



Spotlight

East Angel Friends & Alumni Foundation

March 2025

East 150/100 Celebration: Two Landmark Anniversaries Coalesce In Fall Of 2025

by Matt Fulford (East Faculty) and Marcia Tremmel Goldstein (Class of 1969)

Two watershed turning points for East High School are coinciding in 2025: the 100th anniversary of our historic building on Denver's City Park Esplanade, and the 150th year of East High School as an institution. The Class of 2026 will be the 100th class to graduate from our building and the 150th in our history as a high school. The official Celebration will begin this September and promises to involve and connect the wider East community in spirited fashion.

Our official Planning Committee made up of alumni, faculty, staff, and students is busy preparing special events and projects, including: All-Class Homecoming, Film Festival, special Exhibits throughout the school, Time Capsule, and other projects to commemorate these historical anniversaries. We will celebrate East's remarkable legacy of academic and athletic excellence, its architectural grandeur, and the school's significance as a unique and diverse urban meeting ground for Denver's students, families, and neighborhoods. And, most of all, our festivities will reflect the fun and engaging experiences that go along with being an East High Angel!

Keep up-to-Date! Details of events,



Ezra Kauffman (Class of 2024) designed our official logo for the 2025 celebrations.

programs, and projects are outlined in this *Alumni Spotlight* edition, and will be updated regularly on our special web page on the East Angel Foundation website. <https://eastangelfoundation.org/support/ehs-150th-anniversary/>

Donate to our 2025 Celebration Fund: We need your support to make these milestone events in 2025 unforgettable! Through the East Angel Foundation, your donation will fund anniversary events, support students and teachers, and help keep East the best high school in Colorado. This is

more than just a celebration — it is a chance to honor our legacy and invest in East's future. Plus, by donating, you will be recognized as a sponsor and receive exclusive EHS 150th memorabilia! Whether you give \$150, \$1,500, or more, every contribution makes a difference. Join us in making history! Donate today.

For more information on donation levels, please contact our Fundraising Chair, community leader Kwame Spearman, Class of 2002 at kwame.spearman@gmail.com and at <https://eastangelfoundation.org/support/ehs-150th-anniversary/>

Volunteer! If you would like to be involved in the planning, don't hes-

EHS 150th Anniversary — East Angel Foundation

Help us celebrate our storied institution's landmark birthday and ensure its legacy for the next 150 years. Join fellow Angels in honoring our past, strengthening our present, and securing our future.

eastangelfoundation.org

<https://eastangelfoundation.org/support/ehs-150th-anniversary/>



itate to go to our official web page, or reach out to Planning Committee co-chairs, Matt Fulford (East history faculty) mfulfor@dpsk12.net, or Marcia Tremmel Goldstein (Class

of 1969 and EAF Alumni/History Committee) marciagold@msn.com. We would love to involve as many alumni, faculty, staff, and students as possible! (See Timeline on Page 4)

East 2025 Homecoming Centennial Celebration Planned September 19, 2025!

by Traci Groff Jones (Class of 1983)

YOU ARE INVITED! Alumni, Students, and the entire East community will come together to celebrate our school's dual landmark anniversaries: 150 years for our school, and 100 years for our building. The Homecoming football game has been celebrated each year for decades with fun gatherings and events, but this year is mighty special indeed. Here are the plans for the all-day festivities:



- **Dedication** – September 18, 2025 morning, on the Esplanade.
- **Homecoming Pep Rally for students** – September 19, 2025, Auditorium.
- **Alumni Breakfast** (ticketed).
- **Guided School Tours and School Store** open throughout the day.
- **Festival of the Decades** – displays, booths, and class gatherings: Nine different decade stations will be located throughout the school and grounds, with each staffed by volunteers and/or student council. Music and fashion of the era

will be featured, as well as displays featuring historical photos and artifacts. The stations include: 1925-1939 – *Barn Dance*, 1940-1949 – *Fall Formal*; 1950-1959 – *Homecoming Royalty*; 1960-1969 – *Era of Change and Protest*; 1970-1979 – *Integration Era*; *The Generation X Era*; 1990-1999 *The Turn of the Century*; 2000-2010 – *A New Decade*; 2010-2020- *Present Day*.

- **Amazing Race Through the Decades** – Student scavenger hunt and contest in the afternoon, featuring student teams using clues to lead them through the Decades stations (above). Prizes for the best teams!
- **Car decorating in the student parking lot.**
- **Car Caravan to Homecoming game** (late afternoon): Decorated cars will line up at East forming a motorcade to the game at All-City Stadium (South High).
- **Homecoming Game** – start time TBD.

Plans, exact details, and timing are still in process, so stay up-to-date at our website (see links above). Alumni Volunteers are needed to plan and staff the Festival of the Decades displays (sign up on the website).



Angels In Hollywood

by Todd Madison, East High English Teacher

According to a story too good to check, Douglas Fairbanks (East Class of 1901) was expelled from East High School for jumping out of a second-story window. Not long after, he moved to Hollywood, where he made millions of dollars jumping out of second-story windows.

This is a tale I've been telling my students for years, as I show off my wall of Hollywood stars who were once East Angels. Yes, our Heritage Hall may boast a Supreme Court justice, an astronaut, artists, writers, and business moguls, but even those graduates have difficulty competing with movie stars.

In honor of East's 150th Anniversary celebration this Fall, we will be hosting the first ever East High Film Festival leading up to Saturday, September 27, 2025, at the



Sie FilmCenter, our movie partner located right across Colfax. None other than Pam Grier (Class of 1967) will grace the stage, alongside descendants of Harold Lloyd and Hattie McDaniel, as well as many others, including behind-the-camera talents like Dallas Jackson and Rod Grier. [NOTE: For up-to-date information and forthcoming ticket sales, keep an eye on the East 150th website (links in box above).]

(Continued on Page 3)

Iconic East High Grand Lobby Faces Uncertain Future

"Historically architectural works have symbolized cultural heritage and civic pride. They preserve a legacy that lasts for generations. Architecture can transform communities, enhance the quality of life, and foster a sense of identity and civic pride." Andrew Mackie – *Vera Iconica Architecture*.

In the Fall of 1925, East High School opened its doors. This iconic structure would become one of the proud public buildings in Denver. When George Williamson (an 1893 graduate of "old" East) designed the building, he said, "I will endeavor to design a building to match the grandeur of Old East." For 100 years this school has been a relevant public school which faced the various challenges over the 10 decades of its existence. But now it faces a serious challenge. It may seem interest of small worth, but the future of East and its proud edifice may be compromised by recent developments.

Faced with the problem of school shootings, which happened twice at East, and to many schools all over the country, the Denver Public School's Operations Department has planned to place protective measures in several schools, including East. Pulled from the third wave of changes across the district, East was moved into the second phase of 17 schools after the second shooting. That East was selected is not surprising. The goal of striving for a "safe school" is necessary for all schools, not just East. Concerns have been raised on whether the school board has looked at alternative designs which would not compromise the architectural integrity of a school that recently was voted the most beautiful high school building in Colorado by a panel of architects.

The issue is that plans are being developed to undertake a major overhaul of the "grand main lobby." Over these 100 years this expanded space has been a welcoming experience for thousands of East students, teachers, staff, and parents. The new plan has the potential of compromising the heart and soul of East High School. Buildings are more than just structures. They are powerful statements that shape social fabric, collective values, and power dynamics. Of course, the tower is a powerful symbol, but the main lobby is where thousands of students would say "meet me under the clock." When you enter under the grand pillars and into this vast, open, and airy space you can sense the pride of the "gathered family."

While the East community understands the goal of student safety, as well as the perception of equity across the district, exceptions should be made when confronted with a building with the history and legacy that East has. Additionally, the proposed changes do not address the serious issue of the other 15-16 doors that lead into East. Moreover, had these changes already been in place, both shootings would have still occurred.

The East community is asking that the Operations Department seriously reconsider their current plans, and work with the Historical Society of Denver to create a plan which leads the heart of East intake, while also providing the needed safety precautions for East's current students.

To share your thoughts, please contact: Deborah Staten – deborah_staten@dpsk12.net, chief of staff to the Superintendent; John Youngquist, DPS School Board member At-Large – John_youngquist@dpsk12.net; and Carrie Olson – colson@dpsk12.net.

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From The Principal . . .

Dear East High School Alumni,

As we dive into another remarkable school year, the energy at East High is electric with excitement and achievement. Our students have already reached incredible milestones that reflect their talent, hard work, and determination. It's inspiring to witness the East High spirit thriving—and we are thrilled to share these successes with you, our alumni family. You've played an essential role in shaping our legacy, and your continued support means the world to us.

Here are just a few of the outstanding accomplishments that are already shaping this year into one of our best yet:

East State Champions!

- **Esports** has captured the state championship title!
- **Robotics** program is celebrating another impressive achievement!
- **Girls Rugby** In an exciting finish to the spring season.

Outstanding Achievements:

- Our **cross country and boys soccer** teams had outstanding seasons with special recognition going to **Rosie Mucharsky**, who ran in the National Championship and finished 11th!
- Our **Girls Swimming and Diving** team dominated the league this season, and our **Girls Basketball** team has been ranked in the top 10 in the state and is headed to the state playoffs.
- **Constitutional Law Scholars** Headed to Nationals
- 200+ State **DECA** Qualifiers
- **JROTC** ranked as the top program in the district and our cadets placed 1st and 3rd in the State Air Rifle Competition.
- **Visual and Performing Arts** students brought home 8 Gold Keys, 7 Silver Keys, and 9 Honorable Mentions. Sweeney Todd, Cabaret and the Coffee House Dance show were inspiring while 14 students from the choir program qualified for State.
- **East Unified** — Top 10 in Colorado! Our Unified bowling team ranked as one of the top ten teams in the state.

Graduation Rate Success

We are also thrilled to announce that, as of January 2025, East High's graduation rate stands at an impressive **96.1%** — well above the state average of **83.1%** and the district average of **79%**. This achievement speaks to the dedication of our students, staff, and families, and we are so proud of the hard work that goes into making this possible.

These accomplishments are just the beginning of what is shaping up to be an extraordinary year at East High. We're incredibly proud of all our students and their unwavering dedication to excellence, and we are confident that more successes will follow.

Looking ahead, we are especially excited about the Sesquicentennial Celebration coming in 2025-2026. As we approach 150 years of East High history, we can't wait to welcome alumni from near and far to celebrate the incredible journey of our school. The Centennial will be a time to reconnect with old friends, relive cherished memories, and look ahead to the bright future of East High.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Your legacy continues to shape the East High community, and we are deeply grateful for the role you've played in building the foundation on which our current students continue to build.

Go Angels,
Terita Walker
Principal, East High School

Scholarships Awarded To Angels In 2024

Since 2011, the East Angel Foundation has proudly supported and managed the EAF Scholarship Program. In May 2024, with the generous support of the Thomas Bean Foundation, the James Reece Foundation, the Members of the Classes of 1967, '68, and '69, and the numerous alumni, parents, and friends who donated, \$78,000 was awarded to 31 graduating seniors of the Class of 2024. This marks the 30th consecutive year EAF scholarships have been awarded and the most extensive distribution of funds in the Scholarship history.

The Class of 2024 and our awardees were an exceptional group. They started at East during the COVID-19 pandemic and endured numerous school tragedies during their Junior year. Over half of our awardees traveled from out of district to attend East, all had over a 3.0 GPA, and all were extensively involved in extracurricular and community activities. We had state champions in soccer, basketball, Constitutional Law, Speech & Debate, and DECA. And many will be the first generation of their family to attend college.

The prestigious **EHS Alumni Scholarship** winner was **Noah Vong**, attending CU Boulder. Noah was Head Angel, President of the Asian Pacific Student Association, musician, athlete, and scholar. Legendary music teacher Keith Oxman noted: "I have often wondered how Noah can accomplish all that he does. Along with being an excellent musician, Noah is one of the most intellectually curious students I have ever encountered."

The **James Reece Scholarship**, awarded annually based on outstanding academic achievement, was won by **Sophia Shiroff**. Sophia, presently attending Allegheny College, ran track and cross-country and was actively involved in Women of East and Students Demand Action, all while maintaining a perfect 5.2 GPA.

The **Thomas W. Bean Foundation Scholarship** was dually awarded to two outstanding students: **Elijah Goss** (Santa Clara University) and **Schuyler Pearson** (Case Western Reserve University). Elijah was a two-sport athlete (football and track), winning accolades in state and national Speech & Debate and DECA



Noah Vong

competitions. "Elijah changed my classroom when he joined it. He is an exemplary student, encouraging the best possible behavior," Noah Kaplan. Schuyler had a 4.99 weighted GPA and was active in Ladies First and the Black Student Alliance. "Anyone graced with her presence is better off as a result. That's simply the kind of energy she brings into this world. Her outstanding academic achievements and Schuyler's unwavering dedication to her studies testify to her intellectual prowess and her ceaseless pursuit of excellence," David Singer.

The **Classes of '67-'68-'69 Scholarship** was awarded to **Stephen Asante Jr.**, currently attending the University of Michigan. Stephen was active in DECA, qualifying for regional, state, and national competitions, and maintained a 3.99 GPA while actively participating in community service and church activities outside of East.

EAF scholarships are awarded based on the values that embody East High School's history: character, community involvement, diversity, and academia. The committee, comprised of six alumni and former teachers, evaluates each applicant's essays, recommendations, extracurricular, work, and community activities, focusing on each student's future financial needs. We spend hours reviewing applications and interviewing students. This process is impossible without the investment of alumni, parents, and the Denver community. Your support has made a significant difference in the lives of these students, and we are proud to report that

the program is thriving. As of 2024, the East Angel Scholarship program had awarded \$1,005,000 to 484 students, a testament to the impact of our collective support.

If you are passionate about supporting students and want to make a lasting impact, we encourage you to consider donating to the Scholarship Fund or establishing a new scholarship award through the East Angel Foundation. Your contribution could make a significant difference in a student's life. To discuss this opportunity or to support an existing scholarship, please contact Greg Graeber at ggraeber@mindspring.com. All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you for your support!

2024 East Angel Foundation Scholarship Awardees: Harmonie Banks, Arely Borjas-Ponce, Anna Lillian Boyle, Naomi Buckmelter, Lily Cecilia Bujanda, Owen Busic, Mackenzie Carmody, Eli Cohen, Madison Anne Dixon DiMatteo, Trinity Dokes, Delaney Donahue, Isabella Raworth Erazo, Caden Fifield, Conor Foran, Sofia Guerrero, Channing Ann Lee, Mateo Rumi Lewis, Ryan Lo, Isabella Massena, Jaianna Rene Moore, Olivia Grace Nusbaum, Julia Barbara Pougnet-Green, Rneil-JaCoe Stewart, Isabella Weakliem, Loren White, Gabriela Youngquist.

The Cleworth LEAP Scholarship Beginning in 2016, through the generous support of East Alumni Montgomery Cleworth ('78), EAF has awarded a \$100,000 need-based scholarship (\$25,000 per year for four years) for outstanding academic achievement and extracurricular performance. This scholarship is awarded annually to facilitate the recipient's ability to make the "LEAP" to continued excellence and enroll at the highest caliber postsecondary institution.

LEAP Scholarship winners:
2024 Elias Goss
2023 Samuel Dominguez-Banuelos
2022 Teal Fricke
2021 Tatiana Stephenson & Yonatan Manor
2020 Maya Younoszai
2019 Phoebe Fanganello
2018 Harrison Scudamore
2017 Gabriel Day
2016 Charlotte McClintock & Anna Martens

East High Athletic Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony

From left to right: Steve Kohuth Ashi's coach; Beth Hinz, Soccer coach; Ashi Geberkidane; and Richard Nelson are pictured at the recent Athletic Hall Of Fame Ceremony. Ashi was inducted as an All-State Soccer player and Cross Country Runner.



East High School's iconic old gym was the site of the 9th Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony on October 5, 2024. The gym was part of the newly completed East High School in the Fall of 1925 and was considered a "State of the Art" facility. In September 2025, the school and the gym will celebrate its 100th year.

The new class of inductees totaled 32 which raised the number of inductees to the Hall which now includes 195 male athletes, 65 female athletes, and 32 coaches.

Major renovations of the exhibit area were made this year to increase space for future names and to provide glass covering for protection of the exhibit.

2024 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

MALE ATHLETES

1950 Jack Bennett – Gymnastics
1963 Tom Halvorsen – Track
1965 Jim Ellis – Basketball
1968 Gary Stern – Tennis
1971 Chuck Flowers – Basketball
1986 Jim Dadiotis – Football
1990 Jason Bailow – Baseball
1990 Wakeen Ponds – Track
1994 Brian Howard – Basketball

1996 Greg Davis – Football
2006 Collen Warner – Soccer
2009 Davaughn Thornton – Football
2009 Grant Simon – Soccer
2013 Ashi Geberkidane – Soccer/CX
2014 Cerake Geberkidane – Track/CX
2014 Ronnie Harrell – Basketball
2015 Wesley Ogsbury – Football
2015 Brian Carey – Basketball
2017 Sam Golla – Rugby
2019 August "Mustang Sally" – Lacrosse

FEMALE ATHLETES

1995 Alexis Vean – Basketball/Soccer
2011 Katie Wiese – Volleyball
2011 Deidre Smith – Basketball
2015 Fionna Sullivan – Field Hockey
2015 Maya Nelson – Wrestling
2017 Julia Baroth – Golf
2017 Kate Burney – Lacrosse
2019 Qario Bentley – Volleyball
2019 Arria Minor – Track

COACHES

Bill Baer – Rugby
Randy Gallegos – Wrestling
Alice "Junior" Weed Ziegler – Volleyball/Track

[NOTE: If you would like to nominate an athlete, contact: Richard Nelson at dick_n_jan@yahoo.com or call 303-868-3679. Candidates must have graduated from East High School.]

The Original Baby Boomers, East High School Class Of 1964 Celebrates 60th Year Class Reunion • 'Oh, What A Night'

We might not have remembered all the names, but we recognized familiar faces, spawning joyful memories of the past. Late August 2024, "Oh What A Night!" We will never be the same. There was excitement in the air as we anticipated seeing old friends and reminiscing. Some of us wondered, "would we recognize old friends or do we count on our memory and name tags?" Maybe a little of both!

After many months of planning the The East High School Class of 1964, Baby Boomers Planning Committee efforts took flight. Through many months of planning and developing a program we gave special consideration and acknowledgement, not only to our Alumni, but also, friends, family, children, grandchildren, and in some cases great-grandchildren. All were welcome!

Our program started with a guided tour of our Alma Mater and a nostalgic walk down memory lane, or maybe we should say hallways, each hall bringing back memories of our lockers locations, who we walked to our classes with, our favorite teacher, lunch in the lunchroom with our best friends, studying in the library and, of course, bragging rights to the AAA Championship Title for Football and Basketball. Yes, we were the "King of the Hill" for the Denver Public Schools Sports Championship, and YES, We were the Angeles, the Mighty, Mighty Angels, Everywhere we go, people want to know, who we were, so we told them, WE are the Angeles, the Mighty, Mighty Angels! Our class not only excelled

athletically but academically; each went hand and hand. We were one of the largest classes to graduate from East post WWII.

As the day turned to evening the celebration continued with a full dinner at Rendezvous Restaurant and Event Center at Heather Gardens, Aurora, Colorado. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all with lively conversations, laughter, table hopping, reflections, photo ops, Lots of HUGS, and HANDSHAKES! AND PROMISES TO KEEP IN TOUCH. We are going to hold you to that, Class of '64.' The class of 1964 was excited to have an entire day to share our PROUD LEGACY with our families, friends, and

most of all, our Community!

On behalf of the East High School 1964 Class Reunion Planning Committee, our most sincere thanks to the Committee Members for your time and dedication to planning a great reunion and to the Denver Public Schools, our Tour Guide and Historians, Beth Gower, Marcia Goldstein, Edna Sutton, Lizzie Fisher, Judith Berg, and the Student Volunteers that made our class reunion so memorable and a perfect way to start the 2025 official celebration of our High School's 150-year anniversary. Please look for information regarding our next reunion in about three years; we will see you then.

150 Years Of East High School History — A Documentary Film

It won't be long for you to be able to see this exciting film about our school. As part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration in September of 2025, this film may be enjoyed in conjunction with other festivities. Regarding the making of this film, "The hardest part is figuring out what we have to leave out as we weave personal stories with historic themes for our hour-long film," says Director Robert Dean, East '72.

East has always drawn students from many parts of Denver. How they all became Angels is but one of the themes of the film. Alums, retired and current teachers and staff, and students are participating in all aspects of the film production. "They are all donating their time and we couldn't make this film without their volunteer help," adds Executive Producer Elizabeth Woodard, East, '68.

The film has been in production since last Spring, and the team is particularly interested in finding home movies and other stories from alums and teachers. The team is deeply appreciative of Alums who have already donated to this project. The team seeks funds to cover production costs only. The goal is to raise \$300,000. Your tax-deductible donations may be made through the East Angel Foundation, P.O. Box 6015, Denver, CO 80206, Attn. Pam Morin, Treasurer. Contact Elizabeth Woodard at lizzyfisherwoodard@gmail.com or rdean@vantagepoint.tv for more information.

East High Constitutional Scholars

'We the People . . . The Citizen And The Constitution'

East Constitutional Scholars are **State Champions for 35th time!** The Con Scholar winning tradition continues! East has participated in this national program since its inception, 1987-1988, as part of the National Bicentennial Celebration of the drafting of the Constitution. **Thirty-eight years!** East has been national **champions five times** and placed in the **top ten 27 times**. The 2023-2024 East team **placed 4th** in the nation.

Team members, past and present, consider Con Scholars to be one of the most difficult and time consuming undertakings of their high school experience — and one of the most rewarding and life altering. Former team members Gaby Densen and Grace Taub: "Constitutional Scholars has given us knowledge and perspectives on what makes up the blueprint of our democracy. It has allowed us to approach modern-day issues with a respect for our nation's past. Most importantly, it has given us access to an invaluable community of deep thinkers, changemakers, and leaders."

The 2024-2025 East team will compete in the National Finals at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia; the first two rounds and the final round will be held in DC at the National Union Building. The 2024-2025 team members are: Veronica Barnard, Grant Cramer, Ollie Diehl, Cleo Epstein-Rhodes, Sophie Glanz, Audrey Goodman, Bridger Johnson, Preston Kang, Norah Krause, Sophie Landry, Andrew McPherson,



Gavin Neale, Eva Nuber, Ainsley Oliver, Iris Osmulski, Fiona Perry, Jada Pulsipher, Teddy Rassmussen, Olivia Saavedra, Clara Taub, Jack Williams, Cora Wood, Reese Worrell, Leeza Zbarsky. Student interns: Gaby Densen and Grace Taub. Teacher/coach: **Mandy Hostetter!**

East team members continue to benefit from from invaluable community members, and former East parents who each year contribute hours of their time and expertise to help prepare the new team. It takes the East Village! Special thanks to panel coaches: **Richard Caldwell, Robert Fufeld, James Arundel, Kevin Gliwa, John Walsh, Mark Grueskin, Asma Kadri, Keeler, Arielle Herzberg, Scott Barker, Caley Carlson, Jeff Pearson, Judy Schulman, Richard Wedgle, Nick Brown, Melissa Hart, and Bill Scarpatto.** A special acknowledgement to

our **East Angel Award recipient Les Volpe, who is judge and researcher extraordinaire for decades of Con Scholar teams!** East is truly fortunate to have such generous participating experts!!

If you wish to help the 2024-2025 Constitutional Scholars team travel to D.C., please make a **tax-deductible donation** payable to: **East High/Con Scholars; Mail to: Mandy Hostetter, East High School, 1600 City Park Esplanade, Denver, CO 80206.**

**If you are an alumnus of the East Constitutional Scholars program, please take a moment to complete this Google form (<https://bit.ly/ConLawAlum>) and share your updated information with us. Also stay tuned for details about an exciting Constitutional Scholars alumni reunion coming up spring/summer of 2025! And do share this information if you know one.

The East Museum Club

by Matthew Fulford

The East High Museum Club began in 2021 when a number of my students reached out to express interest in researching and preserving the history of our school. We had been doing research projects in my history class using yearbooks and *Spotlights* in the tower, and it was instantly apparent to me that students were more engaged by the history of their own school community than they were in any other topic we had been studying. The students and I formed the club with the assistance of EAF volunteer and East historian/alumnus, Marcia Goldstein, in order to better connect current students with the history and alumni of the school.

The club's first goal was to bring some of East's history to the hallways of the school. Students developed various exhibits on school spirit and athletics throughout the decades with the objective of making the building itself more of a living museum. Today you will notice small exhibits in the foyer, library, and also online. The students also worked as docents, learning the history of the school to give knowledgeable tours

Class Of 1994 Reunion

The class of '94 gathered September 27-29, 2024. Their classmate Jessica Abegg, director of The Castle Marne bed and breakfast, led the organization of the reunion. When asked about her endeavor, Jessica explained, "It was my pleasure to host it at our Castle Marne just up the street from East."

Many returning graduates love to visit East and share memories. Former teachers enjoy it as well. Flo Wagner taught at East for 26 years after her daughters Sarah and Heather graduated from East. Heather graduated in 1991, and Sarah in 1994. Flo shared the following:

"I was honored to be a tour guide for the Class of 1994's reunion, especially since my daughter, Sarah, graduated that year. Attendance was amazing, everyone was happy to be there and reminisce about their four years at East. They shared life stories and laughed at the shenanigans they



Students working with CU Denver volunteer Justin Porcelo to prepare *Spotlights* to be scanned.

to future East families and visitors.

In 2023, the East Museum Club partnered with the CU Denver public history graduate program to continue their evolving museum work. With CU Denver and History Colorado's help, students in the club learned how to properly archive materials, conduct oral histories, and put on effective exhibits for the wider community. The work that the East students did with the CU Denver graduate students was recently featured by the National Council of Public History as a model for other communities.

Furthermore, the students successfully partnered with the Colorado State Library to organize all historic *Spotlights* to be digitized and entered into the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection. Alumni are



Angels at the Castle.

Sarah Wagner Masena with Jill Pond.

engaged in. I heard stories that sent the graduates into raucous laughter. They praised 'good' teachers and bemoaned 'bad' teachers. Their accomplishments are impressive and followed varied paths, however, the one thing that the Angels of 1994 have in common is a love of East."



Club president Keegan Hoelscher and volunteer Justin Porcelo created an exhibit on East during WWII.

already using this collection to relive their time at East and research their relatives' school achievements. The club has also raised money from the Colorado Historic Records Advisory Board (CHRAB). With CHRAB's assistance we have digitized reels of 16mm film from athletic events taking place between 1940 and 1960. The club also raised money to purchase archival quality storage materials to ensure that our East artifacts are preserved effectively for decades to come. These films will be available on the club's Youtube channel: @EastHighMuseum.

Looking forward to the "East 150" celebration, students are creating exhibit boards about topics such as architecture, fashion, and performing arts at East throughout the years. These exhibit boards will be displayed around the school to coincide with the school celebration. Also, the Museum Club president, Keegan Hoelscher, is working on a "visual timeline" of East history to be displayed on the wall in our school's beautiful foyer. Featuring photographs from 1875 to the present, the timeline will visually represent the traditions and diversity that make East such a special place for the entire community.

The East tower museum is a special place for all of us and we're extremely grateful for the support of EAF, CU Denver, History Colorado, and all of the various volunteers who have given our school such a wonderful space. The Museum Club is especially grateful to Marcia Goldstein for her dedicated work with students. Also, thank you to the volunteers who have recently helped to tidy and clean the space. Thank you to the DPS Foundation, CHRAB, and EAF donors for making this recent work possible.

President's Message

Dear East Alumni,

This year marks two important milestones for East High School: The 150-year celebration as Denver's first high school, and the 100-year celebration of the iconic building that remains Denver's most beautiful high school.

As we plan for celebrating these important milestones, we are a witness to the importance of having access to a good education coupled with a commitment to service and community engagement. East High School stands as a living testament to Denver's past, present, and future. From the majestic entrance of the front hall, that has welcomed students for the past 100 years, to the school library, to the Panek Gym, all offering a history of resilience, promise, and beauty.

In 1877, at the first graduation, a banner hung that read "The Hope of Colorado is Public Schools." Over the last 100 years, East has lived up to the promise of educating students from all backgrounds and from neighborhoods across the city. A stroll through East's Heritage Hall is a great reminder of the stars East has produced over the years: business and political leaders, scientists, artists, authors, movie and T.V. stars, and even Ruth Handler, the inventor of the Barbie Doll. All reflect the excellence in education that East High School has provided to students for the last 150 years.

The East Angel Foundation was founded to support teachers and students above and beyond funding provided by the School and District. Our mission is to impact students in the classroom and support in areas such as classroom fees, help with books, post-graduation scholarships, and supporting teachers through specific classroom grants. Our Angel Pack program does a Friday backpack program, a monthly food pantry, and last year held the first ever prom dress/evening wear pop-up of gently worn evening wear for students to shop for prom. It was a huge success and most importantly, the students loved it.

These opportunities are available to our students through the generous donations of our parent and alumni community. The East High Pride is paid forward as the next generations prepare for life after East. Thank you for your continued generosity.

East will be hosting 150-year celebrations next fall. Homecoming weekend will be September 19-20 and we have lots of exciting events planned. Sign-up on our alumni website for regular updates or to contribute, visit www.eastangels.network.

The East High School statement of purpose is to develop the whole person through academic, artistic, and cultural learning experiences propelling every student to success in learning and life. East students continue to embrace this philosophy and are making a difference in their community.

Here's to 150 years of excellence, and to students, teachers, coaches, and staff, who have made East a wonderful center for learning and leadership. Let's Go, Angels!

Sheila MacDonald – 1983
President, East Angel Foundation

FLIGHTS OF ANGELS

FLIGHTS OF ANGELS • IN MEMORIAM
EAST HIGH OBITUARIES

1948	MARILYN (KATZ) WOLFSON	1930-2024
1946	PEGGY (STARK) SWANSON	1928-2024
1949	ALBERT MELCHER	1931-2024
1946	BETTE (HARVEY) DINES	1927-2024
1956	JANE WALLER PIGFORD	1938-2024
1956	LEROY SMITH	1938-2024
1994	STEPHEN ANDREW NOEL	1975-2024

Angels In Hollywood

(Continued from Page 1)

One wonders how many high schools have produced such Hollywood royalty. **Douglas Fairbanks'** daredevil charms made him the "King of Hollywood" in the 1910s and 1920s, starting in such films as *The Black Pirate* and *The Thief of Bagdad*. Meanwhile, Hattie McDaniel (Class of 1910) tangled with the bigotries of her day to produce a 300-film career, highlighted by becoming the first African-American Oscar winner for her performance in 1939's *Gone with the Wind*.

Perhaps East's most luminous living alum is Pam Grier, who helped define 1970s cinema in such roles as Foxy Brown and Coffy, then shined again in 1997's *Jackie Brown*. Like many of the stars we will honor in September, Grier began her career in East's drama and music programs.

East High School, of course, has many glorious legacies, but September's movie event will be celebrating the ones with streamable filmography. It is a fun pastime for East's movie lovers, young and old, to imagine Ward Bond (*It's a Wonder-*

ful Life, The Searchers) wandering the halls in 1920; 1982 graduate Don Cheadle (*Hotel Rwanda, Devil in a Blue Dress*) performing as an Angellaire; or Harold Lloyd (*The Freshman, Safety Last*) sharing his math homework with his friends in the Class of 1911. I can remember my own student T.J. Miller (*Big Hero 6, Ready Player One*) improvising absurd announcements as Head Boy in 1999 before doing the same sort of thing on the stand-up comedy circuit.

Our current students' own movie dreams may very well add to this history, because I've made sure to leave an empty space on my Hollywood showcase wall. Perhaps that space will be occupied by rising star and recent grad Nicholas Chavez (Netflix's *Monsters*), and perhaps he will be joined by someone in tomorrow's 2nd period English class, wondering if there are easier ways to make it in the movies than by jumping out of second-story windows.

(Photo credits: Roddy McDowall Photo Archive; Margaret Herrick Digital Collections; Harold Lloyd Foundation; Pam and Rod Grier, Denver Public Library Special Collections; Donald and Batye Cheadle.)



Many of East's well-known film stars are inductees into the East High Alumni Heritage Hall.

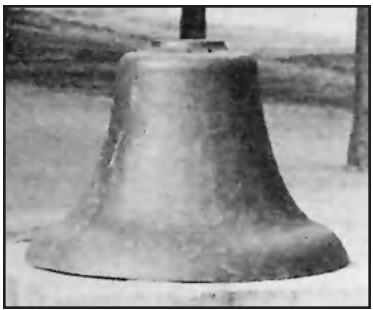
East High Through The Decades — Landmarks Of Historic Excellence



1873: Arapahoe School, Denver's first public school, built on Arapahoe Street between 17th and 18th Streets; attended by students from all grades K-12.

1875: Principal Dr. James H. Baker officially founds **Denver High School** on the top floor of Arapahoe School.

1877: Class of 1877 becomes the **first graduating high school class**, numbering seven. **Carmine red and white become official school colors.**



The original **Arapahoe school bell** survives in the south lawn of today's East High.



William Henry Jackson photographer

1882-1889: Denver High School ("Old East High") opens between 19th and 20th at Stout Streets, designed by architect Robert Roeschlaub.

Construction continues until 1889. The **Keystone Angel** at the grand entrance, prompts students to call themselves "Angels" thereafter. The "Angel" survives in the rock garden at "New East." A replica of the original "East Angel" created in 1964 is located on the second floor of the new school.



1890s - 1920s: "Old East High"
1898: East's first women's basketball team established.



1909: First yearbook "East Denver High School Annual."

1918: **World War I Memorial** installed honoring students who served in the Great War.

1921: **Spotlight Newspaper** first published by students in the "Scribblers Round Table Club" The student-edited periodical circulates to this day. [NOTE: The entire run of *Spotlight Newspapers* from 1920-2018 is now digitized and accessible by scanning this QR Code:



1925 May: Grand Reunion of Old East High takes place at the Municipal Auditorium. Graduation of the last class to attend "Old East."

1929: "Old East" building demolished.



"New East"

1925: Newly constructed **East High School** opens to students on City Park Esplanade between Colfax and 17th Avenue, dedicated on September 25, 1925. The architect, George Hebard Williamson (Class of 1893) designed the building in the "Jacobean" style, modeled after Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

1926: Students publish first **Angelus yearbook** (initially called the *Trailblazer*) which is issued to this day. [NOTE: All of East's yearbooks are digitized, accessible at:



1931: **First a capella choir**, directed by music teacher Fareeda Moorhead, which developed into the Angelaires vocal group in later decades.

1933: East's **first cheerleading squad**, all boys.



1934: Artist Hugh Weller paints mural of "Marco Polo's Journey to China" in the Library as part of the "New Deal" during the Great Depression.



1943: **Angelus Yearbook** appears in paperback, reflecting tight budgets in the midst of **World War II**. East community supports war efforts including bond drives.



1945: **War Memorial** plaque installed in second floor hallway honoring students lost in battle in both WWI and WWII. The Memorial now includes names of East veterans killed in the Korean War and Vietnam War.



1945: East **student clubs** flourish under the official charter program, including Seraph Sisters honor society, White Jackets pep club, Pre-Law, Pre-Med, Hi-Y, Euclidian, Art, Drama, Music, Debate, Spanish, "D" Club for lettering athletes.

1946: Carl Schweiger Award given every year from 1946-1967, recognizes the outstanding athlete of each year: academic achievement, athletic excellence, and character.



1948: "East High School General Education, Guidance, and Counseling Program" standardizes academic curriculum for incoming students.



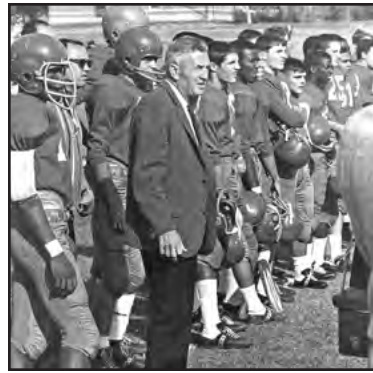
1950: **East Past and Present, 1875-1950**, history volume published by faculty and students to commemorate the **Diamond Jubilee 75th Anniversary** of East High School. Thousands of alumni, faculty, students, and community officials attend.

1952: East's large "E" installed in front circle drive.

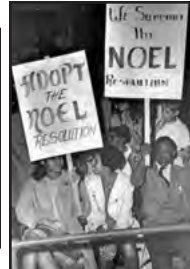


1952: East High star track athlete **Jerome Biffle** (Class of 1946) wins the Gold Medal in the long jump competition in the Helsinki Olympics. Biffle later becomes a member of East's faculty and college counselor.

1960: Overcrowding spurs construction of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln High Schools, leading to greater racial diversity at East.



1960s Athletics: East Angels repeatedly take state Championships in multiple sports under **Head Coach Pat Panek**.



1968: Denver School Board member Rachel Noel introduces the "Noel Resolution," to provide equal opportunity for all school children regardless of race or neighborhood.



1968: Principal Robert Colwell establishes East's first **Afro-American History** class taught by Regis Groff; Innovative **Senior Seminar** program provides alternative educational experiences and flourishes into the 1970s.



1970: **Earth Day at East:** Students gather trash to demonstrate care for the environment

1973-4: **Keyes v. School District Number 1:** Supreme Court decision mandating busing to integrate DPS, challenges unequal educational opportunities due to *de facto* segregation.



1974: **East/Manual Complex** encourages desegregation of Manual High School and new academic opportunities for students at both schools.



1974: Federal law under **Title IX** promotes equal access to athletics for men and women — leading to proliferation of **girls' sports teams** at East, including basketball, lacrosse, soccer, and swimming.

1982: **Panek Gymnasium** annex completed.



1983: **Girls Soccer Team** first East women's team to win a state championship, followed by state wins for girls track in 1984 and 1985.



1988: **Constitutional Scholars** program begins a long tradition of state and national championships thereafter.



1989: **East High Tower History Museum** is established by the newly formed Alumni and Friends of East in the clock tower, displaying treasures, photos, yearbooks, newspapers, and archives dating back to the 1870s.

1991: Denver Landmark Commission and the Denver City Council designate East High as an official **Denver Landmark**.



1996 and 1999: East wins state **Basketball Championship** for first time in decades under coach Rudy Carey (Class of 1970).

2000s: Historic preservation projects to restore the East Library, Auditorium, and Front Entryway are completed.

2005: East High is listed on the **National and State Register of Historic Places**.

2005: Veteran East teacher Richard Nelson publishes *Flights of Angels: A History of Denver East High School, 1874-2004*.

2007: **East High Athletic Hall of Fame** established.



2008: **East High Alumni Heritage Hall** inaugurated with 30 distinguished alumni inductees from all walks of life and all generations, followed by inductions in 2010, 2013, 2016, and 2022 — with a total of 93 inductees currently as of 2025.

2025: **East High School Celebrates 150th Anniversary and Building Centennial.**



Class of 1969 Reunion, Tower Museum

Dan Mohrman/ColoradoPreps.com

Rocky Mountain News Photo Collection

Keyes Case - Denver Post

Heritage Hall Inauguration 2008