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**Meet the 2025 Class
of the Maroon &
Gray Society**

PG. 3

**Your Generosity
at Work for
Students**

PG. 18

**Reunion
News Inside!**

PG. 23

SCASD Library Department
Shares Success of SCASD Reads
PG. 18



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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.

SCASD Education Foundation congratulates this year's Maroon & Gray Society Inductees:

- ★ **Allayn Salter Beck '04**, Executive Director, State College Food Bank
- ★ **Gwen Bunnell**, Kindergarten Teacher (Retired), Corl Street Elementary
- ★ **Linda Domin '57**, Kindergarten Teacher (Retired), Lemont Elementary
- ★ **Thomas "Tek" Kleban '85**, Coach, Boys & Girls Track and Field 2008-2020, State College Area High School & Senior Research Analyst, Mariner (Presented Posthumously)
- ★ **Mary Kay Archer Montovino '73**, Executive Secretary (Retired) SCASD, Former Board Member and Former President, SCASD Education Foundation
- ★ **Ian Hendrickson-Smith '92**, Professional musician: Six-time Grammy Award-winning saxophonist for the Tonight Show, The Roots, Amy Winehouse, Al Green, Mark Ronson and more.
- ★ **Ralph Way '52**, Real Estate Developer and Founder of Foxdale Village Retirement Community
- ★ **Alice Gilmore Young '77**, Vice President of Finance and Corporate Compliance Officer, John F. Kennedy Behavioral Health Center (Retired)

Read more about them in this issue.

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.

Maroon & Gray Society Celebration



2025 MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY

Celebration

6 PM, Friday, May 2, 2025 at Centre Hills Country Club

2025 Maroon & Gray Society Inductees



Allayn Salter Beck '04
Executive Director,
State College Food Bank

After graduating from State High, Allayn Salter Beck '04 took a year off to work as a nanny; but, inspired by some incredible teachers from her

past, she quickly realized how much she wanted to be back in the classroom. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and her career journey took her to Ohio and North Carolina, where she taught middle school science. Eventually, she found her way back to State College—"the place I knew I wanted to raise my family," she said.

To the benefit of the local community, Allayn has been working in the local nonprofit sector since she returned home. As Executive Director of the State College Food Bank, Allayn is dedicated to its vision that one day, no one will go hungry in Centre County. Allayn began her work at the Food Bank in 2017 as the Business Manager, took the leadership role as Executive Director in 2020, and has helped the organization expand services and programs to reach thousands of individuals in Centre County who struggle with food insecurity. Allayn recently led the food bank's transition to a new facility. She also supports the community by volunteering on the Board of Directors for Centre County United Way, as a member of the Finance and Investment Committee of the

Centre County Council for Human Services, and on the Centre County United Way Partner Agency Committee.

"For several years, I also advised the State High Key Club, which was such a fun and meaningful experience as I helped students organize events like the All-Night Volleyball fundraiser to support our community. I stepped away from that role after having my first daughter, and now, most of my time outside of work is spent with my two amazing girls and supporting their interests," Allayn said. "I'm proud to say they'll most likely be future State High grads!"

"My time in the State College Area School District helped to shape who I am today. The incredible teachers and



experiences I had fueled my passion for education, community service, and advocacy. Whether it was in the classroom, on stage, or in extracurricular activities, I learned the value of hard work, collaboration, and leadership—lessons that continue to guide me in my career," she shared.

Right now, Allayn is creating and implementing a new strategic plan for the Food Bank that will

expand its services, grow its impact, and ensure its long-term sustainability. "More than anything, I want to help those in

Continued on next page



Allayn Salter Beck '04, *Continued*

need find a way forward—one that feels achievable and improves their quality of life,” she said.

“I am incredibly honored to be part of the Maroon & Gray Society—and honestly, I don’t feel old enough for this! To share this recognition with some of my favorite teachers and fellow alumni is truly humbling. This was never something I had on my “BINGO card,” but I’m so grateful to be here,” Allayn said.



I also have incredible memories from being part of the State High Thespians, Orchestra, and Choirs. Those were the years of Robert Drafall, Jim Robinson, Sharon Pearson, and Jill Campbell—teachers who left a lasting impact. I’m still in touch with my theatre friends, and we spent countless hours in the band

hallway and the auditorium.

I had the privilege of traveling multiple times during my time at SCASD. In middle school, I had the incredible opportunity to visit France. I also traveled with the State High Thespians and Master Singers to various destinations to perform. These were truly amazing and unforgettable experiences for me!”

Reflections on State High:

“I’m proud to say that I’m still best friends with my 6th grade best friend from Mount Nittany Middle School! We both live in town and love raising our kids together. While our time together looks very different now, our friendship remains just as strong. We spent so many fun nights hanging around the gym at Mount Nittany Middle School, attending football games at Memorial Field, and lifeguarding together at the Natatorium. In high school, it was always a treat when we ended up in the same class.

“ I’m proud to say that I’m still best friends with my 6th grade best friend from Mount Nittany Middle School! We both live in town and love raising our kids together. While our time together looks very different now, our friendship remains just as strong.”

“ Without a doubt, my daughters are my greatest pride. Experiencing life through their eyes and being on this journey with them is the best part of my life.”

A focus on family & community

“Without a doubt, my daughters are my greatest pride. Experiencing life through their eyes and being on this journey with them is the best part of my life. They are still young, but I know they will make a difference in the world.

Professionally, I am incredibly proud of what the Food Bank has accomplished over the past two years—moving into our new facility, expanding our services, and reaching more people than ever before. The impact we have on our community is profound, and I feel truly honored to be part of it.”



Advice for today's students:



“Smile, breathe, and take in the life around you. It’s easy to feel the pressure of the future, especially in high school, but it’s okay not to have all the answers yet. Enjoy the moment. What feels overwhelming today will likely be a distant memory in five years. I’m living proof that life doesn’t always go as planned—and often, the best things come from the unexpected.”

“ Smile, breathe, and take in the life around you. It’s easy to feel the pressure of the future, especially in high school, but it’s okay not to have all the answers yet. Enjoy the moment.”



Shared passion for teaching fuels this pair’s lifelong friendship



Linda, Janie Brown and Gwen at anniversary of preschool.

In 1965, two women met by chance at a State College grocery store. Gwen Bunnell and Linda Domin realized they had a connection: Gwen’s father had been Linda’s father’s professor at pharmacy school. From this fateful meeting, a friendship bloomed and has lasted for more than 60 years through the founding of a successful local preschool program and their individual teaching careers. Today, the Education Foundation is honored to recognize these friends and exceptional educators who have made a lasting and important impact on so many young lives.

“ I am nominating these two together as they are two peas in a pod, best friends, and began sharing their gift of loving and educating thousands of children in our community, together!”

“I am nominating these two together as they are two peas in a pod, best friends, and began sharing their gift of loving and educating thousands of children in our community, together!” said Gwen’s daughter Carol, herself a retired SCASD educator who taught kindergarten at Radio Park Elementary.

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Gwen Bunnell and Linda Domin, *Continued*

Combined, Gwen and Linda boast over 50 years of teaching experience. Now, at 93 (Gwen) and 85 (Linda), they still share detailed memories and recall their teaching days as the best times of their lives.

Their shared journey began when Gwen and Linda helped Betty Dashbach open a nursery school called Jack & Jill in State College. Gwen and Linda served as teachers, each having the other's son as a student. After working at Jack & Jill, the two "nursery school pioneers" approached the pastor and other elders at Grace Lutheran Church where their families attended, with plans to open a school. In 1966, with approval and \$50 from the church, Grace Lutheran Nursery School opened.

A Centre Daily Times article from 2016 recognizing the 50th anniversary of the school, now called Grace Lutheran Preschool, said Gwen and Linda strived for their school to be "a hub for physical, social, emotional, and spiritual development" for its young students. The school and its founding philosophy continue to thrive today.

After her years at Grace Lutheran, Gwen embraced the opportunity to begin a long and storied career with SCASD at various schools before making Corl Street Elementary her home school. And "home" it truly was. Gwen viewed the staff, her fellow teachers, and her students as family. In 1974, Linda joined SCASD, too, pouring her heart, soul, and expertise into teaching kindergarten at Lemont Elementary. In 2002, she was honored as Teacher of the Year by State College Magazine. She retired later that year.

"Between the two of them, they have touched the lives of so many people in our community—their students, students' families, and colleagues," Carol said. "I have never heard or read a negative word about either of them, just one accolade after another. Gwen is my mother, and Linda is like a second mother to me. I couldn't let another year go by without nominating them, knowing there is no one more deserving."

"They are two of the most dedicated, caring, genuine educators and people you could meet," she continued. "Suffice it to say, these ladies went beyond anything expected of a teacher. The hours, the creativity, the love, the new programs and units they wrote and introduced to other teachers far and wide—it is truly phenomenal. We get together with other teachers regularly and every conversation leads back to the joy these two shared as teachers in our district."



Gwen Bunnell
Kindergarten Teacher (Retired),
Corl Street Elementary

Gwen Bunnell grew up in Glenside near Philadelphia where her father was president of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. The importance of education was instilled in her from childhood. Gwen spent her summers at Camp Red Wing, an all-girls camp in the Adirondack region in New York. After years as a camper, she worked there as a counselor and said this experience inspired her to study education.

After high school, Gwen's father wanted her to attend Bucknell, but she chose Penn State. There, Gwen was president of her sorority, Chi Omega. She met her future husband, Richard "Dick" Bunnell on a blind date. Dick was a Phi Gamma Delta, and the couple enjoyed what their daughter Carol Bunnell Grim calls "storybook 1950s college life."



After he graduated, Dick was called to serve in the Korean War. He and Gwen married in 1954 while she was still in school. After she graduated, she joined him in Augusta, Georgia, where he was stationed. In Georgia, Gwen got her first teaching job in a rural, one-room school.

When they moved back to State College, Gwen continued her passion for teaching, working at Jack & Jill Nursery School and later founding the Grace Lutheran Nursery School before joining SCASD. She worked as a kindergarten teacher, a transition teacher, and a first-grade teacher at various schools before landing at Corl Street Elementary.

Gwen developed and wrote many units of instruction for the kindergarten program that were utilized district-wide. At





Maroon & Gray Society Celebration

this time—before computers and the Internet—materials and curricula were developed by individual classroom teachers. Gwen emphasized hands-on experiences for her students. Carol noted a unit about Alaska in which the children made dog sleds and created maps for their sled dogs’ journey. She said Gwen always had small pets in the classroom, like hamsters, birds, and, fish, which the students loved.

Gwen and Dick loved their retirement years together before he passed away in 2022. They enjoyed traveling together, being with family, attending sporting events for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and spending winters at their Florida home and summers at their cottage on the lake in Canada.



“The biggest thing I will have in my heart forever is how much everyone loved her,” Carol said. “They still do! When it was announced that she is an honoree this year, I received messages from students she had 50- 60 years ago! What a tribute.”

Gwen and Dick had two children, daughter Carol Bunnell Grim ’76 married to Stephen, son Theodore “Tib” Bunnell ’79, married to Mary Fogle ’80; six grandchildren: Erin Grim McCombie ’01 and husband Esch, Andrew Grim ’04, David Grim ’08 and wife Amy, Taylor Bunnell, Madison Bunnell, and Liza Kocher (deceased), Kayte Kocher Derhammer ’13 (deceased) and husband Walt; and 11 great-grandchildren: William, Gwen, and John McCombie, Millie and Ainsley Grim, and Ashton, Bentley, Mila, Ava, Hailey, and Jax Bunnell.

An adventure every day

To Gwen, teaching was an adventure every day. She recalled a year at Corl Street when she had more than 20 ESL students between her morning and afternoon classes.

Carol said that sometimes Gwen would go back to school to work into the night after spending time with her family in the evenings. One night, she was in her classroom at Houserville Elementary and had taken along the family dog to keep her company. Gwen was frightened by a loud knock on her classroom window. It was the sheriff! He thought someone had broken into the school. He told Gwen dogs were not permitted in the building and asked her to leave!



A commitment to kids and community

Over the years, Gwen volunteered with the Boalsburg Conservancy, Central PA Festival of the Arts Children’s Day, Boalsburg’s Memorial Day Celebration, Grace Lutheran Church, and parent-teacher organizations.



Linda Domin '57
Kindergarten Teacher (Retired),
Lemont Elementary

Linda Chambers Domin ’57 grew up in State College. For 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades she attended Fraser Street School, now the post office building. “I loved my 1st grade teacher, Frances Collins, and still have a note from her!” she shared.

For 4th grade through 6th grade, Linda went to Nittany Avenue School, which was next to Memorial Field and is no longer there. “Mrs. Waite was my 6th grade teacher,” Linda said. “She was so creative and did a unit on Africa that I will never forget.”

At Fairmount Avenue High School where Linda attended grades 7th-12th, she recalls her favorite teacher Eleanor Ley



Linda Domin, *Continued*

who taught Latin and kept in touch with the students in Linda's class for over 50 years, attending their 50th reunion in 2007. Linda also remembers Biology teacher Wilbur Bolton and the hands-on experiments in class. "He encouraged and loved every student and had a great sense of humor," she said. Linda's class was the last to graduate from Fairmount Avenue High School. With 174 members, Linda said everyone was close and they remain so today, keeping in touch and enjoying get-togethers and reunions.



Linda knew from a young age that she wanted to pursue a career in teaching and often played school with her friend Betty Mae Reeder. "I think our schools here were probably very good, we just didn't realize it then. We had library, art, and music, and we all loved Phys. Ed. with Miss Betty Springer. She wrote a booklet of her games, which I kept and used to teach my own students," she said.

In her yearbook, Linda stated that her future ambition was "to teach kindergarten in State College." Her wish came true in 1974 when she began teaching kindergarten at Lemont Elementary School. Linda majored in Elementary Education at Penn State and graduated in 1962. In college, she met her husband Tony who graduated from Penn State in 1960 with a degree in math. Tony passed away in 2012. The couple moved to Rockville, Maryland, where Linda taught preschool. In 1965, Linda and Tony returned to State College.

After working at a nursery school and co-founding

Grace Lutheran Nursery School, Linda joined SCASD in 1974 as a kindergarten teacher at Lemont Elementary. She retired in 2002. In 2003, she worked with local nonprofit Smart Start to author *Babies Rock with Books*, giving parents tips and techniques for reading to infants. The name was inspired by a favorite photo of her infant granddaughter Sarah flipping through a board book in a rocking chair.

Linda and Tony's sons are also State High and Penn State alumni: David, State High '79 and Penn State '85; and Bruce, State High '86 and Penn State '91. Bruce and his wife, Kim, have a daughter, Sarah Domin Baum.

Today, Linda makes sure to cherish every single day, spending time with her family and being active in her church, her AOPi alumni group, and the State High Class of '57 alumni group. "I also continue to stay in touch with my dear kindergarten alums!" she shared.

"I am honored and full of gratitude to be inducted into the Maroon & Gray Society. Best of all, sharing this honor with my dear friend Gwen Bunnell and representing all the wonderful kindergarten teachers we taught with over the years in this outstanding school district. Each and every one of them brought their love of children and their gift of creativity—and patience—to school every day!" Linda said.

"I am most proud of my family and 'forever' friends."

Reflections on State High:

"I have so many wonderful memories of my years at State High. Senior Week we got out of school in the mornings to write a pageant and in the afternoons we headed to Whipple Dam. Graduation was on June 7th on the football field. We presented our pageant, changed into caps and gowns at the Fairmount school, and attended an all-night party afterward."

Friends, family, and community service:

"I am most proud of my family and my 'forever' friends. Over the years I have been a member of the State College Jr. Women's Club, a volunteer for the Central PA Festival of the Arts, the State High Alumni Association board, and the Centennial Education Committee to help plan the Elementary Centennial Pageant in 1996. My husband Tony and I also delivered Meals on Wheels. Of course, being a co-founder of Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten was a big and meaningful accomplishment."





Maroon & Gray Society Celebration

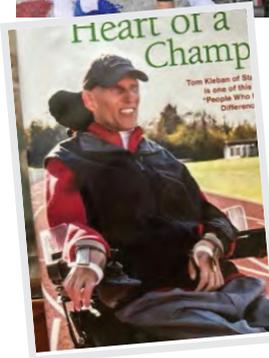


Thomas "Tek" Kleban '85

Coach, Boys & Girls Track and Field
2008-2020, State College Area High
School & Senior Research Analyst,
Mariner (Presented Posthumously)

After graduating from State High where he competed in both football and track and field, Thomas "Tek"

Kleban '85 spent a post-graduate year at Blair Academy in Blairstown, NJ, where he also played football and was captain of the track team, graduating in 1986. At Penn State, Tek was a leader in track and field, setting several records in the decathlon, including the decathlon pole vault.



him for the extraordinary work he would face in his transition to quadriplegia. Determined to finish his education at Penn State, Tek's tenacity helped him earn a BA in Speech Communications and a BS from Smeal College of Business in 1995. He earned an MBA from Smeal in 1998.

Tek channeled his immense love for track and field into coaching, and he spent many years coaching at State High. He was an Assistant Coach for the State High Boys and Girls track teams, including the 2016 State Champion Boys AAA Track and Field team. He began his coaching career as a volunteer for 5 years before joining as a staff member. In a 2016 Town & Gown interview, Head Coach Steve Shisler said, "Tom has an outstanding ability to relate to high school kids of today. He has knowledge of virtually all the different events that track and field offers. While he doesn't have the ability to demonstrate, he's able to translate the knowledge that's in his head from years of competing."

Tek passed away in March 2024. In his obituary, his family noted, "We can't begin to accurately list all of those whom he coached, especially vault and hurdles. We can absolutely say if you were coached by Tek, you were a part of our family's conversation, for years. He loved you; he talked about you and made you a part of our family. Tom shared the successes and challenges, your family stories, your college careers, and beyond. His pride in your performances is significant, but his love for you is legendary and you remain a special part of our family."



Continued on next page



Thomas "Tek" Kleban '85, *Continued*



Tek had a successful career as a senior research analyst with Vantage Investment Advisors (which later became Mariner Wealth). Co-workers recall his tenacity and gracious demeanor. Tek devoted his professional career to exceeding the expectations of the company, its President & CEO Rob Thomas who hired Tek, and their clients.

Tek is survived by his devoted mother, Elizabeth L. Kleban, and these siblings: Patricia Kleban Klaus and husband William of Cincinnati, Ohio; George R. Kleban and his wife, Patricia McCool Kleban of Bluffton, South Carolina; Richard M. Kleban and his wife, Deborah Koontz Kleban, of Atlanta, Georgia, and Carolyn Kleban Fry and her husband, Scott, of State College. He was also a devoted uncle to a long list of nieces and nephews, many of whom followed in his track and field footsteps.



“ Tek was always the toughest one on the track. No matter what inclement weather: heat, cold, snow, or rain, he was a ball of energy, a fierce supporter, a technician of his craft, and the most good natured of all. The first to arrive and the last to leave, he always asked for the most and advocated for the best. His athletes and their families meant the world to Tom, and they became family. The State High Track and Field program was a source of great pride for Tom, and we were honored and humbled for the commitment he was able to give. I admired Tom, loved his whole family for supporting him and our team, and respected the time and dedication he unselfishly gifted to us all.”

– Jennifer Evans



Mary Kay Archer Montovino '73
Executive Secretary (Retired)
SCASD, Former Board Member
and Former President, SCASD
Education Foundation

When she started first grade in part of the “new” Westerly Parkway Junior High School, Mary Kay Archer Montovino '73 began a lifelong journey with State College Area School District that has included roles as student, alumna, parent, staff member, and volunteer. Now retired from the district, she continues to serve as an emergency substitute in the accounting office and recently retired from her volunteer commitment on the SCASD Education Foundation board, most recently serving as president until 2024.

From 1st through 12th grades, she attended school in six different buildings, including grades 1 and 2 in part of the “new” Westerly Parkway Junior High School, grades 3 and 4 at Radio Park Elementary School, grades 5 and 6 at Fairmount Avenue Elementary School, and grades 7-9 at Westerly Parkway Junior High School.



“The high school was overcrowded, so in 10th grade, they split our class in half and we attended half the day at the high school then crossed the street for the other half day in the “10th Grade Annex” which was at the lower end of the junior high school. Needless to say, it was a strange year, especially crossing the street in the winter!” she said.

After State High, Mary Kay attended Penn State but decided after two semesters that it wasn't the best path for her. She enrolled at South Hills Business School and graduated a year later. Throughout her career, she worked in a local law office, and in various departments at Penn State, including the Registrar/Admissions, then in various administrative positions across SCASD, including the main office at State High (“At times, I would be stopped in the hallway by teachers asking me for my hall pass!”), Radio Park Elementary, Mount Nittany Middle School, the SCASD Reading Center, the Personnel Office, the Accounting Office, and, finally, the Assistant



Maroon & Gray Society Celebration

Superintendent's Office, from which she retired in 2017. An Education Foundation board member since 2017, Mary Kay served the organization as secretary, vice president, and president.

Mary Kay's husband Angelo Montovino is class of '67. Her son, Stephen M. Brame '92, PSU Class of 1996, is President/CEO of Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association & Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., and daughter Christina M. Montovino, SCHS '00 is Regional Vice President of Operations for Happy in the Valley overseeing five Jersey Mike's locations in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties.



"Working in this world-class school district has been my passion for well over 45 years," Mary Kay said. "And being part of the Education Foundation has truly been a pleasure, serving with such talented, knowledgeable, and passionate colleagues for the past seven years who willingly volunteer their expertise and time to such a worthy cause."

"I am humbled to be included in the 2025 Class of Maroon & Gray Inductees," she continued. "It is truly an honor to be among so many talented and successful members inducted since 2018 who have contributed so much to their

communities."

Mary Kay plans to enjoy retirement, traveling with her husband and children, and attending as many home and away Penn State athletic events as possible.

"Working in this world-class school district has been my passion for well over 45 years," Mary Kay said. "And being part of the Education Foundation has truly been a pleasure."

Reflections on State High:

"High school was so much fun! I enjoyed attending Friday night football games, basketball games, and wrestling matches, and attending mixers after the home football games. I made wonderful memories participating in field hockey, gymnastics, and track & field, and being a cheerleader my senior year."

A lifelong commitment to service

"Throughout my career, I aspired to learn something new each day. I always wanted to better myself through obtaining new skills, which I also put to use in many volunteer roles, including:

- Volunteering as PTO Treasurer, working with intramurals, acting as Intramural Coordinator, chaperoning Fun Nights, chaperoning school field trips, Field Hockey Booster Club officer;
- Serving as the first President of the State College Educational Support Personnel Association;
- Planning our SCHS Class of 1973 class reunions every five years. I'm part of the reunion committee planning a 70th Birthday Party for our Classmates!

Advice for today's students:



"I would say, enjoy school experiences, learn all that you can from your amazing teachers, and treasure the friends and memories you make. We are so blessed to have such passionate, caring, and dedicated teachers, administrators, and staff at SCASD! Be thankful!"





Ian Hendrickson-Smith '92

Professional musician: Six-time Grammy Award-winning saxophonist for the Tonight Show, The Roots, Amy Winehouse, Al Green, Mark Ronson and more.

If you've ever watched the *Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, you've most likely seen and have definitely heard the talents of Ian Hendrickson-Smith '92. He currently

plays in the show's popular house band, The Roots.

Retired SCASD Music Educator John Kovalchik nominated Ian for this year's Maroon & Gray Society Class. "Ian was my lead alto sax player in the Intermediate High School Jazz Band when it was one of two bands from the entire state selected to perform at Jazz Night at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association conference," he said. "Two years later he was the lead for the Senior High Jazz Band for the same conference."

"Ian was my lead alto sax player in the Intermediate High School Jazz Band when it was one of two bands from the entire state selected to perform at Jazz Night at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association conference," he said. "Two years later he was the lead for the Senior High Jazz Band for the same conference."

He has worked and recorded with Lady Gaga, Bob Dylan, U2, Amy Winehouse, and Ed Sheeran throughout his career.



Ian studied jazz performance at the Manhattan School of Music and then began a successful professional music career in 1996. He has worked and recorded with Lady Gaga, Bob Dylan, U2, Amy Winehouse, and Ed Sheeran throughout his career. From 2004 to 2010, he was a member of Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings. Ian's extensive recording experience includes the release of twelve jazz records as a leader. His most recent, *The Lowdown* (Cellar Music 2020) topped out at #7 on the national jazz charts.

The New York City-based saxophonist and flutist is mostly noted for his remarkable tone, soulful approach, and blues-driven melodies. Equally adept on all the saxophones, Ian stays very busy doing what he loves.



Maroon & Gray Society Celebration



Ralph Way '52
Real Estate Developer and
Founder of Foxdale Village
Retirement Community

Ralph Way grew up the youngest of seven children of Quakers Darlington & Ina Way, second-generation owners of Way Fruit Farm, which still thrives today in Halfmoon Valley. Ralph attended grades 1st-3rd in Matternville and grades 4th-6th in Stormstown, with his sister Rebecca as his 4th grade teacher. Rebecca was 12 and the only sister among six brothers when Ralph was born, so she helped to care for him. They remain close today, enjoying visits at her home near Lancaster (Rebecca is 103!). From grades 7th-12th, Ralph attended State High at the Fairmount Building.



After graduating from high school, Ralph worked for several years as a milk tester at Penn State then, in 1955, signed up for two years of service for the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker-founded organization with service projects around the world. When a project he was assigned to in India fell through, Ralph traveled to Kenya and embarked on a project that would shape his life and career:

...serving as co-leader to build a Quaker mission hospital. During this transformative experience, Ralph learned both building skills and leadership skills that served as the foundation for his future contributions to the State College area.



Following the project in Kenya, Ralph traveled to Vienna, Austria, to complete the final few months of his service. On this project—preparing a warehouse of clothing for Hungarian refugees—Ralph had another life-changing encounter. He met his Kamilla. They were married in Vienna in 1957. They moved to the U.S., and by the fall of 1958, they'd built their first home—which became Ralph Way House Number One—near Matternville.

In 1959, Ralph Way House Number Two was built and sold, giving Ralph the resources to purchase more lots and keep building and selling homes. Between 1959 and 1976, Ralph and Kamilla continued to build homes and added larger developments to their building portfolio, including Manor Court, Manor Way, and Nuway townhouses. The young family, by then with son Andrew and daughters Ingrid and Ericka, also



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Ralph Way'52, *Continued*

completed a two-year project in Zambia with the American Friends Service Committee. In 1980, Ralph and his crew completed a new State College Friends Meetinghouse on Prospect Avenue in State College borough.



If you're thinking that the Way family lived quite a busy life, you'd be right. Ralph's daughter Ericka said that her parents shared an industrious spirit that they passed on to their children. Combined with their commitment to serving others, it's no surprise that their next project continues to make a remarkable impact.

In 1985, Ralph's father's sister was living in a Quaker-directed retirement community near Philadelphia where the Way family often visited. In conversations with fellow members of the Friends Meeting in State College, they began discussing the possibility of building a similar Quaker-directed continuing care and retirement community in State College.

Ralph and Kamilla already owned several acres of land previously known as the Dale Farm, which they had purchased in the early 1980s. They agreed to use that land for the retirement community and to take a sizable line of credit against the value of their townhouses to finance the construction. After breaking ground in 1987, some cottages were already completed

and occupied by the fall of 1998. In September of 1990, Foxdale Village celebrated its official opening.

Management of Foxdale was a family affair, led by Ralph and Kamilla with help from their children. Today, the facility that "began in 1985 as the dream of some members of the State College Friends Meeting" now offers residential living in 148 cottage homes and a 57-apartment-home building connected to Foxdale's Community Center.



Kamilla passed away in March 2023. Ralph said that in addition to his family and his role in making Foxdale Village a reality, he is most proud of his work ethic and everything that it helped him accomplish in both business and service to others.



Maroon & Gray Society Celebration

Reflections on State High:

Ralph recalls joining the football team but struggling to get rides home to the farm after practice. After a few weeks of getting dropped off at Carson's Corner (the intersection of 322 and 550) and walking the rest of the way, he quit. He also remembers 12th grade chemistry with Mr. Shadle who Ralph said, "made the subject interesting," which helped him do well in class.



A love for travel and adventure:



In addition to their dedication to their business and their service trips, Ralph and Kamilla shared a love for travel and adventure. They had two planes, a boat, and a motor home, the latter of which was Kamilla's favorite way to travel. Every other year, they went to Austria to visit Kamilla's mother in Vienna and took many friends along over the years.

Ralph earned his pilot license and flew to Alaska and Europe with his son Andy, a fellow pilot friend and the friend's son. He has some spectacular and hilarious memories from these journeys.

Of all the places he's traveled, Ralph said Vienna was his favorite, as the place he met and married Kamilla and where they spent many years after with family and friends.

Special thanks to Doug Miller who wrote and shared, "The Housing Legacy of Ralph, Kamilla, and Andy Way" dated 7/31/23, from which portions of this profile were written.

In addition to his family and his role in making Foxdale Village a reality, he is most proud of his work ethic and everything that it helped him accomplish in both business and service to others.



Ralph Way (90 yrs old) and his sister Rebecca Drick (102 yrs old). Rebecca was Ralph's 4th grade teacher in a small school house in Stormstown, PA



Alice Gilmore Young '77
Vice President of Finance and
Corporate Compliance Officer,
John F. Kennedy Behavioral Health
Center (Retired)

Alice Gilmore Young '77 credits her State High experience with helping her on a path toward

success after high school. In addition to enjoying a long career using her passion for mathematics, she continues to share her talents in music, which she honed in school chorus, orchestra, and band.



State Chorus: D. Boyle, G. Linsky, A. Gilmore, D. Wissinger

"Thanks to the school district, I was able to take credits for several AP classes to Penn State," Alice said. After graduating from State High, she enrolled as a Mathematics major but graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in German Literature. She said she realized she had "the best teachers" at State High when she saw other students struggling more to adjust to college academics. After Penn State, Alice went on to earn a Master of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Pittsburgh at the age of 21.

Alice started her career as Business Manager of The United Methodist Home for Children in Mechanicsburg, PA. After moving to New Jersey and marrying her husband Barry, she worked at the Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau, a nonprofit insurance rating corporation; at Ballard Spahr Andrews and Ingersoll, a law firm; and for 38 years she was Vice President, Finance and Corporate Compliance Officer

of the nonprofit John F. Kennedy Behavioral Health Center in Philadelphia.

After a long and successful career, Alice is adjusting to retirement at her home in Tunkhannock, PA. "I enjoy living in the Endless Mountains region of Pennsylvania with my husband and our two cats. I volunteer at the local soup kitchen. In good weather, I can usually be found outside trying to tame monster weeds or maybe just enjoying the view of a mountain from my house," she shared.

Alice and Barry have two children, one of whom lives in Denver and the other in Philadelphia.

"I am honored to be inducted into the Maroon & Gray Society," Alice said. "When I found out that I had been nominated, my first question was: why me?"

"Some of the best times were when I was in the orchestra pit playing flute and piccolo for a musical or on stage for choir, stage band, or orchestra; or in marching band. My absolute favorite was participating in All-State Chorus – it was an incredible experience."

Reflections on State High:

"Music and math teachers were my favorite. I especially liked Music Theory I and II and AP Calculus. Some of the best times were when I was in the orchestra pit playing flute and piccolo for a musical or on stage for choir, stage band, or orchestra; or in marching band. My absolute favorite was participating in All-State Chorus – it was an incredible experience."

A love and talent for music:

"I have enjoyed participating in various musical groups in my communities. At Penn State, I sang in choir concerts directed by Andre Previn and Michael Tilson Thomas. When I was 38, I had my first private voice lesson and went on to sing in operettas, church, and community choruses, and perform solos at weddings and funerals. I directed a children's church choir and a youth praise band. I played piano in a community chorus concert with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra; sang in the Philadelphia Choral Arts Society, performing locally at the Academy of Music and in New York City at Lincoln



Center; and most recently, I have played piano in the annual holiday show that benefits the Tunkhannock Public Library. I sing in and substitute as a pianist for my church choir.”

Serving the community:

“I am most proud of my nonprofit work in Philadelphia. I helped a corporation recover from near bankruptcy and secure a strong future. We served thousands of clients every year, including homeless, indigent mental health, and substance abuse clients. It was not easy work, but it was important work.”

Advice for today’s students:

“ Experience new things – you might discover a new talent.”

“Try to balance academics and extracurricular activities. Experience new things – you might discover a new talent. I loved music and was good at it in school, but I knew that I did not have the patience to pursue a career in music education. Although a certain teacher was so certain that I would study music education, he even printed it in my Senior concert program, but he had never asked me. If he had, I would have told him that my true passion was mathematics. Ironically, I ran into one of my high school math teachers after I had an MBA. He asked me what I was doing, and I told him that I was working for a nonprofit, doing accounting and budgets. He told me that I was wasting my math talents. I told him I disagreed because I used math every day in my job, and I had

the added bonus of being able to do good in my community.

Talk to your teachers and guidance counselors about your strengths and weaknesses. If you’re as lucky as I have been, you might just find a way to support yourself with a career doing something that you love and still be able to fill your soul with skills you learned in classes and extracurricular activities.”



“ If you’re as lucky as I have been, you might just find a way to support yourself with a career doing something that you love”

Grant Fund Updates

This Year's Maroon & Gray Society Beneficiary: Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant Program

In 2016, the State College Area School District Education Foundation established the Student Opportunity Fund to provide financial support to fund grants for educators and staff. In 2020, the fund was renamed in memory of long time SCASD teacher and State High alumna Mardi Lowry McDonough '87.

Fueling the vision of educators, grants have enabled innovation inside and outside of classrooms and created new opportunities for students to thrive. Distributed in the fall and the spring every year, grants have funded nearly 150+ proposals submitted by teachers and administrators at every school across the district.

In total, nearly \$225,000 has been awarded, thanks to the generosity of donors. Grants have funded everything from EMT exam applications to sensory items, from STEM equipment to a classroom care closet, and helped to establish the high school's Unified bocce team.

Every project makes a direct impact on students. The number of grant applications has increased significantly, with more than 100 requests totaling over \$100,000 in the most recent cycle.



Mardi Lowry McDonough '87



Your Generosity at Work Through Grant Funding!

SCASD Library Department Shares Success of SCASD Reads

On behalf of the SCASD Library Department, I'd like to thank you for granting us the funds we needed to host our SCASD Reads: Animal Adventures Family Night. We welcomed over 2,200 SCASD community members to State High for our annual literacy event, and it was a huge success!

With over 40 stations, including administrators from across SCASD, as well as various community groups, families had a variety of opportunities to explore throughout the evening.

Without the funding from the Student Opportunities Grant, we would not have been able to offer as many exciting options to our families. We cannot thank you enough for the generosity shown to our department.

We appreciate all the SCASD Education Foundation has done to enrich the lives of our students.

Sincerely,
Brittany Snavelly



A Close-up Look at the Advanced Biology Elective Research Projects

“A huge thanks for stopping in to view the ABE Research Projects. Support from the foundation for the fall grant allows for these advanced research projects to be possible. The ABE Research Program makes our science department unique, and I will be presenting it at a national conference (NSTA) to use as a model for other schools around the country.

It was also great for the students to work under pressure and describe their work to visitors.

Other guests were: Estelle Couradeau from PSU Environmental Microbiology Lab, who we work with on the Parmao Project; and Sarah Bordenstein from the PSU Wolbachia Project who we worked with on a project with spotted lanternflies.

With the grant's spring portion, we are getting soil and prepping the **ABE Research Pollinator Garden**. It will be a great space for the whole school to utilize.

Sincerely,
Danielle Rosensteel



4TH ANNUAL
ABE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH

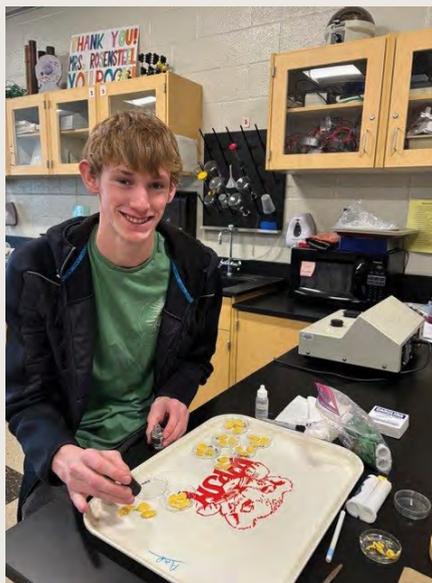


State College Area High School
During ALL LUNCH BLOCKS!
B229-B230 LGI

Research Topics Include:

- Spotted Lanternfly Population Control
- Zooplankton in *E. coli*
- Climate Change and Plants
- Paramecium Plant Biomass and Microbes
- Bumble Bees and Bacteria
- Conditioning Milkweed Bugs

Contact **Mrs. Rosensteel** for more information at dor11@scasd.org



A Decade of Generosity and a Foundation for Future Success

10 years of donor impact



Planning for the next ten years of student opportunities

The Impact

The Education Foundation was founded in 2015 on a single premise: to create opportunities. This goal is evident in the mission statement and name of its signature fund, originally called Student Opportunity Fund, later named in memory of SCASD educator and alumna, Mardi Lowry McDonough '87.

In the ten years since, countless students in all grades and at every school across the district have benefited from the generosity of thousands of donors whose contributions have been distributed swiftly and directly. These funds have enabled innovation inside and outside of classrooms and created new opportunities for students to thrive.



Local

Donors seize an opportunity to invest their charitable dollars locally and make a difference for today's students.



Direct

Twice yearly grant funding and permanent initiatives like the Mental Health Matters Fund and funds for extracurricular activities reach students inside and outside the classroom.



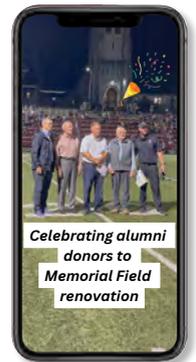
Urgent

Contributions make a difference in priority areas, identified by educators and administrators, that need "beyond the budget" funding NOW.

Alumni Engagement

Alumni donors make a big impact

SCASD alumni, even those living outside the area, have rekindled meaningful connections with their alma mater by contributing to Education Foundation funds and major projects like Memorial Field renovations.



Our flagship fund:

The Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant Program

Fueling the vision of educators, grants have enabled innovation inside and outside of classrooms and created new opportunities for students to thrive.

Distributed in the fall and the spring every year, grants have funded nearly 150+ proposals submitted by teachers and administrators at every school across the district. In total, nearly \$225,000 has been awarded, thanks to the generosity of donors.

Grants have funded everything from EMT exam applications to sensory items, from STEM equipment to a classroom care closet, and even the unified bocce team. Every project makes a direct impact on students.

The number of grant applications has increased significantly, with more than 100 requests totaling over \$100,000 in the most recent cycle.

A Decade of Generosity and a Foundation for Future Success

Key Funds

Mental Health Matters Fund

Provides professional development for faculty and staff, mental health curriculum, awareness programs and direct mental health services for students who aren't fully covered by insurance.

Gwen and Richard Bunnell Fund for Extracurricular Activities

Designated to help offset the cost of extracurricular activities so that all students have the opportunity to participate in life-shaping experiences outside the classroom.

The Fund for Athletics

Supports athletic teams by funding special projects and filling in gaps between district and booster funds.

By the Numbers

\$225,000

150 projects

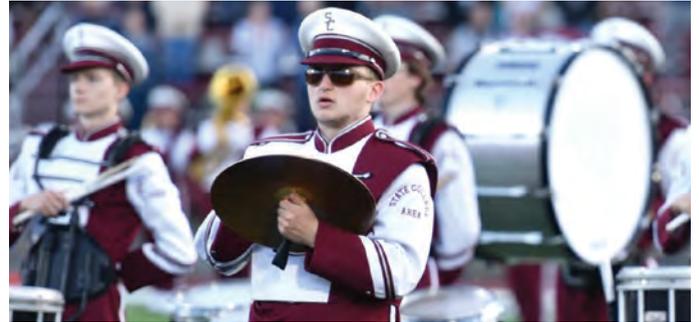
Grant funding for educator-led initiatives

\$50,000

Funding for Herr Clinic mental health support

\$3 million+

Total raised in 10 years to advance the mission



What's next

Building a foundation for sustainable success

The impact of donors over the last ten years cannot be overstated: every student at every school across the district has benefitted from their generosity. To ensure that these life-changing efforts are sustained for the next decade and beyond, donors are invited to lead the way.

Together we can continue to create new opportunities for every student.

Ways to Give

Be part of this celebration of donor impact.

1 Pledge your support

Make a leadership commitment of \$10,000 or more payable over three years. Pledge commitments are accepted for pledges of \$5,000 minimum gifts.

2 Set up a monthly recurring online gift

Extend your generosity by establishing a monthly gift through our secure online giving platform at scasdfoundation.org/ways-to-give.

3 Make a one-time gift

All sizes make a difference. Give online at scasdfoundation.org/ways-to-give or mail your check to the SCASD Education Foundation: 240 Villa Crest Drive, State College, PA 16801.

10 years of donor impact

Vision

An enriching educational experience that challenges and inspires every student to reach their full potential.

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.

Contact:

Paul Olivett, Executive Director
(814) 883-8067; pgo11@scasd.org

Class of 2000 Establishes Memorial Fund for Mental Wellness to Honor Late Classmates

The Class of 2000 Memorial Fund for Mental Wellness took shape in 2025 with a twofold mission: to help fulfill mental health needs within the State College Area School District and to honor late members of the class.

Developed by the class in collaboration with the SCASD Education Foundation, this permanent fund operates as part of the foundation's overall Mental Health Matters Fund. Specifically, proceeds from the memorial fund will go toward mental health initiatives that reach across the district — priorities such as faculty and staff training, awareness programs, curriculum and direct services for students in need.

At its heart, the fund commemorates the legacy of late class members by giving back to the school community that gave the entire class so much. The class introduced the fund

publicly as part of planning for its 25-year reunion.

To guide regular disbursements from the fund, a small committee of class, district and foundation representatives will make an annual recommendation to the foundation board. Committee members — including the district director of student services, the foundation executive director and as many as three class representatives — will develop their recommendations based on priorities presented by the district's Mental Health Team.

Donations can be made by selecting the fund from the dropdown menu on the giving page at scasdfoundation.org.

1975, 1980, 1990, 1996 & 2000 REUNIONS

If it's a reunion year for your class, check the list! Have reunion plans to share, or want to reach other alumni in your class? Follow [facebook.com/StateHighAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/StateHighAlumni) and send a message through the page to request postings and other information.



Your 50TH Reunion Details are Here!

Friday, August 1, 2025: Pre-reunion warmup
3:00 pm-6:00 pm, University Wine Company
540 Misty Hill Dr., State College

Saturday, August 2, 2025: Tours of the new high school and renovated Memorial Field

Saturday, August 2, 2025: Main Event
5:00 pm-11:00 pm, Wyndham Garden
(former Elks Club, Boalsburg)

For additional information and a registration form, email scchs1975@gmail.com. Can't wait to see everyone!



45TH Reunion Info!

Saturday, September 20, 2025

4:00 to 8:00 p.m., "Happy Valley Live,"
1301 East College Ave., State College, PA (Formerly Damon's)

Accommodations: You may book your room at the Country Inn & Suites online or by calling 814-234-6000 to speak to a representative. Use Group Name "SCHS Class of 1980 – 45th Class Reunion" when calling in.

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/ZP65Q8>

Reunion details:

Friday, September 19, 2025 - SCHS Home Football Game at 7:00 p.m., Meet-Up at the Federal Taphouse after

Saturday, September 20, 2025 morning tour of the State College High School.

Evening event at 4:00 p.m. at "Happy Valley Live."

Sunday, September 21, 2025 is an open day with potential picnic at Stone Valley (TBD)

Registration information to be made available.

Registration fee to be determined but not expected to exceed \$50.00 per person.



Reunion

Class of 1990 is planning a reunion this year. Looking for dates and locations that anyone in the class suggests. Join the Class of 1990 group for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/326253087844>



Reunion

We've had some inquiries about whether anything is in the works. Let us know!



25TH Reunion Details!

August 9th, 2025, in State College

3:00 pm: Family Friendly Winery Time at University Wine Company

6:30 pm: Main Reunion Party at Champs Downtown (Tickets TBA)

Accommodations: Book your room now at the Hyatt Downtown: bit.ly/3WrPAMB

Find the registration link at [facebook.com/StateHighAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/StateHighAlumni)



Keep up with alumni news
and share yours at
[facebook.com/StateHighAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/StateHighAlumni)

State College Area School District
Education Foundation

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www.scasdfoundation.org

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COMMUNITY!**



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News and notes on how
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students

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