



# The Riverside University High School Foundation

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

December 2015

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## 2016 Membership Drive

The Riverside University High School Foundation relies solely on contributions from the school's alumni and friends in order to continue to help Riverside maintain its 147 year history as a high academic performing school. Riverside students need our help now more than ever. The school is full of students who are working hard every single day to achieve their goal of preparing for college. They are taking advantage of the rigorous college preparatory programs available to them at Riverside. They are taking advantage of the wide variety of extracurricular programs that are available. They are overcoming major obstacles in their lives that stand in the way of their dreams. They are doing their part and now it is up to the rest of us who care about their future to do our part. Here is how you can help:



**1. Direct Donations** - Donate to the Foundation in response to this Newsletter. A donation envelope is included. Be as generous as you can possibly be. Your donations are tax deductible since the Foundation is a recognized charitable organization

**2. Thrivent Choice** - The Riverside University High School Foundation is now qualified to receive "Thrivent Choice" charitable contributions from eligible Thrivent Financial members. Thrivent "Choice" dollars are earned each year based on the type and size of the investment product that members have with Thrivent (insurance and/or annuities). Members can then annually direct these "Choice" charitable dollars to the Riverside University High School Foundation. To direct your "Choice" charitable dollars to the Foundation, follow the following steps:

- A.** Go to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice)
- B.** Select the "Get Started Now" link.
- C.** Register or log in.
- D.** Find the number of Choice Dollars that you have available to direct on the right side of the screen.
- E.** Locate the "Riverside University High School Foundation"
- F.** Click "Direct All" or enter a specific number. Thrivent then sends the money to the Foundation and we will send you a letter acknowledging your contribution.

**3. Donate Stock** - The Foundation is set up to receive donations of stock investments as well as cash. Anyone who would like to make a gift of stock should contact Ben Carr at the Thrivent Financial Office in Grafton at 262-623-0919.

**4. Create A Philanthropic Legacy** - Include the Riverside University High School Foundation in your estate planning. Make Riverside part of your legacy by designating a portion of your estate for helping to continue the history of academic excellence at Riverside.



## What Makes Riverside A “University” High School?

- 1. The Advanced Placement Program** - Riverside offers the largest number of Advanced Placement (AP) programs of all MPS High Schools. Satisfactory grades on AP Examinations enable Riverside students to receive either college credit for the course or advanced placement in college courses.
- 2. The University Preparation Focus** – “Preparing for college” is the focus of everything that is done at Riverside both in the classroom and out of it. College fairs are held throughout the year so that students can interact with recruiters from colleges from all over the country. Special preparation is offered for SAT and ACT exams that are used by colleges to determine a student’s readiness for entry into college. Riverside’s graduation requirements are consistent with the entrance requirements for the entire UW System and for most other colleges and universities.
- 3. World Languages** – Four levels of French and four levels of Spanish are offered at Riverside. Riverside’s special relationship with UW – Milwaukee provides students with the opportunity to continue to pursue the study of these two languages after exhausting the available Riverside courses.
- 4. Project Lead The Way** – This program helps Riverside provide its students with the knowledge that they need in highly technical fields such as engineering. Riverside offers courses in “Principles of Engineering, “Principals of Biomedical Science, Digital Electronics, Human Body Systems and Biotechnical Engineering.
- 5. The Youth Options Program** – This program provides Riverside juniors and seniors the opportunity to enroll on a space available basis in one or more courses at an independent college or university that participates in the program. College credit is awarded.

## What’s Happening??

**“Arts Connect”** – Last summer, 20 Riverside students with a strong interest in the performing arts were invited to work with staff from the Marcus Center For the Performing Arts during its production of “Motown The Musical”. These students learned skills in auditioning for roles. They were also taught dancing and acting skills and learned a lot about set design and construction as well as stage management.

**“Something’s Cooking”** – The Riverside Cooking Club meets twice a week to learn, plan and cook nutritious snacks and meals. The club sells homemade soup on a monthly basis to staff as a means of fundraising. They also offer cooked-from-scratch meals to staff on nights such as Parent Conference.

**“Ants In the Classroom”** – Students in one science class researched and constructed ant farms for the purpose of exploring a specific hypothesis they developed about such colonies. First a control farm was established. Then each group of students developed a hypothesis about ants and set about attempting to prove it. For example, one group hypothesized that Pepsi Cola would be deadly to the ants. They administered 2ml of Pepsi in their ant ecosystem each day and then compared the number of fatalities to that of the control farm. They then graphed their data and found that there was no correlation between the consumption of Pepsi and ant deaths. One group did find that pesticides found on a banana peel did gravely affect ants.

**“Learning From Owl Poop”** – Science students were engaged in a unit on energy and food chains. They had learned how energy is transferred through the food chain. They watched nature films, conducted an outside demonstration on how the majority of energy is lost as it makes its way from producers to the final consumers. They then set about dissecting owl pellets, first in a virtual dissection on a laptop computer, and then in an actual dissection that allowed them to see exactly what the owls had eaten.

**“Gardening Club”** – Staff and students at RUHS have begun a new Gardening Club that will introduce Riverside students to all aspects of urban gardening from the planning process, to planting, to selling produce to local establishments and including employment opportunities and scholarships. Phase one of this project involves the construction of 12 raised garden beds on the south end of the building. Anyone who would like to donate tools, soil, compost or lumber should contact Rena Fischer at [tryphena.fischer@gmail.com](mailto:tryphena.fischer@gmail.com).

**“Service Learning”** – Service learning and community engagement have always been an integral part of the education mission at Riverside. A current example involves a group of Riverside Sociology Class students who arrive at St. James Episcopal Church at 7:15 a.m. each morning, 15 minutes before their official school day begins. St. James runs a meal program to help provide essential nutrition to Milwaukee’s homeless population. These students assist in the preparing and serving of meals as well as the cleaning up before they leave for their Riverside classes. This service opportunity provides these students with real life extensions of the concepts learned in their Sociology Class. It also helps them to better understand the issues facing their community.



## Principal's \$100(+) Black and Orange Awards

The Foundation greatly appreciates all of the donations that it receives from Riverside alumni, families and friends. All donations, no matter how large or small, help Riverside students in so many ways. We are grateful for everyone's continued financial support. Listed below are the names of Foundation donors who have contributed \$100 or more during the period of November 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015.

### \$100 - \$149

Jonathan Adams  
Michael Bartelt  
Gregory Bavers  
Lolita Bevenue  
James Borchert  
Susan Bosley  
James Boyce  
John and Margaret Brahm  
Frederick Brandenburg  
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Gloria Cantu  
Paul Drummer  
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Janis Frank  
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### \$150 - \$199

David Behrendt  
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Douglas Bradley  
Susan Bullock  
Elizabeth Drew  
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John and Lucia Murtaugh  
Floyd and Michelle Nugent  
Arlie Schardt  
Gamber Tegtmeier  
Jean Williams  
E. Robert Miller  
Joe Sutter  
Jean Barkow  
Phyllis Mensch Brostoff  
David Schmandt  
Raymond Wilvers  
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### \$200 - \$249

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Patricia Horne  
L.R. and Nancy Ketchum  
Jennifer Kringel  
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Clemens Rybacki  
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Hellermann Tyton  
Diana VestGoodman  
Thomas Weisleder  
David Weldon  
Mary AnnZapala  
Glenda Meyer  
James Hoelter  
Tara Samis  
Mathew Beecher  
Dawn Orłowski  
Fred Tabak  
Eugene Newcomb  
Sandra Sweeny

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Mark Brickman  
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Carl Mueller  
Donald Starr  
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Dorothy Wilson  
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Kenneth Sanders  
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Jaime Rivera  
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### \$400-\$499

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George Mueller  
Bill Washabaugh  
Kenli Harmon  
Carol Kress  
John Lueck

### \$500-\$599

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Robert Joseph  
Ramelann Kalagian  
Roger Pillsbury  
Mary Ralph  
Richard Sternberg

### \$600-\$999

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Jane Podemski  
Gwen & Bill Werner  
Kathleen Hawkins  
Michael Holmes  
Matt and Jennifer Werner  
Mathew Parlier

### \$1,000+

American Transmission  
Midwest LRIG  
John Banzhaf  
Diane Bezella  
Tri City National  
Bank  
Joyce Miller  
Dennis Kuester  
George and Julie Mosher  
Harley Davidson Foundation,  
Inc.  
Mary Lou Thornburg  
Emily Van Dunk  
Robert O'Keefe  
Lee and Donna Whitcomb

All donations received by the Foundation during the period of November 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015 were designated by their donors for use in the following ways:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. The Riverside Robotics Club<br>\$25,586                              | 5. Specific Foundation Scholarships<br>\$6,860                 |
| 2. The Riverside Baseball Club<br>\$19,184                              | 6. Receipts From the Annual Foundation Rummage Sale<br>\$1,873 |
| 3. Membership Dues and General Donations<br>\$18,407                    | 7. The Riverside Football Program<br>\$1,300                   |
| 4. The "Sound Investment" Project (Auditorium Improvements)<br>\$15,540 | 8. In Memoriam Contributions<br>\$930                          |
|   | 9. Sales of the New Riverside School History Book<br>\$540     |





## New Foundation Projects

The Foundation has recently established a display case for Riverside memorabilia. It is located outside of the main office on the second floor. It currently contains various letters, chevrons and pins worn by Riverside students in the 1940's and 1950's. We are also displaying an old leather football helmet worn by a member of the 1948 Riverside Tigers Football Team as well as a white cardigan letter sweater worn by the female Secretary of the 1959 Varsity Boys' Basketball Team.

The Foundation has paid to finish the landscaping around the new outdoor digital display sign at the northwest corner of the building. This sign, paid for by Riverside alumni, has become a beautiful focal point for the school and is a great public relations and student recruitment tool.

The Foundation is now funding the cost of Advanced Placement course training for additional Riverside teachers. The school needs to have more teachers who understand the rigor and the teaching techniques required to teach Advanced Placement courses so that they can incorporate as many of these techniques into their non-AP courses as possible.



## Did You Know?

One of the greatest athletes ever in the history of the Olympic Games was a Riverside graduate. That's right, Alvin Kraenzlein, Riverside Class of 1895, set a record by winning gold medals in four different individual events at the 1900 Olympic Games held in Paris, France. He won the 60 meter run, the 110 meter hurdles, the 200 meter hurdles and the long jump. Jesse Owens and Carl Lewis have since won four gold medals in a single Olympics, but they both ran on winning relay teams.

Kraenzlein actually invented the modified, open-scissors hurdling technique with one legged tucked and the other extended. This is the technique still favored by most hurdlers today.

This, and other interesting stories regarding the history of Riverside High School, can be found in a new book recently published by the Foundation. The Book can be purchased for \$20 (\$13.50 of which can be deducted as a charitable contribution), by using the enclosed donation form.



## Apologies Are In Order

In recent months the Foundation has been working with The Harris Company to update its alumni database. This is the third time since 1997 that the Foundation has collaborated with Harris. The accuracy of the Foundation's alumni database is critical since the vast majority of Foundation funds are secured through our twice a year mailings to alumni seeking donations.

For the first time, this year, the Foundation became aware that employees of the Harris Company were phoning Riverside alumni and soliciting the purchase of magazine subscriptions. When we contacted Harris officials, they confirmed that such solicitations were occurring but that they were supposed to be "soft" solicitations that is, that there was no pressure to buy the magazines. However, we continued to hear of rude and high pressure techniques being used.

The Foundation apologizes to any Riverside alumni who were subjected by Harris Company employees to rude and high pressure sales tactics. We are carefully reviewing our working relationship with the Harris Company and may look for an alternative method for updating our alumni database in the future.





## The Riverside University High School Wall of Honor

The Riverside High School Foundation Board of Directors recently inducted two additional alumni to its prestigious “Wall of Honor”.



**Demond Means**, Class of 1990, currently serves as the Superintendent of the Mequon-Thiensville School District and was recently chosen by Milwaukee County Executive, Chris Abele, as the new Opportunities Commissioner overseeing the Milwaukee Public Schools. The subject of Dr. Means’ dissertation when he earned his Doctorate Degree from Cardinal Stritch University in 2005 was “What is the Political Aspect of the Superintendency?” Previously, Dr. Means had served as a classroom teacher at Homestead High School, as an Assistant Principal at Nicolet High School, as the Principal of the Maple Dale Middle School in Fox Point and as the Director of Human Resources in the Wauwatosa School District.



**H. Carl Mueller**, Class of 1962, has been one of the most recognizable figures in public relations circles in Milwaukee for over 30 years. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee in 1966 with a degree in Russian and attended graduate school in journalism for a year. He then worked for the Milwaukee Sentinel as a reporter, an assistant city editor and also as a statehouse reporter in Madison. In 1977, he left journalism and became press secretary to Wisconsin Governor Martin Schreiber. When Schreiber lost his bid for re-election, Mr. Mueller moved to UWM working as an assistant chancellor in charge of advising campus leaders and helping to build the UWM Foundation.

In 1988 he supported John Norquist in his bid for Mayor of Milwaukee. When Norquist won, Mr. Mueller served for 2 ½ years as Norquist’s Chief of Staff. Bud Selig became a client of his when Selig was fighting to gain approval of funding for the new Miller Park. Mr. Mueller continued to work with Bud Selig when he owned the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Team and when he became Commissioner of Major League Baseball. Mr. Mueller is a member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee, the Milwaukee Press Club and the Society of Professional Journalists. He has previously served on the Board of the Milwaukee Urban League, the Children’s Outing Association (COA) and the UW – Milwaukee Alumni Association.

To see the full list of members of the Riverside Wall of Honor, go to [www.riversidefoundation.com](http://www.riversidefoundation.com)

### In Memorium

Donations were made to the Foundation between November 1, 2014 and October 31, 2015 in honor of the following persons:

Phyllis Banks, Retired Riverside Teacher

Jimmie Gibson, Retired Riverside Teacher

Mary Patti, Retired Riverside Teacher

Bob Wirth, Retired Riverside Teacher and Coach

Dirk Janssen, Class of 1945

Mary Holyoke Fuchs, Class of 1949

Tom Nardelli, Class of 1964





## An Enduring Legacy of Academic Excellence Ken Sanders, Class of 1945

I have given a great deal of thought to the issue raised in the new Riverside History Book regarding how Riverside has been able to maintain its reputation for academic rigor and high academic achievement over such a long period of time. Based on my experiences as a student at the school during the years 1941 through 1945, I believe that the answer is in the following:

- 1. Dedicated Teachers** – We had teachers who were committed to discovering and developing the potential for high academic achievement in each student. They were relentless in nurturing our talents even when we might have not yet believed that we had any talents. They provided opportunities for us to showcase our academic talents through various types of academic competition throughout the city. A student's dedication to academics was revered and honored by students and staff alike.
- 2. An Active Student Body** – We were provided so many opportunities to participate in the governance of the school through honor study halls and student government. We were offered so many types of extracurricular activities that there was always at least one activity that piqued our interest and provided us with an opportunity to develop our interests outside of the classroom. We had very active debating clubs. Our Forensics program won numerous awards in competitions throughout the city and the surrounding area. We enthusiastically and vigorously supported our athletic teams. We took great pride in their victories and suffered together when they were defeated. We were proud of Riverside's legacy of producing great athletes such as Alvin Kraenzlein (Class of 1895) who was the only American Olympic Athlete to ever win four individual gold medals in Track and Field events at a single Olympics (Paris, 1900).
- 3. A Commitment To the Community** – During my years at Riverside, students participated in many ways in supporting the war effort. We promoted and sold World War II war bonds and stamps. We collected newspapers, cardboard and other materials needed for war production. We had a number of students who left Riverside early to enlist in the armed forces and then, upon their return, continued their work toward earning their high school diploma. The presentation of these diplomas was always a source of great pride for all Riverside students.

From what I have seen and read, this commitment to the community by Riverside students continues today through various forms of "service learning" such as the one featured elsewhere in this newsletter where Riverside Sociology students volunteer to assist with the meal program at St. James Episcopal Church in Milwaukee before their classes even start at Riverside each morning.

Another great example of commitment to the community is the "Box City" event organized by Riverside students every year where students raise awareness of the plight of homeless people by sleeping in cardboard boxes overnight and seeking donations for their participation in this activity. I understand that Riverside students have raised in excess of \$60,000 for the construction of homes by Habitat For Humanity, a project that they also support with their volunteer labor.

### Celebrating Diversity

Today's Riverside students have an advantage that my class did not have and that is the diversity of the student body. Our class was extremely homogeneous – middle to upper class and white. The school today has such a diversity of students from different races, cultures, religions and life styles. Riverside students today have a great opportunity to interact with each other, to build





relationships and friendships with each other and to learn from each other. From what I can see, the entire Riverside school Community not only recognizes the existence of the diversity of the student body but they enthusiastically celebrate it and take advantage of it as a positive and constructive part of the entire learning experience at the school. As is true of so many advances of real and lasting value, this attitude has required dedication of the highest order by many people who share a devotion to Riverside.

Congratulations on all of the schools' continued successes. Many of us had developed a great deal of pride in Riverside while we attended school there. As we matured, became even better educated and developed our social and business lives, we could see how our Riverside experiences laid the foundation for all of our future successes. As we now view what the staff and students are achieving today, that school pride is rekindled once again.



## Did You Know?

In 1943, the United States was in the middle of World War II and everyone in the country was asked to make sacrifices and otherwise help in the war effort. The following Foreword from the 1943 Riverside Mercury Annual reflects the spirit of the graduating Riverside students.

*“We are the graduates of 1943. It is a little more than a year since the United States has been at war, a year when we have discovered within ourselves an overpowering love for our country – a love that has made any sacrifice worthwhile for the gaining of freedom in a now war-torn and suffering world.*

*We have chosen that one of those sacrifices be this year’s Mercury Annual. The simplicity and condensed form of this yearbook are evidence of our desire to conserve, not use; to give to our cause, not take from it. All of the paper, copper, and other supplies we would have required for the customary Annual are now in better and more urgent use.*

*It is but a small sacrifice – others are making infinitely greater ones to preserve happiness and freedom for all of us ... but it links the lives of this year’s graduates to the all-out war effort. We shall make sacrifices, both great in importance and significant, but this Annual is a 1943 sacrifice for the students of Riverside High School. There could be no finer book if it were a hundred pages larger.”*

Note: The 1943 Mercury Annual was limited to only the pictures and names of the graduating seniors and the faculty.







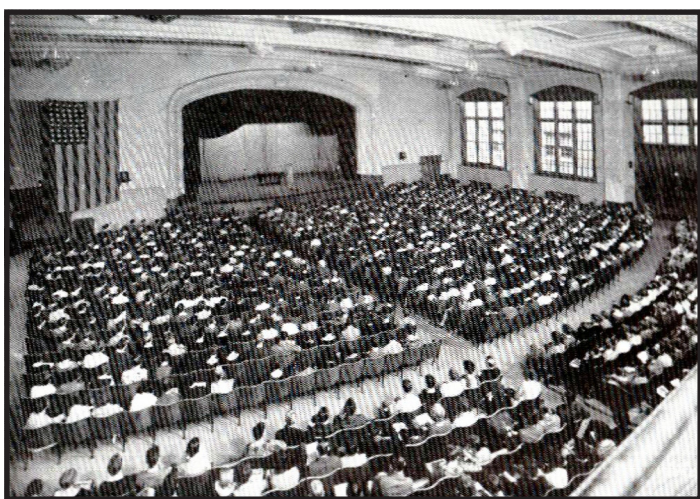
## Annual Foundation Rummage Sale

The annual Foundation rummage sale and flea market fundraising event is scheduled for  
SATURDAY, May 14, 2016  
Preparations will begin on Thursday with the drop off of donated items. Please mark your calendar.

## Sound Investment Project

Did you ever sit in these seats? Perform on this stage?

Young and old, alumni and friends of Riverside High School - The Sound Investment Project needs you to help restore this grand venue to its former glory.



Riverside Auditorium, 1931

We are proud to announce that we have reached our Phase 1 fundraising goal. In less than one year, we have raised over \$26,000! This has allowed us to begin replacing acoustical stage and wall curtains. Phase 2 will include the installation of a curtain across the balcony where so much of the sound in the auditorium is swallowed up. Our goal for this phase is \$19,000. Please join us!

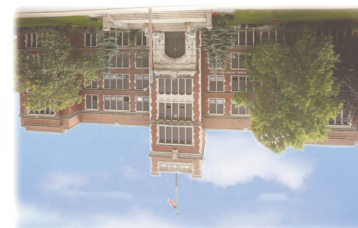
GREAT PERFORMANCES DESERVE TO BE HEARD

Thank you to those who have contributed so far.

### 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](http://www.riversidefoundation.com)



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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