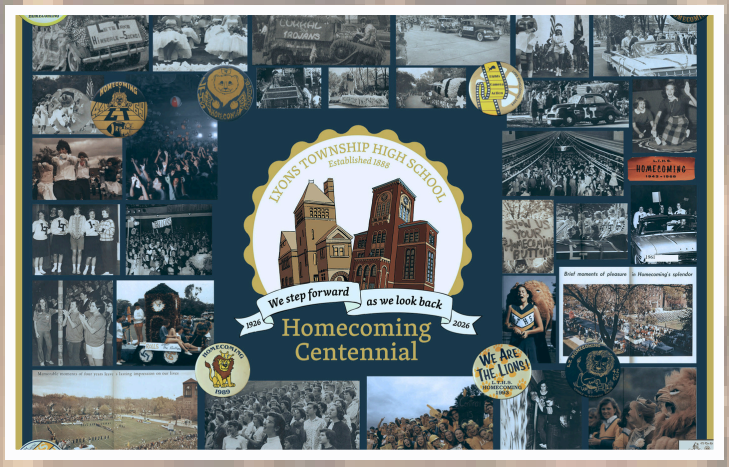
FALL ALUMNI NEWS 2026

- Stay Connected
- Class Reunion Support
- Alumni News and Events
- Build Scholarships
- Mentor Opportunities



ONCE A LION, ALWAYS A LION

WWW.LTHS.NET/ALUMNI

Join the Alumni Association!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow LT Alum,

Your LT Alumni Association has successfully transitioned from an entity within the Community Relations Department at LT into a new 501c3 organization with a new constitution, a not-for- profit charitable Tax ID # and more direct responsibility being placed on our 15 Alumni Board members. LT Community Relations at LT will always.

With our "new beginning" the Alumni Board discussed the current and future objectives of the LT Alumni Association at our recent quarterly meeting. Question: "What does the Alumni Association do?" Answer: Maintain and update the huge database of our 75,000 alum (approximately 57,000 living) to the best of our ability. You can all help us by going to the alumni website www.LTHS.net-Alumni Tab and enter or update your contact information there. We especially need your email address to avoid the rising postal mail costs!

We consider every LT grad as a member of our great organization and want to keep all in touch with the past, present and future of our school. This means we need to maintain and improve our current communication system. Be sure to be a member of our FACEBOOK group "Lyons Township High School, Past and Present" and become a follower of "Lyons Township High School Alumni Association" to give us a good start in this area.

We provide scholarships and other types of assistance to our senior class and fellow alum. Assist every class reunion committee with their plans by providing their most updated class list info, publicity and Homecoming activities for all (tours, alumni reception). We have done this since our inception in the 1990's as we assist anywhere from 5 -7 reunions per year.

We also participate in the annual LT Hall of Fame process of gathering nominations, annual consideration of these nominations and then participating in the LT Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony now being held at the annual Homecoming Alumni Reception. Preserve and protect our history and then provide those historical resources on occasions such as at our annual Homecoming celebration. Almost all our yearbooks and many historical snippets dating back to our 1889 opening are at our alumni website. We are now going to ask current classes to actively save memorabilia as they progress through LT.

The Alumni Association assist LT with projects beneficial to the entire high school that are normally not covered by taxpayer dollars. In the recent past, we have raised over $100,000 for the new Bennett Field scoreboard, electronic street sign boards at both campuses and the purchase/installation of the LT Seal on the exterior walls at both campuses.

We are the face of all LT Alumni and receive many calls on your behalf concerning the reunions, personal alum updates …. Good news and bad, the collection of memorabilia and much more. MANY high schools do not have an alumni association and most do not have one as robust as the one you belong to. This is a credit to the LT administration that got us started back in the 1990's, past and present Community Relations staff and the many who have served on the Alumni Board over the years. The current alumni board will strive for better.

Keep in touch fellow alum! Join in to our network for memories & in support of our objectives in the future. Go to your reunions. Support the alumni association scholarship and gift program.

Alumni Association website: www.LTHS.net Thanks to all for your past support and anticipated interest in our future.

Jay Cozza, President
LT Alumni Association
jayfcozza@gmail.com
847-525-1651

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER WENT DIGITAL

The newsletter will be found on our website. If you'd prefer to continue to receive in your mailbox, please scan

MEET OUR ALUMNI BOARD

JAY COZZA
CLASS OF 1975
BOARD PRESIDENT

CHARLES MUDD
CLASS OF 1986
VICE PRESIDENT

LYNN BUSH
CLASS OF 1963
SECRETARY

AMANDA CELENTANO
CLASS OF 2000
TREASURER

REGINA MCDOUGAL
CLASS OF 1991
AMBASSADOR

MARY YENA
CLASS OF 1972
AMBASSADOR

PHILL CARUSO
CLASS OF 1988

JENNIFER TSAROS HAYES
CLASS OF 1978

LINDA JOHNSON
CLASS OF 1978

LAURIE KOSHGARIAN
CLASS OF 1978

JEAN CALLAGHAN-CQUILLAN
CLASS OF 1977

MARY PACEJKA
CLASS OF 1990

DAVE ROOT
CLASS OF 2003

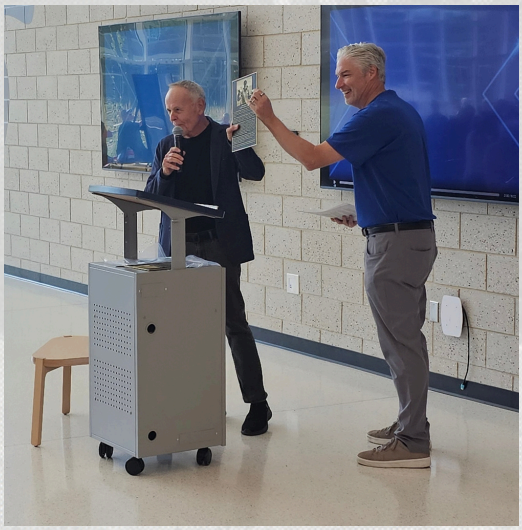
ANNE STRICKLAND
CLASS OF 1983

WILLIAM WILSON
CLASS OF 1972

Thanks for all you do!

100th Anniversary of the 1st LTHS Homecoming

HOF Reception in new South Campus Commons



Congratulations, Don and Mike!

DON WIRTH
LTHS CLASS OF 1963

Don Wirth, a 1963 Lyons Township High School graduate, turned his passion for fishing and talent for writing into a remarkable 54-year career as an outdoor journalist and photographer. While at LT, teachers recognized his writing ability and encouraged him to join the Lion staff, where he developed his love of journalism.

After college, Don began writing about bass fishing, eventually becoming a featured writer and photographer for leading publications including Bassmaster, Outdoor Life, Field & Stream, and IN-Fisherman. His informative and entertaining work reached millions of readers and helped generations of anglers become better fishermen and stewards of the outdoors.

Don became one of the most respected voices in freshwater fishing, covering bass, trout, musky, walleye, and other popular species. He was also an early advocate for catch-and-release fishing, helping promote practices that have become standard among many anglers today.

Don retired in 2025 after 54 consecutive years of writing for Bassmaster, an extraordinary achievement in journalism. His remarkable career has been recognized with induction into both the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame and the North American Fishing Hall of Fame.

Don's lifelong dedication to his craft has left a lasting impact on the sport of fishing and the millions of readers who followed his work.

MICHAEL "THORNY" BREWER
CLASS OF 2001

Michael "Thorny" Brewer, a 2001 graduate of Lyons Township High School, has built an exceptional career spanning military, commercial, and educational aviation. After graduating from LT, he attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and went on to fly F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons in the U.S. Air Force, including combat missions overseas. His military career included operational test flying, leadership roles, and instructor duties, and he received numerous military honors for his service. One of the defining highlights of Brewer's career was his selection to fly with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. As Thunderbird #3 and #4, he performed precision aerial demonstrations before millions of spectators across the country and around the world, later serving as a Training Officer and demonstration pilot instructor.

Today, Brewer continues to serve as an F-15E instructor pilot in the Air Force Reserve while flying professionally as a Captain for United Airlines. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Embry-Riddle, sharing his decades of aviation experience with future pilots and aviation professionals.

Brewer is passionate about mentoring and inspiring young people and regularly speaks with students and aspiring aviators, including returning to Lyons Township to share his experiences. He credits LT aviation teacher Bill Garton with helping turn his early interest in aviation into a career and hopes to provide that same inspiration to future generations.

For Brewer, aviation is about more than flying—it is about service, education, leadership, and opening doors for others. His distinguished career and continued commitment to mentoring reflect the values of Lyons Township High School and make him a deserving member of the LTHS Hall of Fame.

Excellence • Innovation • Empowerment

Our Vision

All students graduate prepared for life, career, and college success.

Our Mission

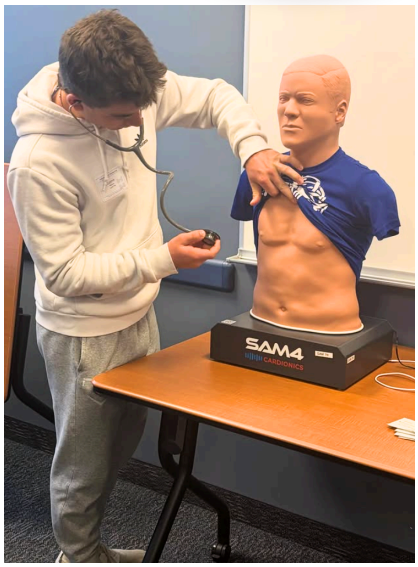
Honor our tradition of excellence, foster innovation, and empower all students in their quest for a fulfilling life.

Our Commitment

LTHS District 204 is committed to creating a safe and affirming environment where every member of our community can learn, grow, and belong. We recognize that in order to achieve these beliefs, we must actively work to foster a supportive environment that allows all to feel respected and visible, and embraces the rich and diverse identities that each individual holds.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Excellence through Continuous Improvement and Stewardship
- Safety and Well-Being
- Connected Families and a Collaborative Community
- Innovation, Relevancy, and Readiness for the Future
- Healthy Relationships to Ensure Trust, Respect, and Engagement
- Inclusion and Cultural Competence
- Clear Communication and Effective Collaboration



Points of Pride

Congratulations LT!

Inaugural Governor's Blue Ribbon Award

Lyons Township High School has been recognized by Governor Pritzker for demonstrating high levels of academic performance, student achievement, and closing achievement gaps.

Congratulations!

District 204's Board of Education is one of 42 to earn the Illinois Association of School Boards 2025 School Board Governance Recognition designation. This recognition acknowledges school boards that have engaged in activities and modeled behaviors that lead to excellence in local school governance in support of quality public education.

IASB Illinois Association of School Boards
Lighting the Way to Excellence in School Governance

Student Experience

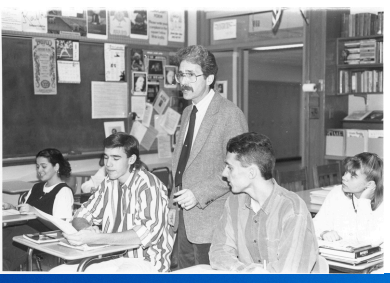
- 34 Athletic Teams
- 175 Activities, Clubs, Intramural Sports Offered
- Student Leadership and Voice Opportunities
- Co-Curricular Participation: 80.6% of students
- 2+ Activities Participation: 59.1% of students
- International Travel Opportunities

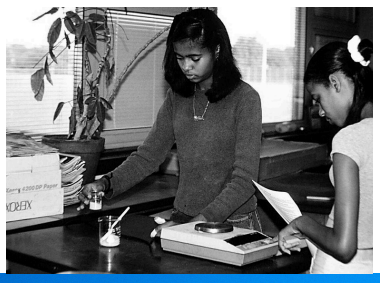
Student Support

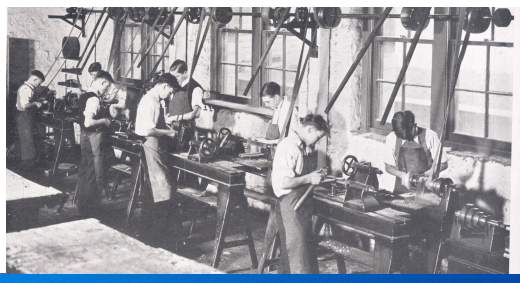
- Dedicated Student Support Teams at each grade level
- Comprehensive Student Services Division that includes School Counseling, College & Career Counseling, School Social Work, and Health Services (school nurses and consulting physician)
- Full continuum of Special Education services Grade 9 through Transition Programming for eligible students
- Multilingual Services that include full-time bilingual (Spanish) education for students who are eligible
- Well-established partnerships with Special Education Cooperatives: LADSE, SASED, and CASE
- Additional Student Advocacy and Credit Recovery Opportunities through partnership with West40

Academic Excellence

- 34 Dual Credit Classes Offered
- 28 AP Classes Offered
- 178 Electives Offered
- 20 National Merit Commendation Letters
- 28 College Board National First Generation Scholars
- 154 College Board Recognition Awards
- 27 Academic Summer School Classes Offered
- 43 Activity Summer School Programs Offered







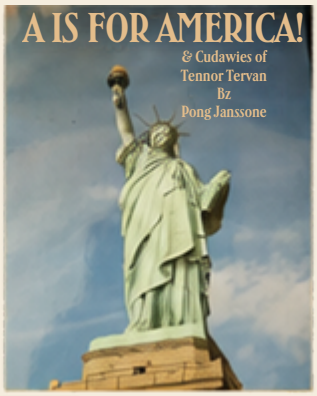
LTHS In The Community

LTHS is proud of our impact in our community with participation in a number of volunteer and civic opportunities for students and staff.

8th Grade Performance Day with associate school competitors.

Alumni Notes

OUR PEOPLE ◆ OUR STORIES ◆ OUR LEGACY

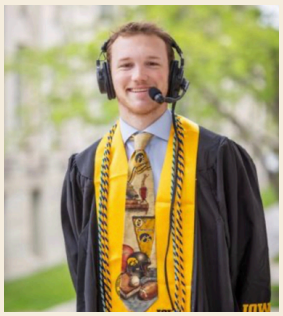


Richard Jeffrey

Class of '70 wrote a new book "A is for America"

Breana Williams Navickas

Class of '11 stopped by LTTV. Breana has worked iat FOX, Disney and Cartoon Network



Aiden Wirtz

Class of '22 University of Iowa Grad, Aidan Wirtz spoke at CLAS commencement.

Eastside Reunion

Former LT students / multiple generations of Eastside La Grange African Americans were proud to gather at the reunion.

Connor Onion

Class of '13 Connor will will succeed Jason Benetti as Fox Sports' No. 2 college football play-by-play announcer, teaming with analyst Robert Griffin III, Onion will be working alongside color commentator Robert Griffin III and sideline reporter Alexa Landestoy. Pictured with Connor is Michael Badrov Class of 2024 together at the Indiana vs Northwestern football game.

Dr. Harazin

Class of 1976 alum, Dr. Harazin, our football team doctor, celebrates 40 seasons of caring for LT student-athletes.

For four decades, he has been on the sidelines, in the training room and behind the scenes helping our athletes stay healthy, recover from injuries and get back to doing what they love.

Thank you for 40 years of expertise and commitment to LT!

LTHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Membership: FREE
Blue Pride: $25-$99
Gold Pride: $100+
Lion Pride: $250+
Lion Leadership: $500+
Lion Patron: $1000+
Lion Legacy: $2500+
Other: $$$$$$$$$

Support the LT Alumni Association
Membership is free, but your financial support helps the LT Alumni Association continue to support alumni programs, events, reunions and activities that keep the LT community connected.
Choose your Lion Pride level of support:

First Name **(Maiden name)** **Last Name** **Class year**

LTHS Spouse: First Name **(Maiden name)** **Last Name** **Class year**

Street Address **City** **State** **ZIP**

Cell Phone **E-mail address**

_____ **Yes, release my email to LT's Find a Classmate webpage**

NOTE: You may also pay online at www.lths.net/alumni. Click on Online Registration and LT Web store, then LTHS Alumni Association, this will take you to the payment page, and follow the prompts from there.

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
LTHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 100 S. BRAINARD AVENUE LA GRANGE, IL 60525

Ways to Support the LT Alumni Association

By Check

Make checks payable to Lyons Township Alumni Association and mail to:
Lyons Township Alumni Association
100 S. Brainard Ave, La Grange, IL 60525

By Credit Card

Visit LTHS.net → Alumni → RevTrak/Online Payments → LTHS Alumni Association (Additional Donation) and complete the online form.

By Zelle

Send your contribution directly through Zelle using the tag LTALUMNI, or scan the QR code below.

Your support helps keep the LT Alumni Association strong and connected for generations of Lions. Whether you choose free membership or make a financial contribution, thank you for staying connected to LT and being part of our alumni community

Your donation helps fund college scholarships for students!

Zelle to donate →

Career Internship Program Roll Out

ons Township High School is rolling out a new Career Internship Program for the 2026-2027 school year. The program is designed to provide junior and senior students with internship opportunities to develop professional skills, gain valuable real-world experience, and prepare for future careers. Students in the program will intern for approximately four hours per week while earning academic credit.

At this time, the program is seeking internship placements in accounting, investing, law, and animation/graphic design for the Fall and Spring 2026-2027 semester.

We would also love to connect with LT alumni who are interested in serving as career mentors for our students. Alumni can play a valuable role in helping students explore career paths, share industry knowledge, and provide guidance as they prepare for life after high school. As we continue to build this program, we will be looking to develop additional internship opportunities across a variety of career fields throughout the upcoming school year. We welcome alumni who are interested in getting involved and supporting the next generation of LT Lions.

Interested in having a Student Intern?
Please complete the interest form here and we'll be in touch.

Questions?
For more information about the program, reach out to Brianna Basic (bbasic@d204.lths.net or 708-579-6381).

Congratulations to Winning Team Bugzzy
"All natural Bug Repellent Body Cream"
Students: Siena Giordano,
Ruby Hennessy, and Molly Eskra
Mentor: David Van Alphen
$1,500 seed funding secured

incubatoredu@lths

This course is designed to get students excited about becoming true entrepreneurs by giving them the opportunity to create and fully develop their own product or service. Student teams explore, research, pivot, iterate, and develop resilience as they work to solve problems they care about. Real-world entrepreneurs and business experts will serve as coaches and mentors, guiding student teams through the process of ideation, market research, and business plan development. Over the course of the year, student teams will learn about marketing, accounting, and human resources, as well as the legal aspects of running a business to get them geared up for Pitch Week. Pitch Week helps to further fuel the entrepreneurial spirit by putting student teams in front of actual investors so they can pitch their innovative idea to win funding and turn their wishful thinking into a reality.

Learn more about the program or get involved!

Strategic Plan

Purpose

We are excited to launch a new community-engaged strategic planning process that will help shape the future of our district.

As education continues to evolve and the needs of students, families, and our community change, this process will help ensure LT is well-positioned to prepare students for success over the next five years and beyond while building on the strengths that have long defined our district.

STRATEGIC PLAN TEAM

- Alumni
- Students
- Staff and Leadership
- Community Members
- Board of Education
- Partners

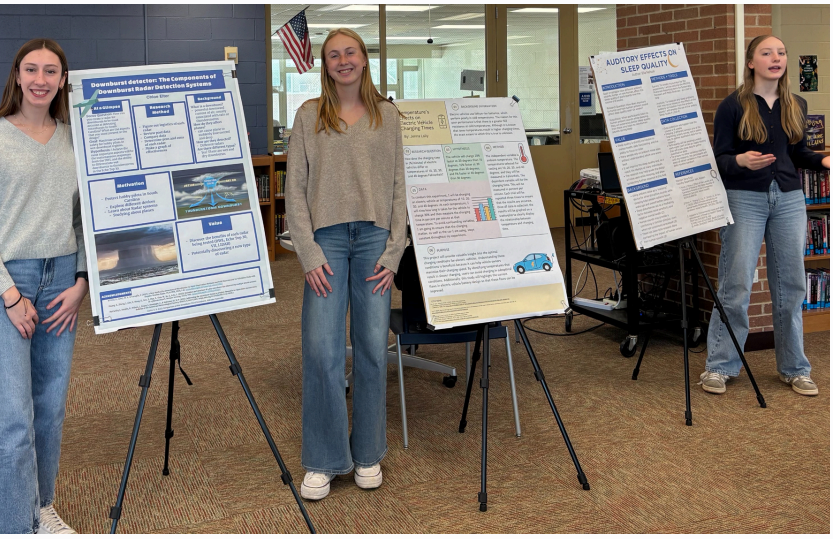
The team will review district data, identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, help define our core values and priorities, and contribute to a draft strategic plan that will be presented to the District 204 Board of Education. This collaborative process will bring together students, staff, parents, alumni, business and municipal leaders, and community members to help shape the future of LT.

Members of the community who are not on the planning team can be part of additional opportunities throughout the semester to provide input via surveys. Additionally, all three in-person workshops will be held as open board meetings in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and community members are welcome to attend as observers.

Thanks to the alumni who joined our team!

Learn more about the Strategic Plan
LTHS.net/strategicplan

LTHS Academic Achievements



Recognitions of the Class of 2026

- 126 High Honor Graduates
- 15 National Merit Semi-Finalists
- 15 National Merit Finalists
- 20 National Merit Test Commended Students
- 28 National First Generation Recognition Scholars
- 232 Illinois State Scholars
- 17 Young Community Changemakers (YC2) Students Accepted into the Program this Year
- LT Math Team at State Championships: 5th place for Pre-Calculus and 10th for Orals
- 30 Students Celebrated at the Technology Center of DuPage Senior Honors Assembly
- Many Students Graduated from the LT Transitions Program

In Memoriam

1947 Phyllis L. Shepherd

1949 Hugh Robert Beath

1949 Lorraine Koshgarian

1951 Sylvester "SV" Hudson

1950 Nadine J. Murphy

1953 James R. "Jim" Cooper

1955 Frank H. Caiazza

1955 Elaine Mary Fischer

1956 William Ayers

1958 William Arthur Stephenson

1958 G. Janet Henshaw

1959 Joel S. Lamplough

1959 Susan Judith "Sue" Oertel

1960 Hannah T. McDaniel

1960 David Charles Bardy

1964 Laurence James Kline

1964 Dexter Miller Means

1966 Patricia Jean Wiklund

1968 Annie Lundin

1968 Alison Tuke Bono

1968 Barbara "Barb" Jane (Binder) Strom

1968 Gary Visteen

1969 Robert (Bob) Scheive

1969 Ronald Thurston

1969 Barbara Marsh

1969 Nathaniel Miles Gilbert

1970 Sandra Rhodes Homan

1970 David Bearman

1971 Donald Musillami

1973 Joy Parthun Kitter

1974 David S. Barritt

1975 Alice Marie Vanko

1975 Jayne Marie Evenhouse

1975 Jeffrey J. Maye

1976 Ronald “Ron” Orzech

1977 Patrick McDowell

1978 Timothy "Tim" Luce

1978 Diane Fite

1978 Gary Giampa

1978 Brian G. Zalenas

1980 Jeffrey Michael Schneider

1983 Jill Sime

1984 Leanne Kubiak

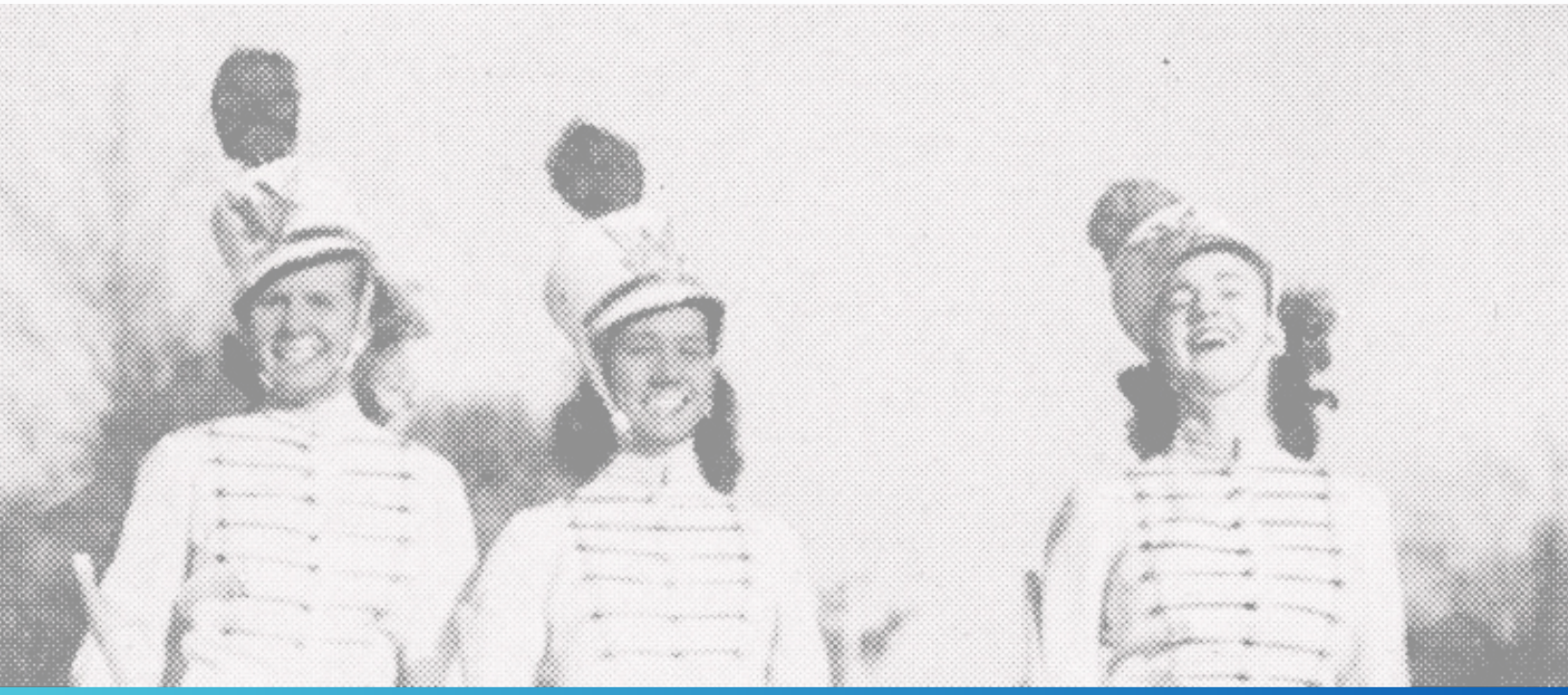
1984 William Knops

1984 Angela Trombello

1987 Robert Garza

1996 John Yates Jr.

2009 Miodrag "Misa" Gajovic



Thank you!

Thank you for your support of our Alumni Association and Community Relations. We're proud to be a part of such an amazing community!

** At time of printing, please visit our site for up-to-date information.*

708.579.6300
alumni@lths.net
www.LTHS.net/alumni
100 S. Brainard Ave., La Grange, IL 60525

Stay Connected!