the University of Tennessee. Upon graduation, Parham achieved a Certified Public Account license. She currently is a financial manager at Southern Progress Corporation in Bham, Alabama.





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## Amanda Haverman, Class of 2004

Haverman was a four-year varsity pitcher for the Pioneer softball team (2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04), and earned First Team All-State honors in 2002. She received Second Team All-Conference honors in 2000 and 2001, and was named First Team All-Conference in 2002 and 2003. Haverman was a First Team All-District and All-Region performer in 2002, as well as a Second Team All-Metro selection. She continued her softball career at East Tennessee State University from 2005-2008. While at ETSU, Haverman earned First Team All-Atlantic Sun Conference honors and drove in a school record 37 runs in 2007.



Haverman earned a spot on the Dean's List and graduated in December 2008 with a bachelor's in education with a concentration in sports management and minor in management. She is the assistant softball coach at Virginia Intermont College.



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## THE PIONEER AWARD

Recipients of The Pioneer Award have made significant contribution to Kirkwood High School athletics.



### **Matt Moeller, Class of 1988**



Known for his spirit, dedication, and love for Kirkwood Pioneer athletics, Moeller received the John Johnson Award for Quiet Leadership and the Lamp of Learning Academic Award while at Kirkwood High School. He served as the varsity soccer manager for coach Frank Czapla and varsity basketball manager for coach Dave Holley. Since graduating in 1988, Moeller has assisted the Pioneer football program as the press box spotter during varsity home games. Last season marked his 20th as spotter for the Pioneers; a remarkable accomplishment for any individual. Moeller's non-stop energy continues to fuel the press box, even on the coldest of Friday nights.

“Matt has been a part of the Kirkwood sports scene for nearly his entire life,” said Kirkwood High School Principal David Holley. “He approaches each job that he has had with seriousness and great enthusiasm, and his passion for Kirkwood High School sports is very apparent the moment that you begin to talk to him.”

Moeller has worked for Schnucks Markets in Des Peres for 20 years and has earned accolades that include Employee of the Month and Employee of the Year during his tenure.



K I R K W O O D  
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

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## Jim Scott, Class of 1973

Scott earned varsity letters in baseball (1971-72, 1972-73) and football (1971-72, 1972-73) at Kirkwood High School, and was a member of the Boys Pep Club, Varsity Club, and managed the Kirkwood basketball team. He was an All-Conference baseball player in his senior year. At University of Tulsa, he became the intramural diving (1 meter) champion during his junior and senior years.



Scott is well known for his fundraising contributions to the Kirkwood High School athletic program. Scott was the driving force behind the Kirkwood Diamond Classic, a golf and silent auction fundraiser that helped rebuild the baseball and softball fields at Kirkwood High School and at North Kirkwood Middle School. The Diamond Classic has since raised nearly \$250,000 to make improvements to both baseball and softball fields at Kirkwood High School. “When it comes to KHS athletics, Jim Scott is permanently on call,” said friend Joe Henke.

Not only is Scott involved with Kirkwood High School athletics, but with youth sports in the Kirkwood community as well. Scott has coached youth softball and baseball for several years, and has positively influenced the lives of countless young athletes.

“Scott continues his involvement with Kirkwood High School athletics, including flawless and impeccable score keeping at basketball games,” said Kirkwood High School Athletic Director Jim Velten. He also works the play clock at football games and prepares the fields for play.

“Jim has coached, kept score, videotaped games, cut grass, painted lines, and raised tens of thousands of dollars with relentless energy, an enduring positive attitude, and boundless enthusiasm,” said former Kirkwood High School classmate Fred L. Bueler Jr.

Scott and his wife, Peggy, have two children: Alex and Megan



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## Tom Watkins, Pioneer Booster



Tom Watkins refuses to let any fan go hungry. But Watkins is much more than the grill man for Pioneers Boosters, Inc. He is a devoted family man, and strong supporter of Kirkwood High School athletics. Watkins worked at the Chrysler Automotive Plant in Fenton, Missouri for 42 years. He worked the graveyard shift in order to be home when his children returned from school.

Working while others slept also gave Watkins the opportunity to watch his children participate in athletics. He served as the Kirkwood-Webster Junior Football League Vice President while his sons played football, and is a long-standing member of the Pioneer Boosters, Inc. (PBI) He also has coached for the Khoury League and Kirkwood Athletic Association.

Watkins retired from Chrysler in 2005, but continues to grill. His annual Watkins Family Memorial Day BBQ unites the Kirkwood community, and for one day, everyone in attendance is considered a member of the Watkins family. Watkins has seven children, but considers numerous others part of his family as well.

Watkins welcomes all individuals to Kirkwood High School athletic events, including players, fans, officials, and opponents. “Tom is the goodwill ambassador for Kirkwood High School and Pioneer athletics,” said KHS Athletic Director Jim Velten. “We are lucky to have him!”

Watkins has seven children: Ron, Donald, Edward, Lisa, Robert, Jonathan, and Matthew



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## KIRKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME COACHES

### **Mary Schnitzius, Legendary Swim and Dive Coach**

Schnitzius' involvement in athletics is extensive. She has successfully coached at both the high school and collegiate levels in such sports as volleyball, basketball, and field hockey. However, Schnitzius is most known for her work with high school swimming and diving.

She coached girls swimming for 25 years, and boys swimming for 16 years. Schnitzius has been named the Missouri Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Coach of the Year, and earned the Walter Lundt Award for swimming and diving. She served on the Missouri State High School Activities Association Swimming and Diving Rules Committee for nine years, and the National Federation Swimming and Diving rules committee for four years.



In 1997, Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) honored Schnitzius with the Board of Directors Distinguished Service Award. She has managed numerous MSHSAA district and sectional competitions, and was a MSHSAA and NAGWS certified official in basketball (34 years), volleyball (34 years), and field hockey (12 years). Schnitzius earned a bachelor of science degree in education from Washington University in 1952, and a master's from Webster University in 1988.

Mary and her late husband, Ken, reared three children: Debbie, Bob and Barbara. Mary is the proud grandmother of 7 grandchildren.





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## Wayne Pounds, Legendary Boys and Girls Volleyball Coach



Wayne Pounds joined Kirkwood High School in 1965 as a guidance counselor. In the fall of 1974, he presided over the inaugural season for the KHS varsity girl's volleyball team. Pounds served as the varsity girls volleyball coach from 1974-1991, and added the head coaching position for the varsity boys' coach from 1987-1997 (club from 1987-94 and varsity from 1995-97). Within that time, he developed both girls' and boys' volleyball programs into premier high school programs in the St. Louis area.

Under the guidance of coach Pounds, the girls' teams earned a winning percentage of .676. Pounds and the Pioneers earned state tournament appearances in 1987 and 1988, and finished second both seasons.

Pounds helped form the Kirkwood Volleyball Association in 1977, which promoted the game within the Kirkwood School District. The association is still used by the district today to help develop young volleyball players.

The boys' program was arguably Pounds' largest accomplishment. Without his individual dedication, there likely would never have been a high school boys' volleyball league in the state of Missouri. The league has given countless athletes the opportunity to represent their schools, and earn college scholarships. One former player became a member of the United States Olympic Team.

Pounds and the Pioneers achieved much together. The boy's teams' winning percentage with Pounds at the helm was an astonishing .796, and they won two league championships (1985 and 1986).

In 1992, the Missouri State High School Volleyball Coaches' Association presented Pounds with the Peggy Johnson Coaching Award for Excellence in the Promotion of Volleyball in the State of Missouri. He also received the Terri Clemens Volleyball Leadership and Spirit Award in 1992. Because of his numerous lifetime volleyball achievements, Governor Mel Carnahan declared a "Wayne Pounds Day" in the state of Missouri in 1995.

Wayne and his wife, Jane, have three children: Lynne, Murray and Ferrel. They are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.



K I R K W O O D  
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

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## Denver P. Miller, Legendary Boys Basketball Coach \*

Denver P. Miller is synonymous with Kirkwood High School varsity boys' basketball. He coached basketball for 43 seasons, all at Kirkwood High School, and amassed 790 wins and five Missouri State Final Four appearances. At one time, he was the winningest coach in the nation. Miller's squads were known throughout the state of Missouri as the Millermen.

On February 18, 1972, Miller coached in his 1,000th game, and fittingly the Millermen thumped rival Webster Groves 80-49. His 1971-72 squad earned the Tom Stanton Achievement Award as the number one high school basketball team in the area. On December 15, 1972, the Kirkwood High School Gymnasium was officially dedicated and renamed the Denver P. Miller Gymnasium.



The National Association of Basketball Coaches of the United States honored Miller on March 30, 1975 for his 20+ years of coaching. On July 30, 1988, Miller was enshrined as a charter member in the Missouri Basketball Hall of Fame. If his basketball accomplishments were not enough, he even coached the KHS baseball team to the Missouri State Championship in 1961.

Miller received a B.S. in Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and earned All-American honors as a member of the Tiger's basketball team. He taught math at Kirkwood High School, and retired in 1977. Miller and his wife, Mary Shirley Dempsey, had one son, Stephen.



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**ALMA MATER –HAIL! KIRKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

**Hail! Kirkwood High School,  
Unto Thee we sing.  
Ever victorious homage we bring.  
Through all the ages  
All our sons so bold,  
Fight for old Kirkwood High School.  
Fight for the Red and White.**





KIRKWOOD  
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

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