



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXXVII, No. 2

SPRING 2021

## A Glowing Success

We are sometimes asked how the students who have received TAA scholarships have fared with their academic and career pursuits. We looked no farther than to Assistant Principal, Academic Center Coordinator, and TAA Faculty Liaison Ryan Glowacz. "Glow", as students affectionately call him, is a 2002 Taft graduate and scholarship recipient. We had a few questions for him:



Photo by Taft Student Ella Ridge

### **1. Following graduation from Taft, what was your path through higher education?**

Following graduation from Taft I attended Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, IL. I graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Secondary Education and History. After student teaching at Deerfield High School, I returned to

Chicago Public Schools first as

a substitute teacher and then as a full-time teacher at Taft in 2011. I taught History at Taft from 2011 - 2017 and was Taft's Athletic Director from 2014 - 2018. In 2017 I earned a Master's in Educational Leadership from Concordia University in River Forest, IL. In 2017 I also started as the Academic Center Director (Taft's 7th and 8th grade program) and in 2018 I made the transition to Assistant Principal, maintaining a strong role with Athletics and Extracurriculars as well as the Academic Center. When the Taft Freshman Academy opened in 2019, I was named one of two administrators responsible for the day-to-day operations of the new campus. I am currently enrolled at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) as I work toward an EdD in Urban Education Leadership.

### **2. How were you led full circle back to Taft?**

I have two younger sisters who also went to Taft and during my time in college I would visit Taft to attend their softball games or other events. My visits back to Taft gave me perspective on how special a place it is. As I considered where I wanted to start my career my mind increasingly

came back to Taft, and that is what I set my sights on. As a student at Taft, I would often pass by the trophy cases near the gym and wonder what Taft must have been like when it was regarded as the jewel of the northwest side. My time as a teacher and administrator at Taft has been motivated by Taft's past success and a desire to help make it the best neighborhood school in Chicago.

### **3. How does today's school life (pre-pandemic) at Taft compare with your own experience 15 years earlier?**

The Taft of today looks very different from when I graduated in 2006. The story I like to tell is of my CTA bus ride to school each morning. I would get on the bus at Austin and Eastwood Ave, and when I started as a Freshman in 2002, I was the last student to board. No student north of Eastwood Ave got on the bus as it turned up Nagle Ave, which provides a glimpse into how Taft was not really a neighborhood school at that time. By the time I graduated in 2006 I was the first student to get on the bus each morning, living at the edge of Taft's attendance boundary. As we headed north the bus would crowd with students from the neighborhood, and this trend has continued over the last 15 years. In 2006 Taft was a school of about 1,800 students who wore uniforms each day and won one city championship during my four years. Since then, we have grown to a school of 4,000 students spread out over two campuses. We have the largest percentage of students attending their neighborhood high school in Chicago, and this is at the center of our improvement as a school. Taft is at the center of our community on the northwest side, and families are moving into the neighborhood to attend Taft. We send our students to almost every Big Ten school, and the Ivy League is also home to our Eagles.

### **4. What has been the greatest challenge brought on by the pandemic?**

The greatest challenge of the pandemic has been supporting students from a social and emotional standpoint. If the pandemic has taught me anything it is that High School students need social interaction, and one of the most important things we can do is help students find a way to connect with other students at Taft. It has been difficult to see many of our students struggle during this time, and I am most looking forward to our halls being filled with clubs, sports, and other extracurriculars after the pandemic is over.

TAA will award three \$1,000 scholarships to this year's senior class. Seniors will be able to find instructions and application forms on the TAA web site and to submit the forms online, applicants will need to obtain recommendations from at least one teacher, but there is more leeway because of the remote learning situation.

## Messages from our Members

So look forward to read about what's happening at Taft. Thanks to all who keep it going.

Gayle (Schroeder) Meisner, Jun '55

Thanks for all you do!

Terry Long, Jun '65

Thank you for your service. Enjoy the newsletter.

Joan (Schwarek) Orr, Jun '49

I am honored to enclose my check for a membership for my friend Mike Molay. It is a gift for Mike, and I told him about it. Thank you for providing us with this beautiful newsletter. Even on the toughest day during this pandemic, reading this letter brings a smile to my face and a lifetime of memories. My best to you always. Go Eagles!

Bill Schalk, Jan '60

What a great idea! Really enjoyed viewing your [online newsletter] presentation! It's my first contact with the email showing.

Alice (Taylor) Edwards, Jan '53

Thank you again for all the work that goes into this publication to keep our Taft alumni updated and connected! Our class of 1969 continues to keep our classquest.com website active and connected and plan on doing so for minimally, the next 3-4 years until our next reunion (we are trying to have one every five years), and hopefully, beyond. If any other alumni wish to create a similar website, we will be happy to assist and advise them. It has been a great source of reconnections and communication with old friends! Alumni can simply send a message to vsosno1@aol.com if they would like more information. Thanks again for the hard work of the team who puts the Taft newsletter together every quarter!

Valerie (Stewart) Sosnowski. 1969

Thank you for keeping the Taft Alumni Association going in these difficult Covid times. Hopefully, we can get activities going when things get somewhat back to normal.

Paul Frizane, Jun '67

I was surprised to see that Farnsworth, the elementary school I graduated from, is no longer listed as feeding into Taft. Do they go to Schurz now? I decided to try to find out on my own. Wow, I am so glad I no longer live in Chicago. I discovered there is this selection program to get into schools. The placement process is not perfect. If a student has a special interest and puts in a request at a school that welcomes students with those interests, he won't be guaranteed a seat or chair - a term used in the explanation of how this program works. If the student is one of ten who applies and the school has only seven chairs available, three applying will not make the cut.

I walked west on Bryn Mawr to Taft. I lived on Parkside Avenue one block west of Central. There was vacant land all around and we could see all the way to Elston Avenue from our backyard. There was a stable there and rodeos during the summer. Later Hill Behan Lumber Company bought the property and then when I sold my family home in 1998 there was a bus depot where the lumbar/hardware store had been. My parents bought the lot our house was built on - 60' frontage. Lots of room for gardens, etc. Looking at the stats on the neighborhood on Farnsworth website, things have changed a lot.

When I was a freshman at Taft, I started my school day around noon and was out at 5 p.m. The school was crowded. Our football games were played at Lane Tech. I was back for the school's 50th anniversary which was fun. And attended my 50th class reunion. I keep in touch almost daily with a high school friend, Joanne (Dass) Black. We go back to the first day of school when we were freshman, both helping in the counseling office. During the pandemic and both being widows, we Facetime daily. Her deceased husband Donald Black graduated in 1950. My husband died on 11/2/2020 from a fast-moving case of lung cancer. But Joanne and I agree that we had long wonderful marriages and have great kids and grandkids so we can't complain.

I was surprised at how much news there was about those who graduated in the 1950s. We are still around and kicking. In my last hard copy of Ohio University's alumnae magazine there was nothing from the 1950s and I've been meaning to write and say we are still out here.

Myra (Andres) Fisher, Jun '51

*The article referenced in the last newsletter was based on local grade schools in the Taft area which already had the most enrollments for next year but not the only ones. Farnsworth is still a Taft feeder school. More grade schools were added to our feeder areas when Dr. Tarvardian was principal, which is why the freshman academy is within Taft's expanded attendance area.*

*There were times in the 1950s and 1960s before additions were built, when the Board of Education readjusted boundaries so students who could reach the Milwaukee Avenue bus line and ride all the way to Schurz, but those were restored to Taft years ago.*

*There are magnet high schools, like Whitney Young west of the Loop and Northwest College Prep on the Northeast Side, which have required special enrollment tests and percentages. There are new discussions on how that process will evolve next year and encourage diversity.*

*There are neighborhood high schools like Taft which added special academic offerings like the Naval Junior ROTC program. Taft was given an opportunity to start its seventh and eighth grade academic center and added an International Baccalaureate component which, over time, is available to all its grades. These provide an IB-based curriculum, similar to the honors curriculum from your years. Taft and its neighborhoods have a wider diversity as well.*

*The COVID pandemic and state health restrictions kept Chicago high schools operating on remote learning for over a year, and teachers waited for vaccines to be available before returning to in-class learning.*

*Anne Lunde, TAA President*

Thanks for your note back on my computer—at almost no love for that thing, it does come in handy. I will be 83 in a couple of months, hate the computer, still hunt deer, pheasants, ducks, and geese in Canada. Weight is good, too, so not much to complain about. I will mail the “1955 The Eagle” book to you today. Still do not know how I got it.

I only went to Taft for two years, junior and senior. Prior to that, seven other schools due to my father’s job in retail. I am #1 of 5 boys, all of them grads of Taft—Dave, Bill, Allen, and Joe.

Tom Tubbs, Jun ‘56

Thanks for all your continued work.

Chris (Wojtowicz) Batalden, Jun ‘61

**Congratulations to Jill (June 63) and Warren (Jan 61) Schimpff, both installed into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame, on the 130th Anniversary of Schimpff’s Confectionery!**

## Remembering the “Grease” Years

With Grease turning 50 this year, the latest Newsletter asked for memories of Taft experiences from the late 50's and early 60's. Here's input from my Taft years of 1954-1958. Forgive my wordiness or if I've violated anyone's privacy.

Their colorful jackets identified two Pink Ladies in my home division: Rosie Scimeca and Kathy Sebbly. Word was that you treated them with respect or perhaps face Greaser consequences.

Songs by a trio of Taft girls, the LoCaDos (Lois, Caron, and Donna), had this Nerd dreaming of finding a high school sweetheart.

Mixed Chorus practiced in a third-floor room facing the back courtyard. No A/C so the large windows were opened on warmer days. Before Director Mrs. Erst arrived, many from the Bass section sat on the sill with their backs toward the outside; when Mrs. Erst came in, she'd always move them to chairs, for safety reasons. One hot day prior to Erst's arrival, a Bass snuck down to the courtyard and laid flat on the ground below the window. As Erst entered, she was excitedly informed that a singer had fallen. As she rushed off to the courtyard, the prone Bass was signaled to return to the Chorus room via another route. When Director Erst got back to practice, there sat the entire Bass section in their chairs, including the very healthy, uninjured Jim Hoppe. Knowing the nature of her Bass singers, she forgave them, but not immediately.

Another Mixed Chorus incident involved yours truly. Concert time was fast approaching, and practices weren't going well—plenty of tension. We were to perform the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "The Messiah". At one point in that song, the Tenors must reach for a note way at the top of their register. Coming to that spot, Tenors would draw in all the air they could and go for it. Just as I did, the Tenor next to me, angelic Rich Melbye, leaned over and whispered in my ear, "I can never hit that ###!###! Note." All my inhaled air came out as loud, uncontrolled laughter which brought practice to a halt. Mrs. Erst asked me to share with her and the entire chorus what was so funny. Told her I couldn't. Got sent to the hallway where, after practice, she again asked me what was so funny. Told her again I couldn't say. Served an encore in study hall that day at the end of my schedule. But (good news) at the concert I skipped that ###!###! note and didn't break out in laughter.

In my Taft days, our baseball team was very good. Two plays stand out in my memory. The first involved our pitcher, Denny Pickett. As he wound up to pitch, a runner at third, broke for the plate. In the heat of that moment, Denny had the presence of mind to step off the rubber before throwing to the plate. By doing that, his throw to the catcher was not a pitch to the batter but a throw to a teammate trying to foil a stolen base. The batter hit at the throw and was called out for interference and the runner was sent back to third; he never did score. To this day, I am still amazed at Denny's ability to concentrate on making the right play in that tense moment.

The other play occurred in a game with our archrival, Lane Tech. They had a speedy spark plug of a player nicknamed "Shotgun" Becker. With one out and Becker on third, Lane's batter nailed a deep (emphasis deep) flyball to center. Our outfielder, Jerry Meyer, made the catch and, with Becker tagging and heading home to

score, he unloaded a tremendous throw to our catcher, Kenny Eeles, who caught the ball and tagged out Becker all in one motion. Double play on two super efforts by Meyer and Eeles to end the game and preserve the win for Taft.

My last story involves Senior Prom. Anita Schoessling was a lovely girl with a deep, husky voice and a load of personality. In my senior year I dated her but so did other guys. I really wanted her to be my prom date but, fearing a turn-down, hesitated to ask her. Finally, with the big night fast approaching, at the end of a date on her front porch, I asked her...and she said yes! Overjoyed, I let out a loud whoop probably heard by all her neighbors on Circle Avenue. In an instant, the porch light went on quickly followed by Mr. S fearing for the safety of his daughter. As Anita explained to him what happened, I sheepishly exited stage left and went home. But I can tell you this without reservation, no guy at my senior prom was happier than me!

Now in my eighties, I sometimes can't remember some of what happened yesterday, but amazingly to me, names and details of Taft experiences from over 60 years ago remain happily etched in my memory. Go Taft Go!

Dennis Duszak, Jan '58

We, the Classes of 1960 and 1961, could have written all about our every-day fives at Taft High School and our neighborhoods if we had the imagination to think it was so special. We lived the walk and loved the adventures. I attended most of the sock hops, leaving our shoes at the door. How did we find the right pair when we left? We had dances where the girls invited the boys and paid for the tickets and dinner, all really dressy. I was on the committee for one dance when my father located a water fountain. We put dry ice into the base to create a cloudy atmosphere. It was a learning—and successful—experience I will never forget. What fun! Great memories! Thanks for the great newsletter. Note: TAC was our 16-girl member club. I still have the jacket.

Marjory Weiler, Jun '61

Although I do not qualify for the "Grease" age group, something interesting has happened. On Wednesday night of this week, the movie "Grease" was shown at our independent living facility. Because I had never seen the musical or the movie, even though I knew it was written by a Taft Graduate, I decided it was time that I see it. It was fun! Would you believe, the very next day I received the Taft Alumni Newsletter with the Grease to Turn 50 article. I just had to tell you about it.

My memories about Taft at this time consist of two special teachers. Margaret Grant was a math teacher and my homeroom teacher. With her guidance I took college prep courses, attended NISTC and became a math teacher.

I was the first member of our extended family to even go to college. The other teacher was Florence Devenish, my home ec teacher. She became my very best and closest friend until her death ten years ago at age 102.

My four years at Taft were a very special and happy time.

Bernadetter (Gucwa) Becker, Jun '50

## Taft Foundation Dissolves

The Chicago Board of Education legal department and the William Howard Taft Foundation reached a settlement in a legal case which dated to the Board of Education filing an injunction against the WHT Foundation to stop the group's fundraiser in October 2019. According to a published report in the Nadig Newspapers, the settlement included the foundation transferring its remaining funds to the Board of Education.

The WHT Foundation was planning to recognize its fourth annual set of alumni and other individuals with awards at an area restaurant.

The WHT Foundation is not related to the Taft Alumni Association, which has presented its own Alumni Hall of Fame (TAA) awards since 1989. The TAA honors, awarded every three years, were presented at Taft High School on October 12, 2019.

## Reopening of Chicago Public Schools

The Chicago Public Schools has posted on their website the following update on the safe reopening of schools:

*April 16: Welcoming students back on Monday*

*Dear CPS Colleagues, Families, and Supporters,*

*Monday, April 19, marks the beginning of the fourth quarter, and we are excited to welcome tens of thousands of elementary and high school students back to the classroom. As of Monday, all students from pre-k through 12th-grade who want to learn in person will be able to do so. This milestone has been more than a year in the making and is truly a cause for celebration.*

*We thank our partners at the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) for working with the district to reach an agreement that will allow us to safely reopen our schools. We understand, however, that moving past the pandemic will require even more substantial resources, and we look forward to sharing the district's plan to ensure all students, staff, and families have what they need to heal from the past year and move forward toward a brighter future.*

*We thank you for your continued support and patience.*

Comprehensive information may be found on the CPS website here: <https://www.cps.edu/school-reopening/updates-and-faq/community-updates/#apr162021>

## Dress Code (In-Person Learning)

Alumni who may have attended Taft during years of stricter code enforcement might be interested in today's dress code at Taft:



While we encourage individuality and self-expression among students, we are also in an educational setting that requires students to come to school dressed within certain limits.

The Deans or Administration will determine the appropriateness of clothing

worn by students.

- Dress slacks or khakis, jeans, sweatpants/joggers, leggings, yoga pants, skirts, shorts or shorts may be worn.
- Items may not be transparent or reveal any undergarments (bras, briefs, etc.).
- Head coverings (hats, visors, headbands, bandanas, scarves, etc.) are generally permitted. For security reasons, however, wearing hoods is NOT permitted when in the school.
- Suggestive, abusive, inappropriate language or designs, or language that includes put-downs (i.e., I'm with Stupid, etc.) or hate-speech may not be worn.
- Clothing or jewelry that projects violence, drugs or sexual innuendo or represents gang affiliation are inappropriate. This includes any items with references to alcohol, tobacco or weapons.

### OUT OF DRESS CODE

Students not adhering to the dress code will be sent to the Deans' Office and will be required to change into a Taft shirt or pants until the end of the day. At that time, they can return the Taft item(s) in exchange for their own clothing. Students returning damaged Taft clothing will be charged a fee. An alternative option would be for the student to call a

parent and have appropriate clothing dropped off at the school.

Please note: Students who fail to follow a school's dress code or uniform policy may be given detentions or excluded from extracurricular activities but may not be barred from attending class.

## LSC Ticker Tape

Taft has just acquired a 12 passenger van for teams and clubs to use for games, meets, and competitions.....Plans are underway to have a refreshment/souvenir sales building under or next to the bleachers.....A new first floor locker room for use of sports teams when there are competitions is in planning stages.....Under consideration is the "Jim Jacobs Little Theater" in part of the Graven Learning Center.....Upgrades are coming to the school's website.....Taft 2021 fall enrollment is expected to reach 4,250, with anticipation that by 2024 Taft will have the highest CPS high school enrollment.

### *Are you proud of your background at Taft?*

*Would you like to help future Taft graduates as they start into the world? Individuals, groups of friends or reunion classes are welcome to make tax-deductible donations to TAA's scholarship fund; memorials to classmates are also welcome.*

*Please contact TAA at [eagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org) or write to Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185.*

## Lost Classmates

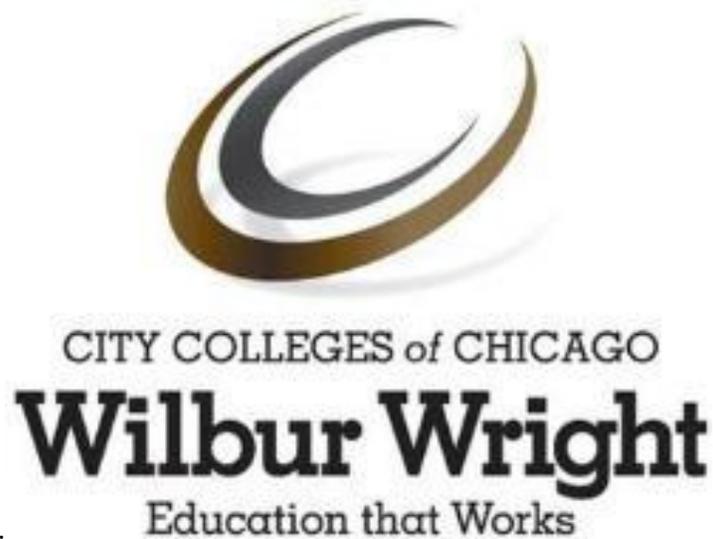


Looking for someone? For a donation of \$5 the TAA will print your request here. If the classmate you are looking for, or another person responds, we'll provide them with your contact information so that they may contact you.

## Student News



Six Taft Visual Arts students were offered Scholarship Awards totaling over \$656,000.00 for their art portfolios in the Illinois High School Art Exhibition (IHSAA).



Wright College has announced the winners of their 2021 Black History Month Writing Contest who include several Taft students:

- First Place: Nadeen Abutaleb
- Second Place: Tsion Immanuel
- Third Place: Rosalvo Brito & Natalia Sandoval
- Honorable Mention: Madeline Garcia, Melaney Chavez, & Fernando Hernandez



All Taft students are invited to join Inspovation Club, a new club focused on promoting student mental health and well-being! The club will strive to build a community in which students are able to connect, share their experiences, and educate others on the importance of mental health.

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT**



Senior Catherine Herrera has placed first in the Illinois Poetry Out Loud competition. She advances to the national level on May 2.

State champions will be divided into three regions of approximately 18 students each. Each region will have its own semifinal competition. The top three competitors from each semifinal will proceed to the National Finals competition on Thursday, May 27, which will consist of nine competitors

## Class Notes



### 40s

**Ruth (Lehmann) Smith** (Jun 1943) has 1 child, lives in Park Ridge, IL, is a retired vice president of insurance admin.

**Eileen (Kasch) Monday** (Jun 1946) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, lives in Wauconda, IL, is a retired secretary.

**Sheldon Mehr** (Jan 1949) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Los Angeles, CA, UCLA BA Music, Educ, Cal State U MA '59, is a music educator, says he's "still upright, although my 89 years think otherwise!"

**Joan (Schwarek) Orr** (Jun 1949) has 4 children, lives in Palm Desert, CA, is a retired commercial and industrial realtor.

**Richard Lally** (Jun 1951) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Edgerton, WI, Chicago Tech; US Army 2 years (Korea), is retired.

### 50s

**Carol (Fickett) Klapmeier** (Jun 1952) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Green Valley, AZ, is a retired nursing home administrator.

**Jake Jacobsen** (Jan 1953) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, lives in Leawood, KS, BS, is retired from Hallmark Cards, Inc.

**Janet (Anderson) Mills** (Jan 1953) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Lilburn, GA, Iowa St U BS '57, ISU Ed Cert '69, is a retired teacher for Montgomery Co MD Public Schools.

**June Sandahl** (Jan 1953) lives in Santa Clara, CA, is retired.

**Robert Yates** (Jun 1954) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Huntley, IL, is retired.

**Gayle (Schroeder) Meisner** (Jun 1955) married **Wallie Meisner (deceased)** (Jan 1954), has 5 children, 11 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, lives in Hayward, WI, Madison General School of Nursing, is a retired RN, winters in Rio Verde, Arizona.

**Paul Neuhauser** (Jan 1956) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in South Barrington, IL, UI BS Bus '60, DePaul U MBA '67, US Army Reserves 1960-1966, is a retired RTA audit manager (20 years) and Treasury law enforcement agent/manager (24 years).

**D Patrick Raetzman** (Jun 1957) has 4 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in San Diego, CA, UI BS '61, George Washington U MS '78, US Navy 20 years submariner, is retired.

**John Schmidt** (Jun 1958) lives in Chicago, IL, B.Ed '62; M.Ed '65, is the retired UID Assoc Dir of Admissions.

**Dorothy Engels** (Jun 1959) lives in Chicago, IL, Drake U BFA '63, is a retired UAL flight attendant.

### 60s

**Richard Swanson** (Jan 1960) has 1 child, lives in Liverpool, NY, IIT BS Math '64, NEIU MA Math Edu '68, OSU PhD Math Edu '72, is a retired author, mathematics education professor and supervisor.

**Martha (England) Woodman** (Jan 1960) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Verona, WI, is a retired daycare teacher, is a widow whose husband was a 28 year Navy veteran.

**Michael Molay** (Jun 1960) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Des Plaines, IL, IU BS '64; Ill College of Podiatric Medicine DPM '68, is a retired doctor of podiatric medicine.

**James Nierman** (Jun 1960) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Huntley, IL, is a retired data processing manager.

**Gene Phillip** (Jun 1960) lives in Great Falls, VA, IIT BSEE; US Air Force 1967-1971, is a retired US Government program manager and engineer, became a widower in 2018 after 47 years of marriage.

**Paul Verisario** (Jun 1960) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Inverness, IL, Northwestern U BA '68, Corporal US Army, medic, is a retired insurance owner, past president of Illinois Independent Insurance Agents State Assoc. 2001-2002; served 24 years on their board of directors.

**Steve Regopoulos** (Jan 1961) has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, UIC BS Phys ED/Soc '69, 2 years Arch Eng; Real Estate Inst AA '75, is a real estate developer, is writing a book titled "Truth+Order+Love...My Life's Journey to Seek the Will of God".

**Christine (Wojtowicz) Batalden** (Jun 1961) has 6 children, 17 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, Wright Jr College, McHenry County College, is retired.

**Conrad Stoll** (Jun 1961) married **Janet Knoll** (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Wheaton, IL, AS '63, BS '66, OD '67, is a retired optometrist.

**Marilyn (Prochaska) Copeland** (Jun 1962) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Tampa, FL, NIU AA, is retired.

**Nancy Ruhlow** (Jun 1962) lives in Couderay, WI, MS Guidance +70 hours, is a retired teacher (32 years), has volunteered for Hayward Community Food Shelf for 12 years as purchaser and inventory manager.

**Susan Schmid** (Jun 1962) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Downers Grove, IL, is retired, attended Taft for three years, transferred and graduated from Maine Township HS in Park Ridge.

**Janet Stoll** (Jun 1962) married **Conrad Stoll** (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Wheaton, IL, is a retired office manager.

**Lee Schurter** (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Thousand Oaks, CA, is retired.

**Michael Parquette** (Jun 1964) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, 1 great grandchild, lives in Wonder Lake, IL, US Army '65-'67, is a retired field operations manager with Ameritech.

**Richard Anderson** (Jan 1965) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Telecomm technical training; US Army '66-'68 active, is retired from telecommunications.

**Terry Long** (Jun 1965) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, lives in Waterford, WI, US Army helicopter pilot Vietnam 1968-71; UICC BSIE '73, is a retired engineer, enjoys bicycle riding.

**Christine (Motzny) Nelson** (Jun 1965) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Elk Grove, CA, Loyola BSN '69, is a retired RN.

**Judy (Swanson) Stone** (Jan 1966) has 3 stepchildren, 6 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Twin Lakes, WI, MA Curriculum Instruction, is a retired teacher, started the Walworth County Literacy Council.

**Gary Andersen** (Jun 1966) lives in Palatine, IL, NEIU BA; USMC 1968-69 with 4 combat citations, is retired and a part time instructor for NU for 20 years and married at the age of 46.

**Lynne (Lyle) Backer** (Jan 1967) lives in Barrington, IL, NIU BSE '70, MSE '72, is a retired author and educator, enjoys travel, DAR member and USO volunteer.

**Sue (Oenning) Halihan** (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 3 stepchildren, 13 grandchildren, lives in Sleepy Hollow, IL, Harper College AA Nurs '81, is a retired RN.

**Bonnie (Brooks) Lopez** (1968) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Westminster, CO, is retired, looking to rent a place in Arizona or Nevada from Jan-Mar 2022.

**Michaeline (Tworek) Wong** (1968) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Silver Spring, MD, BS Art and Humanities, is retired from the printing industry.

**Leroy Nega** (1969) married **Judy Jacobsen** (1970), has 1 child, 2 granddogs, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, US Army 1969-1972, is retired.

## 70s

**Jerry Herreweyers** (1970) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, lives in San Diego, CA, BS Computer Eng '74, MS EE '81, is a retired product manager.

**Judy Jacobsen** (1970) married **Leroy Nega** (1969), has 1 child, 2 granddogs, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, is retired, is currently an Illinois-Arizona snowbird.

**Micki (Bonnivier) Knight** (1970) married **Edward Knight** (1970), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg, IL, is retired, celebrated 50 years of marriage.

**Edward Knight** (1970) married **Michelle Bonnivier** (1970), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg, IL, is retired, celebrated 50 years of marriage.

**Ed Piper** (1970) married **Marianne Speciale** (1970), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Mundelein, IL, is self-employed.

**Marianne (Speciale) Piper** (1970) married **Ed Piper** (1970), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Mundelein, IL, is retired.

**Sheryl (Schmidt) Pierce** (1971) lives in Hot Springs Village, AR, Wright Jr College, is an office administrator, loves living in the Village (30 years), a golfers and fishing paradise; received both Covid shots and is ready to travel.

**Roger Slaboch** (1971) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Sacramento, CA, Monmouth College BA Bus Admin '75; UC Davis, is a retired certified credit executive.

**Nancy Stevens** (1972) lives in Clearwater, FL, UI BS '77, U South FL MA '89, is a retired teacher and guidance counselor, loves retirement; has been a docent at the James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art in St. Pete, Florida for 3 years.

**Brian Kula** (1973) lives in Chicago, IL.

**Michael Kaage** (1974) has 2 children, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is newspaper distributor, owns and operates the newsstand in Edison Park, a family business since '43.

**Linn (Joyce) Silvers** (1976) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Chicago, IL, NIU BA '98, is retired.

## 80s

**Linda Pempek** (1988) lives in Park Ridge, IL, is a customer service rep.



[www.facebook.com/Taft-Alumni-Association](http://www.facebook.com/Taft-Alumni-Association)

[www.taftalumni.org](http://www.taftalumni.org)



[www.tafthighschool.org](http://www.tafthighschool.org)



## In Our Memories



We are sorry to announce the death of **Arlene (Laufer) Ware** of Mundelein, IL, Class of June 1960, who died on March 9, 2021. She, like Jim Jacobs, was a Garvy and Taft graduate in the "Grease" class. She was a long-time member of our Alumni Board and served several terms as our recording secretary. She was preceded in death by

her husband Ronald G. Ware, Class of January 1956. Arlene was an elegant lady.

**Peter G. Hastings** of Glenview, IL, died on March 25, 2021. He took over the Norwood Park and Onahan feeder schools as principal about the time Taft finished its years using Norwood Park School as a freshman branch. In 1989 when LSCs were founded they gave each school its own principal and he served Onahan till his retirement.

**Pamela J. Redmond** of Chicago, IL, died on February 28, 2021. She taught math and special education for 16 years at Taft and served as Dean of Students.

**Margaret (Marek) Neumar** of Glenview, IL, Class of June 1943, died on February 13, 2021. She was preceded in death by her sisters Adeline Marek, Class of June 1940, Emily (Marek) Budnik, Class of June 1940, Lillian (Marek) Posanka, Class of January 1942, and by her brother Phil Marek, Class of June 1942.

**Florence Patricia (Forney) Kelley**, Class of February 1946, died date unknown. Her brothers James, Class of June 1943, Robert, Class of June 1944, and William, Class of June 1951, are also deceased.

**Erwine "Wayne" Fickett** of Des Plaines, IL, Class of June 1947, died on December 17, 2020. He is survived by his sister Carol (Fickett) Klapmeier, Class of June 1952.

**Richard Oren Klemm** of Crystal Lake, IL, Class of January 1950, died on March 22, 2010. He was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate, and an inductee into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame.

**Walter Theodore Meisner** of Hayward, WI, Class of January 1954, died in November 2020. He is survived by his wife, Gayle (Schroeder) Meisner, Class of June 1955.

**Norma (Gotz) Shaw** of Huntley, IL, Class of June 1954, died on February 21, 2021. She is survived by her sister Diane (Gotz) Raniere, and brother Gregg Gotz.

**Helene Therese (Bakula) Ervin** of Armagosa Valley, NV, Class of January 1961, died on March 10, 2021. She was preceded in death by her twin sister Darlene (Bakula) Hastings, Class of January 1961, and is survived by her brother Robert Bakula, Class of June 1967.

**Joseph James "Jim" Egan** of Fort Myers, FL, Class of June 1961, died on February 21, 2021.

**Arlene (Rolnicki) Janke** of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1962, died in April 2021. She is survived by her husband Donald Janke, Class of January 1965.

**Darryll Keith Samborski** of Schaumburg, IL, Class of June 1962, died on March 30, 2021. He is survived by his wife Mary (Papciak) Samborski, Class of June 1961. He was preceded in death by his brother Randall Samborski, Class of June 1967.

**Wayne Stolle**, Class of June 1962, died on November 2, 2014. He was preceded in death by his sister Sharon (Stolle) Smith, Class of January 1961, and is survived by his brother Ronald Stolle, Class of June 1966. Their father, State Rep. Hellmut Stolle was a local baker and ran the Golden Wheel Derby bike races in Norwood Park.

**Veronica M. Kemblowski** of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1966, died on January 25, 2021. She is survived by her sisters Mary (Kemblowski) Berg, Class of 1968, and Julie Kemblowski, Class of 1980.

**Craig John Tomas**, Class of January 1967, died in August 2009. **Gregory Scott Anderson**, Class of June 1967, died on February 1, 1981.

**Thomas Vincent Butler**, Class of 1968, died on February 21, 2021. He was an All-Star pitcher for Taft.

**Donald Raymond Krawczak** of Palatine, IL, Class of 1969, died in April 2021. He is survived by his twin brother Dennis Krawczak, Class of 1969, with whom he ran the M.J. Suerth Funeral Home in Edison Park.

**Barbara Ann Burkland**, Class of 1972, died in 1976. She is survived by her brother Douglas Burkland, Class of 1969.

**Margaret Therese "Margie" O'Connor** of Harwood Heights, IL, Class of 1973, died on January 7, 2021.

**Michael Grady**, Class of 1978, died on June 1, 1977.

**John Greenan**, Class of 1978, died on January 14, 1978.

**Curt Edward Carlson**, Class of 1978, died on December 14, 2007.

**John Michael Curtin**, Class of 1978, died on August 28, 2018.

**Mary Catherine Russell**, Class of 1978, died on February 15, 2019.

**Barbara Ann (Bergman) Shammus**, Class of 1978, died on January 20, 2020.

**Tina (Karras) Mantis**, Class of 1982, died in February 2019. She is survived by her sisters Chris Karras, MD, Class of 1983, Roula (Karras) Abajian, Class of 1986, and Jacqueline (Karras) Mathews.

## Taft Alumni Association Merchandise

Qty	Item	Specifics	Price Each	Total Price
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	Medium	\$25.00	\$
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	Large	\$25.00	\$
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	X-Large	\$25.00	\$
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	XX-Large	\$25.00	\$
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	XXX-Large	\$25.00	\$
	Baseball Cap—blue embroidered “Taft Alumni” with full-color eagle	One Size Fits All	\$15.00	\$
	Car Sticker—clear printed in blue/gray “You Can’t Hide That Eagle Pride”	----	\$ 3.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	Medium	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	Large	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	X-Large	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	XX-Large	\$12.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	XXX-Large	\$12.00	\$
	Jacket, Fleece – embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	Medium	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket, Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket, Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	X-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket, Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	XX-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket, Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	XXX-Large	\$40.00	\$
<b>Shipping and Handling:</b> Stickers only = \$1.00, all other orders = \$8.00				\$
<i>Total Remitted</i>				\$
Name (please print):		Grad Month/Year:		
Address:				
City/State/ZIP:		Phone: (     )		
<p><b>Send check or money order (no cash please) with completed order form to:  Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185  Please use a separate order form for separate addresses.</b></p>				

*Taft Alumni Association*  
**Membership Application**

Please tell us as much about yourself as you like so that we can share your news in the *Class Notes*.  
Only fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required for membership. We will not publish your address or phone number.

**About You**

**No changes**

*First Name (PLEASE PRINT)	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name	
*Home Street Address	*City	*State	*ZIP
Primary Phone	Email Address		<b>List in Email Directory</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
*Month/Year You Graduated	Number of Children _____ Children, _____ Grandchildren, _____ Great Grandchildren, _____ Great Greats?		
Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Elementary School	
Other news you'd like to share?			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Do not publish my information in the Class Notes</b>

**About Your Taft Graduate Spouse**

*First Name	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name	
Primary Phone	Email Address		<b>List in Email Directory</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
*Month/Year Spouse Graduated	Number of Children (if different) _____ Children, _____ Grandchildren, _____ Great Grandchildren, _____ Great Greats?		
Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Elementary School	
Other news you'd like to share?			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Do not publish my information in the Class Notes</b>
Enclosed is a check or money order for:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 <b>2-year single membership</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 <b>2-year alumni couples' membership</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Donation in the amount of \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Send newsletter <b>online</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Send newsletter <b>by mail</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Send <b>both</b> by mail and online	

Please mail application and funds to: **Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60631-3185**

**Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors**

Anne Lunde	1969	President, Historian	Art Kay	1961	Director
John Prochaska	1961	Vice President, Treasurer	Jim Kepner	1961	Director
Wayne Schimpff	1959	Second Vice President	Judy Jacobsen	1970	Director
Marybethe (Hirth) Kelly	1978	Secretary	Paul Madsen	1971	Director
Paulette (Zemaitis) English	1967	Newsletter/Web Editor	Frank Heyer	1948	Director Emeritus
Kevin Krieger	1973	Webmaster	Ryan Glowacz	2006	Faculty Liaison

**The Taft Alumni Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Taft Alumni Association**

**Please send news, photos, and general correspondence to:**

Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185 or email to [eagleemail@taftalumni.org](mailto:eagleemail@taftalumni.org)

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
6530 W. BRYN MAWR AVE.  
CHICAGO IL 60631

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit NO. 215  
Des Plaines, IL

