



# RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

## SUPPORTING MILWAUKEE'S OLDEST PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

EST. 1868

*150 years of Academic Excellence!*

February 2021

## RUHS Foundation Wall of Honor

### Nicole Waldner, Willie Murphy & Aaron Lipski

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*RUHS Guidance Counselor*

The RUHS Foundation is pleased to announce the newest members of our alumni Wall of Honor. All three have distinguished themselves in the area of public service and are in prominent positions within the Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee Fire Department.

The first is Nicole Waldner from the class of 1991. She was promoted to Inspector of Administration in August of 2020, one of the top seven posts in the Milwaukee Police Department. She oversees the Administration Bureau which includes the Police Training Academy, Internal Affairs, Human Relations, Facilities, and others.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in 1995, Inspector Waldner joined the department as part of the December 1996 Academy Class and has served the city of Milwaukee for the last 24 years. Waldner began her career as an officer in District 3. She next became an officer in the Vice Squad. After completing the test and interview process, she was promoted to detective at Vice. This was followed by a promotion to lieutenant in the Homicide Division. Waldner's next assignment was at the Police Training Academy. There she was promoted to captain and became the Training Director for the department.

In her speech after her promotion to Inspector, Waldner said how blessed she was to have come from Riverside because she was exposed to so much

diversity which has helped her throughout her career. Her favorite teacher at Riverside

was the late Ms. Windorski, choir director, and her best times were performing under her direction in the Swing Choir and Riverside's legendary musicals. Waldner is the daughter of Suzanne Cornell, retired Riverside math teacher, tennis coach, and current Co-President of our Foundation.

The second person we are honoring is Willie Murphy, Sr. from the Class of 92. Part of the Police Academy Class of December 1996, he has been with the Milwaukee Police Department for 24 years, and like Ms. Waldner, was also promoted to Inspector. His past positions include officer, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain of police. In his post as Inspector of Police, he is second in command of the entire MPD's patrol bureau which includes all 7 police districts as well as the specialized patrol division which makes up among others the motorcycle units, harbor patrol, tactical enforcement unit, and crisis assessment response teams.

Inspector Murphy credits Riverside with giving him a foundation that



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## Wall of Honor

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focused on excellence in education and the tools to become a lifelong learner. Mr. Wild was his most memorable teacher because he kept the students engaged and motivated them with passion and energy to do and be their best. Murphy also loved being in the concert and jazz bands with Mr. Kriefall and enjoyed learning new compositions and becoming a more proficient musician.



Our third Wall of Honor inductee is Acting Fire Chief Aaron Lipski, class of 1992. He has been part of the MFD for over 23 years. Starting as a firefighter, he then served as a heavy equipment operator, lieutenant, captain, and

battalion chief, the head of the department's Repair Shop, and the city-wide commander of firefighting and EMS operations. Prior to his appointment as Acting Chief, Lipski was the Assistant Chief of the department's Support Bureau.

Additionally, Lipski chaired the Milwaukee County High-Rise Response Guidelines Committee, created standard operating guidelines for all department operations, and has worked hard to grow community partnerships and collaborative multi-agency public and private partnerships in the pursuit of improved emergency planning and response.

Chief Lipski credits RUHS for his successes within the Milwaukee Fire Department. The emphasis on written and verbal communication skills has helped him in both emergency and administrative situations. Both his English teacher, Ms. Sylvester, and Ms. Windorski, his choir director, shaped and strengthened his ability to communicate effectively even in difficult and stressful situations. Chief Lipski is proud to call himself a Riverside Tiger.

## Social Justice Club

Riverside has a rich history of civic and community engagement. In 1943, students made the sacrifice of a very limited, simple yearbook to save on paper and copper resources needed for WWII. Students protested for black history texts in 1967 and then again in 1990 for a spotlight on Locust and Newhall. Our Tigers started Box City camping overnight in the school parking lot to raise funds to combat homelessness and build Habitat for Humanity homes. In more recent times, seniors organized their own voter registration drive.

This tradition of community involvement continues today. Over the past year of a worldwide pandemic and movements to address racial and economic inequity, students under the leadership of advisors, Mr. Shafer and Ms. Hammer, have formed a new extracurricular organization at Riverside, the Social Justice Club.

According to Mr. Shafer, "We wanted to create a vehicle for our kids to talk and take action around social justice issues." About 25 students are involved so far and they are looking forward to the time when they can meet face to face instead of virtually. Right now the group is concentrating on discussing issues, building relationships, and planning their social justice activities.

Other faculty involved in these efforts are Mr. Vernon-Brey, Ms. Osley, Ms. Davis, and Ms. Ford. These staff members are also members of the newly formed Riverside faculty social justice committee; in this capacity they are organizing and implementing social justice efforts in the form of professional development and creating monthly lessons around social justice issues.

We salute the students and staff of RUHS for doing their part to make our community and world a better, more just one.



BLM protestors marching on Locust Street on Day 37 after George Floyd's death.



## Memorial Scholarships

The RUHS Foundation offers memorial scholarships to support deserving students in memory of individuals and groups of individuals.

For example, we have a special fund that accepts contributions in memory of up to 25 teachers, coaches or alumni. This allows us to support an annual scholarship and present the recipient with both a check and a certificate listing the persons in whose names the scholarship is given.

Another example is a named scholarship when enough funds are contributed to support an annual scholarship or a onetime scholarship in one person's name.

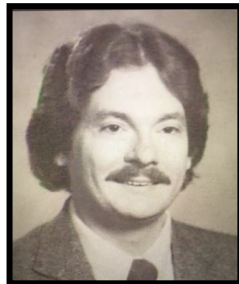
For much larger contribution amounts, investments in a conservatively managed account can allocate the earnings to fund an annual scholarship.

Please keep the RUHS Foundation in mind when looking for important opportunities for your generosity.

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Arlo Coplan  
Adele Vollmer



Mark Jones  
Ken Schultz

Over the past several months, Riverside lost four former staff members. They were our teachers, leaders and coaches. Thank you for the impact you made on our Riverside family.

Visit our website ([www.ruhsfoundation.com](http://www.ruhsfoundation.com)) to learn more about donation options or email us at [ruhsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:ruhsfoundation@gmail.com). We are always more than happy to connect with you.

## Principal's Corner

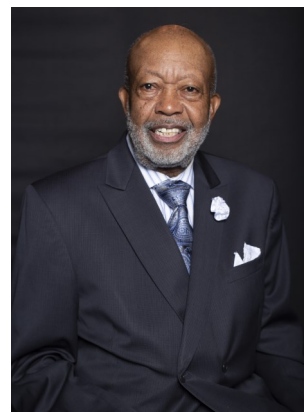


Here at Riverside we have been busy transitioning to semester two. Our students are hard at work continuing semester long courses and starting new courses. This semester we are excited to offer for the first time at Riverside University High School an Ethnic Studies course, Math 103 for college credit, and Web Design Two.

Currently we are continuing in Phase One of the reopening plan; however, Senior Administration has outlined a timeline for high school students to transition to Phase Two later this semester.

This month we say a happy goodbye to Mr. James Allen who is retiring. Many past and present Tigers have fond memories of Mr. Allen. After over 30 years in the building, he plans to travel and visit his family. We wish Mr. Allen the best of luck. He will be missed.

—Jeff Lasky, Principal



Congratulations, Mr. Allen! The Foundation thanks you for your dedication and commitment to RUHS. Best wishes for a happy retirement.

Please be a part of continuing Riverside's proud history by remembering our foundation in your end of the year giving. We rely on your generosity to provide scholarships to our graduating seniors and support our staff. Please send donations to:

RUHS Foundation  
1615 E. Locust Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53211