



# The Riverside University High School Foundation

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

JUNE 2015

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## Riverside Robotics Team Qualifies for the World Championships

By Mohammad Hayder

Being a team from an inner city school there a few things people generalize about us when it comes to academics and extracurriculars. One thing that remained the same for the past few years was our Robotics team being knocked out early on in the regional competitions. That changed dramatically this year because our team refused to give up and persevered even when it seemed impossible. Another thing that changed was how much support we received from our many adult mentors including our lead teacher Mr. Levas.



Our team brainstormed, designed, built, and programed an exceptional robot. After we took our robot to the Wisconsin regionals and ended up finishing in the bottom 5 of the 53 teams that were there to compete, we didn't think we had what it takes to be one of the better teams. But as students who wanted to succeed we didn't waiver. Learning from the flaws that our robot had shown us from the last regional, we worked tirelessly to correct as many of them as we could in the short amount of time we had before the Mid-west Regional Championships in Chicago. Then the day came when we went to Chicago and performed like a well oiled machine. WE WON!!! I was overcome with tears of joy and accomplishment.

I was a four year veteran of the Riverside Robotics Team that had only been competing for seven years. Qualifying for World Championships was a dream come true and a great milestone accomplishment for our team. At the Championships in St. Louis, our team did not win but we performed better than some of the other teams from across the country and the world. We ended up placing in the top half of our division and represented RUHS and MPS to the best of our abilities and definitely put Riverside RoboTigers on the map as a robotics team and as a force to be reckoned with in the future. All the team members agree that being in the Edward Jones Dome Arena and competing with over 600 teams from around the world was an experience that is difficult to define in words. I can personally vouch for the impact this event has had on me and my motivation to continue my education in college. The school spirit that our accomplishments generated is a memory that will stay with all of the Robotics Team members forever.

Editor's Note: The accomplishments of the Riverside Robotics Team this year were truly extraordinary. Equally extraordinary was the support they received from their fellow students, school staff, their families and from Riverside alumni. They created excitement and a huge amount of pride among the student body. Prior to leaving for the World Championships in St. Louis, the Team received a send-off in the form of a school rally unlike anything the school has experienced since the Riverside Girls' Basketball Team won the State Championship in 2013. In addition to an auditorium filled with cheering, clapping enthusiastic and excited fellow students and school staff, the Team was supported by Milwaukee Mayor, Tom Barrett, MPS School Superintendent Driver and a representative from U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's Office. The Riverside drumline, cheerleaders and choir performed. School Principal, Michael Harris spoke on behalf of everyone when he said, "This group of young people, young men and women, are really setting the stage for academic excellence." We are extremely proud of our Team. Good luck in St. Louis!"

You can watch the tigers on <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc>. We were also featured by Fox 6 Now News. Watch the coverage here: <http://fox6now.com/2015/04/21/it-is-a-dream-come-true-mps-robotics-team-to-compete-in-world-championship/>.

The World Championship competition was an expensive venture. In addition to contributions from the school and MPS, the Robotics Team received significant support from GE Healthcare, Rockwell Automation, Miller Architectural Group, Tri-City Bank and many, many Riverside alumni and friends. In excess of \$7,000 was raised on-line through "Go Fund Me" in just three weeks. Thanks to everyone who once again helped these Riverside students prove that "academic excellence" is alive and well at Riverside University High School.

# Help Write the History of Riverside

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 Foundation's display case at the school.

## Riverside Receives another Honor

The Washington Post recently named Riverside University High School as one of "America's Most Challenging High Schools". These are the schools that are the best in the nation at challenging their students to achieve through college level exams. The Post creates their list by dividing the number of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests a school administers by the number of graduating seniors. Riverside ranked 29th among all high schools in Wisconsin. Riverside offers the most AP courses of any MPS high school.



## Thank You's Are In Order

Thank you to the following alumni who have donated Riverside memorabilia for the Foundation's archives:

- Lenore Mannes, 1945
- Margaret Roseboom, 1949
- Bob Miller, 1949
- Ken Sanders, 1945
- Jim Korotko (1958) and Donna Schultz-Korotka (1959)
- Margaret Reynolds
- Anonymous

Among the many donations of memorabilia have been letter sweaters, letter jackets, athletic letters and chevrons, a 1948 football helmet, black and orange "beanies", a girl's black gym suit, student newspapers, yearbooks, pictures, a high school diploma, football game programs, play programs, various pins and medals and much more.

The Riverside "archives" are being organized. Soon, the donated memorabilia will be on display for current students and staff, alumni, parents and other school visitors to see.

We have catalogued Mercury yearbooks, student newspapers, and even some hand-written student rosters from the 1800's. In order to complete our collection, we are in need of copies of the following Mercury Yearbooks:

**1943 1987 1990 1993 1995 1997 2009**

If you have one of these books and would be willing to donate it, you can send it to:  
RUHS - Foundation | 1615 E. Locust St. | Milwaukee, WI 53211

## Babbitz Family Scholarship



Dr. Allen Babbitz, a 1961 Riverside graduate, and his family have established a scholarship fund within the Foundation's family of funds for deserving Riverside graduating seniors who intend to pursue a career in medicine, science or engineering. The first recipients are:

**Charles Parlier** - Charles earned a 3.9 grade point average while taking six Honors courses during his Freshman and Sophomore years as well as six Advanced Placement (AP) courses during his Junior and Senior years. He also participated on the Soccer Team for three years, the Baseball Team for four years and served as a member of the National Honor Society. Charles intends to study Physical Therapy at UW - LaCrosse in hopes of pursuing a career in sports therapy.



**Brihonna Tate** - Brihonna earned a 3.75 GPA at Riverside while taking seven Honors Courses and three AP courses. She was a four year member of the School Orchestra and also played on the Girls' Volleyball Team and the Girls' Basketball Team (2013 State Champions). Brihonna intends to study Psychology and Nursing at Marquette University beginning in the Fall.

Dr. Babbitz, a well respected OB/GYN physician in the Milwaukee area, was featured in an April 7, 2012 article in the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel for having delivered three generations of the same family, the father on April 17, 1981, the mom five days later on April 22, 1981 and then that couple's first child on March 9, 2012.

# The New School Sign



The new outdoor digital sign is up and running! Thanks to the generosity of the school's alumni and friends, the new sign is displaying words of inspiration for the students as well as information regarding school events for students, parents and passersby. It is also serving as a great recruiting tool as it emphasizes the school's rich history of academic excellence.

Show here admiring the new sign are the following members of the Foundation Board of Directors: (left to right) Principal Michael Harris, Jennifer Kringel (RUHS Guidance Counselor), Michelle (Hochstein) Waide (1963), Kory Koneazny (1991), Gwen Werner (RUHS Parent), Jan Gibson (President), Jean Williams (Retired RUHS Staff), Sue Cornell (Retired RUHS Staff), Audrey (Gholston) Sellers (1984), Mike Drew (Retired Journalist), Jim Gibson (Secretary/Treasurer), Marilyn Jacobson (1964). Not pictured, Dr. Dan Donder (RUHS Principal – Retired), Pam Kutcher (RUHS Phy. Ed. Dept. Chairperson)

## Sound Investment Project – Progress Report

Good news! In the first six months, we have raised over \$12,000 toward our initial goal of \$25,000 for the Sound Investment Project. This campaign will greatly improve the acoustics in the Riverside High School auditorium thereby helping the school maintain its long-standing commitment to excellence in the performing arts.

On June 14th there was a gathering of Alumni and Friends of Riverside at Hallidays Irish Pub to promote this project. A good time was had by all and the commitment to see this project through to the end was reaffirmed. Thanks to Rosemary Maniscalco, Riverside Class of '65, for providing the venue. Great performances deserve to be heard. In these times, neither the school nor MPS can afford the funding for these improvements. Join us. No contribution is too small or too large.

We gratefully acknowledge those of you who have contributed so far:

### Center Stage

#### Donations of \$1000 and up

Lee and Donna Whitcomb '50

### Orchestra Seating

#### Donations \$500 and \$999

John Banzhaf '47

\*Richard Sternberg '61

Matt Werner '89

### Mezzanine Seating

#### Donations of \$251 - \$499

Dorothy Wilson '63

Hallidays Irish Pub

Fred and John Heidner '47 & '49

Victoria Strattner FOR

### Gallery Seating

#### Donations up to \$250

Suzanne Cornell RRS

Julie Ihlenfeldt '73

George Mueller '36

Donald Starr '61

Thomas Weisleder '56

Gwen and Bill Werner FOR

Gary Bezella '55

Elizabeth and David Blattner '61 & '59

Mark Brickman '51

Paul Drummer '39

Don Fandry '57

Janis Frank FOR

Nichole Fromm '95

Kathryn Gardner RRS

\*\* Paul Gibson FOR

Amy Kirkland

Rollie and Julie Kohl RRS

Robert Kohn '51

John Leavens '66

Helen McPherrin '54

Carl Mueller '62

Jane Podemski '54

Eric Riemenschneider '58

\*\*\*Catherine Schamberger '63

Sweetland/Murphy FOR

Carl and Patricia Voss '60

Michelle Waide '63

James Weiskopf RRS

Ned Whitcomb '53

Carol White '61

Raymond Wilvers '54

Mary Ann Zapala RRS

Audrey Benning FOR

Clyde Jon Bingman '61

Douglas Bradley '48

James Giese '45

Doris Hansen RRS

Frances Huxley '47

Thomas Ihlenfeldt '76

Louis Sanfilippo '44

Marianne Martin '50

Ruth Mayerson '47

Steven Sanders '63

Eugenie Scott '63

Nancy Seay RRS

Jean Barkow RRS

Anita Doubeck '54 & RRS

Jeanne Hochstatter '64

Marilyn Jacobson '64

Anne De Leo '46

Judy Kucej RRS

David Schmandt '62

Patricia Casillo RRS

Rosalind Couture '38

Betty Litow FOR

Jane Matko FOR

Tammy Miller '82

Leone Piekarski '50

Suzanne Pikofsky '63

Jean Williams RRS

Stephanie London '68

Tanya Weidenhoeft '95

Dorothee Baker '65

Johnika Bradley student

Cathy Callaway '74

R. Tom Galbraith FOR

Lloyd Powless '63

Carol Tishler '55

Greg Spransy '61



\* Given in honor of Samuel Holderf

\*\* Given in memory of Jimmie Gibson

\*\*\* Given in memory of Tom Nardelli

FOR Friend of Riverside

RRS Retired Riverside Staff

Please add your name and contribution to our growing list. Did you know? – Riverside is one of only two MPS high schools that still puts on an annual musical performance and it has been doing so continuously since 1986.

