



The Riverside University High School Foundation

Special Edition Newsletter, September 2018

“Oh, What a Night!!!”

Friday night, August 10, 2018 will go down in the history of Riverside High School as a very special night for 325 of the school’s alumni, retired teachers, current staff and friends of the school. It was a wonderful night of good food, great entertainment and tons of “Tiger Pride”. At the end of the event, Emcee Sheri Williams Pannell (1977), shown below on the right, had all the attendees stand, link arms and sing the Riverside alma mater. The feeling in the room was electric.

The event was planned by the Riverside University High School foundation as a tribute to the 150th Anniversary of the School. Riverside is the direct descendant of the very first public high school established in the City of Milwaukee in 1868.



The Foundation President, Jan (Neff) Gibson (on the left in this picture), a physical education and health teacher at the school from 1963 to 1998, welcomed the group, introduced the Foundation Board of Directors and encouraged everyone to have a good time walking down their Riverside memory lane. Alumni in attendance ranged from the Class of 1949 to the Class of 2013.



City of Milwaukee Alderman Khalif Rainey (1995), on the right in this picture, presented the **Jack Rosenberg Founder’s Award** to Lee and Donna Whitcomb, 1950 Riverside graduates who met as seniors at the school and nurtured their relationship through all the school dances, auditorium programs and athletic events that were held that year. Khalif spoke of the impact that Jack Rosenberg (1937), an original founder of the Riverside Foundation in 1997, had on his life. Jack provided Khalif with a full college scholarship and kept in close contact with Khalif during his college career, mentoring him and encouraging him along the way. Jack only asked one thing of Khalif, “After you graduate, you have to give back in service to your community, which, of course, Khalif

has done in abundance. The Whitcombs have not only been loyal supporters of their alma mater through the years but they also have maintained a keen interest in the issues facing the school. They ask questions, they offer insight and, most of all, they offer hope to today's generations of Riverside students.

Riverside 2013 graduate, Jerel Ballard (center), presented the Foundation's **Community Service Award** to four Riverside graduates, all of whom currently serve on the City of Milwaukee Common Council. They are pictured here (left to right): Common Council President, Ashanti Hamilton (1991),



Alderspersion Milele Coggs (1995), Alderman Khalif Rainey (1995) and Alderman Nik Kovac (1995). In accepting their Awards, all of the Alderman spoke about how their time at Riverside sparked their interest in civic affairs, how they all took part in supporting or protesting relevant social issues of their time, how they realized at a young age that so many of the decisions that affect their lives and the lives of everyone in the community are made in a political context, how they all learned their advocacy skills from their Riverside teachers.

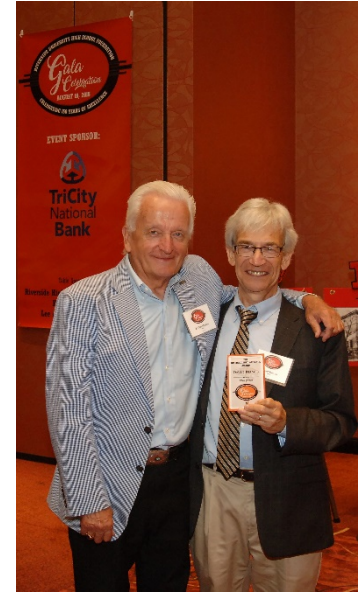


Former Riverside Principal, Michael Harris (1986) introduced current Riverside Tom Wild and presented him with the Foundation's **Outstanding Educator Award**. Mr. Harris spoke of Tom's passion for teaching, his dedication to his profession and his unique ability to motivate students of all races to "do their best, try their hardest and give their all" in school and in life. Not only has Tom been an outstanding classroom teacher for the past 20 years but he has also been an advisor to the Student Government, the National Honor Society and helped students originate the "Box City" fundraising

activity where students solicit monetary pledges and then sleep overnight on the school campus for one night in cardboard boxes to bring attention to the plight of the homeless

in Milwaukee. Riverside students have raised over \$70,000 for this cause and have participated in constructing homes for Habitat for Humanity. In accepting his award, Tom said he was humbled to represent 150 years' worth of great Riverside educators.

David Riemer (1966) was presented the Foundation's **Distinguished Alumnus Award** by H. Carl Mueller (1962) who is the founder and owner of Mueller communications, one of Milwaukee's largest public relations firms. David and Carl both worked in the administration of former Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist. David has been very active in reshaping public policy at both state and national levels on welfare, poverty, health care and public administration. He credited his Riverside education with providing him with the academic skills that prepared him to graduate from Harvard University but also with the opportunity to serve on the staff of the school newspaper where he honed his writing and editing skills. David told the story of how the staff of the "Riverside Rocket" decided to do a parody issue of the newspaper called "The Potter Pitter Patter". All the articles were satirical in nature and were what David said would be called "fake news" today. Shortly after the issue was published he was called into Principal Emil Rucktenwald's office and read the required riot act for his actions.



Emcee Sheri Williams Pannell, a renowned Milwaukee singer, actress, playwright and director in her own right, had written an original musical skit for the anniversary celebration entitled "**The**

Spirit of the Tiger". It was acted and sung on stage by six very talented singers and

actors including several current Riverside students. The Broadway “Hamilton” type of rap and steady beat presentation was creative, funny, moving and highly appreciated by the crowd.

All in all, it was a fun night for the alumni and their guests, particularly the large contingent of Riverside Class of 1968 attendees who were celebrating their 50th Class Reunion amid the celebration of the school’s 150th Anniversary. It also provided an opportunity for the large group of Retired Riverside teachers to reconnect with one another but also to reconnect with so many of their former students. A large Silent Auction raised more than \$3,000 for the Foundation as did a collection of donations at the end of the event.



Twenty (20) current Riverside students assisted with the event at Registration and at the Silent Auction. During dinner, they sat at alumni tables and provided very valuable insights into the life of current Riverside students as they navigate the challenges of preparing themselves for college all while participating in extracurricular activities and, for many of them, holding down a part time job.

Anyone who was unable to attend this Anniversary event, but who wishes to donate toward the costs of the celebration can do so by using the form at the end of this newsletter.

Additional pictures and videos of the Anniversary Celebration can be found on the Foundation's newly updated web site at www.riversidefoundation.com.

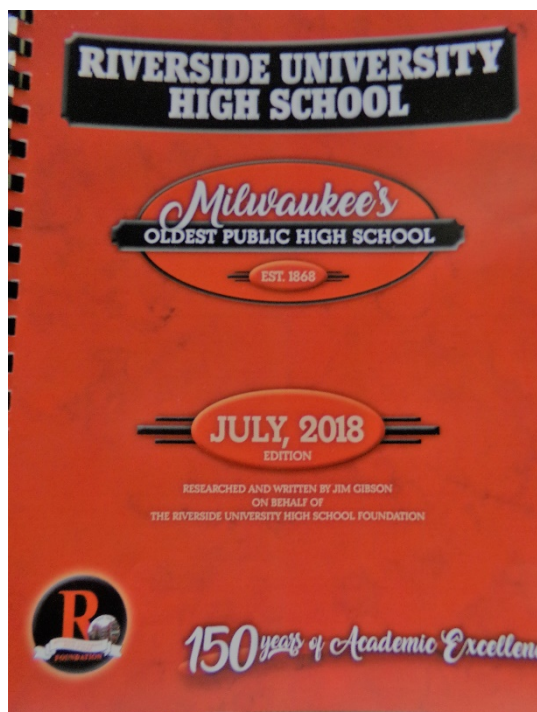
The Riverside Foundation Store Is Open

Several items commemorating the 150th Anniversary are available for sale by the Foundation:

Commemorative Black and Orange Coffee cups with the Gala logo: \$20 each (includes the cost of shipping).



Riverside Tiger Paw Lapel Pins: \$15 each



Riverside University High School History Book, “150 Years of Academic Excellence”, 2nd Edition:

This newly published book chronicles the history of Riverside High School from 1868 to 2018. It's 240 pages are packed full of stories and pictures of Riverside's buildings, its administrators, its teachers, its programs and, of course, its students. The book celebrates the achievements of over 100 Riverside graduates who achieved distinction in the fields of business, public service, the arts and athletics. It is available for purchase for \$60 (includes the cost of shipping).

All these items can be ordered by using the form at the end of this newsletter. All proceeds will be used by the Foundation to support Riverside and its students.

Donation and Order Form

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ _____ to support the work of the Riverside University High School Foundation in helping Riverside High School maintain its 150 Year history of Academic Excellence.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for the purchase of (check those that apply):

_____ A 150th Anniversary Commemorative Coffee Cup (\$20)

_____ A Riverside High School "Tiger Paw" lapel pin (\$15)

_____ A copy of the book, "Riverside University High School, 150 Years of Academic Excellence" (\$60)

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please clip this form and send it to:

RUHS Foundation
c/o Tri City National Bank
4295 W. Bradley Rd.
Brown Deer, WI 53209-1773
Attention: Audrey Sellers

All donations and all the proceeds from the sale of these items will be used to support Riverside University High School and its students.