



**SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL  
IN DOWNERS GROVE**

*Proudly Announces Its Class of 2018*

**DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI**

**SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2018**

# DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

## MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

### 1964 to 2018

Since opening our doors more than 50 years ago, South High School in Downers Grove has graduated more than 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 624 students were part of the Class of 2018.
- From the most basic course offerings in the 60's, students now select from over 200, including 27 rigorous Advanced Placement courses in subjects such as calculus, environmental science, and art history.
- From 31 extracurricular programs in 1964, we now offer more than 60 competitive and enrichment clubs and activities.
- We have more than 29 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 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. We are excited to see what the future has to offer as we build upon this reputation.



## 2018 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. Recipients are selected based on the significant contributions they have made to society, their accomplishments, and affiliations that have honored the legacy of excellence at South High School.

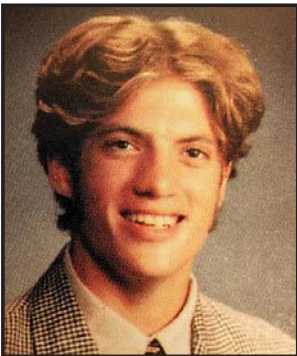
Leaving a clear legacy of excellence, the following five have been named new members of our school's prestigious roster of Distinguished Alumni:



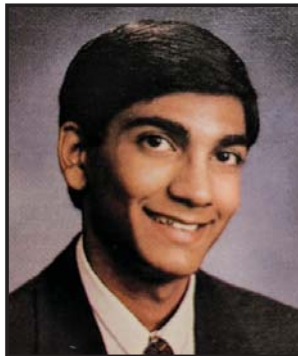
Maudlyne Ihejirika  
CLASS OF 1981



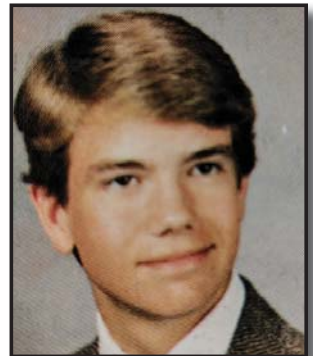
Amy Liss  
CLASS OF 2001



Dr. Robert Roose  
CLASS OF 1997



Dr. Samir Soneji  
CLASS OF 1994



Captain Nicholas Tilbrook  
CLASS OF 1988

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI EVENTS

## THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

DEDICATION OF DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI WALL OF HONOR AND  
INDUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI

*Front Foyer of South High School*  
**5 P.M.**

Revealing of the Distinguished Alumni  
Wall of Honor and Plaques

Induction of 2018 Class of  
Distinguished Alumni

*Mr. Ed Schwartz,*  
*Principal of South High School*

Photographs

DINNER RECEPTION FOR  
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND  
INVITED GUESTS

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

## FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI TO  
BE HONORED DURING 2018  
HOMECOMING 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  
vs. Addison Trail



MAUDLYNE  
IHEJIRIKA

CLASS OF 1981

CHICAGO JOURNALIST



After earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and master's degree from the Northwestern University, Ihejirika is now an award-winning journalist with Chicago Sun-Times and frequent contributor on PBS, CNN, ABC, NPR and other outlets. She is the author of *Escape From Nigeria: A Memoir of Faith, Love and War*, the story of her family's survival of the brutal Nigerian-Biafran War, and miracles that brought them to the U.S. Ihejirika is a recipient of Studs Terkel Award and national and local awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and National Association of Black Journalists, and several civic awards.







AMY LISS

CLASS OF 2001

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER  
AND VOLUNTEER

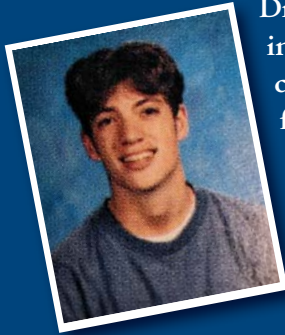
Live Each Day With an Attitude of Gratitude is Liss's motto in life. Born with severe cerebral palsy and needing help with daily living, Liss works at Easterseals helping staff and families feel valued and appreciated. Also, Liss serves on staff at the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy speaking on positivity and teamwork. Liss is featured in Foudy's book, *Choose to Matter*, as an inspirational leader, and speaks nationwide on service and positivity.



# DR. ROBERT ROOSE

CLASS OF 1997

PHYSICIAN LEADER



Dr. Roose is a board-certified physician leader specializing in addiction medicine and integration of behavioral health care. He has served on state and national councils and task forces to address opioid addiction and led innovative efforts in western Massachusetts. In addition to numerous awards, Dr. Roose was named 2012 Addiction Medicine Physician of the Year in New York. Also, his groundbreaking work is featured in an award-winning documentary, *The Fix: The Healing is Mutual*.



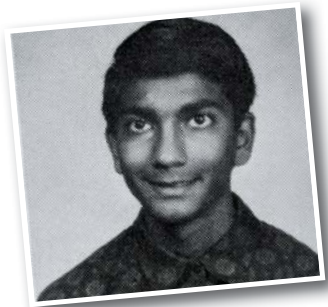
# DR. SAMIR SONEJI

CLASS OF 1994

AIR FORCE CAPTAIN  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
RESEARCHER



In the United States Air Force, Dr. Soneji was a Captain and flight test analyst for the B-2 stealth bomber. He planned and executed numerous conventional and nuclear weapons tests to ensure B-2 mission readiness. Dr. Soneji was awarded Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service. With B.S. in Math from University of Chicago, M.A. in Statistics from Columbia University, and PhD in Demography from Princeton University, Dr. Soneji is currently a researcher and associate professor of health policy at Dartmouth College.





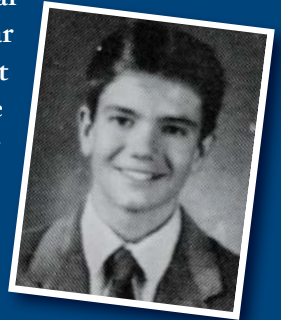
CAPTAIN  
NICHOLAS  
TILBROOK

CLASS OF 1988

NAVY CAPTAIN



Captain Tilbrook earned his B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Physics from the University of Illinois, M.A. in Engineering Administration from Virginia Tech and M.A. in National Security Strategy from the National War College. He commanded USS CHICAGO, a nuclear powered submarine, which earned a Meritorious Unit Commendation. Captain Tilbrook is the Commodore of Submarine Squadron Seventeen responsible for the readiness and operations of all ballistic missile submarines in the Pacific Fleet.



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SELECTION COMMITTEE

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

## 2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SELECTION COMMITTEE

Kristin Bormann, Kristin Kelly, Jennifer Martinez,  
Troy Michalek, Jim Mizener, Kimberly Pakowski,  
Ed Schwartz, Vince Walsh-Rock, Stephen Zownorega

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 10 years. The next class of Distinguished Alumni will be installed in the fall of 2020.

*For more information about the program or  
to make a nomination for 2020, please visit  
[www.csd99.org/dgs/alumni](http://www.csd99.org/dgs/alumni)*



# DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Jill (Kroese) Aspegren  
CLASS OF 1983



Captain Daniel L. Cheever  
CLASS OF 1982



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



Elaine Fuchs, Ph. D.  
CLASS OF 1968



Mark Hersam, Ph.D.  
CLASS OF 1993



Maudlyne Ihejirika  
CLASS OF 1981



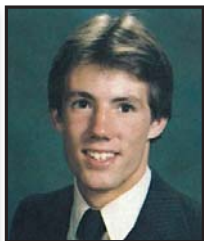
Amy Liss  
CLASS OF 2001



Emil Martinec, Ph.D.  
CLASS OF 1976



Michael Mendoza, M.D.  
CLASS OF 1992



Captain Kent A. Paro  
CLASS OF 1982



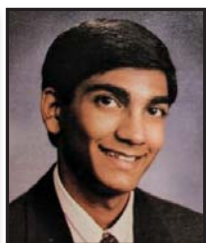
Dr. Robert Roose  
CLASS OF 1997



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



Greg Smith  
CLASS OF 1982



Dr. Samir Soneji  
CLASS OF 1994



Captain Nicholas Tilbrook  
CLASS OF 1988



