

State College Area School District Education FOUNDATION



MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY CLASS OF 2024



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the 2024 Class of the Maroon & Gray Society! Established in 2018, the Maroon & Gray Society recognizes notable district alumni, faculty and others who have made a positive impact.

Thank you to everyone who attended in support of our honorees and the Education Foundation. It is truly a privilege to share in the celebration of alumni and educators who have made an impact on our school community and in the world.

Your attendance and support makes a difference for today's students!

We hope to see you again next year!

Mary Kay Montovino '73, President

OUR MISSION

THE STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION IS COMMITTED TO ENHANCING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF STUDENTS WITHIN THE STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

OUR VISION

AN ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THAT CHALLENGES AND INSPIRES EVERY STUDENT TO REACH HIS OR HER FULL POTENTIAL.

CONTACT US

SCASD Education Foundation

240 Villa Crest Drive, State College, PA 16801
814-883-8067 | www.scasdfoundation.org
Paul Olivett: pgo11@scasd.org

The official registration and financial information of State College Area School District Education Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Friday, April 26, 2024
Centre Hills Country Club
State College, PA



PRESENTED BY

CRABTREE, ROHRBAUGH & ASSOCIATES
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2024 Maroon & Gray Society Celebration

This year's event brought together alumni, friends and families and showcased the talents of current students. If you missed this year's celebration, watch for details on next year.

Get to know the 2024 Class of the Maroon & Gray Society

James Bloom '71, Retired, US Navy

Ginger Breon '77, Chief Technology Officer, The Ohio State University

Rick Bryant '75, Retired, Executive Director, Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts

Katie Gallagher '05, Artist & Fashion Designer (Deceased)

Loretta "Laurie" Jeffreys, Retired, Educator and Administrator

Dr. Charles "Doc" Loviscky, Retired, Administrator, Educator and Director of the Motivation Resource Center at State High

Dean Richard Phillips '69, Esq., Retired, Formerly shareholder at Elliott Greenleaf (Blue Bell, Pa.)

Lynne Sanders, Retired, Educator

Jared Yarnall-Schane, Co-Owner, Singing Onstage with his wife Leah Mueller '08

Pat Vernon, Retired, Technology Education Teacher

David Weintraub '76, Professor of Astronomy Emeritus and Director of Communication of Science and Technology Emeritus, Vanderbilt University

Read their profiles in this issue »

THIS YEAR'S MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY BENEFICIARY: THE MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS FUND

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Mental Health Matters Fund, which was founded with \$50,000 in proceeds from the 2019 Maroon & Gray Society Celebration.

Student mental health and well-being continue to be a top district priority and 2024 funds will help support faculty and staff training; mental health curriculum; awareness programs; and direct mental health services for students who aren't fully covered by insurance, including SCASD's partnership with Penn State's Herr Clinic that supports 800+ hours of services for students, families and staff.

In our schools and in schools across the country, well-being is part of helping students of all ages learn and achieve. Donors are making a difference for students on this important issue by supporting the Mental Health Matters Fund.

A partnership with Penn State's Herr Clinic fulfills a critical need by delivering direct, one-on-one mental health support for students. This innovative relationship expands access to services for students, families, faculty, and staff seeking mental health support. A commitment from the Education Foundation covers the infrastructure that supports 800+ hours of services. As demand continues to increase, this partnership must thrive.

This proactive and innovative approach to mental health support has helped our district make great strides. The Mental Health Matters Fund is open to donations of all sizes to make a direct and life-changing difference for students. Together, we can pay it forward so that students can continue to thrive.

Give Now to support mental health matters



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2024 HONOREES

"I AM PROUD AND FORTUNATE TO BE ONE OF THE 6% OF AMERICANS WHO ARE VETERANS."

JAMES BLOOM '71

Retired, US Navy

James Bloom '71 looks back fondly on his days at State High, but that doesn't mean he'd do it all over again. "I made friends, enjoyed sports and clubs, and thoroughly treasured representing State High as the Little Lion mascot. Those good memories will linger for a lifetime," he said. "So will memories of two teachers who were also mentors, Martha Waite (English) and Joe Filko (World Cultures) who saw potential in me that perhaps even I didn't sense. Joe and I are still Facebook friends today. But that said, I would not seize an opportunity to go back and relive that high school experience. State High prepared me, no doubt. But I have happily discovered that each phase of my life so far has been more rewarding and more fulfilling than the phase before, culminating in retirement."



James Bloom '71

Like most kids who grew up in State College, James said he learned the value of relentlessly journeying toward betterment, both personally and as a member of the community. For him, that involved a career as a physician and 31 years of service in the US Navy. "I am proud and fortunate to be one of the 6% of Americans who are veterans. I was in Washington, DC, on September 11th and felt the ground shake when the hijacked airliner struck the Pentagon. I oversaw the mobilization of hospital ships in support of New York City. Later, while Commanding Officer of a hospital in Europe, a new mother in our maternity suite was on the verge of bleeding to death after her delivery. We exhausted our stored blood but could not stop her bleeding. In desperation, we mobilized the sailors on base

in a massive, on-the-spot, blood drive that gathered enough to save the young woman's life. In many small ways with individual patients, and some big ways with our nation, I believe I made a difference," he said.

"I look to the future with anticipation," James shared. "Life is too short not to immerse oneself in the many fascinating activities I now enjoy: teaching for OLLI, broadcasting for WPSU, volunteering as a physician, writing and researching history, and helping in my community."

James' advice to today's students is to learn something new every day and to never stop learning. "The more you experience, and the more deeply you learn about those things, the more fascinating they become," he said.



His induction into the Maroon & Gray Society has special meaning to him. "Every-day-individuals often accomplish extraordinary things. But the good work done by so many much too often goes unrecognized, or worse, unnoticed. I saw that with my late father. The truly selfless things he completed in his lifetime have largely been taken for granted

since his passing. That's why induction into the Maroon and Gray Society is so meaningful. I know my parents, my teachers, and my mentors would be proud. To be counted among the very worthy inductees of this year, and the many from the past, is an absolute honor, albeit undeserved." ●

2024 HONOREES

"IT GAVE ME A GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HOW EDUCATION CAN OPEN DOORS TO A MULTITUDE OF OPPORTUNITIES."

GINGER BREON '77

Chief Technology Officer, The Ohio State University

Ginger Breon '77 was the first in her family to go to college—a decision she made thanks to her favorite teacher who she said, “saw more in me than I saw in myself,” and set the course for her career.

“Mr. Jim Williams inspired my love for accounting and the critical thinking needed to validate an entity’s fiscal health. He provided me with the opportunity to put into practice using that knowledge and skills to track and reconcile the high school football game receipts,” she said. “My plan after high school was to get an accounting job at Penn State since my high school curriculum was focused on the clerical path. In my senior year after completing the two-week work experience requirement within Penn State’s Food Services and receiving a full-time offer, Mr.



Ginger Breon '77

Williams asked me ‘Ginger, why do you want to rush into taking a job? Why are you not going to college?’”

“Mr. Williams planted the seed that I could achieve greater opportunities if I expanded my goals - a person who would be the first in my family to go to college,” she continued. “I did take that accounting job at Penn State, but within three months, Mr. Williams’ words echoed in my mind. I handed in my resignation to attend Penn State full-time pursuing dual degrees in accounting and agriculture business management. This knowledge set the foundation for my professional career path and managing our family farm.”

On the clerical tract, Ginger also studied Business English with another favorite teacher, Mrs. Gilliland, and formed friendships with classmates with whom she remains close today.

Ginger’s journey in higher education didn’t end when she graduated from Penn State. “Going to college was a game changer for me,” she said. “I enjoyed being a student and went on to earn my MBA. It gave me a great appreciation for how education can open doors to a multitude of opportunities.”

While her family supported her, they didn’t have the means to financially support her through college. She milked cows, umpired softball games, and worked as a cashier to earn money to pay for college. Today, Ginger has “worked in the private and public sectors providing farm financial management to over 150 farmers and advancing higher education at two Big-Ten,



Research 1, land grant institutions - Penn State and Ohio State.” The foundational skills she learned at State High, combined with her college and graduate school education, “helped her expand her professional career by leading technology teams for implementing, innovative, enterprise-wide solutions to advance the academic missions in higher education and gave her the self-confidence to embrace change and transform our family farm by collaborating with government and conservation agencies.” She secured over \$2 million in grant funding to modernize the infrastructure and improve conservation practices to enable the family farm to continue to operate.

Continued on next page

Ginger and her husband, Bob, have been married for 42 years and have one son, Shawn, and two grandsons, Owen and Ethan. “We built our home on our family farm and most weekends you will find me there working - milking cows, managing the finances, including capital investments, and planning the operations,” she said.

“THERE ARE STATE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO HAVE ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESSES. IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO BE CONSIDERED ONE OF THEM”

“I am very proud of being the first one in my family to go to college and have encouraged and assisted other family members to expand their education. I am also proud of the transformation of our family farm by collaborating with funding agencies to enhance conservation, improve operations, and

lessen the manual labor needed,” Ginger said. In addition, she has many accomplishments in higher education, leading technology innovations that advance the academic missions of teaching, learning, research, and outreach. “The positive impact on people’s lives and society by supporting faculty who discover a new treatment to eliminate cancers or provide an opportunity for a student to expand their skills for advancing their professional career goals, or connecting partners to give back feels awesome,” she said.

“My plans and goals include instilling the thrill of discovery and learning in the next generation, especially my grandsons. Providing them opportunities to see and experience new things while being grounded in the history of our family as farmers,”

A self-described “farmer at heart,” Ginger shared that she’s humbled to receive the recognition of the Maroon & Gray Society. “There are State College High School graduates who have achieved great successes. It is an honor for me to be considered one of them,” she said, and offered this fitting advice to today’s students: “Believe in yourself to expand your goals - reach for the stars, pay it forward, and enjoy life!” ●

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*Congratulations to 2024 Honoree
 Dean Richard Phillips, Esq. '69*

and all of the 2024 Honorees

2024 HONOREES

"I THINK THAT KEEPING A FRIEND FOR 50+ YEARS IS A BIT OF AN ACCOMPLISHMENT."

RICK BRYANT '75

Retired, Executive Director, Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts

Rick Bryant's elementary and secondary education was entirely within the State College Area School District. "I went to Radio Park Elementary and Park Forest Junior High when both schools were brand new. When I was in the 8th grade my class was one of those that got to experience split sessions. Westerly Parkway Jr. High students went to the Westerly Parkway school from something like 7:30 am until noon, and Park Forest Junior High students used the same building from something like 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm.--that lasted until about halfway through the school year when Park Forest Junior High, with its very au courant moving walls, finally opened," he explained.

A self-described "complete nerd," Rick's favorite teachers were Marion Bressler, Shirley Derr, and Debbie Lyle. "Marion Bressler taught AP American History--she was an outstanding teacher even though she was apt to call me Jim because she'd

"I'M FLATTERED TO BE HONORED BY THE MAROON AND GRAY SOCIETY...I'M IN AWE OF MY FELLOW INDUCTEES' ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I THINK A STRONG PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL IN CREATING GOOD CITIZENS"

had my older brother in class twelve years earlier. Shirley Derr taught AP English and I still have a copy of the vocabulary list from that class in my desk drawer. Miss Lyle was the Latin teacher when I was a sophomore and junior. She made Latin fun. Who knew that was even possible?" he quipped.

"I also have to give thanks to the band teachers--Henry Loewen, Frank Hege, Rich Victor, and Doran Dreibelbis," he continued. "Band was a huge part of my high school

experience. I was a lousy clarinet player but found my people hanging out in the band room."

While Rick is most recognizable for his role with the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, his career followed a winding path. "After State High,

I went to the University of Virginia, which I mostly chose because my parents didn't live in Charlottesville. I majored in architectural history, but instead of pursuing a career in historic preservation or academia, I came back to State College and worked for my father in his insurance agency, Kissinger & Bryant Ins.," he said. "I did that for almost 20 years until I had my Eureka

Moment, admitting to myself that I hated my job and since I wasn't putting a kid through Harvard (or better yet, dear old UVa) I could do something else, even if I ended up flipping burgers. (The closest I ever came to flipping burgers for a living was working at the Uni-Mart in downtown Port Matilda when I was in high school.) A few months after getting out of the insurance business, a paid position as Director of Visual Arts opened at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, where I'd been volunteering for 15 years. They hired me, and in a few years, when the executive director decided he was burned out, the Festival's board did a search and hired me. I was the director of the Festival from 2005 until my retirement in early 2023."

Rick shared that he's proud of the job he and his coworkers did of offering online and alternative programming during the two



Rick Bryant '75

Continued on next page

years when there was no Festival due to the Covid pandemic. "I'm equally proud of how after two years of no festival we were able to pretty much pick up where we left off and bring it back to the streets of downtown State College and the Penn State campus," he said.

From a personal standpoint, Rick shared, "I'm glad that in the early 1990s during the AIDS epidemic, when someone asked me to step up and help found a local non-profit to tackle the issue, I said yes. I'm also happy to say that I met three of my best friends in 7th-grade math class. I think that keeping a friend for 50+ years is a bit of an accomplishment."

Now enjoying retirement, Rick is looking forward to traveling to Great Britain this summer with his sister Carolyn '65 "in search of our priceless cultural heritage." After that, he plans to continue traveling, gardening and reading.

"I'm flattered to be honored by the Maroon and Gray Society...I'm in awe of my fellow inductees' accomplishments."

I think a strong public school system is essential in creating good citizens--an idea that Thomas Jefferson, the founder of my alma mater, had over 200 years ago. I have every confidence that State High will continue to foster the leaders of tomorrow," he said.

Rick shared this advice for today's students: "Stop looking at a screen and embrace the world around you. As the title character, Mame Dennis, played by Rosalind Russell said in the movie Auntie Mame, "Life is a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death." ●



In honor of
Dean Phillips '69
who has contributed to our community in so many ways.

From your friends:

- Bruce Kelly
- Judith Phillips and Tony Sternberger
- Ellen Phillips
- Arnold Olsen
- Steven Stein
- Ned Kalin
- Richard Fortmann
- Doug West

Congratulations Graduates!

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2024 HONOREES

"KATIE'S LIFE AND WORK EMBODY THE PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY."

KATIE GALLAGHER (1986-2022)

Artist & Fashion Designer (Deceased)



Katie Gallagher, an artist at heart and a designer by profession, bloomed from her central Pennsylvania roots to make a bold statement in the world of fashion. Her journey, tragically cut short, left behind a legacy that continues to inspire.

Born on August 15, 1986, in DuBois, Katie moved with her three sisters, Gwen, Lara and Marlee, and their parents — Barry, a history teacher and Debra, a nurse— to State College in 1999. She graduated from State High in 2005.

Even as she rose to acclaim in the fashion industry, Katie often talked about her childhood with her parents and sisters. In an interview with Ravelin magazine, she said, “I love to tell childhood stories. I had a great one. When I was a child, for me, it wasn’t really about creating “art.” It was all about exploring nature, inventing scenarios for everything, making every holiday—especially Halloween—an enormous and very important event.”

Katie’s passion for the arts led her to Rhode Island School of Design where she declared apparel design as her major after her freshman year. As her distinctive vision began to take shape, Katie’s talent did not go unnoticed. Internships with Anna Sui and threeASFOUR honed her skills. Her senior thesis collection caught the eye of fashion magazines and boutiques, setting the stage for her future success.

After graduating in 2009, Katie moved to New York City, where she established her brand, Katie Gallagher. Katie’s designs were featured in prestigious publications such as Vogue and Elle, and her brand quickly became one to watch. She was known for her attention to detail, superior craftsmanship, and creativity. Katie was a talented and innovative pattern maker and seamstress. She handmade every piece in her collections and commissions using her industrial sewing machines as well as a household machine handed down to her from her paternal grandmother. Katie dressed cultural icons, including Lady Gaga, Rita Ora, and Laverne Cox. She also modeled for several fellow designers and labels.



Katie Gallagher '05

and vision,” he said. “She’s the story of so many New Yorkers that come to the city with nothing, and give it everything, making it the place the world looks to for creativity, inspiration and most importantly, grit.”

Friends and colleagues say Katie embodied the passion and grit it takes to make it in a tough industry. Shan Reddy, chief operating officer of Prabal Gurung, met Katie in 2007 and witnessed her commitment to launching her career. “For me, Katie personified the work behind the work. More beautiful than any magazine editorial or collection review was her determination to work as a bartender, a florist, a seamstress or whatever it took to realize her truth



KATIE'S LEGACY ENDURES THROUGH THE KATIE GALLAGHER ARTIST ARCHIVE, ESTABLISHED BY HER FAMILY TO PRESERVE AND CELEBRATE HER WORK.

In an interview, while working on her Spring/Summer '17 collection, a writer asked Katie how she spends her downtime. Her response displays her passion and drive: “I don’t really prefer to relax in a common sense. My idea of relaxation is getting things done... I would like a swimming pool best with an easel set up next to it and a sewing machine handy.”

Tragically, Katie’s life was cut short on July 23, 2022, just shy of her 36th birthday. In March 2023, her death was ruled a homicide and her family continues to work closely with the Manhattan District Attorney's office to seek justice for Katie and ensure that those responsible for her death are held accountable. Her untimely passing left the fashion world mourning a great talent and her friends and family missing an even greater spirit.

Katie’s legacy endures through the Katie Gallagher Artist Archive, established by her family to preserve and celebrate her work. The archive is a testament to Katie’s impact on fashion and art, housing over 550 garments, sketches, and inspirations, providing insight into her creative process.

From rural central Pennsylvania to the runways of New York Fashion Week, Katie carved a path that was uniquely hers. Her designs and her memory continue to inspire. SCASD Education Foundation is honored to recognize Katie’s life and legacy and is grateful to her family for making this recognition possible.

Katie’s sister Marlee said, “From art classes at State High and the Art Alliance to a career as an internationally recognized artist and designer, Katie’s life and work embody the purpose and goals of the Maroon & Gray Society. It’s really special to recognize Katie in the place she grew up, where she found and honed her skills, where she always found inspiration.”

Visit www.katiegallagher.com to see Katie’s work and follow along with the family’s progress in protecting and promoting Katie’s legacy. ●

2024 HONOREES

"I LOVED TEACHING AND I ENJOYED THE PEOPLE I WORKED WITH."

LORETTA "LAURIE" JEFFREYS

Retired, Educator and Administrator



Loretta Jeffreys

As a parent of children and grandchildren who went through the State College Area Schools, with a decade of service on the school board and a decade in the classroom as a teacher, Loretta "Laurie" Jeffreys says she was proud to be a part of this excellent school district.

The Jeffreys moved to State College in 1965, but Laurie was born and raised in Binghamton, New York. She was the youngest of five children raised by her mother and maiden aunt after her

father died when she was two years old. She remembers crying by the window watching her siblings walk to school when she was four because she couldn't join them. Early on, she decided she wanted to be a teacher, but that dream had to wait. She was the first of her siblings to go to college, encouraged by her elementary and high school teachers.

Laurie graduated from Binghamton North High School in 1955, from Sacramento Junior College with a major in math in 1957, and from the University of California at Berkeley in 1959 with a B.A. in English Literature. She chose to go to California for college because she could live with her older sister there. California colleges were tuition-free at that time, charging only minor student fees. A few months after she joined them, her sister's family was transferred to Nevada. Laurie found housing with an elderly woman in exchange for light housework and cooking, and additional work at the school bookstore and library in Junior College. In Berkeley, she rented an apartment with friends and worked in the Library 18-20 hours a week to graduate.

Laurie had always wanted to be a teacher, but you couldn't major in education as an undergraduate at Berkeley. Returning home after graduation she worked for a year with the Broome County, NY Department of Welfare as a case worker. She saw how poverty affected people's lives, especially children's. When the opportunity to get a Masters in Education at SUNY

Cortland opened, she enrolled, and in September joined some of her elementary school teachers, teaching 4th grade at her old elementary school. The following year she taught 4th grade in the Port Jervis, NY school system. On February 2, 1962, she and David Jeffreys, an aeronautical engineer who was in the Army, were married. Laurie received her Masters in Education that summer.

Once David's tour of duty ended, they settled in Burlington, Vermont, where their first two children, Katherine (Katie) and David Jr., were born. In 1965 David was hired by HRB Singer, (now Raytheon), moving their family to the State College area where daughters Elizabeth (Betsy), Susan, and Charlotte soon joined their family. Laurie became heavily involved in the Cooperative Playschool when Katie joined the three-year-old class, and in the Houserville - Lemont PTA, and the Corl Street PTA as all five children went through school. When Charlotte was a year old, Laurie enrolled at Penn State to earn a Ph.D. in Education Administration, graduating in 1983.



In 1975 a candidate for the State College Area School Board was running on a "Back to the Basics" platform. Laurie strongly believed that art, music, and extra-curricular activities were parts of a basic education, and she decided to become a candidate. Once elected, Laurie served six-year and four-year terms on the board. During most of those years, she served as



the district's representative to Central Intermediate Unit 10. With liberal leanings, Laurie argued successfully to put seat belts on school buses and against taking Our Bodies, Our Selves off the shelves of the high school library. To this day she is appalled by book banning of age-appropriate books in the curriculum and on library shelves. In 1985 she decided that ten years of her opinion on the school board was enough and didn't run for a third term. Knowing her true love was teaching, Laurie returned to the classroom five years later, substituting, and then teaching at Corl Street and Easterly Parkway elementary schools for a total of ten years. "I loved teaching and enjoyed the people I worked with," she said.

Laurie's concern for future generations, including her five grandchildren, led her to join the Centre County Senior Environmental Corps when she retired; for 22 years she's been testing water at two local streams, and entering their data on the Internet (<https://ccpasec.org/>). Active in the State College Friends Meeting since 1967, she worked with Quakers for permits to build Foxdale Village in the late 1980s. Foxdale opened in 1990, and she served on the Foxdale Board of Trustees from 2006 - 2012. She and David retired to a cottage there in 2012. Before his passing in 2020, Laurie and David spent summers at their house in Hesston near Raystown Lake.

The Jeffreys' son, David, was diagnosed with bi-polar disease when in high school, and there were many years that the family struggled to help him. Eventually, he found ways to deal with his illness and for ten years, until 1998, when he was killed by a drunk driver while riding his bike, he had been happy, healthy, and strong. Laurie is especially happy that the Maroon and Gray Society is supporting the Mental Health Matters Fund and hopes children will be helped sooner

rather than later. Always interested and invested in the State College community, in 2021 Laurie was appointed by State College Borough Council to the newly created Community Oversight Board, charged with overseeing the Borough Police Department after the death of Osaze Osagie.

Now 87 and active in many committees at Foxdale Village, Laurie keeps abreast of educational issues and in contact with the retired teachers from the schools where she taught. Her advice to today's students: "Be open-minded and question your own prejudices. We all have privileges that we take for granted and it's important to recognize them." ●



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2024 HONOREES

"MANY FORMER STUDENTS TAKE TIME TO TELL HIM WHAT A DIFFERENCE HE MADE IN THEIR LIVES."

CHARLES "DOC" LOVISCKY

Retired, Administrator, Educator and Director of the Motivation Resource Center at State High

Charles "Doc" Loviscky grew up in Greenville, a small town in western Pennsylvania. After graduating from high school, he attended Thiel College where he met his wife of 57 years, Barbara. He earned a degree in Business Administration with a minor in Education while working 20 hours per week. Doc earned an M.A. in Sociology and D.Ed. at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.



Doc has teaching experience at the secondary and collegiate levels: he taught American History at Joseph Badger High School in Kinsman, Ohio, and at Sharpsville High School in Pennsylvania, and was an adjunct professor at Penn State's Shenango Valley, Dubois and Altoona campuses.

Charles Loviscky

In 1975, Doc interviewed with the State College Area School District. "As we were having lunch at The Train Station before my interview with Principal Paul Bingman, Barbara remarked that she'd like to live in State College—talk about pressure!" Doc said. "The rest is history!"

At State High, Doc served as Assistant Principal and Director of the Motivational Resource Center. "I believed that out-of-school suspension did nothing for students but provide a vacation day, especially in households with two working parents, with no supervision at home during the day," Doc said, explaining the root of his concept. "I discussed this concern with the Central Office Administrators and School Board, and helped to further develop the Motivational Resource Center, offering students counselors and other support personnel who could provide academic and behavioral support."

"Doc felt the Motivation Resource Center would be a good fit for him, allowing him to work with a smaller number of students on an individual basis...and what a difference he made!" said Barbara. "Quite a few of the students were young men trying to find themselves and Doc related to them and helped to get them on a positive path. He knew how to break down barriers and talk to them. In this type of position, you don't often see immediate results, but what I find amazing is for the past 20+ years, many former students see him out and take time to tell him what a difference he made in their lives."

Doc eventually returned to teaching and retired from SCASD in 2002 as a 9th-grade social studies teacher. Since then, he's been active in the community learning to golf, attending his grandchildren's athletic events, "snowbirding" in Florida (he's president of a condo association) and spending time with Barabara and family. Doc and Barbara have two sons who are State High alumni, Doug and his wife Kelly, and Greg and his wife Meira, who all reside in State College.

"I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HUMBLY THANK STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY AND, ESPECIALLY, THE PARENTS FOR PROVIDING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN"

"I want to take this opportunity to humbly thank students, faculty, staff and the community and, especially, the parents for providing me the opportunity to help educate their children," Doc said. "I believe the SCASD Education Foundation plays a significant role in providing students with extra support to become responsible community citizens. Please continue your support of State College students through the work of the Education Foundation." ●

2024 HONOREES

"I LOVED WORKING IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I HAD LONGEVITY."

LYNNE SANDERS

Retired, Educator

In her 38 years in education—31 of them in SCASD—Lynne Sanders was a classroom teacher, a reading specialist, and a principal, and helped to start an award-winning internship program for student teachers.



Lynne Sanders

"I loved working in the school district," Lynne said. "And I guess you could say I had longevity." After teaching for five years at Radio Park Elementary, she became one of the first Title 1 teachers in 1975, teaching at Houserville Elementary while earning her Master's at Penn State, then going on to earn her administrator certificate.

Lynne served as principal at four different State College schools throughout her career—Radio Park Elementary (twice!), Matternville, Panorama and Boalsburg. She also worked for a superintendent for a time, helping to plan Mount Nittany Middle School in Boalsburg by doing community outreach. She recalls working for many years with Dr. Whitaker and Dr. Babcock.

Before she retired, Lynne wanted to help prepare a new generation of teachers. She helped to start an innovative, yearlong internship program at Penn State for elementary student teachers called the Professional Development School. "It was a wonderful program," she said. "We had students for a full year and, at the end, they had their choice of teaching jobs across the country. We placed teachers in some of the best schools in Virginia, Texas, and California. Although it no longer exists, the program won national awards."

Despite her long career in education, Lynne had wanted to go

to law school after she graduated from high school in 1960. She studied education "on the side" at Muskingum College (now University) in Ohio. For a year after she graduated from college, she taught in Beaver County, PA, then took a short detour: "I moved to California for a year and lived on the beach with my sorority sisters," she said.

Lynne moved to State College in 1970 when her first husband enrolled at Penn State to earn his doctorate. After they separated, she stayed in the area. In 1980, she married Gilbert Sanders, an aeronautical engineer. "We were married for 38½ wonderful years," she said. Gilbert passed away in 2018. Lynne's stepson Mark and daughter-in-law live nearby.

"I think it's nice that the school district honors individuals and I'm very appreciative that they would include me," she said about being inducted into the Maroon & Gray Society. ●

"I THINK IT'S NICE THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS INDIVIDUALS AND I'M VERY APPRECIATIVE THAT THEY WOULD INCLUDE ME."



Bridging Generations Through Effective Planning

2024 HONOREES

“I FOUND AN AMAZING PEER GROUP AND I AM STILL FRIENDS WITH MANY OF THEM AFTER MORE THAN 50 YEARS.”

DEAN PHILLIPS '69

Retired, Formerly shareholder at Elliott Greenleaf (Blue Bell, Pa.)

Being part of the Maroon & Gray celebration is especially meaningful to Dean Phillips '69 because of this year's beneficiary: the Mental Health Matters Fund. He's candid in sharing his mental health journey that began around the time he moved with his family from Pullman, Washington, to State College in 1964.

“I was about to enter 8th grade. It was a difficult transition for me, and I was lonely at first. It was about that time that I began what has become a lifelong battle with depression and anxiety,” Dean said. “I eventually found an amazing peer group and I am still friends with many of them after more than 50 years.” In fact, some members of this group connect for Monday night Zoom sessions—a practice that started as a way to connect during the pandemic and has continued since. They've also enjoyed several mini-reunions including a recent trip to the Metropolitan Opera for the premier of junior high classmate Anthony Davis's opera X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X. One of Dean's friends, law professor Art LeFrancois '69, is driving from Oklahoma City to attend the Maroon & Gray reception.

“During a mental health crisis years ago, classmate Alvin deLevie '69, a member of the PSU board of trustees, called me daily with welfare checks and still calls me once a week,” Dean said.

Alvin shared, “Dean is one of the most caring, thoughtful, concerned, engaged and honest people I know. I am thankful

for Dean's friendship and wise counseling. He will always be one of my closest friends.”

“I could not have gotten through high school without a little help from my friends. It is so important in the battle against depression to stay connected and not become isolated,” he said. “In addition to my peer group, I stayed connected through activities like the Debate team, intramural sports and the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. I also worked with a group of wonderful classmates to create the Purple Pocket, a teen center located in the old administration building on Fairmont Ave. The Purple Pocket was a wonderful opportunity for us to create a safe space to gather, and it was very fulfilling to help make it happen.”

While Dean made it through school immersing himself in activities to combat loneliness and depression, he believes it's important to acknowledge that some kids aren't as fortunate. “I know I was not alone in my feelings of isolation, anxiety, and depression at the time, and I feel that young people today, in these turbulent times, are struggling with mental health issues even more,” he said.

His empathy for today's youth and his own experiences have inspired Dean to get personally invested in supporting the Mental Health Matters fund by working to fundraise before the Celebration (on April 26). “Back in my day, there wasn't anything available in school to help those of us who were struggling with mental health issues. I am so glad there



Dean Phillips '69

are folks today who take this seriously and are working to remediate the problems,” he said.

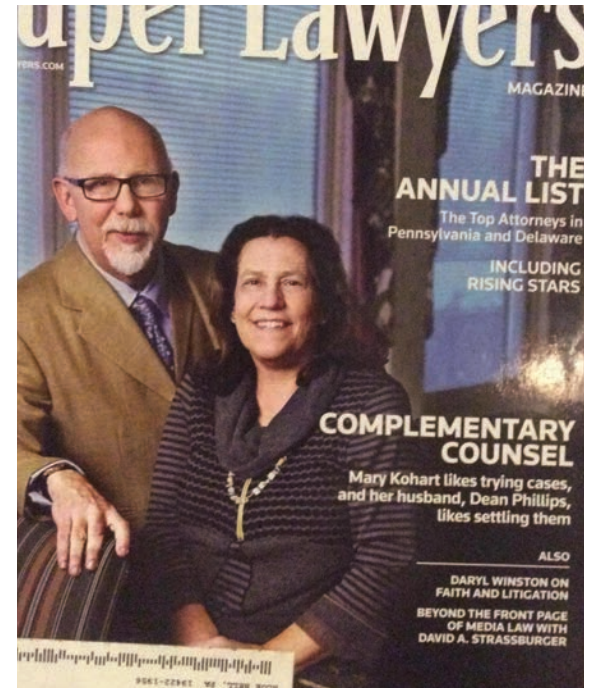
Education Foundation President Mary Kay Montovino said, “The Mental Health Matters Fund has become a cornerstone for our efforts as a foundation. We are grateful to our district administrators and educators who identified this need for additional funding and for their commitment to addressing student mental health and well-being. And, of course, we're grateful for alumni like Dean who support the fund and have joined us in promoting its tremendous value.”

Dean's memories from State High include educators and coaches who had a positive influence: “My English teacher, Callie Kingsbury, who encouraged my love of books, and Harold Griffiths, who encouraged those of us concerned about issues of the day, like the Viet Nam War, to express our views and defend our positions even though he strongly disagreed. I also want to acknowledge Coach Ron Pifer who taught Physical Education and treated those of us not participating on one of the varsity teams with the same respect he gave to his athletes. I looked forward to gym class and gained confidence in my physical abilities. I participated in intramural sports, and they were an important escape from my mental health problems,” he shared.

Dean also recalls a five-way Student Council race in which he was the dark horse candidate. “I had run for homeroom representative four times and had lost every time, so why did I

“HIGH SCHOOL IS NOT AN EASY TIME. I URGE ALL STUDENTS TO RESPECT AND BE KIND TO THEMSELVES AS WELL AS OTHERS. AND, WHEN THINGS SEEM OVERWHELMING SEEK HELP FROM YOUR FRIENDS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND COUNSELORS.”

think I could get elected schoolwide? I didn't but gave it a shot. I gave a pretty good speech about unity, tolerance and working to break out of the clique system that seemed to define much of our high school life. I guess it resonated because I finished tied with Doug West, a friend, who had voted for me.



There was a run-off election and surprisingly, I won! Doug and I remain good friends to this day,” he said.

In his time since graduation, Dean has earned a long list of accomplishments and said he's most proud of his community service efforts which have included the State College Borough Council (he was the first Penn State undergraduate elected to the council). Mark Jinks '70, then-USG President at PSU, was instrumental in Dean's election to the council. Dean also served on the Lower Gwynedd Parks and Recreation Board, and the Board of Philadelphia Young Playwrights. “I'm also proud of my service to the Pennsylvania Judicial System for which I have received citations from the Pennsylvania Senate and House. Thompson Reuters also identified me as one of Pennsylvania's Top 100 Lawyers in my last four years in practice,” he said.

“As both houses of the Pennsylvania General Assembly recognized, Mr. Phillips brought his fervent advocacy skills to the advancement and protection of our judicial processes in the same manner he brought for his grateful clients over a distinguished career as a courtroom lawyer. Pennsylvanians thank Mr. Phillips for his thoughtful protection of due process through the considered enactment and interpretation of the

Continued from page 17

PHILLIPS '69

rules governing our Pennsylvania courts,” said U.S. District Court Judge Mark Kearney, (E.D. Pa.).

Dean’s wife Mary Kohart is one of Pennsylvania’s lawyers with a significant track record of pro bono and community service. He proudly shared, “She was the first woman to Chair the Committee of 70 in Philly and for two decades has been Chancellor to the Episcopal Church. I am proud of our three children: Caroline, a compliance officer for a New York securities firm, Katie, who works for the Midwife Center in Pittsburgh and is dedicating her career to nonprofit work, and Dean Robert, a lawyer in Pittsburgh.”



In addition to supporting fundraising efforts for Mental Health Matters, Dean has partnered with friend and fellow alumnus Dr. Ned Kalin '69, chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin and editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Psychiatry, to work on programming for SCASD students. “Ned is one of the leading researchers and clinicians and I’m excited that he’s agreed to share his expertise,” Dean said.


Dean shared some advice for today’s students, reminding them that many of their peers are struggling, even if it’s not outwardly noticeable. “High school is not an easy time. I urge

“MY CIRCLE OF FRIENDS WAS SO IMPORTANT IN HELPING ME MANAGE MY MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES. I’M GRATEFUL WE’VE STAYED CONNECTED AND I’M EXTREMELY PROUD OF ALL OF THEM”

all students to respect and be kind to themselves as well as others. And, when things seem overwhelming seek help from your friends, parents, teachers, and counselors. Take advantage of the resources available. There is no shame in struggling or seeking help,” he said.

To conclude, Dean said, “My circle of friends was so important in helping me manage my mental health struggles. I’m grateful we’ve stayed connected and I’m extremely proud of all of them, including my classmates who made careers in the State College Area school system including Anne Wright Fredericks, Linda Bickel Koch, Bill Tussey, Marilyn Byers, Bonnie Wentzel Barry, Bonnie Wheeler McMiniment and Randy Bitner, all class of ’69. It’s an honor to receive this recognition from the foundation.” ●

Congratulations
Maroon and Gray Society Honorees



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2024 HONOREES

"WE ARE HAPPY TO BE A PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE JOYS OF MUSICAL THEATER."

LEAH MUELLER '08 & JARED YARNALL-SCHANE

Co-Owners, *Singing Onstage*

In the heart of State College, Leah Mueller and Jared Yarnall-Schane are carrying on the 65-year legacy of performing arts education at their studio on Pugh Street, which they purchased in 2022. Their journey highlights their shared aspirations and a commitment to nurturing young talent through the vibrant world of musical theater.

In 1955, Betty Jane Dittmar and her husband John built 1108 South Pugh Street as a modern dance studio. For 50 years Betty Jane taught students creative movement and ballroom dance. In 2003, her daughter and son-in-law, Heidi and Richard Biever, founded Singing Onstage at the studio. When the Bievers left the area, Leah and Jared stepped in to take over the space and the business, which had already made a major impact on countless generations of local children and teens.

Leah, a State College native, was a student at Singing Onstage during her middle and high school years, discovering her talents in musical theater. Leah graduated from State High in 2008 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Music Education from Penn State. She also studied at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama at the University of London and earned her MFA in Acting from Indiana University in 2023.

With countless performances and a decade of teaching experience—including six years as State College Area School District’s Delta Program Middle School performing arts teacher (a role she recently stepped into again)—she wove

her passion for music and theater into teaching and directing performances for every level of student from Pre-K through Collegiate. Her students describe her as “honest, approachable, compassionate, talented, patient and enthusiastic.”



As co-owner, Jared uses his unique background to focus on operations. Growing up at a summer camp in the Pocono Mountains, he fell in love with the outdoors and learned the art of team-building. Jared earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Penn State and an Executive Certificate in Social Impact Strategy from the University of Pennsylvania. His work at Singing Onstage is behind the scenes, utilizing his analytical skills and entrepreneurial experience to handle financials and operations. Jared is also Director of Innovation at the Biomimicry Institute where he

helps scientists and entrepreneurs tackle systemic sustainability challenges through nature-inspired design.

The couple’s journey back to Happy Valley was motivated by their shared love for the arts and a desire to contribute to the community. “When this opportunity to purchase the business fell into our laps, the timing wasn’t perfect, but it was really a perfect fit as far as our skillsets,” Leah said. At the time, she was finishing her Masters program in Bloomington, IN. “And we were kind of looking for a reason to come back to State College because we missed it so much. The State College arts

Continued on page 21

2024 HONOREES

“OVER THE YEARS, I TAUGHT MANY WONDERFUL, SMART AND GOOD KIDS.”

PAT VERNON

Retired, Technology Education Teacher

In his 35 years in technology education—34 of those at State High—Pat Vernon has seen and taught through a lot of changes, as you’d imagine. “There certainly was a lot of progression in technology. It was an exciting time,” he said. “It still is!”

Pat grew up in Pittsburgh and attended Penn State McKeesport for a year before transferring to University Park. He spent three years studying architecture, then took a break to work and earn some money. When he returned to University Park, his neighbor, Dr. Schmick, a Penn State professor invited him to visit his technology education lab. The visit piqued his interest, and he switched his major to technology education. He married his wife Elizabeth (Betsy) in 1972, a year before graduating from Penn State.

Pat’s first year of teaching, he taught drafting and plastics at Tyrone High School. “They had received a large grant that allowed the school to purchase some cutting-edge equipment for plastics production,” he said. “At the time, no one else in Pennsylvania had a lab like it.”

The following year he was hired at State High by Carl Weaver, head of the technology education department. For ten years, he taught wood and metal manufacturing, then switched to teaching drafting and design until he retired in 2009.

“Of course, we rewrote the curriculum as technology



changed—for computer graphics and 3D printing,” he said. One highlight of his time at State High is advising the Technology Student Association, a club started by the students. “The students chose the name for the club well before the TSA—Transportation Security Administration—was formed.

But, one year, we were taking the kids on a flight to a competition. At the airport, they were all wearing their club tee shirts with the initials TSA. Some of the U.S. Marshals approached us to ask if they were making fun of the other TSA,” he said.

Pat recalled the first student in the club, Pat Maggi, earned second place in a technology contest and was contacted by State College-based Cannon Instruments who hired him for the summer. “Pat ended up teaching some of Cannon’s staff how to operate the CAD program,” he said. Maggi went to Penn State and later went to work for Cannon where he rose through the ranks from development engineer to CEO, a role he held for 19 years. In 2021, he became Chief Technology Officer for Cannon’s parent company Arthur H.

Thomas Company.

“Over the years, I taught many wonderful, smart and good kids,” Pat said.

Since he retired, Pat and Betsy have continued to follow a shared passion for travel. “For our honeymoon, we campus in Maroon Bells, Colorado, and later, we traveled across the country by bus,” he said. “When our sons Ryan and Ian were 5 and 2, I restored an old motorhome I found in a scrapyard and



we drove it 15,000 miles on an exciting adventure around the country—down the East Coast, across the Gulf Coast, into Mexico and up the West Coast to British Columbia.”

Pat and Betsy have been to all 50 states and 45 countries. While Pat has trouble choosing a favorite spot in the U.S., Bologna, Italy, stands out from their international travels. “It’s the food capital of the world and home to the first university, which has 90,000 undergraduates today,” he said.

Both of Pat and Betsy’s sons graduated from State High. Ryan studied at Virginia Tech and is now a design engineer for Google. Ian studied at IUP and Penn State and worked in real estate law before following his passion into the culinary world. He started Home Frite, a small French fry cart, and grew it into a successful full-service restaurant, which he’s now franchising.

Pat’s advice for today’s students? You guessed it. “Travel. Go out and see the world, especially faraway places like New Zealand. Don’t spend all your time wondering what you’re going to do with your life.” ●

Continued from page 19

MUELLER '08 & YARNALL-SCHANE



community gave me so much as a young performer and I felt a strong pull to do the same for the amazing young students at Singing Onstage.”

Singing Onstage serves young performers, ages 5 to 18, providing musical theatre training and performance experiences to students across Central Pennsylvania. “Not all of our students go on to be musical theater performers, but anyone who has come in contact with Singing Onstage is exposed to musical theater and the joy that musical theater can bring,” Leah said. “Singing Onstage has become a community itself for the students. We hear over and over from families how much confidence students gain in these classes, whether or not they continue through high school.”

She continued, “State College is full of supportive families who want to see their children engage in the arts and we are happy to be a place for some of those children to come and learn about the joys of musical theater.” ●

2024 HONOREES

CHOOSE A CAREER PATH THAT ALLOWS YOU TO WAKE UP EVERY MORNING THRILLED THAT TODAY, YOU GET TO DO WHATEVER IT IS YOU DO."

DAVID WEINTRAUB '76

Professor of Astronomy Emeritus and Director of Communication of Science and Technology Emeritus, Vanderbilt University

David Weintraub '76 said State College was a great place to grow up. "I still have close friends from 1st grade at Panorama Village Elementary School. And my teachers there were wonderful: Mrs. Guild, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Breon, Mrs. Sunday, Mrs. Trostle," he shared. "Of course, at the time, I had no idea what sacrifices my teachers and coaches made to do what they did. But I appreciate it now."

"Hubie White, my gymnastics coach, knew almost nothing about gymnastics, but the team needed a coach, so he coached. More than once, he saved me from breaking my neck. And one late night, he saved a dozen lives by grabbing the wheel of the bus when the driver fell asleep," he continued.

"The most influential teacher I ever had was my high school physics teacher, Chris Tellefson Nichols, now a retired teacher in Colorado," he continued. "I aspired to be as good a teacher as she was. Truly, those who had the greatest impact on me were my friends and classmates. Our years together in marching band, sports, student government, and even in classes, shaped me for all the years since," he said.

After graduating from State High, David attended Yale University, where he majored in Physics & Astronomy. "I chose Yale because it had a great gymnastics coach. I spent most of my college years in the gym, and I and the team won lots of championships."

After graduating in four years from Yale, David earned his Master's at UCLA, with a plan to teach high school physics and coach high school gymnastics, but his life took a different turn. "Los Angeles Unified didn't offer me a contract I was willing to sign, so spent five months riding my bicycle in Europe, returned to LA, taught at a community college for



a year, met my wife, and then returned to graduate school," he said. "Four years and two daughters later, I completed my PhD, and 18 months later, I joined the Astronomy faculty at Vanderbilt University. There, Carie Lee and I added a son to our brood and raised our children."

David and Carie Lee are parents to MaryAlison, an elementary school teacher and reading intervention specialist in Los Angeles; Sarah Beth, a project manager for non-profits in Brooklyn; and Isaac, a Pediatric Intensive Care fellow at the University of Alabama Birmingham Children's Hospital. "Isaac and his wife Kelly have blessed us with two granddaughters, Lennon, age 4, and Cameron, age 2," David added.

"My joyful 40-year marriage to Carie Lee and our apparent success in raising three children are my greatest accomplishments," he said. After giving up gymnastics David put "serious miles" on his bicycle and with Carie Lee enjoyed bicycle trips to Austria, France, Spain, Italy, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and the Netherlands. They've also cycled the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany ("that's the downhill direction," he said) the Florida Keys from Key Largo to Key West, and the Katy Trail, from Kansas City to St. Louis.

David retired in 2023, just after being inducted as a Fellow of the American Astronomical Society. "Over the years, I was fortunate to use telescopes atop mountains in exotic places, from Spain to Chile to Hawaii, and telescopes in space, including the Hubble Space Telescope," David said. "I wanted to learn about how humanity fits into the universe. And so I searched for and found some of the first-known dusty disks around newborn stars. These disks are evidence that supports the idea that stars commonly form planets around them shortly after they are born. I also found the closest known star cluster to the Sun of newborn stars; this group of stars has

become the focus of dozens of research studies by others over the years."


He continued, "About 20 years ago, I recalibrated and decided I was a better teacher and communicator of science than a scientist. I created and directed the Communication of Science, Engineering & Technology Program at Vanderbilt University, which now graduates about 30 students per year. The goal of the program is to help young scientists develop strong skills in communicating what they do, both to other scientists and also to non-professional audiences of all sorts, through public lectures, blogs, podcasts, and videos."



As a science communicator, David has published five books, the first, *Is Pluto a Planet?* and the most recent, *The Sky is for Everyone: Women Astronomers in Their Own Words*. "I am also completing books 7, 8 and 9 in a series of autobiographies of scientists, which I ghostwrite, that are aimed at 5th-grade level readers. These books, I hope, will excite young readers about careers in science and help them understand that scientists are regular people like themselves who love learning and discovering new things and who decided to work hard in school to create for themselves the opportunity to become scientists. After publication, I purchase 1,000 copies of each title and donate them to schools across the country," he said.

David said his plans include more bicycle trip adventures – "we have miles to go before our adventure ends," he said -- and spoiling his grandchildren. "I may write more children's books, but I'll decide after hitting the pause button on that project for a few months."

"I'm honored to be inducted, and I'm flattered by those who chose to suggest me as one to be considered for this honor," David said, and offered this advice to today's students: "Do your math homework. And whatever you choose to do, try to do it well. Choose a career path that allows you to wake up every morning thrilled that today, you get to do whatever it is you do." ●



Congratulations to the 2024 Class of the Maroon and Gray Society!

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2024 HONOREES & SCASD EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



SCENES FROM THE 2024 EVENT ●



● 2024 MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY CELEBRATION



Thank you to our student participants



State High Culinary students provided the evening's desserts.



State High student artwork was on display.



The Sylvan Singers from Park Forest Middle School entertained the crowd.

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MARDI LOWRY MCDONOUGH '87 STUDENT OPPORTUNITY FUND & GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

HOW GRANTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Advanced Biology Elective Research

In the Advanced Biology Elective Research Course taught by Danielle Rosensteel, students design, execute and present independent research projects. Rosensteel is a former University of Georgia biology researcher who started the ABE course in 2017 to prepare students for university labs.

“These students are doing high-level, collegiate-level research,” Rosensteel said. “All of these learning experiences are authentic. It’s teaching them how to be a scientist and how to do research.”

Rosensteel proposed the advanced research class after her first year teaching State High’s lab-intensive advanced biology elective courses. While writing admission recommendations, she saw the caliber of schools some students wanted to attend. She realized an opportunity to help them by giving them experience with university lab research.

“I saw the need for it with the level of students we’re working with here and how successful they can be,” she said. “These students are going to top universities, top research programs,



and if I can give them the foundation now, just think of how much more successful they can be in these programs. It gives them a jump-start.”

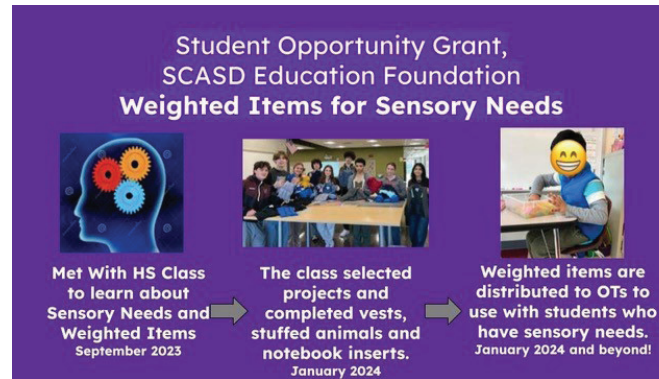
Grant funds help to support her endeavors.

“We all appreciate your support today and with future research endeavors,” she said.

Items for students with sensory needs

Nearly every school in the district has benefited from grant funds to support students with sensory needs. From dedicated rooms to classroom items, the Student Opportunity Fund has helped teachers and administrators make an impact on students.

For example, a sensory walkway funded by a grant at Spring Creek Elementary helps students dealing with sensory



processing challenges, issues of anger management, or students who struggle with self-regulation by giving them a place to step away from the classroom to take a deep breath, relax, and calm their minds and bodies.

A recent grant provided materials for Family & Consumer Science students at State High to create sensory items, including weighted vests, stuffed animals and notebook inserts, for other students in the district—a project with double the benefits!

“It was a great experience to be a recipient of a Student Opportunity Grant,” said Monica Gastiger, AT/AAC Consultant and Speech/Language Pathologist for SCASD. “Here are some photos of students and the items they created using this grant money. Thank you for this opportunity!”

Number of requests for grants is growing

Grant applications for the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant Program are growing each cycle. According to Education Foundation President Mary Kay

TEACHERS SEE THAT INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND BUSINESSES ARE WILLING TO MATCH THEIR GENEROSITY WITH IMPORTANT PRIORITIES IN OUR SCHOOLS. GOALS AND NEEDS THEY MAY HAVE PUT ASIDE ARE NOW WITHIN REACH THANKS TO DONORS WHO SUPPORT THE GRANT PROGRAM.

Montovino '73, “The program has built a partnership between educators and donors in the community. Teachers see that individuals, families, and businesses are willing to match their generosity with important priorities in our schools. Goals and needs they may have put aside are now within reach thanks to donors who support the grant program.”

Vice President Duane Bullock explained why it’s so critical for donors to maintain and grow their support. “We want to keep sharing the impact of the grant program and welcoming more donors into our community of support. I can’t emphasize enough how important these funds are to teachers and students,” he said.

“The impact really is two-fold: One, the funds drive innovation in our classrooms, allowing teachers to think bigger about opportunities they can offer. We see this in many of the science and technology-related requests that we fund for various equipment and unique additions to the curriculum,” he continued. “Two, there are needs in our classrooms and our programs. We get a lot of requests, for example, for funding for musical instruments, which are high-ticket items, even when purchased used. This cycle we are providing funds for cymbals, and in previous cycles, we helped to fund other instruments.”

I CAN'T EMPHASIZE ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT THESE FUNDS ARE TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Mary Kay emphasized that every gift makes a difference for this unique and growing grant program. Most of all, I’d say this fund exemplifies the phrase, “Live here, give here,” for donors in the community and it’s also a great option for alumni, no matter where they live, to honor their own experiences and pay it forward to new students,” she said.

How to support the fund: give online, set up a recurring gift

Give any time online at scasdfoundation.org and select the grant program from the list of giving opportunities. You can also set up a recurring monthly gift online to support the fund on an ongoing basis, which many donors like because it’s easy and convenient.

THE PETE AND JUDY LYSAKER JOURNALISM SUPPORT FUND UPDATE

At the request of their families, the Judy Lysaker Journalism Support Fund has been renamed to add Judy's husband Pete who passed away on March 10, 2023. Judy dedicated 35 years to teaching English and Journalism at State High. When Judy passed away in December 2022, her family knew creating a fund to support journalism students would be a powerful way to honor her memory.

Peter John (Pete) Lysaker grew up in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota and was a star basketball player at Moorhead State University, earning him a place in the school's Hall of Fame. He met Judy on the first day of their freshman English class and described her as "the most beautiful girl he'd ever seen." They married in 1964. Shortly after, they both began teaching English in Palatine, Illinois, and then Sauk Centre, Minnesota. In 1976, Pete was offered a position with Jostens, in their yearbook division, and the family relocated to Westerville, Ohio, where they resided for three years. In 1979, Pete was promoted to a position within Jostens, which took them to State College, where the couple raised their girls and remained until they both retired in 2007.

During their time in State College, they were members of The State College Presbyterian Church and Centre Hills Country Club, where Pete was an avid and accomplished golfer. Judy began her 35-year teaching career in the English Department at State High and eventually launched the Journalism program, aiding the yearbook advisors and committees for several years, notably chaperoning their annual trip to CSPA in New York, which this fund was created to support.

Pete was incredibly proud of Judy's career, encouraging her and supporting her throughout her time at State High. Their three daughters attended Penn State, which furthered their love for the Nittany Lions. They were season ticket holders for PSU football and basketball games and were members of the Nittany Lion Club.



After their retirement, they split their time between Fiddlesticks Country Club in Florida during the winter months, and White Earth Lake, Minnesota during the summer. Their commitment and love for one another is a true inspiration; after Judy's passing in December 2022, Pete's heart stopped beating three months later.

The Education Foundation offers its continued gratitude to the family of Judy and Pete Lysaker [Kristin and Derek Schiller (Luke, 23 and Carson, 21); Kary and Bill Magruder (Campbell, 20 and Audrey, 18); and Kassie Lysaker] for their support for the Education Foundation and the current and future journalism students at State High. ●

CENTRE GIVES SUPPORTS TEACHER-LED PROJECTS FOR STUDENTS

This year's Centre Gives raised just over \$5,000, which will be dedicated to the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant program. Thank you for your support during the Centre Foundation's 36-hour county-wide giving event that celebrates the generosity of our community!

About the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant Program

Established to provide financial resources for grant awards to teachers and staff, the fund has awarded educators with monetary awards for more than 100 projects that have benefitted students across the district in academic and extracurricular opportunities.

A force for innovation and opportunity for educators and students, the fund supports valuable projects that are beyond the district's regular budget. The fund has awarded grants for more than 100 projects to K-12 educators across the district covering a wide variety of areas:

- 3-D printers, robotics kits and microscopes
- An EMT certification course, an Advanced Biology project and a field trip to see a live surgery
- In-class library materials, reading and literacy programs and yearbook preservation in the high school library
- Musical instruments, murals and art shows

The program allows donors to partner with educators to make a direct impact on today's students. With a growing number of requests every grant cycle, the fund is proving just how important this partnership has become.

Gifts to the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant Program can be made at [scasdfoundation.org/donate](https://www.scasdfoundation.org/donate). ●



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Class of 1969 55th Reunion

AUGUST 2nd & 3rd, 2024 at The Penn Stater Hotel

Friday Night - 7-9 p.m. snacks, cash bar at the Penn Stater. \$15.00 per person

Saturday

- daytime tours of Fairmount and the "new" High School
- 5-6 p.m. registration, cash bar at the Penn Stater
- banquet 6:30 to 8:00. \$55.00 per person.

Registration deadline June 21 via PayPal:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/6S8TPW4V2YE5N>

OR... Make Checks Payable To: Randy Bitner

Mail Payment To: 2320 Stafford Circle, State College, PA 16801

Advance payment required.

More details on the Facebook page:

State College High School Class of 1969 Reunion or visit https://www.classreport.org/usa/pa/State_College/scchs/1969.



Class of 1976 Reunion Planning

From Debbie Meder: We are going to begin planning for our 50th reunion which will be held in 2026. If your contact information has changed, please email Debbie Meder at medergohn@gmail.com with any updates. Email is the primary way that we contact everyone these days, so if you retired and you have a new email, we need to hear from you!



State College Area School District
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

240 Villa Crest Drive
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