

# For Alumni Of East High

January 2009

# East High Alumni Heritage Hall: Angels Making History



The Alumni Heritage Hall display is on the third floor outside of the East library.



Newly inducted "Angels" prepare to cut the ribbon on the Heritage Hall display, left to right, Anthony Ortega, Barry Hirschfeld, Philip Bailey, Allegra Haynes, Marilyn Van Derbur Atler and Norman Augustine.

# Gala Events Celebrate Inaugural Induction Of 30 Distinguished Alumni

A crowd of "Angels Making History" assembled on September 18 and 19, 2008, for two gala events celebrating the long-anticipated inauguration of the East High Alumni Heritage Hall. Hundreds of students, alumni, parents, faculty, and community supporters gathered for an elegant gala banquet at the Wings over the Rockies Museum in Denver, to mark the official induction of the first 30 noteworthy alumni into the Hall.

Honorees in attendance included seven illustrious living inductees: motivational speaker Marilyn Van Derbur Atler (Class of 1955), aerospace executive Norman Augustine (Class of 1953), recording artist Philip Bailey (Class of 1969), newspaper publisher Miriam Goldberg (Class of 1934), political leader Allegra "Happy Haynes (Class of 1971), philanthropist Barry Hirschfeld (Class of 1960), and artist Anthony Ortega (Class of 1976).

Family members and fans of two other living inductees also celebrated, including Don and Bettye Cheadle, the parents of inductee Don Cheadle (Class of 1982), and Rod Grier, brother of inductee Pam Grier (Class of 1967).

Also on hand were descendants of many of the remaining historical (deceased) inductees. An allschool assembly followed the next morning, where six living inductees shared words of wisdom with an exuberant standing-room-only crowd of more than 1,000 students, faculty, and supporters. The official "ribbon-cutting" and unveiling ceremony followed in the third floor hallway outside of the Robert Colwell library, revealing the permanent exhibit of portraits and biographies of the 30 inaugural inductees for the first time.

The landmark induction events and installation of Heritage Hall came about through the combined efforts of the Alumni and Friends of East High and the East High Angel Foundation. Dedicated activists in these organizations teamed up to raise funds, research inductee biographies, oversee the design and production of the exhibit cases, plan the induction events, and establish an official selection committee for Heritage Hall inductees. The Co-Chairs of the Host Committee, Beth Gower (Alumni and Friends of East High) and Ruth Malman (Angel Foundation), worked tirelessly to coordinate dozens of volunteers.

The East High Alumni Heritage Hall honors noteworthy alumni, from the founding of the original "Old East" in 1875, through the present. Serving as a rich educational and motivational resource, the project highlights East High's historical heritage, honors the achievements and diversity of East High graduates, and provides role models for today's students.

**Alumni And Friends Annual Meeting** Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:30 a.m. • East High Social Room **Everyone Welcome** 

**East High Angel Foundation** P.O. Box 201404 Denver, CO 80220

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Inductee Miriam Goldberg, seated center, at gala banquet with her children Charles Goldberg, left, Dorothy Goldberg Scott of Connecticut, and Rabbi Hillel Goldberg.

Completion of the first stage of the Heritage Hall project came during the summer of 2007, with the installation of two elegant quarter-sawn oak display cases by East teacher and alum Joel Noble (Class of 1986) and his talented student construction crew

The next stage of the project consisted of completing the exhibit panels for each inductee's portrait and biography inside the oak cases. Living inductees and the families of many deceased inductees provided invaluable help in this process. Research and writing of the biographies was completed by former teacher Dick Nelson (the author of the history of East Flights of Angels), and historian Marcia Goldstein. Graphic Designer Honey Lindburg and AUM Framing completed the elegant biographical panels.

Generous Heritage Hall sponsors provided funds to complete the exhibit project, as well as underwriting for the gala festivities and video production. Major sponsors included Marilyn Van Derbur Atler and Larry Atler, Lynn and Dennis Blum, Ruth Malman and Michael Opatowski, the Sneed Family Foundation, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Project Angel Pride, the East High Angel Foundation, Alumni and Friends of East High, and more than a dozen other donors. Thanks to the considerable efforts of all, Heritage Hall now stands as a visible monument that will inspire East students for generations to come.

#### **Gala Celebrates Inaugural Inductees**

The music of the East High jazz band greeted guests as they arrived at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum for the Heritage Hall gala banquet. Emcee Sheryl Renee (Class of 1980) and Principal John Youngquist welcomed the inductees and more than 300 guests. Seven living inductees and their families attended, along with many family descendants and admirers of the historical inductees.

Guests enjoyed a catered dinner while humming along with the popular recorded tunes of inductees Judy Collins and Philip Bailey, lead singer of Earth, Wind and Fire. Choir Director Will Taylor led the East High Angelaires in their interpretation of Judy Collins' "Send in the Clowns." "A Legacy of Excellence," a 25-minute video presentation honoring the inductees produced by Allen McClain (Class of 1987), provided inspiration and a vivid visual depiction of East's historical legacy.

The evening continued with a special presentation of glass trophies to each of the living inductees who were present, and to family members and descendants of inductees who were deceased. The talented Angelaires joined Sheryl Renee in a foot-stomping medley of "Earth Wind and Fire" tunes, with inductee Philip Bailey and his guests clapping along from their table in the audience.

#### **Exuberant Student Assembly Greets Inductees**

The festivities continued with an early morning standing-roomonly assembly in the East High auditorium. Principal John Youngquist and former Principal Kathy Callum introduced six living inductees to more than 1,000 cheering students. Cheers rose up as the names and photos of each of the 30 inductees appeared on the screen during the video presentation. The students offered spontaneous cheers in equal measure to relatively unknown historical inductees like Botanist Alice East-(Continued on Page 2)

#### EAST HIGH ALUMNI HERITAGE HALL **2008 INAUGURAL INDUCTEES**

Inductee 1955 Motivational Speaker Marilyn Van Derbur Atler Norman Ralph Augustine 1953 Engineer, CEO Singer and Recording Artist Elvin Caldwell, Sr. 1937 Don Cheadle 1982 Judy Collins 1957 Alice Eastwood 1879 Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. 1901 Thomas Hornsby Ferril 1914 Miriam Harris Goldberg 1934 Pam Grier 1967 General Irving Hale 1877 Allegra "Happy" Haynes Barry Hirschfeld 1971 1960 Dr. Abraham Kauvar 1931 Harold Lloyd 1911 Jenne & Ethel Magafan 1933 Hattie McDaniel 1910 Anthony Ortega 1976 Maurice Pate 1911 Antoinette Perry Frueauff 1906 General Maurice Rose 1915 Sidney Sheldon 1934 Dr. George Gaylord Simpson 1918 Justice Robert Steele, Sr., 1877 John L. "Jack" Swigert 1949 George Hebard Williamson 1893

Dr. H. Marie Wormington

Jean Joliffe Yancey

Brigadier General, U.S. Army Political Leader, Public Servant Businessman, Philanthropist Physician and Humanitarian Silent Film Actor Artists Actress Artist and Educator Civil Servant and Humanitarian Actress and Philanthropist Major General, U.S. Army Writer Paleontologist Chief Justice, Colorado Supreme Court Astronaut Architect, East High School

Archaeologist

Businesswoman

1931

1932

Civic Leader

Botanist

Actress

Actor

Actor and Humanitarian

Vocalist and Social Activist

Journalist and Poet Laureate

Newspaper Publisher

## From The Principal...

Even as the principal, many things continue to amaze me about East High School. One of them is the incredible strength of our alumni support.

The other day I walked into my local coffee shop (where my favorite barista is an Angel alumna), sat down with my cup and coincidentally met a gentleman who is proud to be the father of four East alumni. Last spring, when I walked down the main staircase of the school, I found two Angel alumni surrounded by students. One was proposing marriage to the other under the clock with a diamond and ruby ring. Last spring, while following the back to back National Champion Constitutional Law team into our nation's capital building in Washington, D.C., I



was confronted by the great sculpture of astronaut, senator and Angel Alumnus Jack Swigert. Truly, Angels are everywhere.

Our recent "Heritage Hall" celebration reinforced this fact and recognized many of our most esteemed Angels. The event also sent a strong message about our tradition of excellence to every current student and staff member. Our students learned from our alumni that greatness has been a part of the East experience from the beginning and that this greatness resides within each of them. Thank you to "Alumni and Friends," the Angel Foundation and the many parents, students and other volunteers who made our Heritage Hall experience a reality for now and into the future.

Currently our school serves 2,100 students, 60 percent of whom choose to attend East from outside of our direct attendance area. There is high demand in our community for students to be a part of the East experience. With the strength of our talented student body, we are experiencing great successes in both academics and athletics. Our Speech and Con Law teams continue to demonstrate the kind of excellence that we have come to expect in the classroom and in academic competition.

This fall, our boys Soccer team joined our back to back State Championship Basketball team in greatness, capturing our second State Championship in Soccer. And, as a result of our students' academic performance on the Colorado State Assessment Program (CSAP test), we have moved from being viewed as an "average" performing school in our state to being recognized as an "Academically High Performing" school. This is a great accomplishment that we will work hard to sustain and improve upon into the future.

As Angel alumni, you can continue to make a difference to our school and students in many ways. Your presence as an alum is known and appreciated. Please, pay attention to what's happening at your school and share in our challenges and successes. I invite you to contact me with any ideas and interests that you have regarding East. As I say to so many students every week, I'd really like to hear what you like about our school and what you think can make it an even better place for our Angels.

In life and learning,

John R. Youngquist, Principal

# East High Alumni Heritage Hall



East High Angelaires performing at Wings Over The Rockies.

(Continued from Page 1) wood (who graduated more than a century ago in 1879), and world renowned contemporary inductees like movie actor Don Cheadle.

After the students viewed the Heritage Hall video presentation, each of the inductees present addressed the crowd individually with words of inspiration. Their messages of hope and wisdom reached across generational lines. Marilyn Van Derbur Atler elicited tears and a standing ovation when she explained that love and determination could overcome even the most despicable traumas and abuses. Tony Ortega thanked his high school counselor, Olympian Jerome Biffle, for insisting that he go to college. He implored the students to avoid work they hated, and do work that they loved, as he had done with his artwork.

Barry Hirschfeld, the descendant of a long line of Denver business leaders, recommended the virtues of combining hard work with giving back to the community. Happy Haynes, who earned her place as the first African-American woman President of City Council, applauded East and its faculty for inspiring her to see community service as a lifelong goal.

Norm Augustine, who had soared to the heights of the aero-space industry at Lockheed Mar-

tin, recalled the grounding he had gained from growing up in Denver and attending the same high school as his mother. Philip Bailey stressed the hopefulness of pursuing your dream, as he had done as a high school musician who learned to sing from Marion Padboy, his East choir teacher. Bailey's soaring voice enabled him to enjoy a lifelong career in creating music for millions.

With the help of a team of enthusiastic students, six living inductees had the honor of "cutting the ribbon" to reveal the completed Heritage Hall immediately following the assembly. Observers seemed awestruck by the impressive display, as well as by the content of the alumni stories depicted.

### Thirty Inaugural Inductees Selected

The daunting process of selecting the first 30 Heritage Hall inductees fell to the generationally diverse official Selection Committee. The committee included former East High principals Jim Tracy (Class of 1950), Kathy Fisher Callum (Class of 1968), and Elizabeth Bateman Celva (Class of 1966). Current and former faculty Richard Nelson, Beth Gower, Gloria Olivier (Class of 1953), and Keith Lucero also served. Alumni representatives included Selection Committee Chair Marcia Tremmel Goldstein (Class of 1969) and Victoria Scott Haynes (Class of 1977).

The Selection Committee members carefully weighed specific induction criteria against a list of more than 100 nominees. Each potential inductee had achieved excellence in their chosen fields, and made significant lifetime contributions to community. Additionally, the selection criteria required that the inductees as a group represented the rich legacy of racial and ethnic diversity that has long defined East High. Finally, the committee ensured that the final inductees represented a broad array of professions and experiences, as well as the historical span of multiple generations of East High

In future years, additional distinguished inductees will be added through a nomination process that will be open to anyone who wishes to submit nominations. The process will include submission of biographical background materials, as well as a written description of the nominee's accomplishments, contributions to the community at large, and how the nominee's East High experience inspired a life of excellence. Due to the extensive planning and fundraising necessary for the project, inductions will take place only periodically, every two to five years. With so many distinguished alumni to choose from, the selection of future inductees promises to be quite competitive.

#### **Inductees Express Gratitude**

The inductees who were able to attend expressed profound gratitude for the honor of being inducted into the inaugural Heritage Hall

Inductee Norm Augustine remarked that "the events were truly inspiring to me. A lot of work went into organizing — and was certainly evident." He was quick to add, "What an enthusiastic bunch of students at the assembly!"

"Thank you so much for making last week's event one that Philip will treasure," remarked Philip Bailey's daughter Trinity Bailey. "It's a memorable experience and he was blessed to be a part of it."

Tony Ortega thanked the committee for the honor, and for including his family in the celebrations.

Marilyn Van Derbur Atler adamantly remarked that "addressing the students was, for me, the highlight. The assembly exemplified what Heritage Hall means to me—sharing lessons learned. I cannot remember any honor or event that has meant more to me."

For information regarding the East High Alumni Heritage Hall, or to make financial contributions to the project, please contact: Alumni and Friends of East, 1600 City Park Esplanade, Denver, CO 80206.

# East High Reunions Held In Denver During 2008

Class Of 1958

According to a write-up in the 1958 reunion booklet by Norm Covey, the class of 1958 was graduating at just about the best time possible. ..." the class of 1958 had the whole of a wonderful country and economy to move around in and take advantage, full of sweet fruit more ripe for picking than any other country in the world, in all of history, in the best of times,"

This class was born in 1940 when Hitler was on the move to dominate all of Europe and perhaps the world. World War II triggered economic growth and the rise of the United States as a world leader. These were the memories shared as a large gathering assembled in Denver.

A total of 775 Angels graduated in the class of '58. There was plenty to get involved with in 1958.

### 2009 Reunions

The class of 1959 will celebrate its 50th reunion in Denver the weekend of August 14-16, 2009. For further information contact Glen Clark at glen@ glenclarklaw.com or register your information on ancientan gels.com and with Gary Autrey at gart41@msn.com. When you register be sure to include your name, address, e-mail, phone numbers.

One could join any of the 45 clubs at East or participate in a sports program that was second to none in the state. Opportunities to join the *Spotlight* or *Angelus* staffs, the drama department, the speech team, ROTC, Seraph Sisters, White Jackets, the D Club, the Red Jackets or the award winning choral and instrumental music programs abounded.

Memories were shared when the reunion group visited East and took a tour through the building, starting with an assembly in the auditorium and then on to various sites in the building: Athletic Hall of Fame, the War Memorial, the Heritage Hall of Fame, the library and finally the tower and East High historical museum.

Alums remembered among others were: principal, Sam Waldman; class sponsors Rachel Taul and Ed Morris. Teachers who were often recalled included: Dudley Enos, John Brennan, Harry Charlesworth, Violet McCarthy, Roland Roberts, Regina DesJardins, Michael Mahonchak, Margaret Smith, Genevieve Kreiner, Helen Arnold, Dr. John Matties, Lawrence Garrett, Dominic Zarlengo and Morris Hoffman.

In the 1958 Angelus, an East High experience was likened to a mosaic. Included in that mosaic were: "a bit of knowledge gained through the curriculum and the faculty; a challenge offered by the activities program: and unforgettable evening...a bid, a corsage, a last dance and a memory, a crowd

cheering for the school, for each player to give his best; a friendship...mutual respect, shared confidences and common experiences.

Thus it is that each life is a mosaic-with elements of pleasure and sadness, but each unique and peculiar to its owner."

#### Class Of 1968

The class of 1968 had its 40th reunion thanks to the hard work of Peggy Phillips Nichalson, Bill Wright, Christine Bachman and Beth Fisher who made up the core of the reunion committee. According to Beth, "they decided to go it alone, rather than pay for the service of a reunion-organizing company."

It was not until the last week after a flurry of e-mails and Ancient Angels information started being accessed that the committee felt comfortable about a good turn out for the reunion weekend of July 11-13. The class of 1968 PR committee consisted of the core members as well as Rukiya (Ruthann) Rountree, Kathy Fisher Callum, Tom Gray, Karen Kawashima Gray, Roz Barki Nigbur, Gerie Butler Grimes, Shawn Shea, Sheryl Boone Conners and Pat Guest.

Fortunately, the Friday mixer was a success. The reunion dinner on Saturday was held at the Park Hill Golf Course and on Sunday, many alumni went to East to reminisce and tour the Tower. Those who attended had a great time.

Rukiya (Ruthann) Rountree suggested that the class of 1968 dedicate a living memorial by donating a rose garden on the East campus in honor of our Vietnam vets: Scott Grigg, Paul and Larry Strom and Stan Zurek and to memorialize our deceased classmates. With the approval of the alumni in attendance at the dinner, retired principal Kathy Callum contacted Susan Bardwell and assistant principal Wes Ashley of Project Angel Pride to initiate the rose garden. With contributions from members of the class, Project Angel Pride and East students started preparing the ground in the south courtyard in the fall and will plant the red and white roses in late spring.

The class is considering a party to celebrate the planting when it is completed. Contributions are being accepted for a maintenance fund for the rose garden. Donation checks may be made out to East High Class of 1968, and sent to Beth Fisher Woodard, 1284 Wyoming Street, Golden, CO 80403.

#### Class Of 1948 News

The Class of 1948 has given \$500 to the Alumni and Friends of East following their 60th reunion this summer. The money will be given as a scholarship to a worthy East graduate in 2009 and will bear the name of the Class of 1948.

### Spotlight For Alumni And Friends Of East High

Published by: Alumni and Friends, 1600 City Park Esplanade, Denver, CO 80206.

### Alumni Scholarship Awards 2008

One of the most rewarding programs sponsored by the Alumni and Friends of East continues to be the annual awarding of scholarships to deserving East seniors. For the 14th consecutive year the Alumni and Friends awarded scholarship dollars to 25 outstanding seniors. The long list of scholarship recipients 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 Class of 1955.

All the following recipients demonstrated remarkable academic success, participation in school and community activities, and were contributors to the spirit of East and to maintaining its strong legacy of traditions. All the students interviewed talked about the diversity of East, meaning not only the people, but choices of classes, activities, opportunities and the care and quality of teaching they experienced. It is truly enlightening and rewarding to interview all the East applicants!

Matthew Veleta received the renewable Alumni and Friends Scholarship for 2008. This \$1,000 award may be renewed for three years. Matt is a totally delightful young man who will always represent East and himself well. His school activities included baseball, band, debate, Constitutional Scholars and the National Honor Society.

Matt is an intellectual leader in a wide range of areas. "Learning is something I love to do instead of something I have to do." Matt credits his family with helping provide motivation and drive for setting high educational expectations. In addition to all his academic success at East, his teachers repeatedly referred to Matt's personal strengths: his honest character, his mature straightforwardness and lack of ulterior motive, reliable, respectful, a totally upstanding student and person. Matt is one of those held in the highest regard by both his peers and the faculty.

Carlo Davis — awarded \$2,000 in honor of teacher David Rivera Michelle Murphy — awarded \$2,000 in honor of Emily L. Saslow Nazina Curtis — awarded

\$3,000, Epstein-Smith Family



Matthew Valeta

Ealasha Marshbank — awarded \$1,000, Thomas W. Bean Foun-

**Shaquille Turner** — awarded \$1,000, Thomas W. Bean Founda-

Marisela Sandoval — awarded \$1,000, class of 1955

The following seniors received awards of \$1,000 for Outstanding Academic Achievement: Nitai Detel, Lynnikka Draper, Kelly Dunn, Patrick Hartman, Claire Westcott, Olivia Yapp.

The following East seniors received an Alumni Book Award of \$500 for scholarship and contributions made to East: Erin Devany, Amy Easley, Murphy Hogsett, Hallie Hughes, Maya Richardson, Lisa Wormley.

The Angel Foundation granted the following \$1,000 awards: Maya Burchette, Alysha Harlan, Elizabeth Hunt, Rebekah Johnson, Ben Nathanson, Ana Vizoso.

With Alumni and Friends dollars and additional generous contributors, 150 students have received a total of \$146,000 as of 2008! We are looking for scholarship dollars every year! All donations are tax-deductible.

Many of you will not be surprised by the headline "East High School Academically High Performing!" For many years, the academic experiences, challenges and preparation for college and university have been a tremendous draw for students and families to East.

Over the years, the State of Colorado has identified East as an

#### East Yearbook Turns 100 Years Old In 2009 Memories are a vital change to "Angelus." That name has

remained to this

day with the one

year exception in

1926. The year-

book of 1925-26

named

was

part of most people's high school experience. That given, it was probably natural that something would be devised to house those memories and preserve them for posterity. Thus, the high school yearbook was

The very first yearbook published at East High School was in 1909 when East was in a building downtown and went by the name of East Side High School. When the current yearbook comes out in the spring of 2009, it will be the 100th edition.

There has always been a discussion as to what a yearbook should be. Some believe that it should be a faithful historical chronicle of the events of a given year so that readers in the future can understand the cultur-

al, social and historical importance of past years. Others believe that it should be more of a memory book or a collection of snapshots that renders a feeling of the time. In the beginning the chronicle idea seemed to dominate, while the faces and places idea took over around the 1970s.

Perhaps the "Salutatory" printed in the front of the 1909 yearbook gives some meaning to why yearbooks were considered important: "There is a great spirit in the class of 1909 at East High School. It was on account of this spirit that the class, finding no other outlet for its energy, decided to bring forth an annual such as would reflect honor upon the class and the school, and establish a precedent for future classes to follow."

The first yearbook had the generic title of "Annual" and it would be until 1923 that the name would



would be appropriate to name it thus. An Angelus is a messenger and is known for its guiding spirit or influence.

that title. Per-

haps, since the

school mascot

was Angels, it

The first yearbook differs greatly from the current productions. First there was no color photography and no indoor shots. All pictures were taken by professionals, as the idea of consumer photography was still only a dream. Another large difference was that since the high school newspaper (Spotlight) did not start until 1921, and there were no literary magazines, the yearbook doubled as a literary organ, running essays, poems and art work of various students. One interesting similarity is that captions beneath graduating senior pictures were literary, a well known saying or a bit of poetry. Later on yearbooks started listing graduating senior's high school activities, sports and awards.

One of the more popular text items in yearbooks for years was the Class History, and the Class Prophecy. These items have all but

disappeared in yearbooks. The first yearbook had a page for the senior Halloween party, the senior dance (forerunner to the senior prom), senior dramatics.

The book covered the legendary Wolcott and Woodbury speaking contests as well as the Stevens Oratory contest. There were not nearly as many clubs then as now. There was coverage

of the Minerva Society (girls' debating society), and Congress (boys' debating society). There was a full page spread on the Cadets (forerunner to the ROTC) and special attention given to choral and instrumental music programs. There was also a section on what the previous graduating seniors were doing.

Robert Newland was the first

yearbook sponsor and the very first editors were Martha Townsend and Walter Muther. Being the yearbook editor would become one of the plum extracurricular assignments an Angel could attain, rivaling the Spotlight editorship or head boy and head girl.

Over the years the yearbook has been in capable sponsor's hands. Öscar Marinoff was the sponsor

for 18 years from 1922-1940. In the '40s George Cavender and Alice Koons were sponsors. Thomas Gilligan and William Koerber ran the show in the '50s and Ralph Johnson was sponsor the entire decade of the '60s. In the 1970s Brian Lee was sponsor and in 1979, Jan Anderson took over direction of the book and was sponsor from 1979-2003. This 24-year tenure was the longest by any single sponsor.

The Alumni and Friends of East constructed the historical museum in the tower and have amassed a large collection of yearbooks. At least one copy for each year of the yearbook's existence is on display in the museum.

## **East High School Entry** Plaza Renovation

### Commemorative Paver & Brick Program — Project Angel Pride

The new Entry Plaza at East High School presents an opportunity for you, your family or business to become a lasting part of the school's long, illustrious history. At this fall's back-to-school night, Project Angel Pride unveiled the updated design for the Entry Plaza. The new design has added 18"x24" pavers to the 4"x8" bricks. The pavers will include a quote provided by teachers at East High School along with the donor's name.

Recognizing the importance of this historic gateway to East, Principal John Youngquist spoke of reinforcing the traditional use of the entry as the Gateway to Learning when students and visitors arrive at East High School. We all know that the "front porch" is THE gathering place for our students. It's where they connect. It's also where visitors take in their first impression of our school and its community. Realizing the importance of the Gateway to Learning, Mr. Youngquist has chosen this renovation as the priority capital improvement for East High School this year. This renovation will begin in the summer of 2009.

The Entry Plaza pavers are an excellent way to commemorate your graduating class or a special reunion. We invite you to become a part of this historic enhancement to the most beautiful, and the best, school in Denver. Let our East Angels stand proud and tall...on your

Show your Angel pride permanently by purchasing a large paver with your name and a quote from one of East's faculty members inscribed in their honor (\$1,000) or a brick adorned with your student's and/or family's name (\$100). Pave the way to East's continued excellence! Space and quotes are limited so make your selection today

For further information or to order your brick or paver, go to www.eastangels.org, click on Community and then click on Project Angel Pride, or contact Dee Ciancio 303-246-8623 or e-mail her at dee@deeciancio.com.

## East 'Academically High Performing'

"Average" performing school on the annually developed "School Accountability Report." For the first time, as a result of our students' outstanding performance on last year's CSAP test, East has been identified by the Colo. Dept. of Education as a "High Performing School" in academics. We are the first High Performing traditional high school in the DPS. This is a great honor brought on by the hard work of our students and teachers. In addition, East was also celebrated for the "High Level of Academic Growth" of its students.

At East High School, our students and teachers create greatness together. They work hard together and maintain a focus on learning that makes a difference in the life of every Angel. Thank you, as an active Angel alumna, for every measure of support that you provide to ensure that East students High School, "Past and Presexcel in their learning and achieve. ent" (1950) and "Flights of Angels"

### **HISTORIC UPDATE**

### New Information Found On The Stone Angel

New research has come to light, thanks to Susan Bardwell, concerning some facts about the origin of the Angel face that once adored the front archway at "Old East."

Two histories written about East

(2004) have claimed that Preston Powers was commissioned to be the sculptor. Upon further review, it has been affirmed that Daniel Chester French was in fact the sculptor. French is most known for his statue in the Lincoln Memorial. The only point of reference for Preston Powers is that French stayed with the Powers while he was studying in Florence. Preston was on the board set up to design the face and to seek an appropriate sculptor. Powers has a created an Indian/bison statue entitled "The Closing Era." It stands on the east side of the state capitol.

In the fall of 1925 the school ceased to function as a high school, as "New East" opened on the Esplanade. For five years the old building remained intact, being used as the Denver Public Schools ad building. In 1929, the building was razed and various artifacts were transferred from old East to New East, including the Angel face.

The stone was given a permanent home in the South garden area and over the years the elements have eroded most of the features of the Angel.

There is a movement afoot to see about creating a bronze marker to go on the eroded stone to indicate to interested parties that it is an important piece of East High history.

### Membership Dues Increase Cost Of Communication Goes Up This Year!

For the past 20 years the alumni dues have been \$10. Starting this year — 2009 — the dues will be \$20. We hope this slightly overdue "cost of living increase," will help us provide quality communications with you and meet the increased costs of preservation efforts.

When the East High alumni association was reactivated in 1989, under the name Alumni and Friends of East, one of the goals was to be in regular contact with the graduating classes.

Since 1989 we have gathered more than 8,000 alumni names. We are delighted with the yearly increase in our data base. This increase has created additional publication and mailing costs. As a result, in 2008 we reduced our mailings to one inclusive mailing — the *Alumni* Spotlight and the membership envelope. The membership envelope has instructions on the flap. As always, you will be able to designate where you would like contributions to be spent. We hope this is convenient and will be a reminder your donations support all alumni programs and projects.

The Alumni and Friends of East thanks you for your generous contributions. If you are not a member of the organization, please consider joining and helping keep East and its significant historical traditions alive and prospering.

## 2008 East High Constitutional Scholars Win National Competition

### #1 In The Nation For Second Consecutive Year!

The 2008 Constitutional Scholars team won first place in the We The People: the Citizen and the Constitution competition in Washington, D. C., last May. East (Colorado) is one of only two schools in the 21 year history of the competition to win the national title back to back. New Jersey is the other back to back winner. The 27 member team and coach Susan McHugh accomplished the near impossible in defending their national title.

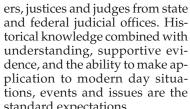
As it is with all East teams, they underwent rigorous preparation with their coach and teacher Susan McHugh, along with help from other attorneys. East is fortunate and, so grateful, to have loyal community members, and former East parents who each year contribute their time and legal talents to help prepare the new team.

The competition continues to consist of three days of simulated congressional hearings in which the students are grilled on issues such as judicial review and constitutional principles. The knowledgeable judges are college professors, government policy mak-

standard expectations. East has represented the Denver Public Schools and the State of Colorado well in this 21-year-old competition. Nineteen times East has represented Colorado as the State Champion, placing 15 times in the top 10 and taking the National championship three times

(1992, 2007, 2008)!!

We are proud of all the East participants for their hard work and all those adults who encourage and help make this level of thinking and learning possible! And we are most grateful to all those who provide the financial support to make this national competition



Shonetta's high school

career is much like the typical high school student: classes, activities and friendships. But this young lady had a much deeper side. She was not only a good academic student, but she was a writer, a volunteer, a strong leader and a selfdescribed "lighthouse" for her three young siblings.

Shonnetta Henry, a 2008 graduate of East High School

was honored as the Youth of

the Year by the Boys & Girls

Club of Metro Denver. She

also received the club's Swa-

nee Hunt Individual Leader-

ship Award for service in



**Shonnetta Henry** 

The Youth of the Year award recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and local club, all achieved while facing personal challenges.

East High Senior Earns

Metro Service Award

At East, Henry was active in Black Student Alliance, the speech team and the East Theatre Company while maintaining an academic schedule that included five advanced placement courses and two accelerated courses. She is also a poet, a dancer and a caretaker for her three young siblings.

Shonnetta is a member of the George M. Wilfley Boys & Girls Club in northwest Denver. She is president of the Keystone Club, a teacher for Words Can Heal and a participant in the Ink About It poetry and

Henry received a \$4,000 scholarship from the clubs, a \$1,000 scholarship from Reader's Digest Foundation and the chance to compete for Colorado Youth of the Year.

The Alumni and Friends of East commends Shonnetta Henry for her personal accomplishments and for upholding the tradition of

**East Alums Honored** 

With Citizens Award

#### Mail to: Mrs. Beth Gower, East High School, 1600 City Park Esplanade, Denver, CO 80206. possible for East!! One Strategy To Close The Achievement Gap At East

**A+ Angels Mentor Program** 

2009 Constitutional Scholars Update

The East team won the State Championship again! For the 20th time

If you wish to help the Constitutional Scholars Team travel to

Washington, D.C. to compete, please make your tax-deductible dona-

East will represent Colorado. The 26 member team, and their

teacher/coach, Mark Thalhofer, will leave for D.C. on April 23.

tion payable to: East High School-Constitutional Scholars

The A+ Angels Mentor program is now in its fifth year. Begun in 2004 by EHS parents Jessica Pearson and Caren Press, the program seeks to provide additional support to struggling students. Research shows that students who have a relationship with a caring adult tend to try harder. Adult volunteers are recruited and paired with students in the hope they build relationships in order to further East's academic objectives for each student.

There are currently more than 60 students and a similar number of adults in the program. Mentors range in age from the low 20s to the late 60s; they are male and female and represent a variety of ethnic groups. Mentors meet on a monthly basis to share experiences and learn about useful resources.

Half of the students are new ninth graders, the other half are students who continue to work with their mentors after ninth grade, some lasting all four years and beyond. Counselors at feeder middle schools are contacted about potential program participants. These potential students and parents are contacted by phone and given the opportunity to participate. Uninterested students and those with special education status are eliminated. All freshmen participants are enrolled in one of two "Academic Success" classes.

Mentors help with homework and longer-term assignments. They show their students how to use a planner and keep organized. They consult Infinite Campus to keep up with student grades and attendance patterns. They attend

parent-teacher conferences, visit with counselors, and often cheer at sports events. Mentors meet with their students' parents, help with summer job applications, and arrange for internships and programs that provide exposure to college. They push their students to work harder, demonstrate self-advocacy and help them to see an expanded world and believe they have a place in it.

A+ Angels has been featured in the "Docket" and "5280." For more information and to volunteer, contact Jessica Pearson, Jpear

# Counselors Recognized

While in high school did you ever need a letter of recommendation to that selective college or university, coordination of the college application process, help in planning your high school classes or a change in your schedule, a session to deal with a school or personal problem or situation, a source of information or a contact to ease into an activity or maybe a referral to an employer for a part time or summer job? These are among the many services provided by East High School's professional counselors and program administrators for over 50 years.

Until the spring of 2008, there was nothing to personally recognize the work of the many counselors and administrators who have been there for students. That omission has been corrected. Now on display in the counseling center is a permanent, engraved, chronological list that names the counselors and directors that have served since the city-wide model, college counseling program was developed by Justin Brierly in the middle 1950s. The plaque is in tribute to East alumnus Owen Hahn, who was a DPS teacher/counselor for 42 years, retiring from East in 2004.

Dick (Class of 1947) and Eddie

Robinson (Class of 1950), Denver

businessmen, were awarded the

2009 Citizens of The West Award

given by the National Western Stock Show. They will accept the award January 14, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Denver.

The two earned the award because of their devotion to the state of Colorado. The award honors individuals who embody the spirit and determination of the Western pioneer and who are committed to perpetuating the West's agricultural heritage and ideals.

Dick and Eddie took over the Robinson Dairy in 1975 from their great-grandfather who established the business in 1885. The business was sold in 1999, but they continue to serve as co-chief executives of Robinson Dairy LLC.

Both men graduated from East High School and both graduated from Colorado A&M (now known as Colorado State University.) Both men served as artillery officers in the Army — Dick in the Korean War and Eddie in peacetime Germany. Dick saw action at Pork Chop Hill and received the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

They are known as giving men. They have been involved in a number of charitable activities and are known for their generous support for a number of organizations including the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Zoo and various Denver hospitals.

## East High Athlete Wins Olympic Bronze

David Oliver (Class of 2000) became the third East High athlete to win an Olympic medal. Running in the 110-meter hurdles in the recent Olympic Games in Beijing, David placed third and received a bronze medal.

He joins Jerome Baffle (Class of 1946) who won a gold medal in the 1952 summer Olympics in Helsinki, Finland. Jerry captured the broad jump championship. Bernie Wrightson (Class of 1962) also captured a gold medal. He was the top diver in his event at the 1968 olympics in Mexico City.

David returned to his alma mater October 3, for an all-school assembly. He proudly displayed his bronze medal and urged students to work hard and not to give up. "Track and field is a lot like



**David Oliver** 

life," he said, "you fall down and you get up." He also told students to listen to the people who have their best interests at heart.

David gets his track talent honestly. His mother, Brenda Chambers, a George Washington graduate, was an all-star hurdler at the University of Colorado.

David was not all that exceptional as a high school athlete. He played football under Coach Larry Tarver and ran track, but he was not all-city in either sport. "It proves that high school is not the end of dreams. You still have the future to improve and find your niche." When the assembly was over, he was mobbed by wellwishing students.

## **Angel Teams Take State**

East Wins Back-To-Back State **Basketball Championships** 

The East High Angels won the 2007 and 2008 state basketball championships. These titles marked the ninth and 10th state championships for the school. These titles enabled coach Rudy Carey to win his fourth and fifth championships in his tenure at East.

East High Soccer Team **Captures State Title** 

The 2008 East High School soccer team captured the state championship with a 1-0 overtime win over Regis Jesuit High School in the final game in November. This marks the second state soccer championship for the Angels, the other one coming in 1994.

# East High Graduate Earns His Wings Of Valor In WWI

One of the most obscure heroes in Colorado history graduated from East in 1913. Jerry Vasconcells would become the single "American Ace" from Colorado in World War I.

Born in Lyons, Kansas, to a Portuguese immigrant father and an Irish Mother his name was originally deVasconcellos. He left home with his uncle Jerry Cox and came to Denver. Not long after arriving, Jerry became ill and passed away. Living on his own, Jerry worked his way through Old East High School with excellent grades. He was accepted at Dartmouth and was on his way to an Ivy League education when he contracted double pneumonia and had to return to Denver.

He entered the University of Denver, earned a law degree, all the time working at a law firm after school and stoking the furnaces at the U.S. Mint on the midnight shift. After graduating with honors, he joined a law firm. But this was not to be his destiny.

When the First World War broke out in Europe, Jerry, along with hundreds of American boys joined the allied cause long before America entered the war. Jerry had volunteered for the air corps at Fort Riley, Kansas and was trained as a fighter pilot in Canada. He left for France where he flew with the Lafayette Escadrille. He shot down one enemy plane before America joined the war. At this time he joined the 127th – 1st Pursuit Squadron and eventually downed five more planes. This qualified him to be known as an Ace and he joined the ranks of such luminaries as Eddie Rickenbacker. He would be the only World War I pilot from Colorado to earn this distinction.

His Spad 1 was shot down once and he sustained serious injuries, which would later impact his health. He was awarded several medals: the French Croix DeGuerre, the Newport Medal, the Honor Medal of the Aero Club of America and the Distinquished Order Citation which was presented to Jerry by General John Pershing.

Returning to the homefront, Jerry became interested in the fledgling airline industry in Colorado. He organized the 120th observation squadron of the 45th Division of the Colorado National Air Guard. He also helped establish the first Denver Municipal Airport which later became known as Stapleton.

He married Marietta Cassell, the granddaughter of Henry Cordes Brown, who donated the land to the state of Colorado for a site for the state capitol and who built the famous Brown Palace Hotel.

In 1929 Jerry was inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame. He died in 1950. Only a plaque hanging at Old Stapleton noted his importance in Colorado. Even that disappeared when the new airport was built. Jerry Vasconcells was a true hero for America and one of East High's proud graduates.