



**SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
IN DOWNERS GROVE**

Proudly Announces Its Inaugural Class of

**DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI**

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2014

DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

1964 to 2014

Since opening our doors 50 years ago, South High School in Downers Grove has graduated over 30,000 young men and women. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we reflect on how much has changed:

- Our class sizes have more than doubled; for example, 316 members were part of the Class of 1967, and this year, 669 students are part of the Class of 2015.
- 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

students and we are excited to see what the future has to offer as we build upon that reputation.

It's clear that our past is golden—and more importantly, so is our future.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL.

The Board of Education, Downers Grove Community High School District No. 99, and the school administration, are proud of the facilities that district citizens have made possible for our young people.

The school was constructed and is being equipped with funds from the \$4,950,000 bond issue approved by voters on Nov. 17, 1962. It is located on a 45-acre site at 63rd and Dunham 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. 17, 1962.

In mid-August, 1963, ground was broken . . . and on Sept. 8, 1964 the first student group enrolled . . . some 700 freshmen and sophomores will become a complete four-year unit by the 1966-67 term.

Planned initially for 1,700 students, the structure can be expanded easily and economically to 2,500 when enrollment warrants. Educationally, it represents the thinking of DGHHS teachers from our North school and our administrators who worked for about two years on specifications and planning. The architect used these specifications in design.

Large windows in the cafeteria overlook the rural countryside to the south and west. The cafeteria serves as a multi-purpose room and community center. It is used for student meetings, dances, large gatherings.

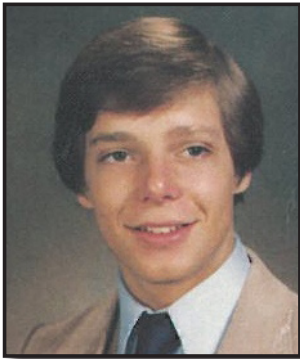
FROM THE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL DEDICATION PROGRAM ON NOVEMBER 8, 1964.

2014 INAUGURAL CLASS OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

To commemorate South High's long history, this year we begin a tradition of honoring some of our school's most accomplished alumni. We are excited to capture and share the stories that exemplify the excellence that our students achieve after high school.

The response from alumni to our call for nominations for the program was overwhelming. We learned that South High graduates are prominent leaders in a variety of fields, such as business, medicine, military and education.

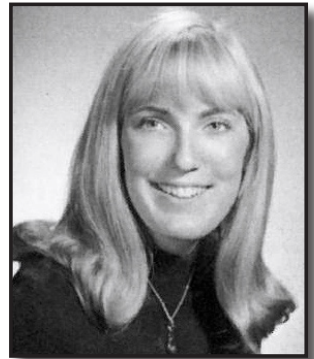
From the 50 nominations we received, the Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee selected the following six alumni who leave a clear legacy of excellence to our exceptional school:



Captain Daniel L. Cheever
CLASS OF 1982



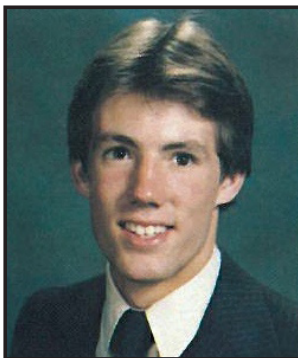
Derek Lloyd Choi-Lundberg, Ph.D.
CLASS OF 1987



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 25, 2014

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

Clara's Restaurant
6550 Illinois 53, Woodridge
6 P.M. - DINNER

Welcome
Dr. Mark McDonald,
Superintendent of District 99 Schools

Introduction of Distinguished Alumni
Mr. Vince Walsh-Rock,
Assistant Principal of South High,
DGS Class of 1983

Closing Remarks
Mr. Ed Schwartz,
Principal of South High School

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2014

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.

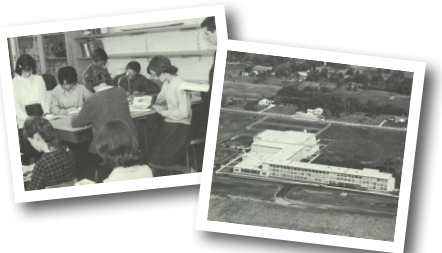
Homecoming Parade, South High
neighborhood (south on Springside,
east on Bolson, north on Dunham)

5:30 - 7 P.M.

Complimentary food, refreshments
and family entertainment at 50th
Anniversary Community Tailgate
BBQ (South High West Events
Entrance)

7:30 P.M.

Distinguished Alumni and all South
High Alumni to be recognized at
half-time of Homecoming Varsity
Football game





CAPTAIN DANIEL L. CHEEVER
UNITED STATES NAVY, CLASS OF 1982

After high school, Captain Cheever graduated from Western Illinois University in business. He then began serving in the U.S. Navy, and commanded Carrier Air Wing Eight, TOPGUN and Strike Fighter Squadron 147. His combat operations have included ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM and ODYSSEY DAWN. Captain Cheever has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal Strike/Flight and three Battle E's.





DEREK LLOYD
CHOI-LUNDBERG,
PH.D.

NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH
& UNIVERSITY TEACHING

CLASS OF 1987

After graduating from South High, Dr. Choi-Lundberg received a full tuition College Honors Scholarship to the University of Chicago, was a Barry Goldwater Scholar for Science, earned a Ph.D. from the University of Rochester, and was a post-doctoral research fellow at Genentech. He researched nerve growth factors and gene therapy in experimental models of Parkinson's disease, and this work was published in several journals including *Science*, *Neuron*, *Experimental Neurology*, *Human Gene Therapy* and *European Journal of Neuroscience*. He is currently a senior lecturer (equivalent to assistant professor) in human anatomy

and neuroscience at the University of Tasmania, School of Medicine. He conducts medical education research, and his teaching was recognized with an Australian Award for University Teaching.





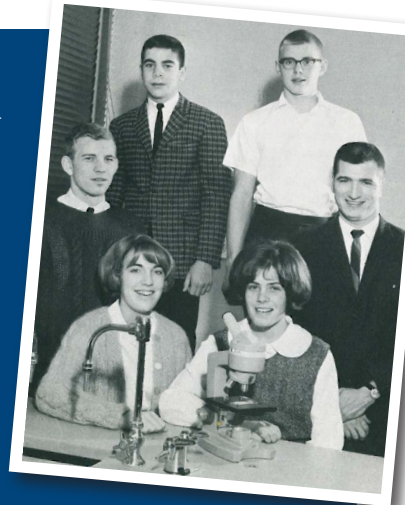
ELAINE FUCHS, PH.D.

PROFESSOR OF THE HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE
AT THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

STEM CELL BIOLOGY AND CANCER RESEARCH
- CLASS OF 1968 -

After South High, Dr. Fuchs received her B.S. in chemistry from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Princeton University. She was also a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a professor at the University of Chicago. Dr. Fuchs has been with Rockefeller since 2002, and has been a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator since 1988.

Dr. Fuchs is internationally recognized for discoveries of how adult stem cells make and repair skin, and how this goes awry in cancers. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and recipient of numerous and prestigious scientific awards, including the National Medal of Science from the President of the United States.



MICHAEL MENDOZA, M.D.
MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH, CLASS OF 1992



After graduating from South High, Dr. Mendoza received undergraduate and medical degrees from The University of Chicago, a master's degree in public health from The University of Illinois in Chicago and a master's in business administration from the University of Rochester. He has written three books and numerous journal articles focused on improving family practice. He has received numerous education awards, and is dedicated to teaching and mentoring the integration of evidence-based clinical decision-making with patient-centered principles of primary care.

Dr. Mendoza now serves as medical director at Highland Family Medicine and assistant professor in Rochester, New York, where he continues his commitment to improve the quality of primary care for underserved communities and to reduce healthcare disparities.





CAPTAIN
KENT A.
PARO

UNITED STATES
NAVY SEAL

CLASS OF 1982

Captain Kent A. Paro attended the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and became an officer of the U.S. Navy after graduating from South High; he received a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Captain Paro is a career Navy SEAL with combat deployments to Kuwait, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and numerous other non-combat deployments worldwide. He has served as Commanding Officer at SEAL Team TEN, Special Boat Team TWENTY and Naval Special Warfare Unit TWO. His numerous decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards, with "V" device), Army Commendation Medal, and various unit and service decorations.



KATARINA RUSCIC, M.D., PH.D.
BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND ANESTHESIOLOGY
CLASS OF 2002



After graduating from South High, Katarina Ruscic earned a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Chicago, where she triple-majored in chemistry, biology and biochemistry; she also earned a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She has won several awards, including being named a Goldwater Scholar. Her research on cardiac arrhythmia research has been published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Ruscic was named an “extraordinarily creative and

accomplished young immigrant or child of immigrants,” receiving Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship in 2010. Her battery research at Argonne National Laboratory led to her receiving four patents.

Dr. Ruscic has appeared on several news features, gives international lectures on her work and mentors young women to pursue medicine and STEM fields. She earned her medical degree in June 2014 from the Pritzker School of Medicine, and after serving a year in internal medicine at Loyola, will go to Harvard for residency in anesthesiology at Massachusetts General Hospital.



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 2016, please go to <http://south.csd99.org/alumni/>.



THE NEXT CLASS OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE FALL OF 2016.

