



The Riverside University High School Foundation

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

December, 2013

2014 Membership Dues Drive

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Riverside University High School is the direct descendant of the very first public high school established in the city of Milwaukee in 1868. It was known then as "Milwaukee High School" and was later called "East Division High School", "Riverside High School" and finally "Riverside University High School". Throughout its nearly 150 year history, our school has been providing young people with a high quality academic program along with a wide variety of extracurricular, school service and community service activities that spark their interests, capture their imagination and set them on the path to enduring success. At Riverside, students develop leadership and teamwork skills, they gain an appreciation for life-long learning and they become well-rounded members of our community.

Riverside's alumni and friends understand that maintaining academic excellence takes hard work and financial resources. Today, Riverside faces some of the toughest odds ever in its attempt to continue its long history of high academic achievement. School funding has been drastically reduced. Class sizes have increased. Course offerings have been cut. How is Riverside overcoming these obstacles and succeeding while other schools are falling behind? With your SUPPORT!

As a financial investor in Riverside University High School, your support impacts the lives of over 1,500 young people each year. Moreover, you are ensuring that the same quality academic, artistic and athletic opportunities you valued as a student continue to inspire, uplift and impact today's Tigers. The Riverside University High School Foundation is funded almost entirely by annual memberships and additional donations from Riverside alumni and friends. The annual dues are \$40 and are being solicited through this newsletter. It is our hope that all Riverside Foundation donors will continue to renew their annual memberships and donate generously so that the Foundation can continue to support Riverside in its mission to provide a high quality, college preparatory education to its diverse student body. The enclosed "2014 Membership Dues and Donation Envelope" can be used to make your donations. Thank-you in advance for your support.

Foundation and School Integrate Web Sites

The Riverside University High School Foundation web site at www.riversidefoundation.com is being integrated into the School web site at www5.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/school/riverside. The process of moving all of the Foundation web site content to a new page of the school web site should be completed by the first of the year. We invite all Riverside alumni to visit the school site to get their alumni news and, at the same time, see all of the great things that are happening at the school.

Advanced Placement (AP) Program

The edge that Riverside has over any other high school in the city of Milwaukee is its wide variety of Advanced Placement course offerings. Riverside offers more Advanced Placement courses than any other high school in Milwaukee. AP courses not only prepare students for the rigors of college, they also offer students the opportunity to gain college credits. It is not unusual for Riverside students to start college with enough college credits to qualify as second semester freshmen. One of the students interviewed in the promotional video sponsored by the Foundation is actually starting in a college Honors Program as a first semester sophomore!

The Foundation is committed to helping Riverside maintain this vital program. We can only do so if alumni support us in our efforts.

Last year, we started the AP Test Fee Fund from which all AP exam fees will be paid that are not already paid through other funds. In the past, students might decide to not take a second, third or fourth AP test because of the additional cost of taking such tests. The Foundation paid out almost \$1,200 last year so that all AP students could take as many of their AP tests as possible. An application form had to be filed by the student and signed by a parent or guardian and a RUHS guidance counselor in order to qualify for these funds.

We are again appealing to all Riverside Alumni to assist with the funding of this important program. See the enclosed Donation Form to see how you can contribute to this program with tax deductible dollars.

The “Marketing of Riverside”

Riverside cannot continue to exist as a public high school of high academic achievement with an Advanced Placement Program that is the very finest in the city unless we can attract higher numbers of academically motivated eighth graders to choose Riverside as their high school. The school will not be able to attract higher numbers of academically motivated eighth graders unless it can “market” its longstanding history as a school of academic excellence to both the community and potential incoming students. A school’s reputation is everything in today’s competitive market of “public” high schools, “private” high schools, “charter” high schools and “choice” high schools.

The Foundation has been actively involved in assisting Riverside in marketing itself to incoming eighth graders in two ways:

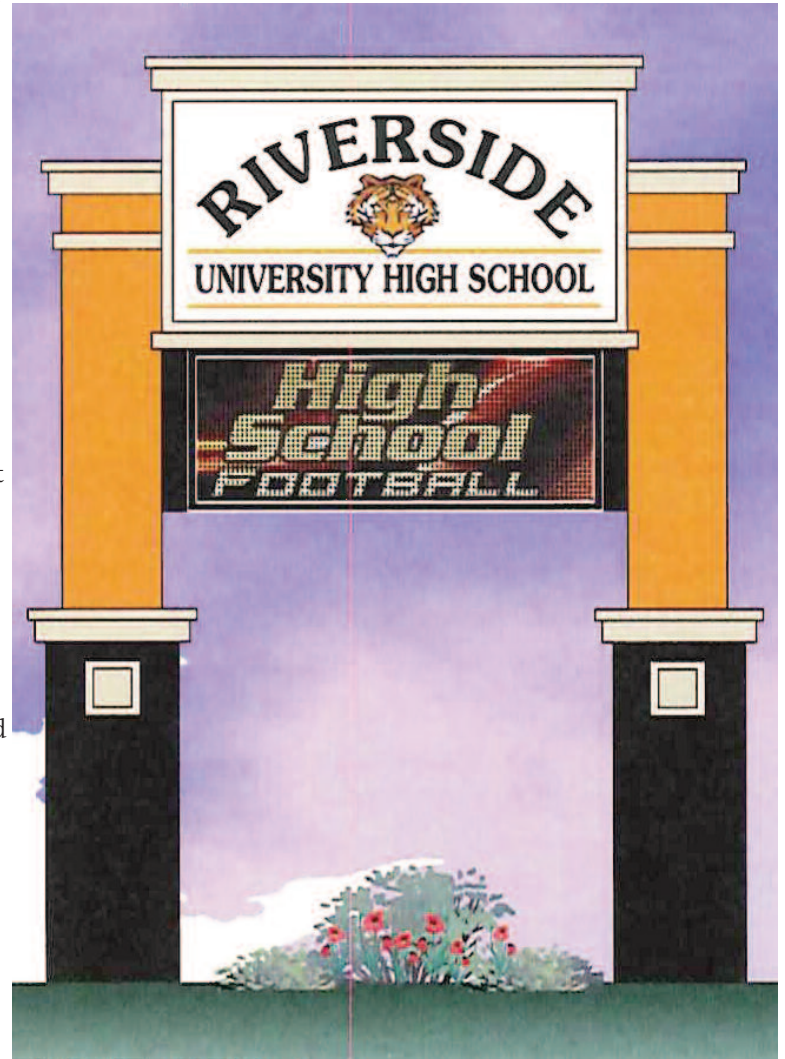
New Outdoor Digital Sign - In May of this year, the Foundation sent out a request to Riverside alumni to support the construction of a new outdoor sign for Riverside. We were extremely gratified that within six weeks we received over \$10,000 to add to the \$25,000 in pledges previously received. That allowed us to proceed with the Milwaukee Public Schools bidding and procurement process in hopes that this project could be completed by the start of the current school year..

Well, we were wrong. After all of the bids were received, it turned out that the modest sign proposal that we put forth was going to cost \$52,000, not the \$35,000 that MPS had predicted. We had two choices at that point. We could reduce the scope of the project and erect a sign that looks cheap and does not fit the image of Riverside as a school for academically motivated students who plan on attending college, or we could wait until we raised the necessary funds to do this project right. We chose the latter option. We have since raised an additional \$3,200 and we have worked with a new sign company to come up with a design that fits our budget. We hope to have MPS send out the new design for a second round of bids early in 2014 in hopes that we can break ground next summer and have the sign up and running by the start of the 2014 – 2015 School Year which is the 100th year that the current building has been in existence..

Obviously, a new outdoor digital sign is not the only way to advertise the commitment of the school to academic excellence, but, given the location of Riverside on Locust Street on the east side of Milwaukee, it is a highly effective way to do it.

Promotional Video - As noted above, Riverside is in competition for the academically motivated eighth graders who are deciding which high school they will attend. Riverside does have entrance requirements and a testing procedure but, due to the manner in which MPS budgets its limited economic resources, the school is forced to take students who do not meet its requirements in order to make its budget for the year. The more students who do meet its requirements that Riverside can convince to choose to attend Riverside, the larger the proportion of academically motivated students among the entire student body it will have.

The Foundation has sponsored and paid for a new professionally prepared recruiting video that promotes the academic reputation of the school. It contains testimonials from recent graduates, teachers, the principal, and a parent of a current student. They all speak to the academic rigor that students will be challenged with that will prepare them for the next level of their education. They also speak to the wide variety of extracurricular activities available to Riverside students, all of which help to enrich the students’ total experience at the school.



Dr. Donder Retirement Fundraiser

Dr. Dan Donder served as the principal of Riverside for six years. He retired last May. Riverside staff along with Dr. Donder's friends, family and colleagues wanted to honor his 30 years of service in the Milwaukee Public Schools with a testimonial celebration. Dr. Donder went along with the idea but insisted that all funds raised by the event would be used for Foundation scholarships. A total of \$3,800 was raised and all of it will be spent on higher education scholarships for deserving Riverside graduates. The recipients this year were Karla Guerro (\$1,000), Leonardo Serrato (\$1,000), Aniyah Stubblefield (\$500), and Mai Ker Thao (\$500).

See the Foundation web site at www.riversidefoundation.com for more information regarding these outstanding students.

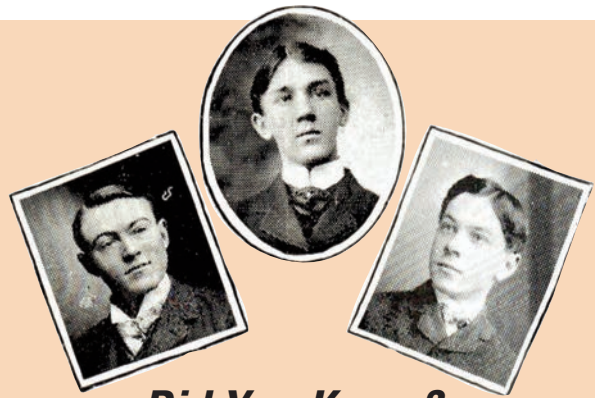
Riverside University High School Scholarship Winners

The Riverside University High School Foundation annually awards General College Scholarships up to a maximum of \$1,000 each to deserving graduating seniors. In addition, the Foundation has ten other scholarship funds that have been established by alumni, children of deceased alumni, friends of Riverside or for a specific purpose, i.e., Bookstore service, School Newspaper work, etc.

The 2013 recipients are glad that they chose to attend Riverside University High School and so are we! We are proud to have honored them with higher education scholarships. When they entered Riverside as Freshmen, they were told by the adults in their lives that if they worked hard, listened to their teachers and behaved properly, they could be successful in school. They listened. They followed the advice and they made it!

See the profiles of the Foundation Scholarships at www.riversidefoundation.com

Keep in mind as you read these profiles that, in addition to their rigorous academic programs, almost all of these students were active in school extracurricular activities, participated in various forms of community service and also worked at part-time jobs.



Did You Know?

Debating was the primary extracurricular activity in the early years of Riverside, then known as 'Milwaukee High School'. It carried equal status within the school with the great achievements of the school's athletes. Debating took place in front of huge crowds of students, faculty and members of the public. Debates were judged by esteemed faculty members and the winning teams received standing ovations and cheers from the audience. Debating societies continued within the school well into the 1950's. The benefits of debating were described in an early edition of the student newspaper as follows: "All Americans, both young and old are fond of argument. The advantages of debating are manifold. In the preparation for a debate, vigorous thinking is exacted in analyzing the subject and electing the strongest points. Debaters learn to defend the truth they have espoused and, at the same time learn toleration by showing them that there are unanswerable arguments on each side".

The subjects of these debates were often the important school or social issues of the times. The following is a representative list of issues:

1. April 28, 1893 - Resolved; That the world has produced her greatest men since the birth of Columbus.
2. June 16, 1893 - Resolved; That the President of the United States should be elected by direct popular vote.
3. Resolved; That women ought to be allowed the right of suffrage.
4. June 15, 1894 - Resolved; That foreign immigration should be prohibited for ten years.
5. September 2, 1894 - Resolved; that Learning tends more than Wealth to create an aristocracy.
6. February 1, 1895 - Resolved; That an Educational Qualification for Voting Should be Established.

Girls first joined in the debating activities in 1896. This event was described in the student newspaper as follows: "At the meeting held on September 18, the attendance of a large number of young ladies was hailed with much pleasure and aroused considerable enthusiasm. The young ladies, with few exceptions, have heretofore exhibited little or no interest in the Society (debating). Those young ladies present at the meeting agreed to participate hereafter in the programs, which, we are certain, will be more interesting and diversified on that account".

Annual Foundation Rummage Sale

The annual Foundation rummage sale and flea market fundraising event is scheduled for

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014

Preparations will begin on Thursday with the drop off of donated items. Please mark your calendar.

Principal's \$100(+) Black and Orange Awards 2013

\$100 - \$149

Joan Aker (DW)
Joan Aker (DW)
Daphne Barbee
Roger Beaumont
Clyde Bingman
Elizabeth Blattner
Susan Bosley
Douglas Bradley, M.D.
Dennis Conta (DW)
Millard Frohock
Daniel Fromm
Jim & Jan Gibson
Joseph Granis
Geraldine Herf
James & Virginia Hoelter
Jane Johnson Carlyle
John Koss
Charles LaBahn
John & Renee Leavens
Doug Lueck
Joan & David Martin (DW)
John Mathie
Betty Medwadowski

Gary Meyer
George Mueller
Charles Nelson
Julia Nowicki
Jack Russove
Clemens Rybacki
Daniel Schneidman (DW)
Donna Skenadore
Valerie & Dan Stefanich (DW)
Frederick Tabak
Beverly Teter
Mary Toley
John Twomey
John & Jane Unkles
Michelle Waide
Lily Weidman
Charles Whitney
Richard Zanoni
Jean Barkow
Father Guy Gurath
Barbara Carlson
Sue Cornell
Patricia Kirchoff
Kitty Schamberger

\$150 - \$199

David Behrendt (DW)
Gary Bezella
Phyllis Brostoff (DW)
Molly & Charles Collins
Elizabeth Drew (DW)
Minette & Robert Goldsmith
John & Lucia Murtaugh (DW)
Eugene Newcomb
Mary Pridmore
Lewis Sapiro
Bill Washabaugh (DW)
Paul Grayson
Rita Lohmeier (DW)
Mary Fowlkes
Mary Barnes

\$200 - \$249

Susan Bullock (DW)
Walter Drew (DW)
Don Fandry
Robert Fige
Art & Helen Hartz (DW)
Karl Kopp (DW)
Sandy Mallin

Rosemary Maniscalco
Chris McAuliffe (DW)
Judith Roy
Ken Sanders
Edward Szopinski (DW)
Gamber Tegtmeier
Carl & Pat Voss
William Wenzler
David Wheldon
Mary Ann Zapala
Class of 1993
Kory Koneazny
Robert Kohn
Eric Riemenschneider
Sandra Sweeny

\$250 - \$399

Thomas Bauch
Bonnie Lewis (DW)
Arnold & Barbara Repta
Alice & Mike Drew (DW)
Bill & Cathy Washabaugh (DW)
Vickie & Tim Strattnr
John Lueck

\$400 - \$600

Mark Brickman
Sandra Sweeny
Bert Braun
Susan Chase
Jane Podemski
Thomas Weisleder
Gwen & Bill Werner

\$601-\$999

Donald Starr
Julia Ihlenfeldt
Michael Holmes

\$1,000

Diane Bezella
RUHS vs. King Touch Football
John Seamon
Frederick Voss
John Banzhaf
Lee & Donna Whitcomb

\$2,000

Mary Lou Thornburg
Dr. Donder Retirement Fundraiser

DW = Drew/Washabaugh School Newspaper Scholarship Fund

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

As you requested, you are receiving this Newsletter via E-mail. If you wish to make a donation to the Foundation, you can do so by going to our web-site at www.riversidefoundation.com and click on the "Donations" section. Then you can either download the donation form and mail it to us or you can make your donation by clicking on the PayPal "Donation" button. We greatly appreciate your continued interest in Riverside. We desperately need your financial help.

Thanks.

Jim Gibson, Secretary/Treasurer
The Riverside University High School Foundation