



The Riverside University High School Foundation

Serving alumni, friends, and families of Riverside University High School

JUNE 2016

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Investing In the Future

Sometimes the obstacles in front of us can seem almost insurmountable.

The Riverside University High School Foundation was established in 1997 for the sole purpose of helping Riverside maintain its long history of academic excellence. By some measures, the Foundation has done an admirable job. We have raised about \$640,000 from Riverside's alumni and friends. We have spent it on small \$500, one-time "scholarships" for deserving graduates. We have provided some financial assistance to teachers for the purchase of needed equipment and for educational trips for students. We paid for a professional recruitment video for the school. We helped to pay for a modern electronic sign outside of the school that is proving to be a very good recruitment tool for the school. We are in the process of raising funds to improve the quality of the acoustics in the school auditorium so that the tradition of student performances at the school can continue. So, let's give ourselves some credit for having helped the school through its troubles in some measurable and satisfying way.

But the needs of the school are so great and the students are deserving of so much more. We have tried to acquaint you with some of these students through the annual profiles of our scholarship recipients. These students have inspiring life stories. Most come from impoverished backgrounds. They work hard in school. They take the most demanding courses offered at the school in order to prepare themselves for college. They take advantage of the wide variety of extracurricular programs offered by the school so that they can develop their social skills

and their leadership abilities. At the same time, they have part-time jobs and they participate in various community support activities. Take a look at the profiles of a sampling of our students on Page 4.

No right-minded person can deny the affects of poverty on the students who come to Riverside, i.e. nutrition, crime, violence, parental time for meaningful pre-school activities, help with homework, understanding the rigors of a college preparation education. 70% of Riverside students are considered "impoverished" economically.

Our State governmental officials seem to be giving up on the Milwaukee Public Schools. i.e. reduced funding, Chapter 220 elimination, per pupil state aid drop, charter schools, choice schools, per pupil expenditure drop, "takeover" talk, etc. Has the rest of society also given up on urban schools?

The point of all this is that Riverside students need and deserve all the help that we can give them. The dedicated staff at Riverside has earned our continued support through their hard work in assuring that Riverside continues to be a place of serious learning.

Riverside alumni, we need your help! Consider investing in the future of your alma mater. Consider investing in the students who are working so hard to fulfill their dream of attaining a college education. Please give generously to the Foundation's efforts to make sure that Riverside continues to be a shining light among MPS High Schools.

Sound Investment Project

In January, 2015, the Foundation launched its "Sound Investment" project. The purpose of this fundraising effort is to improve the sound quality in the iconic school auditorium at Riverside.

Based on the recommendation of school staff and consultants, the Phase I goal was to replace the time-worn stage and side curtains at a cost of about \$26,000. The good news is that we met our goal! The new curtains were installed in March just in time for the performances of the school musical, "The Little Mermaid". Feedback from the faculty and attendees on the improved sound was very positive.

There is more work to be done. The goal of Phase II is to place a sound curtain across the seldom-used auditorium balcony at an estimated cost of \$19,000.

In these times, the school and MPS are overwhelmed by budget cuts and physical space needs. As the Riverside alumni have demonstrated on many occasions, it is possible for alumni to improve public education at their school when we all pull together to achieve a common goal.

Thanks for your help so far and please continue to support the "Sound Investment" Project.

Meet Ray Krzoska *One of the Most Successful Athletes Ever Produced By Riverside*



Ray Krzoska attended Riverside High School from 1932 through 1936. During that time, he earned three varsity letters in basketball. His brother-in-law, Judge Robert Curley had this to say about Ray's athletic achievements: "Ray was the City Conference high scorer in his senior year. He set the single game scoring record of 26 points at a time when teams scored 30 to 40 points in an entire game. Ray also set the Riverside single-season scoring record of 101 points. The rules in this era required a center jump ball after every basket or

free throw. There was no three point shot. The hoop could not be touched in any way so there was no "slam dunk" shot. Under these rules which slowed down the game considerably, Ray's records are even more impressive.

Ray also played football while at Riverside. He was an integral part of the Riverside football team that went undefeated all four years he played. He was named an All-City Conference end for three of his four years at Riverside.

At age 15, Ray played baseball in the City Municipal Hardball League where he progressed to the triple A level and, at age 17, was offered a contract to play for the original Milwaukee Brewers. He

turned down the professional baseball contract because it would have made him ineligible for further athletic competition at the high school level.

Following his graduation from Riverside, Ray went on to earn four varsity letters in basketball at UWM. He was all conference all four years and he was the captain of the undefeated 1940 team. He then went on to play professional basketball for the Oshkosh All-Stars in the National Basketball League, the precursor to today's National Basketball Association.

After Ray retired from his athletic endeavors, he coached football and basketball at St. John's Cathedral High School (1941 - 43) and at Milwaukee University School from 1946-48 where he also served as Athletic Director. He moved to UW - Whitewater in 1943 where he served as the head basketball coach and assistant football coach from 1948-1950. He went on to become the Director of Intramurals and an Assistant Professor of Physical Education at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee from 1957 through 1963. He ended his college coaching career by serving as UWM's head basketball and tennis coach and assistant football coach from 1963 to 1970.

Ray earned his BA degree at UWM. He went on to earn his Masters Degree at Marquette University and his Director of Physical Education Post Graduate Degree from Indiana University."

Riverside History Book

Riverside University High School is the direct descendant of the very first public high school established in Milwaukee in 1868. The Foundation has researched that history and has now published the first written edition that includes information regarding the various locations of the building, the principles who have led the school, the teachers who have served the students, the students who have distinguished themselves in life after Riverside and the wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities that have always been offered to Riverside students. In other words, this book attempts to document over 100 years of academic excellence at Riverside.

The task of writing the rich history of Riverside is not yet done. There are two things that Riverside alumni and friends can do to help bring the history up to date. They are:

1. Buy the book. Use the donation form attached to this newsletter to order your book. The cost is \$20. All proceeds will go toward support of the school and its students.
2. Send your Riverside memories and memorabilia to us. We are collecting your written memories to add to the second edition of the history book that will be published in 2018 as part of the 150th anniversary of the original school. We are also displaying your Riverside memorabilia in the in the Foundation's display case at the school.

Remembered



Bob Wirth

Long-time Riverside Teacher/Coach

Bob Wirth taught and coached football, basketball and baseball for over fifty years, most of that time at Riverside. Coach Wirth passed away on March 12, 2016 at the age of 79. Larry Burns, a 1982 Riverside graduate who has returned to teach at Riverside, happened to come across his old football and basketball coach on the diamond as he worked his way through a Milwaukee park one recent summer. Coach Wirth was coaching a Little League team. The guy coaching the team looked familiar to Burns but his "kid-gloves" approach to coaching these youngsters was not what Burns would have expected from his old coach.

"When he was my high school coach, this big, gruff man would bark at you for being disrespectful or whatever, but here he was coaching these young kids like he was a big, old softie. It was just a totally different side of him. I'm like, 'wow,' I even got more respect for him at that point in time."

Memorials to Coach Wirth can be made to the Riverside University High School Foundation's "In Memoriam Scholarship Fund".

What's Happening? *This past year featured the following activities:*

There is always something good going on at Riverside.

December, 2015



Riverside's Drumline has long been a source of tremendous hard work and pride for its members and Riverside's community at large. The Riverside Drumline rocked

the Fresh Coast Classic Drumline Competition on Saturday, November 28th. The Tiger snares, tenors, basses and cymbals beat out all Milwaukee rivals and after a great performance in the final, took second overall. Instrumental Music teacher, Van Pelt said: "I can't express how impressed and proud I am of these student competitors."



Also in December, 2015, RUHS was named a State Farm Good Neighbor Innovation School for the 2015-16 school year. The award includes a \$5,000 grant from State Farm

to support service-learning experiences that expand student understanding of the impacts of poverty on individuals and communities and that equip students to take action to address poverty-related issues. "Youth Service America selected Good Neighbor Innovation Schools on behalf of State Farm because these school administrators create a culture of meaningful learning through service in their schools," said State Farm Public Affairs Specialist Kelly Savage. "Congratulations to Riverside for successfully engaging students in a variety of innovative strategies."

January, 2016



**MSO
&
RUHS**

Two RUHS students performed for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's pops concert: "The Musicals of Jerry Herman." The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts'

"Arts Connect" partnership with Riverside made the opportunity possible. That partnership has connected Riverside with touring Broadway performers who provide workshops for students. RUHS students Anthony Herd and Morgan Kruger performed a duet during the show from the musical "La Cage aux Folles." Jerry Herman, a celebrated composer and lyricist, wrote scores for Broadway musicals including "La Cage aux Folles" and "Hello, Dolly!" The Jerry Herman foundation also provided each student with a small scholarship to continue promoting the arts.

February, 2016



Riverside graduate and Houston Texans football stand-out Brandon Brooks received exemplary press for his continued efforts at securing a future for his family and self by pursuing a master's in business administration from the University of Houston. While many professional athletes end their academic careers with a bachelor's degree, Brooks is a role model among role models..

March, 2016



Riverside student Elijah Evers has been granted the highly-revered 2016 Herb Kohl Foundation Scholarship. He was one of eight Milwaukee Public School students

to do so, breaking a record for highest total number of student winners in the district since 2007. The Herb Kohl Foundation, started by U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl in 1990, has since awarded \$10.2 million to Wisconsin educators, students and schools. The program was established to recognize scholarship, leadership and excellence in Wisconsin's schools.

May, 2016



RUHS Physical Science students were challenged to make a vehicle powered by a mere mousetrap. Students competed in a culminating project in their Simple

Machines Unit. They learned about potential and kinetic energy and about how simple machines work and then were given the opportunity to get ultra creative with ideas on how to make a vehicle out of materials found around the house. As seen in the photos, some went more conventional and some left it to the trusted wheel.

June, 2016



Spring weather means fishing for Riverside's upperclassmen. Signs direct students down to the river shoreline where rods and reels were ready for some catch and

release. With the school's proximity to some of the best natural areas in Milwaukee, the RUHS teaching staff make routine efforts to take advantage of classrooms outside of four walls. In a favorite unit of many students, staff instruct on land without hooks before taking to the water. A walk along the river path finds students peacefully enjoying nature and practicing a lifelong skill.

RUHS Foundation Awards Scholarships to Some Fantastic Students

Once again, Riverside's finest have been granted Foundation scholarships. A full set of profiles of the scholarship winners can be found on the School and Foundation web site at www5.milwaukee.k12.wi.us (click on "Riverside Foundation"). Here are a few examples of these outstanding Riverside graduates.



Keiana James – 3.02 grade point average; four Advanced Placement courses; active in Band, Service Learning, Gay/Straight Alliance, Forensics, drumline, school newspaper and served as the school mascot; volunteered for Sophia's Heart Foundation, Pride Fest and Sponsor A Scholar Girls Club; intends to major in criminal justice, French or sociology; Teacher Comment: "Once Keiana joined our Forensics Team as

a sophomore, she became the core of the Team. She came in and immediately tackled a very difficult Prose piece and had an amazing first year. She has continued to challenge herself with new Forensics categories. She is a much-needed example to other students whose work ethic is not up to par."



Nigel Williams – 3.35 Grade Point Average; ranks 26 in his class of 351 students; six AP courses; intends to study mathematics in college; member of the football team, the wrestling team, the track team, the Asian Club, College Possible and the National Honor Society; has volunteered at the Wisconsin State Fair, City on the Hill, the Hunger Task Force, Special Olympics, Books For Bucks, the

Riverside Open House and the Riverside Student Blood Drive. Teacher Comment: "Nigel is committed to his education and is always engaged in learning with his ultimate goal being the first person in his family to graduate from college."



Drew/Washabaugh School Newspaper Scholarship winners She'Mariya Hurt (center left) and Keiana James (center right) are pictured with Mike Drew (left), School Newspaper volunteer advisor and Jason Orazco (right), School Newspaper faculty Advisor.

Opting Out of the Foundation Newsletters

In an effort to reduce newsletter printing and postage costs, the Foundation is asking any recipients who no longer wish to receive our twice a year newsletters to please let us know so that we can take you off of our mailing list. See the enclosed "Donation Form" for the way to do so.

This Newsletter is published by Jan Gibson, President, Jim Gibson, Editor.
We're on the web: www.riversidefoundation.com



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Riverside University High School
The Riverside University High School Foundation
1615 East Locust Street
Milwaukee, WI 53211-3298