

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL  
IN DOWNERS GROVE

*Proudly Announces Its Class of 2016*

**DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI**

SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2016

# DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL OVER 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

1964 to 2016

Since opening our doors over 50 years ago, South High School in Downers Grove has graduated over 30,000 young men and women. Since 1964:

- Our class sizes have more than doubled; for example, 316 members were part of the Class of 1967, and 628 students are part of the Class of 2017.
- From the most basic course offerings in the 60's, students now select from over 200, including 27 rigorous Advanced Placement courses in subjects like calculus, environmental science and art history.
- From 31 extracurricular programs in 1964, we now offer 65 competitive and enrichment clubs and activities.
- We have over 27 athletic programs for both boys and girls—in our early days, girls had no athletic programs to call their own.

Much has changed over the years, but our focus has not. Our dedicated and skilled teachers challenge our students and spur on their academic success. Our school is continually ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top schools in the state and the nation and year after year, our students are Illinois State Scholars and National Merit scholar recipients.

Over the course of 50 years, our students have built a rich tradition of excellence in academics, performing arts, athletics, and activities. Opportunities abound for our students and we are excited to see what the future has to offer as we build upon that reputation.



## 2016 CLASS OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The Distinguished Alumni program tradition began in the fall of 2014 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of South High School and will continue for many years to come. Recipients are selected based on the significant contributions they have made to society as well their accomplishments and affiliations that have honored the legacy of excellence at South High School.

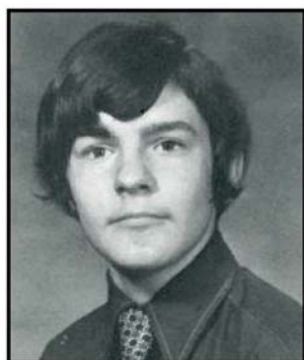
Leaving a clear legacy of excellence, the following four new members have been named as members of our school's prestigious roster of Distinguished Alumni:



Jill (Kroese) Aspegren  
CLASS OF 1983



Mark Hersan, Ph.D.  
CLASS OF 1993



Emil Martinec, Ph.D.  
CLASS OF 1976



Greg Smith  
CLASS OF 1982

Six inaugural members were selected in 2014, out of nominations submitted by alumni, staff, and community members:

Captain Daniel L. Cheever  
CLASS OF 1982

Derek Lloyd Choi-Lundberg, Ph.D.  
CLASS OF 1987

Elaine Fuchs, Ph.D.  
CLASS OF 1968

Michael Mendoza, M.D.  
CLASS OF 1992

Captain Kent A. Paro  
CLASS OF 1982

Katarina J. Ruscic, M.D., Ph.D.  
CLASS OF 2002

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY AGENDA

## THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

DEDICATION OF DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI WALL OF FAME AND  
INDUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI

*Front Foyer of South High School  
1436 Norfolk, Downers Grove  
5 P.M.*

Revealing of the Distinguished Alumni  
Wall of Fame and Plaques

Induction of Inaugural Class of  
Distinguished Alumni  
*Mr. Ed Schwartz,  
Principal of South High School*

Photographs and Media Interviews

DINNER RECEPTION FOR  
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND  
INVITED GUESTS

*Suparossa Ristorante  
6310 Route 53, Woodridge, IL  
6 P.M. - DINNER*

## FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI TO BE  
HONORED DURING HOMECOMING  
2014 EVENTS

**8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**  
Classroom visits and presentations  
to current students

**2 P.M.**  
Introduction to entire student body  
during all-school Homecoming  
assembly

**3:15 P.M.**  
Homecoming Parade, South High  
neighborhood (south on Springside,  
east on Bolson, north on Dunham)

**7:30 P.M.**  
Homecoming Varsity Football game



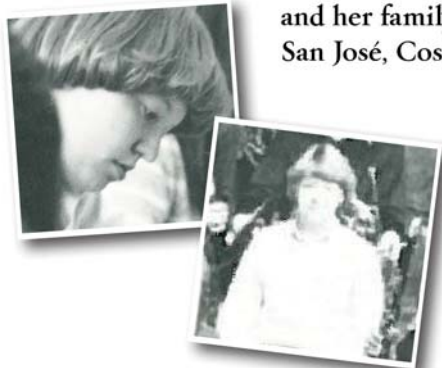
JILL (KROESE)  
ASPEGREN, M.ED.

CLASS OF 1983

HUMANITARIAN AND  
TEACHER



After graduating from Downers Grove South High School, Jill Aspegren received her undergraduate degree from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. She taught fourth grade for seven years in West Chicago District 33, and during that time earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from National Louis University. Since 1994, together with her husband and three sons, Aspegren has been working on behalf of children and families in Latin America. Missionary work led to the founding in 2003 of two Casa Viva locations, an innovative solution that connects children in need with local families instead of institutional care. Casa Viva partners with local governments and churches to provide life-giving solutions for children who have been separated from their families in the developing world. Casa Viva has inspired countless stories of miracles, transformation and healing while also navigating the harsh realities of broken families and hurting children. See [casaviva.org](http://casaviva.org) for details. Aspegren and her family live in San José, Costa Rica.





MARK HERSAM,  
PH.D.

CLASS OF 1993

MATERIALS SCIENCE  
AND ENGINEERING,  
NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY



Dr. Mark C. Hersam is a professor of materials science and engineering and director of the Materials Research Center at Northwestern University. He also holds faculty appointments in the departments of chemistry, applied physics, medicine, and electrical engineering and computer science. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 1996, a master's in philosophy in physics from the University of Cambridge in 1997, and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from UIUC in 2000. His research interests include nanofabrication, scanning probe microscopy, semiconductor surfaces, and nanoelectronic materials.

As a faculty member, Dr. Hersam has received several awards including the NSF CAREER Award, Beckman Young Investigator Award, ARO Young Investigator Award, ONR Young Investigator Award, Sloan Research Fellowship, Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, TMS Robert Lansing Hardy Award, AVS Peter Mark Award, MRS Outstanding Young Investigator Award, MacArthur Fellowship, and six Teacher of the Year Awards. Dr. Hersam is the co-founder of NanoIntegris, which is a commercial supplier of high performance nanoelectronic materials. See <http://www.nanointegris.com/> for details.

Dr. Hersam is a Fellow of MRS, AVS, APS, AAAS, SPIE, and IEEE, and also serves as an Associate Editor of ACS Nano. He is currently serving as a 2016 U.S. Science Envoy to help inform the White House, the Department of State, and the scientific community about potential opportunities for international scientific cooperation.



EMIL J.  
MARTINEC, PH.D.

CLASS OF 1976

PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS



After graduating from South High in 1976, Emil J. Martinec graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University. After graduate studies at Stanford and receiving a Ph.D. from Cornell, Martinec performed research at Princeton University. His research helped lay the foundations of string theory--our leading candidate for a unified theory of the elementary particles and fundamental forces found in nature.

Martinec has received the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellow, DOE Outstanding Junior Investigator, and NSF Presidential Young Investigator awards for his work and his research has been published in numerous scientific journals. Martinec has been a member of the University of Chicago faculty since 1987, and currently serves as director of the Enrico Fermi Institute and the Kadanoff Center for Theoretical Physics.



GREG SMITH, SR.

CLASS OF 1982

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER



Diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at the age of three, Greg Smith, Sr. was not expected to survive beyond his teen years. He persevered and using a power chair, attended and graduated from South High in 1982. In high school, he was a play-by-play radio sports announcer. After high school, he attended Arizona State University, earning a bachelor's degree in broadcasting. He then worked for stations in Phoenix and was host of Cardinal Talk from 1989 to 1992. He started a radio program focused on disability issues called On a Roll in 1992, which expanded to over 70 national stations over the next 11 years.

Smith also served as an activist and speaker on disability awareness and rights. In 1999, Smith spoke at the Congressional Black Caucus on disability issues for African Americans and was the lead torchbearer during the tenth anniversary celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) in 2000. PBS featured Smith in a documentary, ON A ROLL, which was filmed between 2000 and 2004. He was profiled on CBS's The Early Show and National Public Radio's All Things Considered, as well as articles in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, Essence Magazine, and many others. He was inducted in 2002 to the National Speakers Association and served as a motivational speaker called "The Strength Coach." See <http://www.thestrengthcoach.com/>. Smith passed away in June 2016 at age 52.





## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SELECTION COMMITTEE

The selection committee is comprised of South High administration, staff, retirees and alumni. In selecting the Distinguished Alumni, the committee considers each person's professional achievement, service to society and service to the school and community.

Recipients of the award also reflect South High's core values of being respectful, responsible and engaged.

To be eligible, each nominee must have been graduated from South High for at least ten years.

*For more information about the program or to make a nomination for 2018, please go to <http://south.csd99.org/alumni/>.*



THE NEXT CLASS OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI  
WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE FALL OF 2018.

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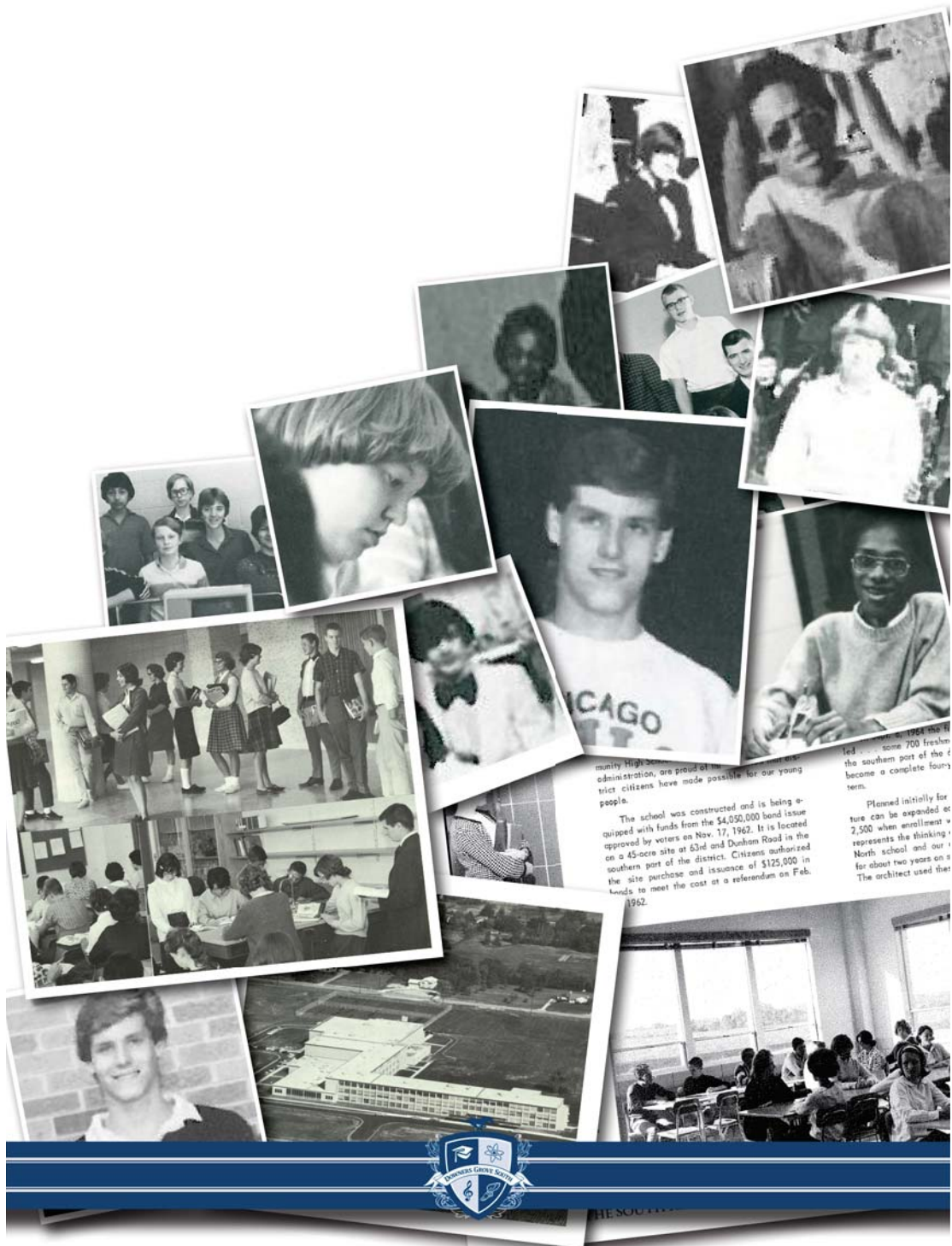


Katarina J. Ruscic, M.D., Ph.D.  
CLASS OF 2002



Greg Smith  
CLASS OF 1982





Community High School, the first of its kind in the district, is proud of the administration, are proud of the district citizens have made possible for our young people.

The school was constructed and is being equipped with funds from the \$4,050,000 bond issue approved by voters on Nov. 17, 1962. It is located on a 45-acre site at 63rd and DuSable Road in the southern part of the district. Citizens authorized the site purchase and issuance of \$125,000 in bonds to meet the cost at a referendum on Feb. 1962.

In 1964, the school opened its doors to some 700 freshmen in the southern part of the district, becoming a complete four-year high school.

Planned initially for 1,000 students, the school can be expanded to 2,500 when enrollment represents the thinking of the future. The architect used the same design for the North school and our school. The architect used the same design for the North school and our school.



THE SOUTH...

