



# Spotlight

For Alumni  
And Friends  
Of East High  
January 2010

## Commemorative Brick, Paver Purchases To Help Fund Entry Plaza Renovation

The upcoming Entry Plaza Renovation will recognize the importance of this historic entrance to East High School and reinforce its daily use as the "gateway to learning" when students arrive each day. The entry plaza project is designed to renovate and expand the existing plaza to provide a social gathering place and an inspiring first impression of East High School.

Project Angel Pride (PAP) is coordinating the efforts of many to complete the entry plaza renovation, from design through installation. To help raise the \$250,000 needed for construction, PAP is selling commemorative bricks and pavers for the plaza. We must raise the money by **March 1, 2010**,

to enable the construction to take place in the summer of 2010, and we are confident this can and will be done with your help.

PAP and East Principal John Youngquist invite you to become a lasting part of East by purchasing a commemorative brick or paver on the new plaza.

### Four Commemorative Options

You have four options for participating in this unique, one-time opportunity:

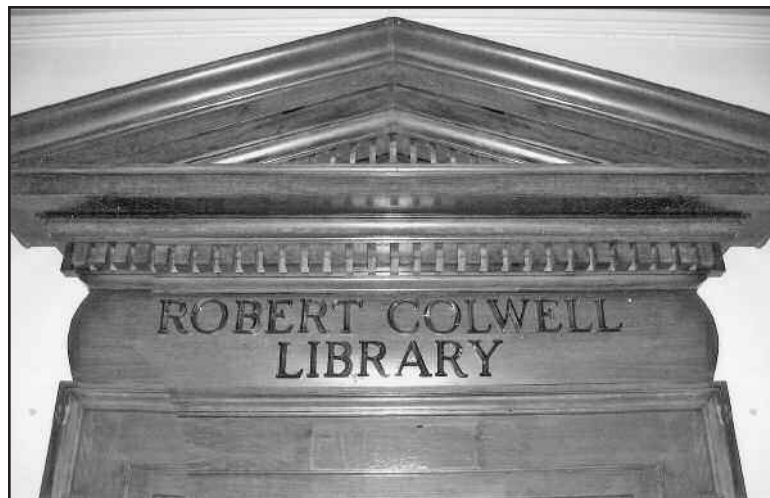
- RED BRICK** (4"x8") with your personal inscription — \$100
- CORNERSTONE (STANDARD) PAVER** (16"x24") with a timeless quotation and your personal inscription — \$1000
- CAPSTONE PAVER** (24"x30")

with a timeless quotation and your personal inscription — \$5,000

**KEYSTONE PAVER** (42"x48") with a timeless quotation and your personal inscription — \$25,000 (only four are available)

### Tax Deductions And Credits

East High School's Entryway Redesign is an approved Denver Enterprise Zone (DEZ) project. As a result, all donations are not only tax-deductible, but also eligible for tax credit from the State of Colorado. Please check with your tax advisor regarding your specific tax situation. To order your brick or paver or for more information please visit [www.ProjectAngelPride.org](http://www.ProjectAngelPride.org) or contact Susan Bardwell at 303-399-1155.



Colwell Library

## Robert Colwell Honored

East High School has a long history of impressive principals over its 140 year history. The first four: James Baker, William Smiley, Harry Barrett and Roscoe Hill all had Denver schools named in their honor. A school was not named in honor of Robert Colwell (1961-1974). However, a more fitting honor was bestowed on Mr. Colwell when the East High library was recently named the Robert P. Colwell Library.



Rob Colwell

Robert Colwell was named principal of East when George Washington High School opened its doors in the fall of 1960. It was perfect match. Robert Colwell brought a dedicated and progressive leadership to the school during some very contentious times. Mr. Colwell believed in the power of a good education to create the well-rounded person and perhaps the library best fits that goal.

Various alumni of the classes of the 1960s donated money to the Alumni and Friends of East and asked that the association find something to name in his honor. The letters on the library entrance were just recently installed and a plaque with his picture and a text of his achievements will be installed shortly.

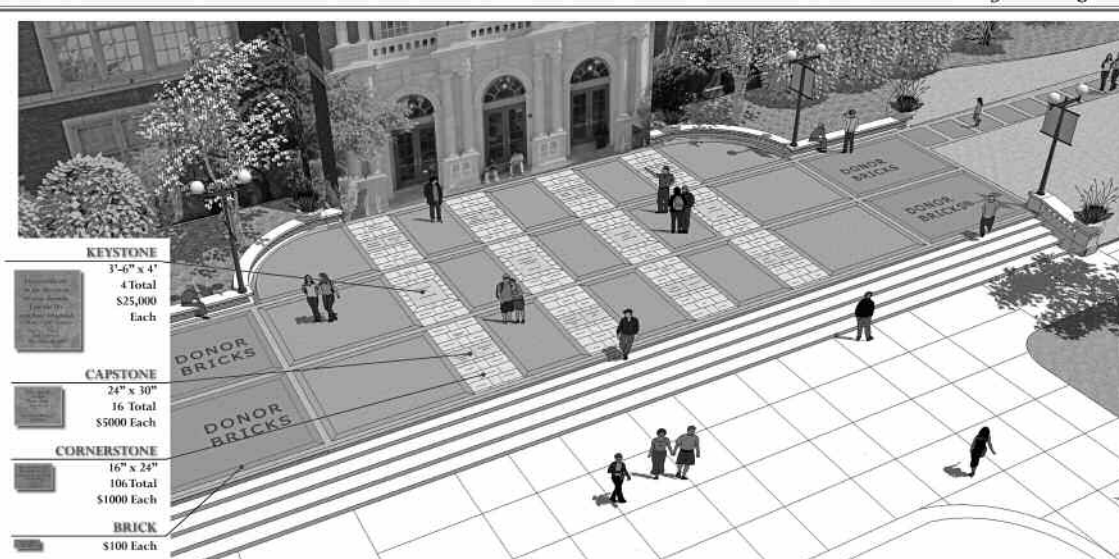
The idyllic times experienced in the '50s changed the later part of the 1960s and the 1970s. The assassinations of prominent political and social leaders, a controversial war in Viet Nam, the Watergate Scandal, civil rights protests, church bombings in the south and the emergence of the Black Panthers kept society on edge. The

right person was required to keep the ship afloat and Robert Colwell would prove worthy to the task.

He honored civil protest, by not taking a hard line on student "sit-ins," and students boycotting classes. He allowed for voices to be heard through a program of "Speak Outs." While other schools were suffering through very unsettling experiences East, under Bob Colwell's leadership, remained a model of integration.

One of Robert Colwell's favorite programs during his tenure was the creation of the Senior Seminar, a hands-on experiential learning program offered to seniors. He was also supportive of the East-Manual Complex which was created during the time of forced busing in Denver.

### EAST HIGH SCHOOL ENTRY PLAZA RENOVATION *Home of the Angels*



**KEYSTONE** 3'-6" x 4' 4 Total \$25,000 Each

**CAPSTONE** 24" x 30" 16 Total \$5000 Each

**CORNERSTONE** 16" x 24" 106 Total \$1000 Each

**BRICK** \$100 Each

**BE A PART OF EAST HIGH SCHOOL'S LEGACY:**

The entry plaza project is designed to renovate and expand the existing plaza to provide a social gathering place and lasting first impression of East High School. You have four options for participating in this unique, one time opportunity.

• Keystone, Capstone and Cornerstone Pavers are engraved with a timeless quote and your inscription.

• Bricks are engraved with your personalized message.

**PURCHASE YOUR COMMEMORATIVE PAVER OR BRICK TODAY!**

For more information please contact Susan Bardwell at 303-399-1155 [www.ProjectAngelPride.org](http://www.ProjectAngelPride.org)

## Thomas Sutherland To Speak At East High Community Forum April 13, 2010

Think what you could do — or have done — in six years. Now consider six years held hostage in a foreign country. What would you think about? What would you learn about yourself? And what could those lessons teach the rest of the world? Those questions and more will be answered this year at the East High Community Forum and you are invited.

On June 9, 1985, in Beirut, Lebanon, Dr. Thomas Sutherland was

seized by gunmen from the Islamic Jihad. He was a captive hostage for 2,354 days, nearly six and one-half years. It would become the second longest period of captivity of any Western hostage.

Dr. Sutherland will speak at the East Community Forum on **Tuesday, April 13, 2010**. It is an annual fundraising event with 100 percent of the proceeds going to support grants for student needs that fall outside of the Denver Public Schools budget. He will speak in the East auditorium, 1600 City Park Esplanade (Colfax at Elizabeth Streets). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the general public, with a special Patron Reception in the library at 5:30 p.m. Sutherland's presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

Ticket prices are: \$5 for students and \$15 for adults. Tickets bought at the door will run \$2 more. Dr. Sutherland's book: *Iran: At Your Own Risk*, will be signed for \$10 (pre-event price). The book will be \$12 at the door. A \$35 Patron Ticket includes the Patron pre-event reception and priority seating. Tickets and books may be purchased online at [www.eastangelalliance.org](http://www.eastangelalliance.org).

If you or an organization would be interested in sponsoring the Forum, the school would be very grateful. Sponsorships range from \$100 to \$2,500. For more information contact Lisa Shook at [lshook0309@aol.com](mailto:lshook0309@aol.com) or Anna Aldrete at [amatualma@gmail.com](mailto:amatualma@gmail.com).

## Jean Hall And Jack Smith: Loyal Angels

The East High community lost two of its most ardent and devoted supporters in 2009. Jean Hall, class of 1941 and Jack Smith, class of 1937. They will both be remembered for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Alumni and Friends of East.

**Jean Webster Hall** was like a mother to her class of 1941. She kept detailed records on her classmates. She kept track of addresses, job changes, marital changes, deaths, children and grandchildren, and significant events and successes. When it came time to have a reunion, it was easy to locate a majority of the class. Above and beyond her organizational skills was her terrific positive per-



Jean Hall, left and Jack Smith, right, with Ned Nicholls.

sonality, her genuine interest in others and her open heart — all of which endeared her to all who knew her and served her well during her tenure as president of the Alumni and Friends of East.

**Jack Smith**, class of 1937, was

one of the founders of the Alumni and Friends of East High established in 1988. Jack became the first curator of the Tower Museum, organizing and categorizing historical artifacts and information. He was a significant contributor to the operation of the Alumni museum for years. His dapper appearance, (always the bow-tie) gracious manners, and attention to detail made him the perfect representative for the museum and East. Jack conducted many tours of the East museum, always maintained his interest in history and was a member of the Colorado Genealogical Association.

Jean and Jack epitomized the best in an East graduate. They adored East High School and were fiercely protective of her reputation and best interests. Years ago an East student code read in part: "I believe in an Aristocracy of Service... I will best serve myself as I serve others." East High School owes a great deal to these Angels.

**Alumni And Friends Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 28, 2010**  
10 a.m. • East High Library  
Everyone Welcome

Alumni And Friends Of East High  
1600 City Park Esplanade  
Denver, CO 80206

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## From The Principal...

### East Strengthening A Tradition Of Excellence

Recently I was entertaining a group of prospective East students and East parents. They were wondering what it is that makes East a great school. I asked for the parents to raise their hands if they, or a family member, had attended East. More than half of the group of 40 parents raised their hands. That is certainly a part of what makes East great. The "tradition of excellence" literally flows through the veins of many of our students.

This year we are the home of 2,160 proud Angels. For the first time in many years, due to the overwhelming demand for our school, we will have to limit the size of our freshman class to ensure that we do not grow any larger. Young people want to come to East and parents are supporting that interest. Our new Angels are excited to join us because they know of the great history and tradition of East High School and they are confident that, as an Angel, they will experience success in school and success in life.

The successes our students experienced in the last school year are numerous and impressive. While this is too small a space to recognize them all, I'll mention a few.

In May 2009, our Constitutional Law team won it's third consecutive National Championship. Our Speech and Debate team, representing a great tradition at East, was ranked 63rd in the nation last year and sent 11 students to the National Forensics League national tournament. Our Boys' Soccer, Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee teams were all crowned as State Champions during the 2008-2009 school year. The academic and athletic successes of our students are continuing this year and we are proud of our exceptional students and student-athletes.

You, as Alumni and Friends, support our efforts in many ways. Your monetary contributions directly support our student groups and teams. Your volunteer efforts help our school building and grounds remain beautiful. Your presence and support in the community ensure that wherever you go, it's likely that there is a good Angel friend close by.

Thank you so much for your support.

John R. Youngquist, Principal



# The East Garden Grows Again

by Susan Bardwell

The Angel Garden at East High School has been a feature of the South Lawn since shortly after the school was built in 1924. It is the only remaining designated garden area of many that historically graced the Esplanade and the school building in its early decades. It also has been the resting place of the Angel mascot since 1932, three years after "Old East" at 19th and Stout was demolished and its cornerstone and sculpted angel keystone were salvaged. Over the years, this special spot on the campus has experienced periods of neglect and revitalization.

### Motivated By Memory Of Biddy Casey

The inspiration for restoring the garden once again was the death of Biddy Casey, East French teacher, nature lover, and bird enthusiast, who succumbed to breast cancer the summer of 2008. Brendan Doyle, East counselor, and the school's Bird Club, which he co-founded with Casey, was motivated that fall to "take on" the rock garden and create a sanctuary for birds in her memory. "The garden is like a buried treasure. Once we'd cleared the weeds you could see the garden that was worth developing again. Besides managing the logistics and doing much of the physical labor of restoring and maintaining the garden, Doyle also raised \$6,150 to cover the initial expenses of the project. To date, students and staff, with tireless volunteer guidance and support from Doyle and Susan Bardwell, of Grounds for Learning, and the many generous donations and grants for the supplies and mate-



Vivian Marinoff, Class of 1941,  
in Angel Garden in 1932.

rials, have begun transforming the garden into a year-round garden and wildlife habitat.

An important goal for the Angel

Garden is to restore it to its original purpose as an educational feature of the campus arboretum. The diversity of plants, and the wildlife habitat will help create opportunities for a broad range of study across the curriculum, from Geography to Photography, Biology and Creative Writing. The National Wildlife Federation recently certified the Angel Garden as a Schoolyard Habitat. To support the garden as an educational wildlife habitat, Doyle estimates \$2,500 will be needed annually to supplement existing hands-on learning materials and supplies, and to sustain the plantings and animals with new plants as needed, seasonal mulch, and a year-round supply of bird foods.

The continuance of the "rock garden" is a testimony to the resiliency of the tradition of appreciation for nature and learning at East.



The garden now has the distinction of being a Schoolyard Habitat.

## Alumni Scholarship Program Awards 2009

In 1926 representatives from the classes of 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926, along with Principal Roscoe C. Hill established "The Alumni Scholarship Fund of East High School of Denver, Colorado." A total of \$1,299.14 was deposited by the four classes to begin the fund. It was "hoped and expected" that further graduating classes of the school, and other alumni would make further contributions. A legal document was created and a distribution committee established. Colorado National Bank maintained the fund for over 75 years. As banks and banking changed in Colorado the fund went to US Bank, Mountain States Bank, American National Bank and now resides with the Alumni and Friends of East at UMB.

After an initial period of activity, the fund became inactive. In 1995, at the encouragement of alum James E. Tracy, the Alumni Board reactivated the scholarship fund and started distributing Alumni Scholarships on a yearly basis to outstanding graduating East seniors. Awards are based on specific qualifications, recommendations, written application and an interview. Since the original scholarship fund never grew to any significant size, the Alumni and Friends has worked hard to find additional funds to maintain a scholarship program. We are looking for scholarship dollars every year! All donations are tax-deductible!

This year marks the 15th consecutive year Alumni and Friends awarded scholarship dollars. The long list of scholarship recipients (31) was made possible with the help and generosity of the **Angel Foundation, Thomas W. Bean Foundation, the Epstein-Smith Family, the David Rivera Fund, and the classes of 1948 and 1955.**

All recipients demonstrated re-



Jessica Hoy

markable academic success, participation in school and community activities, and were contributors to the spirit of East and to maintaining its legacy of traditions.

Jessica Hoy received the renewable **Alumni and Friends Scholarship for 2009**. Jessica is a delightful young lady who will always represent East and herself well. Jessica is one of those special students who demonstrates an intellectual curiosity for all of her subjects. Teachers repeatedly talked about her intellectual abilities, superior writing skills, and her long list of school and community activities, including serious Irish dancing. Beyond her academic success, a constant with Jessica is her "can do" attitude and her willingness to help others. Jessica is one of those held in the highest regard by both peers and faculty.

With generous contributors, 159 students have received a total of \$197,000 as of 2009! We are always looking for scholarship dollars!

### Spotlight For Alumni And Friends Of East High

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1600 City Park Esplanade, Denver, CO 80206.



Students and staff planting shrubs, May 2009

## 50th Reunion Of The Class Of 1959 Held

The class of '59 the theme "Oldies but Goodies" for our 50th reunion. It was the culmination of years of planning and hard work by classmates, and spanned the weekend of September 11-12, 2009. Over 300 of the graduating class of 850-plus participated in the festivities.

The festivities started on Friday with a golf tournament that everyone enjoyed.

On Friday evening, we had our "Getting to Know You" get together at the City Park Pavilion, where we danced to a great DJ and had our pictures taken in an old-time photo booth.

Saturday morning, Sept. 12, we were all glad to gather "under the clock," for a tour led by Dick Nelson, the East High historian and former teacher. The highlight was the tour of the tower and all the

**Alumni and Friends of East congratulate the class of 1959 on their successful reunion, for their continued loyalty to East High School and thank them for their generous contribution to the CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARS TEAM!**

memorabilia. Then all 260 of us gathered in the lunchroom for a box lunch and entertainment provided by our very talented and dedicated classmates. It was music of the '50s.

"Some Enchanted Evening" was held at Pinehurst Country Club with over 300 members enjoying a great buffet dinner and music. Many hugs and kisses were exchanged and everyone said that it was so great that we needed to do a 55th reunion.

One of the best accomplishments was the reunion book, *Moments to Remember*, 150 pages of treasured memories produced in color. Special thanks to John Co-

wan and his crew for making the book a total success. There are still copies available for \$50.

The success of the reunion resulted in a nice balance to our bank account, and the committee has since met and agreed to make a \$5,000 dollar donation to East to further the good work of the school. The committee decided our donation will go to the Constitutional Scholars to further their winning achievements.

## Class Of 1950 Planning 60th Reunion

**August 20, 2010** — Crystal Rose on East Hampden. If you wish to be on our mailing list, please contact: Carol Van Fleet-Swift, 13952 E. Marina Dr. #412, Aurora, CO 80014; swiftfleet@msn.com; 303-369-5642. More information will be sent in March!

# East High Alumni Heritage Hall Announces 2010 Inductees

The East High Alumni Heritage Hall Selection Committee is pleased to announce the selection of 15 distinguished 2010 inductees, who will be officially inducted at ceremonies to be held September 30, 2010.

The East High Alumni Heritage Hall inducts alumni (living or dead) who have, during their lifetimes: made significant and enduring contributions in their fields of endeavor; elevated the stature of East High School and its students; helped open new frontiers for East students and society in general; and inspired others by their example. The 2010 slate of inductees was chosen by the official selection committee, made up of former East High principals, faculty, and alumni. The committee selected the final 15 on the basis of those nominees who best met the above criteria, and as a group, best represented the school's rich heritage of diversity of race, ethnicity, gender, field of achievement and generation.

**R. Stephen Berry, Ph.D.**  
Class of 1948  
Chemistry Professor

The award-winning chemist, Stephen Berry, earned his PhD degree in chemistry at Harvard University. In 1964, he joined the faculty at the University of Chicago, where he currently serves as the James Franck Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus. Berry has authored more than five hundred papers and publications in his field, and has earned an array of prestigious accolades, including the Alfred P. Sloan and Guggenheim Fellowships, appointment to the National Academy of Sciences, and the MacArthur Prize.

**Jerome Biffle (1928-2002)**  
Class of 1946  
Olympic Champion and Educator

A Denver sports legend, Jerome won the gold medal at the 1952 Helsinki, Finland, Olympic Games in the long jump. Biffle won the state championship in the 100 and 200 yard dashes, high jump and long jump in 1945 and 1946, on the East team. At the University of Denver, Biffle was "the one-man track team," and in 1952, he trained with his childhood hero, Jesse Owens for the Olympics. After his gold medal win, Biffle earned his Masters Degree in counseling at D.U., and returned to his alma mater to become a long-time college counselor, teacher, and coach.

**Joan Birkland**  
Class of 1946

**Women's Athletics Advocate**  
Joan Birkland excelled at athletics at East High School, at a time when girls did not have any or-

ganized, sanctioned athletic programs. Her talent and grit drew her to tennis, swimming, golf, and basketball, and as an adult she won state championships 10 times in tennis, and seven times in golf. Birkland's lasting legacy has been as an advocate for women in sports. For more than 20 years, Birkland has served as Executive Director of Sportswomen of Colorado, Inc., the first community-based organization in the nation to solely honor female athletes.

**Joe Blake**  
Class of 1954  
Civic Leader and Chancellor,

**Colorado State University**

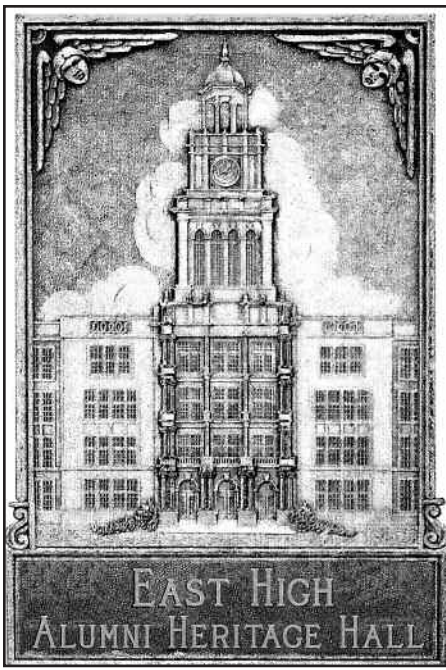
Joe Blake is a Denver native whose career has focused on promoting Colorado's economy, business climate, and educational excellence. After law school, Blake joined the senior management team of the Mission Viejo Company that created Highlands Ranch in 1980. His business success and flair for leadership led to broader community service as president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce for a decade. In 2009, Blake was named Chancellor of the Colorado State University System.

**Edward Chavez (1917-1995)**  
Class of 1935  
New Deal Muralist

Eduardo Arcenio Chavez graduated from East in the throes of the Great Depression. Chavez painted scores of distinctive murals depicting landscapes of his native New Mexico and Colorado, for the Works Progress Administration, Federal Artists' Program — a federal program during the Great Depression that sponsored art works for public buildings. He collaborated with his wife Jenne Magafan (East Class of 1933) on two murals in Denver's West High School. Chavez continued to paint and teach art in New York until his death in 1995.

**George E. Cranmer (1884-1975)**  
Class of 1903

**Denver City Parks Planner**  
George was a visionary Denver city planner, who expanded and beautified the city's parks, roads, and public spaces. In 1935, Cranmer began serving as Manager of Parks and Recreation. Known as "The Pericles of Denver," Cranmer spearheaded and supervised the building of Denver landmarks, including Red Rocks Theater, the Valley Highway system, the Boulder Turnpike, and Stapleton Airport. An ardent outdoorsman, Cranmer dreamed of a mountain city park that would rival Europ-



ean resorts — in 1940 the Winter Park Ski Area opened.

**Harlon Dalton**  
Class of 1965

**Yale University Law Professor**

Yale Law Professor Harlon Dalton teaches and writes about the intersection between law, theology, and psychology in matters of race relations. In his 1995 book of essays, *Racial Healing: Confronting Fear Between Blacks and Whites*, Dalton argues for honesty and straight talk between people of different racial backgrounds in order to achieve a truly equal society. He has also written extensively on HIV/AIDS and the law. Professor Dalton is an ordained Episcopal priest, and serves as Assistant Rector at St. Paul and St. James in New Haven, Connecticut.

**John P. Dikeou**  
Class of 1953

**Denver Developer and Baseball Team Owner**

John Dikeou became an all-state football player and track star at East. He spent his adult life building Dikeou Realty, LLC, a successful family real estate development business. In 1984, Dikeou bought the AAA minor league baseball team, the Denver Zephyrs, and was instrumental in bringing major league baseball to Denver. Dikeou is a generous philanthropist, assisting widows of Denver firemen and policemen and providing full college scholarships to promising athletes. He received

## Obituaries 2009

**HARRY ANDERSON** —

Class of 1955

**SALLY HARPER BARTON** —

Class of 1955

**CLAIRE BUCKLEY** —  
Class of 1936

**MYRAN CRAIG** —  
Coach/teacher 1950s-1960s

**GILBERT FRYE** — Class of 1942

**JEAN WEBSTER HALL** —  
Class of 1941

**DOROTHY SHWAYDER HEITLER** — Class of 1931

**JACLYN UNGEMACH HUTCHINGS** —  
Class of 1951

**GEORGE LOF** — Class of 1931

**GEORGE MCCOTTER** —  
Class of 1965

**MARIE WEBER OWEN** —  
Class of 1934

**HELEN PADEN DALE PETERSON** —  
Class of 1955

**MARILYN HUGHES GRIGGS RILEY** — Class of 1954

**THIERRY SMITH** —  
Class of 1971

**ROBERT STOFFEL** —  
Class of 1940

**PAUL VAUGHN** —  
Coach/teacher 1950s

**HERMAN URSCHER** —  
Class of 1933

**ROBERT WOODWORTH** —  
Class of 1944

the Outstanding Service to Youth Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

**Edwina Hume Fallis**  
(1876-1957)  
Class of 1895  
Educator

A veteran Denver Public Schools educator, Edwina Hume Fallis had a life-long passion for teaching and writing. For over four decades she developed creative toys and innovative teaching methods to bring joy to hundreds of Denver's kindergarten students. She wrote a book titled *The Child and Things*, and a collection of poems, *When Denver and I Were Young*. In 1960, a new elementary school was named in her honor — the first to be named for a Denver school teacher.

**Peter Groff**  
Class of 1981

**President, Colorado State Senate; Senior Staff, U.S. Department of Education**

Peter C. Groff is an attorney, public servant, and political leader. Peter was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 2000. Three years later, he was appointed to the Colorado Senate, where he represented Senate District 33. Groff was the first African-American to serve as Colorado Senate president pro tem and Senate President. Groff founded the Center for African American Policy at the University of Denver in 1997. In May of 2009, Groff was selected to head the faith-based-initiatives center for the U.S. Secretary of Education.

**Frances Melrose**  
Class of 1939

**Journalist and Historian**

Frances Melrose edited the Ebert Elementary sixth grade newspaper, and has pursued her passion for journalism ever since. Melrose started as a reporter at the *Rocky Mountain News* in 1943, and later served as travel editor and drama editor. Frances retired from the *News* in 1986, but continued to write her popular column on local history, *Rocky Mountain Memories*. She compiled her columns into a book, *Rocky Mountain Memories*. Melrose was inducted into the Denver Press Club's Hall of Fame in 1998. In 2001, Melrose completely retired after 57 years.

**Ron Miles**  
Class of 1981

**Jazz Artist and Music Professor**

Denver trumpeter Ron Miles is revered around the world for his unique sound. Miles' releases include *My Cruel Heart*, *Woman's Day*, *Witness*, and several albums with the Ron Miles Trio. In 2002,

Ron collaborated on *Heaven*, a quiet, intimate recording with his friend and master jazz guitarist Bill Frisell (East Class of 1968). Miles is Assistant Professor of Music at Metropolitan State College of Denver, heading up the jazz studies program and the student jazz ensembles.

**Seraphine Eppstein Pisko**  
(1861-1942)  
Class of 1877

**CEO, National Jewish Hospital**

Seraphine graduated in the first class at Denver High School, and married Denver businessman Edward Pisko. Soon a widow, she embarked on a life-long commitment to Denver's Jewish charitable organizations. Pisko was a leader in the Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Society, the Jewish Relief Society, the Denver Woman's Club, and the National Council of Jewish Women. She joined National Jewish Hospital as a fundraiser and became the CEO. Pisko was the first woman to run a national Jewish institution and was CEO for 27 years.

**Phillip Van Cise**  
(1884-1969)  
Class of 1903

**Denver District Attorney and KKK prosecutor**

Van Cise graduated from the University of Colorado with a law degree and entered the Colorado National Guard during World War I. Van Cise was elected Denver District Attorney in 1920, and heroically fought against the entrenched political influence of the Ku Klux Klan in Denver during the Roaring Twenties. He spent the rest of his prosecutorial career fighting organized crime in Denver, and became known as the "Crusader for Social Justice." He retired and worked for 20 years as the chief counsel for the *Rocky Mountain News* until his death in 1969.

**Jerry Cox Vasconsells**  
(1892-1950)  
Class of 1913

**World War I "Ace Pilot"**

Jerry volunteered for the U. S. air service as World War I broke out. He joined the 27th Aero Squadron, and later the 185th Aero Squadron. The young pilot shot down five enemy German planes over France, qualifying him to be named Colorado's only "Ace" Pilot. He was awarded the French Croix DeGuerre Medal, the Newport Medal, the Honor Medal of the Aero Club of America and the Distinguished Order Citation. After the war, Vasconsells helped establish the first Denver Municipal Airport, and in 1929 he was inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame.

## Alumni Association Treats Teachers To Breakfast

Once again the spacious East High lobby was the scene of a gathering of teachers, parents, alumni and friends of East High School. The Alumni and Friends of East, in financial partnership with the Angel Foundation, treated the teachers to a "welcome back breakfast" on Monday, January 4, 2010. Tables with red table cloths and white chairs greeted the returning teachers as they prepared to start the second semester.

Beth Gower represented the Alumni and Friends of East and told the 190 in attendance the alumni honor and respect the efforts of the present teaching and administrative staff for keeping East High School a successful school — continuing the tradition of excellence. Former principal Kathy Callum spoke on behalf of the Angel Foundation, and Principal John Youngquist was the gracious master of ceremonies.

Along with a catered breakfast, the Alumni Association gave out a total of \$650 in various gift cards to restaurants, coffee shops and book stores.

Alums in attendance: Toby Beamguard (1960), John Strobel (1946), George Mansfield (1945), Claudia Hill (1953), John Dikeou (1953), Rich Tate (1962), Owen Hahn (1958), Graylon Cole (1971), Allegra Happy Haynes (1971), Colorado Senator Chris Romer (1978), Colorado Senator Brandon Shaffer (1989).

Former principals in attendance were: John Astuno, Jim Tracy, Beth Celva, Rick Arthur and Kathy Callum. Also present was former assistant principal Marsha Chavez, retired teachers Beth Gower, Regis Groff and Dick Nelson along with, Antwon Wilson of the DPS Instructional team, Carol McDermott of the Angel Foundation, Jane Crystal of the East PTSA and former parent Cheryl Overton.

## East Alum To Be Inducted Into Colorado Women's Hall Of Fame

Hattie McDaniel, the first African-American to be awarded an Oscar will be among 10 women to be inducted into the 2010 class of the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. The ceremony will take place on March 10, 2010, at the Denver Marriott City Center. The Colorado Women's Hall of Fame is dedicated to recognizing and preserving the history of past and present Colorado women.



Hattie McDaniel

Hattie attended East in 1907-1910. She was discovered before she could graduate and started on her way to stardom. She was awarded the Oscar for her supporting role as "Mammy" in the epic *Gone With the Wind*. She was also awarded a star in the walk of fame in Los Angeles. Hattie starred in over 300 films. She joins nine other East High alums in the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.

## Red, White And Green — Sustainability At East

Among the many active organizations at East these days, the Green Club is a vibrant standout. Faculty sponsors are Michael Hernandez, Jeffrey Buck and Bonnie LaFleur. Some highlights of the club's recent activities are:

- **Sustainability Task Force.**

This committee was created to lend structure to club activities by focusing on the environmental footprint of the historic East building itself. Its members are current and past East parents with professional ties to the engineering, environmental design and architecture, energy and water efficiency fields. The task force has had an electric efficiency audit done on the building, and brings in periodic speakers on green topics to address the Green Club.

- **Recycling Bins.**

Working through Whole Foods, the club raised money to buy recycling bins for the school. The Whole Foods locations in Capitol Hill and Cherry Creek will donate 10 cents to EHS green programs for every plastic bag a customer foregoes.

- **Denver Energy Challenge.**

This fall East was the site of a press conference announcing a partnership between the City of Denver and Xcel Energy to promote the Denver Energy Challenge. All 10 of the original Denver high schools are participating. It works like this — students encourage Denver area residents to sign up for Windsource, Xcel's renewable energy product. In exchange for meeting certain signup thresholds, the schools can earn up to \$10,000 each in grants from the city for energy efficiency improvements. Do your part and sign up by visiting [denverenergy.org](http://denverenergy.org) today. Don't

forget to choose East as your benefiting school!

- **Solar PV Teaching System.**

Last year, the East High Angel Foundation won a grant from the DPS Foundation to build a modular, disassemblable solar photovoltaic (PV) teaching system for hands-on use by students. This summer, the DPS Facilities Management Department worked with Namaste Solar to design, build and install this system for the Industrial Arts department. During sunlight hours, the panels sit outside connected to a battery, charge controller and inverter that reside in an electrical box in the fenced-in lot to the south of the shop department.

- **100kW Photovoltaic Array on Panek Gym.**

The past several years, the Sustainability Task Force has worked to raise money for a working PV system at East, and to obtain the necessary historic commission approvals at both the city and state levels for such a project to proceed. This fall, just as those approvals were granted and the final fundraising done, DPS announced they have chosen East as one of several schools to receive an entirely *district-funded* PV system. It will be 100kW in size, grid-tied, and it is estimated it will reduce the school's electricity use by as much as 20 percent. DPS will work with Namaste Solar, and a third-party financier to take advantage of tax credits available to private parties, to install a rooftop system the output of which DPS will purchase on behalf of East.

We are always in need of parent expertise or volunteers. Contact Jennifer Drake for further information or to volunteer: [jennbma@yahoo.com](mailto:jennbma@yahoo.com).



Class of 2009 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees pose at the ceremony. Left to right, front row: Kelly Delph, Charles Thatch, Benita Martin, Susan Hickey (for Frank Hickey), John Dikeou, Marie Rountree (for Charles Rountree), George Smith, Don Gunsauls and Wally Hultin; back row: Marvin Smith, Pete LaChapelle, Joe Sawyer, Daniel Telk (for Louis Telk), Bruce Morgenege, Jim Hartman, John Davis and Greg Lovato.

## Twenty Six New Inductees Added To East Athletic Hall Of Fame In 2009

The third annual East High Athletic Hall of Fame inducted 26 new members at a dinner/recognition ceremony held in the old East gym October 17, 2009, with close to 300 family, friends, and well-wishers in attendance.

The class included 20 male athletes, four female athletes, one coach and one special award. The special award went to George Smith from the class of 1946. George was a one-armed baseball player who never let a childhood accident deter him. Later on in life, George and his four sons climbed all 53 of Colorado's 14ers in only 33 days. They completed the task of climbing all 67 peaks in the United States in 48 days. The coach's award was given to Charles McGlone who coached baseball in the 1930s and '40s.

The Athletic Hall was established in 2007 with the goal of honoring East High star athletes from all decades dating back to the 1890s when sports began at East High School. Each class of inductees reflected a variety of sports, decades and males and females.

To date 169 athletes and coaches have plaques hanging in the foyer of the new gym.

The committee will be taking a one-year break from naming another class. There is a need to raise enough money to make some special improvements on the Hall site.

### EAST HIGH ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME: CLASS OF 2009

1913 - Frank Hickey, Baseball  
 1923 - Louis Telk, Track  
 1939 - Johnny Doyle, Track  
 1944 - Jim Hartman, Swimming  
 1946 - Charles Rountree, Football  
 1951 - Ray Marks, Fb/Bbk/Bbl  
 1953 - John Dikeou, Fb/Track  
 1954 - Pete LaChapelle, Bbk/Bbl  
 1957 - Larry Kent, Swimming  
 1958 - Bruce Morgenege, Gymn  
 1958 - Don Gunsauls, Fb/Bb/Bl  
 1961 - Wally Hultin, Swimming  
 1966 - John Davis, Track/CC

1968 - Greg Lovato, Fb/Bbk  
 1970 - Marvin Smith, Basketball  
 1972 - Linnea West, Tennis  
 1983 - Holly Hoskins, Soccer  
 1984 - Joe Sawyer, Football  
 1986 - Kelly Delph, Bbk/Track  
 1986 - Charles Thatch, Football  
 1986 - Benita Martin, Basketball  
 1994 - Christian Cook, Lacrosse  
 2003 - Carle Stenmark, Lax/Soccer  
 2005 - Pierre Curtis, Basketball  
 Coach Charles McGlone, Baseball  
 1946 - George Smith, Special Award

## The Original East Angel: Then And Now

by Susan Bardwell

In the fall of 2008, when Brendan Doyle, East Counselor, was helping plan the restoration of the Angel Garden on the South Lawn, he asked what should be done with the "blob" of stone in the garden. The original "Keystone Angel" had deteriorated beyond recognition.

The original school's keystone and cornerstone were moved to the South Lawn in 1932, three years after Old East was razed to make way for the new Federal Custom House. William H. Smiley, former DPS Superintendent and East principal, suggested placing the sculptured Angel in the rock garden of East.

By the 1940s the Angel's nose was already gone and vandals had painted and carved the keystone. Twenty years later, the Angel's face was unrecognizable. According to a *Denver Post* article, members of a sophomore English class discovered the statue and learned it was the original symbol of the school. The students raised funds planning to restore the Angel and move it to the front hall "in a position of honor." The stone face was deemed too deteriorated, so the school used the funds to commission a marble reproduction of the mascot. Ella Matty Orman, 82, was present for the unveiling in 1963. (She was the five-year-old model for the original stone carving). The marble Angel is on display inside the school, across from the main office.

The original sandstone Angel in the garden now crumbles when touched. This year, to preserve her history and significance to the East community, Alumni and Friends of East and Angel Pride together funded the making of a bronze plaque for the garden that features a brief history and a bas relief of the original Angel's face. Marcia Goldstein of Alumni and Friends, and

Susan Bardwell, of Grounds for Learning and a Project Angel Pride member, researched the history of the Angel to prepare the text for the plaque. Fedde Bronze Works (Ray Fedde, Class of 1954) enlisted local sculptor Martha Sulfridge to recreate the Angel's image for casting the plaque. Although the original Angel cannot be restored,

Project Angel Pride has contacted a local company, to apply a breathable sealant to preserve what remains of the keystone.

The identity of the keystone's sculptor is still unknown, but over the years it has been attributed to Preston Powers (sculptor of "The Closing Era," 1893 World's Fair, now on the east side of the Colorado State Capitol) and/or his friend Daniel Chester French (sculptor of the Lincoln Memorial, 1922, Washington, D.C.). The two sculptors were close friends.

Much more is known about the model for the stone carving, five-year-old Ella Catherine Matty. Recently, East Alumni and Friends secured a copy of her scrapbook: "Story of the Angel of East Denver High School." Ella was the angelic model selected from thousands of Denver schoolgirls to symbolize the Denver high school's "dedication to youth." The keystone with her likeness was installed in 1889. The term "Angel" soon referred to all East pupils and, in turn, became their mascot. Ella would graduate from East herself in 1898, and later marry Frederick Orman, son of Governor James B. Orman.



Keystone Angel over entry of Old East, 1889



New plaque and original Angel.

## 2009 East High Constitutional Scholars Win National Competition #1 In The Nation For THIRD Straight Year!

The 2009 Constitutional Scholars team won first place in the **We The People: the Citizen and the Constitution** competition in Washington, D.C., last May. East is the only team in the 22 year history of the competition to win the national title **three consecutive years!** A "three peat" as the team says!

The team prepares for competition by writing intensive research papers on their area of study, working with individual coaches for each panel and rehearsing frequently. Members of the team, past and present, consider Con Law to be one of the most difficult and time-consuming undertakings of their high school careers — and one of the most rewarding.

East has now represented the Denver Public Schools and the State of Colorado 20 times as the State Champion, placing 16 times in the top 10 and taking the National championship four times. (1992, 2007, 2008, 2009)!

East is fortunate and, so grateful, to have loyal community members, and former East parents who each year contribute their time and legal talents to help prepare the new team. We are proud of all the East participants for their hard work and all those adults who encourage and help make this level of learning possible! And we are most grateful to all those who provide financial support to make this national competition possible!!

### Again! 2010 Constitutional Scholars

On December 14, 2009, the East team won the State Championship again! For the 21st time East will represent Colorado in the National competition. The 26 member team and their coach Mark Thalhofer will leave for D.C. on April 22, 2010. If you wish to help the Constitutional Scholars Team travel to Washington, D.C., to compete, please make your tax-deductible donation payable to: East High School-Constitutional Scholars. Mail to: Mrs. Beth Gower, East High School, 1600 City Park Esplanade, Denver, CO 80206.