



Spotlight

East Angel Friends & Alumni Foundation

February 2026

Twin Landmark East High Anniversary Celebrations Triumph In 2025

East High School stands proudly in the heart of Denver, towering above Colfax Avenue — a monument to education, diversity, the arts and athletics for the past 100 years. Remarkably, East was also the city's first high school and 150 years later it's still on the cutting edge, both academically and culturally.

In September, 2025, the entire East High community celebrated two landmark, once-in-a-lifetime anniversaries that coincided last year: 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 official Celebration events engaged and connected students, alumni, faculty and staff, parents, and the wider community in spirited fashion.

An ambitious array of special events included: a Principal-sponsored breakfast; an inspirational Rededication Ceremony on the "E" at the front entrance; the official "Reveal" of the East High Time Capsule; a student-led Homecoming Celebration preceding East's annual Homecoming game; a well-attended public Open House with exhibits and tours of the historic building; and last but not least, a weekend East High Film Fest, which included the premier of our new original documentary "Angel Power: 150 Year of East High Excellence," and three vintage films starring East High's legendary alumni film actors.

The celebration enjoyed a wider



East Honor Choir was joined by alum Sheryl Renee to close the ceremony.

audience through local media coverage, including Denver7, 9News, Colorado Public Radio, Park Hill News, and ChalkBeat. Professional historians and archivists from History Colorado also played a key advisory role

in the interpretation and preservation of documents, artifacts, and oral histories associated with East's milestone anniversaries.

"It Takes a Village!" We would like to extend a million thanks to

Angels Celebrate 150th Anniversary With Ceremonies

by Keegan Hoelscher and Aidan Mills (Class of 2026)

On September 18, 2025, East High School hosted a rededication ceremony honoring 100 years of our current home on the City Park Esplanade and 150 years of East History. The ceremony began with a Land Acknowledgement from East Angels United, where students addressed that the site of East High School was the ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

The rededication exercises included speeches from Principal Terita Walker, former principal John Youngquist, Former State Senator and East alum Peter Groff, and the current Head Angels, whose speeches echoed the words of the past from the initial dedication 100 years before. All of the speeches offered words of hope to future students, and sincere thanks to our dedicated alumni.

Current student, Bird Overby, wrote and performed an original poetic work titled "Old East," which relayed the sentiment of all who have walked through East's walls, and put into words the beautiful physical and spiritual luster of the school. Among all the speeches were performances from the East Honors Choir, singing Kathy Lee Bates' "America the Beautiful," which was also performed at the building's original dedication.

The ceremony concluded with a rousing performance of "This is East" (a take on "This is Me") where

the choir was joined with alumnus and professional singer Sheryl Renee, the complete ensemble brought the ceremony to a beautiful close.

Following the rededication ceremony, visitors joined the East High School Museum Club and History Colorado staff to witness the opening of two time capsules. The time capsules were recovered from behind a bronze plaque at the main entrance of the school. These time capsules were the "cornerstone boxes" of The Arapahoe School (1872) and Old East High School (1881), and were initially opened at a similar ceremony in 1929.

The unveiling began with a quick introduction from teacher Matthew Fulford, before the proceedings were handed off to the students of Museum Club who arranged the artifacts for display with assistance from museum professionals. Beginning with the box from 1872, the students removed the box's contents, and gave brief explanations for each artifact. Artifacts from this box included many documents from the early history of Denver, and from the very beginnings of Denver's public education system.

A similar procession took place for the 1881 box, which contained more artifacts pertaining to the history of East itself, with memorabilia from school events and artifacts relating to the construction and design of Old East. After the ceremony, the artifacts were left to view in the li-

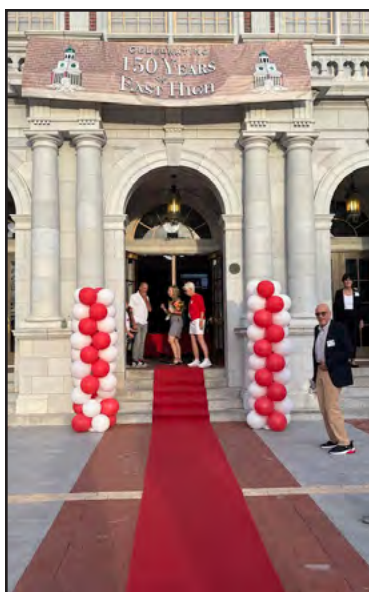
Angel Power!

150 Years Of East High Excellence

It was an idea hatched in March 2024 when two East High alums who had never met, started discussing an idea to commemorate the school's 150th anniversary. Beth Woodard (Class of 1968) and Robert Dean (Class of 1972) sat down at a restaurant just a few blocks from East, to plan how to produce a documentary film about East, a film that they envisioned being shown in September 2025, as part of the celebration.

For the next several months Beth worked on raising funding while Robert started researching the East High story and the vast archive of footage, photos, and possible interviews who could tell the story. Then in January 2025, Beth secured the necessary funding and the produc-

(Continued on Page 3)



Principal's Breakfast at City Park Pavilion was well attended.

the whole East High community for the remarkable success of this entire Celebration. The celebration would not have happened without months of countless volunteer hours, the expertise of the 100/150 Planning Committee, and generous donations.

Principal's Breakfast

As part of the festivities included in the East 150 celebration, past and present East principals sponsored a breakfast on September 20, 2025, at the City Park Pavilion. They also provided a program of music and reflections on the past. Retired East music teacher Keith Oxman performed a jazz rendition of "The Days of Wine and Roses." Current East students showcased their talents with a Mariachi band led by singer Sofia Grado, a string Quintet, and a Jazz Combo.

Lively presentations were made by past principals John Youngquist and Andy Mendelsburg, as well as current principal Terita Walker. The 300 guests in attendance included alumni, teachers, and guests who enjoyed a delightful morning as they reminisced and shared stories from the past.

The events honoring our 150 year legacy serve as a reminder not only of our great past, but also what the future may bring. They mark one of the greatest reunions of East Angels on the 150th anniversary of our beloved school. May we stand for centuries to come.

It's Not A Building; It's A Community And A Family East High Rededication - 2025

I'm Peter Groff, class of 1981, and the former president of the Colorado state Senate.

I currently live in Philadelphia, and they have a building that looks eerily similar to this...but each time I return to Denver, I drive around, and I'm shocked at how much the city has changed since I left over 15 years ago.

There is one sentinel that stands as a perpetual, unchanging symbol of Denver, and that is East High School.

I, like many alums, see East as a second home — Angels have a strong emotional connection and sense of belonging to this place.

The experiences here, whether on the Esplanade or in the classroom, helped us create our identity and values that became the foundation for the rest of our lives.

Upon that foundation, Angels have helped to build this city, state, and even the nation; from American culture, to science and tech, to business and philanthropy, to policy and politics.

Because of the indomitable sense of community that East engenders, we celebrate across the ages the achievements and impact of all Angels just like we do with family in our homes. The architects of all that Angel greatness were and are, innovative and diligent staff, and empathic and persistent teachers.

W.B. Yeats, the Irish poet, once said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

This building is a very special place, and the historic classification and designation are absolutely warranted. But this rededication is more than just a formal ceremony that reasserts the building's purpose, or to mark the significant 150-year milestone.

This rededication reaffirms this school's standard of excellence.

This rededication reinforces that East isn't only Denver's best, historic, and most accomplished high school, but fortifies East High School's unshakable sense of service, community, and family for another 150 years.

Current students, continue the legacy of service, community, and family, the nation needs you and the unique and impact voice of the Angels now more than ever before.

— Peter Groff



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East Angel Friends & Alumni Foundation
P.O. Box 6015
Denver, CO 80206

From The Principal . . .

Dear East High School Alumni,

What a time it is to be an East Angel! As the 20th Principal of Denver East High School, I share that sentiment with great pride.

East High School's long and distinguished history has been at the forefront of our celebrations since September, with more to come as we move into 2026. While we often highlight the accomplishments of our students, teams, and organizations, this year we pause to honor something foundational to all of it: the East High School building itself and the role it has played in shaping generations over the past 100 years.

East is known for its strong traditions and unwavering commitment to excellence — values that have guided our community from the very beginning. At the heart of that legacy stands our “magnificent temple of learning,” a building that for a century has welcomed students, educators, staff, and families into its halls to learn, grow, and lead.

On September 18, we rededicated our building with the same ideals in mind that those who dedicated this building in 1925 had. As mentioned in the first dedication, East is “a structure of ideas and ideals, ideals of conduct, of scholarship, of beauty, of culture, of sacrifice, of service, an institution whose office is to bear back the blight of ignorance and push far the frontiers of knowledge. Truly East is on high ground.”

And that remains our promise today:

To foster ideas and uphold ideals.

To nurture scholarship and inspire creativity.

To celebrate beauty in all its forms.

To honor our differences while recognizing our shared purpose in education.

To make sacrifices for the greater good and to serve those who need us most.

And most importantly, to confront ignorance, intolerance, and hate — with love, kindness, and empathy.

The rededication also marked a historic moment for our school and community. Governor Jared Polis issued a proclamation recognizing two extraordinary milestones — the 150th Anniversary of East High School as an institution and the Centennial of its landmark building — and officially declared September 18, 2025, **East High School Day** in the State of Colorado.

Our rededication not only honored our past but recommitted us to our future. Here's to the next 100 years of excellence at Denver East High School.

Go Angels,
Terita Walker
Principal, East High School



East Faculty/Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Sponsored by EA Foundation & Alumni/History Committee

On Monday, January 5, 2026, the gracious East lobby was a colorful scene of white chairs and red tablecloths for a gathering of 200 — teachers, staff, former principals (Andy Mendelsberg and John Youngquist), alumni, and friends of East. The **Alumni/History Committee** of the East Angel Foundation organized the breakfast. The biennial breakfast recognizes, rewards, and celebrates the teachers and staff for their standard of **excellence**.

The breakfast tradition started in 2006 as a thank you to the outstanding East faculty and staff, and as a reminder of the long and significant history of East. The breakfast provides an opportunity for the current keepers of the East legacy to share time and be reminded of the rich traditions of East, how they have benefited from them, and the importance of the legacy. East Principal Terita Walker and Foundation President Greg Graeber (Class of 1985) were the official masters of Ceremonies.

In addition to the catered breakfast, by Toque Blanche, there was a **spirit-ed** drawing for **90 prizes!** Committee



members, Beth Gower, Sheila Macdonald (Class of 1983), Cary Lyford Self (1983), Ted Pascoe (1983), Edna Sutton, and Flo Wagner created fun and real excitement with a drawing, giving out a total of **\$4,600 in various gift cards** to restaurants, coffee shops, bookstores, department stores and several one hundred dollar bills!! The prizes were **compliments of the East parent community, Foundation and alumni committee members.** The East community was truly generous!! A real tribute to the faculty and staff.

East students continue to be enriched and benefit from our generous friends and alumni — and the East High dedication to excellence! **We thank you all!**



East Angel Foundation Scholarship Awards

Class Of 2025

The **East Angel Foundation** reached two major milestones in 2025, surpassing \$2 million in total scholarship awards through two separate programs supporting East graduates.

The **Cleworth LEAP Scholarship** marked its 10th year, having awarded more than \$1 million to 13 East graduates since its founding. In addition, the East Angel Foundation — since assuming administration of the broader scholarship program in 2011 — has now awarded more than \$1 million to 505 East graduates continuing their education.

In 2025, the Foundation awarded 24 scholarships totaling \$102,000, including two Cleworth LEAP awards. The program intentionally shifted this year toward fewer awards with greater financial impact, prioritizing students with demonstrated financial need. Among the Class of 2025 recipients, **six speak English as a second language, and nine are first-generation college students.**

The scholarship program is administered by a volunteer committee made up of East alumni and educators, including Simone Ross and Dr. Maurice Scott (both Class of 2000), James Mejia and Greg Graeber (both Class of 1985), and longtime East teachers Flo Wagner and Edna Sutton.

Class of 2025 Scholarship Recipients and Awards

This is another extraordinary class of Angels — and we are proud to help them soar.

Cleworth LEAP Scholarship — \$100,000 (\$25,000 per year for four years):

Established by **Montgomery Cleworth (Class of 1978)**, this transformational need-based scholarship supports students ready to make the leap to academic excellence.

Recipients:

Ebise Galato — George Washington University:

A four-year Honor Roll student and first-generation college-bound leader passionate about healthcare and community service.

Jade Wood — Pace University

The first in three generations to graduate high school, Jade is setting the bar—and the example — for her family.



Harper Young

East Alumni Scholarship — \$8,000:

Awarded by the East Angel Foundation for overall outstanding academic achievement and participation in school and community activities.

Recipient: Harper Young — University of California, Berkeley:

Scholar, athlete, and activist. State champion and national finalist in We the People, swim team captain, and future environmental lawyer.

Class of 1985 Scholarship — \$5,000:

Established in memory of **Kinsley (Hyland) Alexander and other beloved classmates lost from the Class of 1985.**

Recipient: Emori Cortez — University of Hawaii at Manoa:

Scholar-athlete, varsity cheer captain, softball standout, Senior Class Vice President, and Generation Teach AmeriCorps educator.

Class of 1967, '68 & '69

Scholarship — \$6,000:

Funded by alumni from three graduating classes and awarded based on academic merit, school/community service, and financial need.

Recipient: Cora Smith — DePaul University:

Theatre technician, Head of Lighting for East productions, NHS member, and recipient of *Best Senior Project — Theatre*.

James Reece, Class of 1960 Scholarship — \$4,000:

Honors James Reece, a Harvard Business School educator and best-selling author. Awarded for academic excellence.

Recipient: Darius McGregor — Brown University:

Top-ranked scholar, STEM researcher, mental health advocate, and co-founder of *Boys to Men*.

Thomas W. Bean Foundation Scholarship — \$15,000:

Created in memory of **Thomas W. Bean**, a pioneering African American businessman in Denver. This scholarship supports students who embody hope, leadership, and community advancement.

Recipients:

Brooklynn Haggerty — Clark Atlanta University:

All-American cheerleader, student entrepreneur, and founder of her own beauty business.

Jaylen Tyler — Louisiana State University:

Class president, multi-sport athlete, Unified Sports mentor, and aspiring engineer who built an acoustic guitar for her senior project.

Alejandra Ojeda Rojas — Metropolitan State University of Denver:

Biliterate student-leader and community mentor who overcame language barriers with grit and grace.

EA Foundation Scholarship

Recipients – Class of 2025:

Fatima Askeri, Abril Franco Velasco, Melissa Hermosillo Nava, Avery Hinman, Harrison Kundahl, Drezden LaMantia, Fatima Muhammedi, Nathaniel Naftaliav, Sasha Pogoloff, Alia Quintanar, Kelsey Scott, Matthew Shomaker, Alison Sittiseri, Luz Valle, Addison Wannamaker.

Looking Ahead

For 2026, the Scholarship Committee Chairs are James Mejia (EAF Scholarships) and Dr. Maurice Scott (Cleworth LEAP). EAF has announced the addition of two new dedicated awards:

The Martin Brusse, 10th Mountain Division Scholarship, a \$3,500 scholarship pledged by Tony Zahem in honor of Martin Brusse, a 1942 East High School graduate and World War II veteran of the 10th Mountain Division.

The Sam Robinson Legacy Scholarship honors the memory of 2022 graduate Sam Robinson by providing mentors and financial support to EHS sophomores through their high school journey.

Those interested in supporting East High School students can donate to the Scholarship Fund or establish a new scholarship through the **East Angel Foundation**, helping expand educational opportunities for future graduates. Contact: James Mejia james@mejiaassociates.com.

East High Is Built On 'Sacred Ground'

Long before the building of the current East High, Indigenous people hunted and camped on this land. When the 100th year anniversary of East's existence took place in September 2025, students from the Natives United club at East rededicated the land their ancestors once roamed. Before Denver city was chartered the area was known as Arapahoe County and the first East High School was called Arapahoe School in honor of the tribe. The students conducting the rededication talked both in English and their tribal language.

One of the main challenges of large urban high schools is offering programs that help students “fit” in. Programs like clubs, student government, newspaper, yearbook, creative writing, art, drama, speech, constitutional scholars, vocal and instrumental music, robotics, and athletics provide such spaces to achieve community.

The Natives United club is just one way to help students from different cultures learn and remember their shared history. The main purpose of the club is to create a space for Na-



tive American/Indigenous students to advocate for themselves, to share culture and to build community.

The Denver Public Schools serve a significant (700+) Native American student population with initiatives like the Native American Culture Education (NACE) program to pro-

vide culturally responsive support, language classes (like Lakota), and addressing historical underrepresentation and striving for better academic programs.

Stay In Touch With East!

East Angel Foundation

P.O. Box 6015

Denver, CO 80206

eastangelfoundation.org

info@eastangelfoundation.org



East High Constitutional Scholars

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

AGAIN! East Constitutional Scholars team is **State Champions for 36th 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-nine years!** East has been national **champions 5 times** and placed in the **top ten 28 times**. The 2024-2025 East team **placed 2nd** in the nation. One point from National Championship!

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: **Eva Nuber**, "Con Law was so important to me and helped solidify what I believe in; a country for the people, of the people and by the people. I am so thankful to have worked with so many amazing students, coaches, and teachers. I feel like I am going into the world with an understanding of my rights, our government and the value of teamwork." And **Ainsley Oliver** said, "Con Law was the most

impactful experience for me during high school. I learned so much about public speaking, collaboration, research skills and hard work, all while learning more about the constitution and current events. The intense process to dive deep into topics that truly matter was very shaping for me and changed the course of what I want to do with my life! It is so important for the people of the United States to have a civic education."

The 2025-2026 East team will compete in the National Finals at the North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Bethesda, Maryland, for three days. The 2025-2026 team members are: David Abrams, Julia Bograd, Sydney Chivers, Riley Clow, Zoe Corrigan, Francesca D'Amico, Mia Davis, Sylvie Densen, Teagan Donahue, Zoe Dorroh, Claire Farrell, Hutton Flakne, Journee Brewington-Fuller, Benjamin Gehrig, Millie Hopper, Amelia Paschall-Johnson, Finley Kline, Laurel McMahon, Mahdi Mirbaba, Sophia Massena, Elise Mueller, Dalila Norquist, Avery Peters, Carson Peters, Abby Pihi, Kait Reilly, Felix Ronchetti, Jordan Sterling, Laney Todd, Addy Weakliem, Berkeley Williams. Student

Coaches: Eva Nuber and Ainsley Oliver. Teacher/coach: **Mandy Hostetter!**

The East team continues 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: **James Arundel, Scott Baker, Nick Brown, Richard Caldwell, Kaley Carlson, Robert Fufeld, Kevin Gliwa, Mark Grueskin, Asma Kadri Keeler, Melissa Hart, Arielle Herzberg, Jeff Pearson, Judy Schulman, John Walsh, Richard Wedgle, and Bill Scarpatto**. A special acknowledgement to **all our East High practice judges who have judged and researched for years of Con Scholar teams!** East is truly fortunate to have such generous participating experts!!

If you wish to help the 2025-2026 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.**

Angel Power! 150 Years Of East High Excellence

(Continued from Page 1)
tion was off and running. A small team of talented producers and editors was assembled, including Charlotte Glover, EHS alum Randy Stross ('72), and student Keegan Hoelscher ('26), as well as former East communications specialist Niani Scott.

By March of 2025 principal photography began with a variety of interviews filmed inside the school, which continued on and off until June. All told some 38 interviews were filmed featuring a variety of alums, teachers, historians, students, and staff. Many of them also supplied rare photos and footage from their personal archives that helped tell the East High story.

Writing and editing of the film began during the summer. What was originally supposed to be a 60-minute production, suddenly expanded to 90 minutes, given the enormous amount of material chronicling the school's 150-year history. The film was broken into 15 parts, one for each decade. Each part featured stories of events that happened at the school or involved some of East's many famous alums. The film easily could have run even longer, as there

were some very difficult decisions about what to leave out. But 90 minutes seemed about right.

By mid-September the film was given a name: *Angel Power! 150 Years of East High Excellence*. Soon after, on the last Friday of the month, the film debuted at a private screening. Some 800 people, including students, staff, and alums enthusiastically filled the East auditorium. Then some nine weeks later *Angel Power!* had three more screenings, two for the entire student body, as well as

another viewing for alums and staff.

There will be more screenings in 2026 and perhaps a local broadcast where the film can be seen by a wider audience. For anyone interested in the rich history of the school and the city, *Angel Power!* is a comprehensive look at why East High School's academics, arts, athletics, and of course architecture, are unparalleled. Today East remains an iconic landmark and special place that continues to evolve and endure, even some 150 years after it first opened.

In Memoriam — East Angels Remembered

PROFESSOR DANIEL WALKER HOWE East Class Of 1955

Distinguished Pulitzer Prize winning History Professor Daniel Walker Howe passed away December 25, 2025, at the age of 88. Howe was a 1955 graduate of East High, and a 2013 Inductee into the East High Alumni Heritage Hall. The following is taken from the Heritage Hall biographical panel in his honor.

When Daniel was just eight years old, his father passed away. Despite hard times, Dan thrived at East High School as a member of Future Teachers of America and a finalist in the Shafroth and Woodbury speech contests. Excelling in all things academic, Howe earned a full scholarship to Harvard University upon graduation from East.

Daniel graduated with honors from Harvard, and earned a Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Howe, a leading expert on the religious and intellectual history of America's early national period, enjoyed a distinguished career as a professor at Oxford University in England, and at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

Publication in 2008 of his Pulitzer Prize winning book, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation*



CREDIT: Daniel Walker Howe

of America, 1815-1848, represented Dr. Howe's crowning achievement. The communication revolution spurred by the telegraph's invention anchors his sweeping account of early 19th century nation-building, when dramatic social and economic forces catapulted the U.S. into a beacon of democracy. But Howe also explains that the American ideal took a severe beating, with the expansion of slavery, genocide of Native Americans, and the conquest of Mexico. "Historians usually write books for other historical specialists," Dr. Howe lamented. "I wanted to write for the general, literate, curious public."

"[W]hen my father told me the story about Hannibal crossing the Alps with elephants to fight the Romans, I thought this was the most fascinating stuff imaginable!"

— Dr. Daniel Walker Howe



EAST ANGEL FOUNDATION

President's Message

Dear East Angel Alumni, Faculty, and Community —

One hundred years ago, an architectural treasure rose at the edge of City Park, at Colfax and Detroit. Since 1925, East High School has stood not just as brick, marble, and a clock tower — but as an institutional promise to generations of students, families, educators, and alumni. On behalf of the East Angel Foundation, thank you for carrying that promise forward.

As 2025 comes to a close, we are deeply grateful for your generous support of East High School and the East Angel Foundation. Thank you to the educators who have filled these halls with curiosity, discipline, creativity, and compassion. Thank you to the students who arrive wide-eyed, leave world-ready, and continue to prove — again and again — that Angels fly. Thank you to the families who entrusted this remarkable institution with what matters most. And thank you to the alumni who never really left — because once East gets in your blood, it stays there.

The **East Angel Foundation** exists because of that legacy. Our community steps up to ensure opportunities at East are not determined by circumstance. Together, we support faculty innovation, remove barriers for students, award scholarships, invest in the arts and academics, and steward this historic campus for the next generation of Angels.

A 150-year-old school and a 100-year-old building do not endure without people who believe deeply in the future. Your support makes possible what policy cannot guarantee and what budgets cannot sustain — that every student who walks through these doors deserves excellence, opportunity, and belonging.

As we look toward the next hundred years, we invite you to continue building that promise. Because East High School isn't just a place we remember — it's a place we create, together, for the Angels who haven't yet arrived.

Greg Graeber

President, East Angel Foundation
East High School, Class of 1985

FLIGHTS OF ANGELS

IN MEMORIAM • EAST HIGH OBITUARIES

1945	Bette Harvey (Dines)	1927-2025
1946	Peggy Stark (Swanson)	1928-2024
1947	Pearle Rae Kortz (Levey)	1929-2025
1948	Charles Davis	1930-2025
1948	Marilyn Kaitz (Wolfson)	1930-2024
1948	Sue Somer (Anderson)	1930-2025
1949	Albert Melcher	1931-2024
1959	Eddie Robinson	1932-2025
1959	Purnell Steen	1932-2025
1953	Eileen Singer (Morrisey)	1935-2025
1956	Dwight Johnson	1938-2025
1956	Elizabeth Gragg (Lowdermilk)	1938-2025
1958	Theodore Holmes	1940-2025
1994	Stephen Noel	1975-2024

Upcoming Reunion

2026 —

50th High School Reunion

Class of 1976 —

The Centennial Class

East and Manual together

September 18-19, 2026

For details on scheduled events visit:

https://myevent.com/class1976_50th_denvereastangels

To register for events:

https://myevent.com/class1976_50th_denvereastangels/classmates

East Community Connects At Centennial Open House

More than one thousand East Angels from all generations gathered on September 20, 2026, for our official Centennial Open House celebrating the 100th anniversary of the landmark East High building. Alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff, and the wider Denver community enjoyed special guided and self-guided tours, oral history interviews conducted by History Colorado, visits to the school gyms and Athletic Hall of Fame, Heritage Hall, and climbs to the East Tower Museum. Special historical exhibits designed by the East Student Museum Club decked the Front Hall.

The gathering capped a special weekend of celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the school and 100th anniversary of our iconic historic building. Much gratitude goes to the East Angel Foundation, East Museum Club, 100/150 Planning Committee, and East faculty and staff for hosting this event. To view our official East High Self-Guided Tour Guide, scan the QR code (at right).



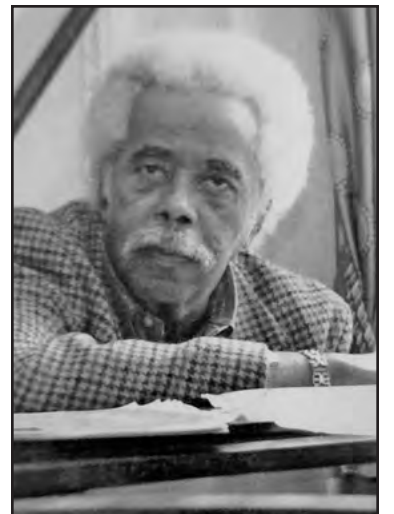
EDWARD A. "EDDIE" ROBINSON 1932-2025

Eddie was a fourth generation native of Denver. His great grandfather Lewis Robinson settled in Lakewood, Colorado, in 1885. He attended Denver Public Schools and graduated from East High School in 1950. He then attended Colorado A&M College in Fort Collins and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army.

Along with his brother Richard "Dick" Robinson (class of 1947), they started their careers in the family Dairy business. His business would be a notable success in the business world of Denver. Along with his brother the two were heavily involved in business, civic, and charitable endeavors. He was a member of several boards: Denver Zoological Foundation, Denver Metro Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the National Jewish Health, Medical, and Research Center, and Denver Central Bank, to name just a few.

He and his brother received over 35 community and civic recognitions and awards including the Citizen of the West Award in 2009, and the National Jewish Health Distinguished Service in 2024.

Both Eddie and Dick were inducted into the East Heritage Hall of Fame in 2013.



PURNELL LEVANT STEEN April 15, 1941 – November 18, 2025

"I was born to bring the gift of music to the world."

Purnell Steen, bandleader and social justice advocate, was born in Denver's Mercy Hospital and became part of a musical family. Purnell graduated from East High School in 1959. His dream was to be a classical musician but racial prejudice would detour his dream. When he was told that a Black man could not become a classical pianist, the internal fire of inequity in human rights would ignite a lifetime of social advocacy.

His musical extended family included Charlie Burrell, George Duke, Eddie Vinson, and Dianne Reeves. He spent his youth being prepared for his career by participating in the thriving musical revolution of Five Points. Later on he formed a band — Purnell Steen and the Five Points Jazz Ambassadors. In 2009 he received a Lifetime Achievement from the Five Points Jazz Festival. Purnell was inducted into the East Heritage Hall of Fame in 2016.

Purnell attended East High School in the early days of desegregation of DPS. He graduated in 1959 and went on to the University of Colorado.

First Ever East High FilmFest Draws Crowd At Sie Theater

Held in honor of East's 150th Anniversary celebration, the East High FilmFest took place on September 27, 2025, at The Sie Theater in Denver. Screenings included three classic feature films starring East alumni actors. Film critic and journalist **Lisa Kennedy (East Class of 1979)** emceed the day-long film festival, offering valuable insights and historical background for each film.



CREDIT: MiraMax 1997, IMDb
Jackie Brown

Jackie Brown (1997) starring Pam Grier (East Class of 1967)

Grier famously starred as Jackie Brown, a flight attendant who becomes embroiled in a battle to smuggle money between the United States and Mexico. The 1997 crime film written and directed by Quentin Tarantino played to a sold out crowd at the Sie Theater. Grier's performance harkened back to the 1970s "blaxploitation" films she made famous in her early film career: *Foxy Brown* (1974) and *Coffy* (1973).



CREDIT: 1925 Theatrical Poster, Harold Lloyd Corporation
The Freshman

The Freshman (1925) starring Harold Lloyd (East Class of 1911)

Special guest **Suzanne Lloyd, Harold Lloyd's granddaughter**, introduced *The Freshman*, Lloyd's 1925 silent comedy film that tells the story of a naïve college freshman's frustrated efforts to become popular by joining the school football team. This production is considered one of Lloyd's most hilarious and successful

films of the 1920s. Suzanne Lloyd is President of Harold Lloyd Entertainment, the official company that preserves and promotes the entire collection of Harold's iconic silent films, photos, and archives. A special treat included **live piano accompaniment by Tenia Nelson (East Class of 1999)**, an acclaimed Denver Jazz piano artist.



Olivia deHavilland and Hattie McDaniel "In This Our Life" 1942.

In This Our Life (1942) featuring Hattie McDaniel (East Class of 1910)

Kevin John Goff, Hattie McDaniel's great-grand-nephew, greeted the audience for "In This Our Life" with biographical background and anecdotes he has collected to document her fascinating life. As an East student in 1910, Hattie got her start in Denver as a performer in her family's traveling vaudeville show, which took her to Hollywood and sparked her acting career. The 1942 American drama, *In This Our Life*, starring Bette Davis and Olivia de Havilland and directed by John Huston, features Hattie as Minerva Clay. Her dramatic scenes depict a distraught housekeeper and mother of a Black man unjustly accused of murder who valiantly defends her son amidst racial tensions in the American South of the time.

Special Thanks go to the Film-Fest Planning Committee: Marcia Tremmel Goldstein (1969), Todd Madison (East faculty), James Ainsworth (1973), Beth Fisher Woodard (1968), and event planners Niani Scott and Vanessa Coates. The Staff at the **Sie Theater and Denver Film** provided invaluable support as hosts of the event.



Hattie McDaniel as a teenager, circa 1910.

New East Athletic Director

Justin Saylor was hired this year as the new athletic director to oversee the multitude of athletic programs at East High School. Justin is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, where he attended Cleveland Heights High School and was a soccer player. He attended Wilmington College and Hofstra University. He was an all-conference soccer player and was named goalkeeper of the year in the conference. After earning a masters degree he moved to Colorado.

He spent 11 years working in the Athletic Department in the Central Office of DPS overseeing all the high school sports in the district. In 2019 he was hired as an assistant commissioner of the Colorado High School Activities Association to oversee boys and girls soccer, boys and girls lacrosse, boys ice hockey, and girls field hockey.

He will oversee 30 programs at East. Best of luck to Justin and welcome to East High School.

EAST HIGH ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

BOYS	GIRLS
Football	Field Hockey
Basketball	Basketball
Soccer	Soccer

Wrestling	Wrestling
Tennis	Tennis
Golf	Golf
Ice Hockey	Gymnastics
Track	Track
Cross Country	Cross Country
Rugby	Rugby
Swimming	Swimming
Baseball	Softball
Flag Football	Flag Football
Volleyball	Volleyball

Athletic Director Justin Saylor



East Golf Team members with Bill Murray.

East High Golf Team Achieves Historic Heights

The 2025 Denver East High School boy's golf team achieved historic success by finishing as the Colorado 5A state runner-up to Cherokee Trail. It has been 73 years since an East golf team has won any state golf awards. Teams in 1947, 1949, 1951, and 1952 were the last teams to win state golf championships. It is easy to concentrate on other sports at East such as basketball, soccer, lacrosse, and rugby, but this is the year of the golfer and the future looks bright.

The team finished tied with Cherokee Trail with 422 points and ultimately lost out in the playoff round.

Boys Rugby Captures Ninth State Championship

Two East golfers were named to the All-State first team: Elijah Johnson (senior) who finished in 6th place, and Alexander Kukreja (senior) who finished in 9th place. Murphy Rowen (junior) was named to the All-State second team and finished in 14th place.

East High coach Quinn Hornecker had a strong feeling that this team would do something special. Crowd support was high all year long as the Angels breezed through DPS competition and the student body, which was especially supportive, came to

East High Boys Rugby defeated Valor in 2025 and captured its 9th State championship. It has quickly become one of the most successful athletic programs at East. The team claimed state titles in 1997, 2002, 2004, 2009, 2015, 2018, 2021, and 2022. The girls rugby team, established in 2017, has also seen success winning a State championship in 2005. Several individual athletes have earned All-State status and some have gone on to success in college and professional programs (i.e. Sam Golla and Link Wilfley).

The rugby programs do not have CHSAA sanction, but are very successful in building parental, busi-



Update On East's Music Program

ness, and community support. Because not every school in Colorado has a rugby program, athletes are free to find a school team they can join. Because of this East has players from all across the Denver area.

Rugby prides itself on establishing a learning and community environment strongly stressing discipline, inclusivity, community, and respect. Recent Rugby star Julian Rowse stressed that "everyone should play rugby, it is fun, it keeps you fit, it gives you something to look forward to after school, and from your first practice you feel the tradition."

We've seen two major milestones reached in the fourth quarter of 2025. First, Javon Jackson, a world renowned saxophone player who hails from Denver, came to East High to teach the students a master class. (See photo!) Supporters of East High Music gave Javon \$2,000 for his travel and the class.

Second, East High teacher and head of instrumental music Tung Pham identified the need for a piano (\$7,200 for a beautiful new Baldwin upright piano) and sheet music (\$1,000). The appeal went out to the Supporters of East High Music group, and they responded enthusiastically. A total of 25 donors gave \$5,040. Monty Cleworth matched this donation with an additional \$5,040. This covered the piano, the sheet music, and the Javon Jackson class.

We are also working with a group called Education Through Music Colorado towards an additional music teacher at East starting in the fall of 2026.

We are making great strides towards our goal of providing music education for every interested East High student.



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Adrienne Grady East's Go-To

Adrienne Grady is on the front lines of East High School managing the front office and keeping track of the day-to-day details of a school the size of a small town. Whether it's answering the phone, managing the school's calendar, or greeting and directing staff, students, and visitors, Adrienne does it all, with efficiency and a smile.



This is Adrienne's third year at East, and she has already made a significant impact. She was recognized with the Angel Award by principal, Terita Walker, for her contribution to the East community and the Martin Luther King Award for her leadership and dedication to East.

It's not just the administration who recognizes all Adrienne does for East, but the students do too. According to senior and Head Angel, Declan MacDonald, "Miss Adrienne treats all the students like family which includes helping us when we need it or telling us to get to class if she sees us lingering too long in the hall! She is the go-to person not only in the front office, but the whole school. She is a kind and welcoming voice for the East staff, students and visitors. We are lucky to have her."

The love is mutual. "The East community has been wonderful to me since the day I arrived. They always put a smile on my face and have shown me so much love," Adrienne said as she simultaneously was directing a student to the counseling office and answering the phone.

With a big smile on her face, Adrienne went on to say, "my favorite thing is getting to know these kids and know who they are. If I can help them, I do. I want them to follow their dreams and to become who they really are meant to be. And if I can help them get there in some small way, then that is what makes me happy."

Thank you Adrienne for all you do for the East community!



Javon Jackson visited East High School in 2025.