



YORK DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI PROGRAM

DUKES OF  
**DISTINCTION**  
2020



NOVEMBER 5, 2020 • ELMHURST, IL



# YORK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DUKES OF DISTINCTION

In the fall of 2012, District 205 launched the York Distinguished Alumni Program (YDAP) in collaboration with York Community High School and the District 205 Foundation for Educational Excellence. This program is designed to recognize and honor those alumni who have distinguished themselves through significant and extraordinary accomplishments, service and outstanding contributions to society. These honorees exemplify the honored York traditions of teamwork and selflessness.

We are pleased to introduce and recognize our seventh “Dukes of Distinction” class. We are grateful for their overwhelming response and appreciate their efforts to join us tonight from various locations across the country. Please read about them in the following pages of this booklet.

We know you will be inspired by their stories, by their passion and by their love of York High School and our community. Their enthusiasm will certainly be felt by and serve as a positive influence on the many York students who will, undoubtedly, be touched by their legacy. Such role models raise the self-expectation of the current generation through the realization that these Dukes of Distinction once walked the halls of York and the streets of this community.

The next Dukes of Distinction class will be honored in the fall of 2021. Nominations will be accepted starting November 2, 2020. You may also make a charitable donation earmarked for the YDAP program through the District 205 Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Visit [elmhurst205.org/alumni/ydap](http://elmhurst205.org/alumni/ydap) or contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Communications at 630-941-4719 for further information.

## YDAP JUDGING COMMITTEE

Kristi Amendola	Sharon O'Brien
Alison Dondlinger	Jackie Tamer
Deborah Hollstein	Ashley Tucker

## YDAP COMMITTEE

Jenna Ernst  
Kate Sampson  
Bev Redmond

## YDAP ADVISORY MEMBERS

Melea Smith  
Deborah Hollstein  
Val Stewart  
Drew McGuire

## JILLIAN ARNOLD CLASS OF 2000



Jillian Arnold is an Emmy award-winning video recording engineer for live events, award shows, and special events. She is one of the few experts in a lucrative, emerging field of television. Arnold's career in the TV industry started at York High School, under the tutelage of several influential teachers. From there, she went on to receive her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her masters from Chapman University.

Arnold's career started at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory [JPL], where she oversaw high-speed, high resolution camerawork for space flight hardware engineering analysis as part of the Mars Program. She also participated in JPL's Juno orbital insertion, Cassini's farewell, and Mars Curiosity Landing, along with twelve other planetary missions. This early foundation taught Arnold the critical thinking and analysis skills one needs in order to be successful in a technological career.



Currently, Arnold manages the recording and file management for many of TV's largest live events including the red carpet shows for the Oscars, Grammys, Golden Globes, and Emmys. She currently oversees recording on all major Viacom shows including the MTV Video Music Awards. Arnold works for NFL Films, Netflix, Apple TV plus, Viacom, NBC

Universal, and Fox. Her first Emmy was granted for her work on Fox's Grease: Live.

Arnold is a member of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the first woman Vice President for Local 695, the Sound, Video and Projection Union.

*Nominated by Melea Smith*



## MANU EDAKARA CLASS OF 2010



Manu Edakara is the Program Director for the award-winning iVenture Startup Accelerator at the University of Illinois Gies College of Business. Edakara rounded out his time at York by participating in many extracurricular activities including cross country and gymnastics as well as International Club, Ecology Club, Chess Club, and Drama. He went on to study at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the College of Applied Health Sciences, where he worked as an EMT and personal trainer. Here, while on the pre-med path, Edakara made his foray into entrepreneurship. During his undergraduate studies, he focused on healthcare, working as an EMT, personal trainer, and competitive bodybuilder. Upon graduation, Edakara co-founded three tech startups in the on-demand, social media, and design spaces including Man2Man, which did extensive work with local youth from the surrounding Champaign-Urbana community. Man2Man worked closely with these students to teach them etiquette, prepare them for educational challenges, and offer promising young people scholarships for college.



Currently, iVenture supports the top student startups in all fields. Over the past five years, iVenture has incubated over 70 companies built by 240 entrepreneurs, who have raised over \$22M for their work. iVenture entrepreneurs have gone onto selective programs like Y-Combinator, won the Thiel Fellowship, and even introduced President Barack Obama.

For his work on the program, Edakara was named to the Forbes 30 under 30 list in Education. He currently serves on the boards of various startups and is involved in leadership efforts at the college surrounding the two pressing issues of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter, and their collective effects on the student population. He writes extensively at [medium.com/@manuedakara](https://medium.com/@manuedakara), where his thoughts have given inspiration for young changemakers and innovators to take bold steps into creating amazing career paths.

*Nominated by Matthew Edakara*

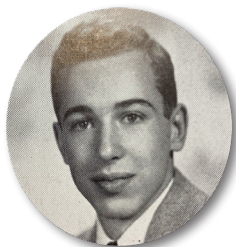
## LARRY LARKIN CLASS OF 1955



Larry Larkin worked professionally in engineering and education for over 60 years. During that time, he also devoted himself to numerous civic, cultural, and conservation organizations, thereby making a significant contribution to the quality of life, both intellectual and environmental, for many people.

After graduating from York Community High School, he attended Northwestern University, graduating with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He subsequently worked on Project Mercury, America's first human space flight program. After the completion of the Mercury program, Larkin worked on the instrumentation and data telemetry for the upper atmosphere atomic bomb tests over Johnston Island in the Pacific Ocean.

In the 1970s, Larkin became interested in community service and youth development as a way of reinvesting in the community. He was involved in teaching and scouting, as well as supporting organizations that were involved in conservation and environmental issues, receiving awards for Protection of Land Resources and Land Stewardship.



In 1985, he joined Filtertek, Inc. and became involved in developing the company's European Operations. He was awarded four patents for inventions relating to automotive transmissions and an award for solving a performance problem with aggressively driven vehicles. He also became a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), writing technical standards for automotive products.

In 2013, Larkin founded the Lake Geneva Heritage Center and has continued to work on preservation projects. In 2016, he received the Wisconsin Historical Society's Director's Award for Historic Preservation, the first time the award has been presented to an individual.

*Nominated by Grant MacLaren*



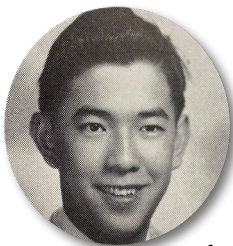
## KENNETH MOY CLASS OF 1951

Judge Kenneth Moy became the first Asian-American elected to county government in the state of Illinois when he won a seat on the DuPage County Board in 1984.



He then won re-election to the Board in 1988 and 1994. During that time, he also served as a DuPage Forest Preserve Commissioner. Judge Moy served as a member of the 18th Circuit Court for eleven years from 1996 to his retirement in 2007.

In May 2016, Judge Moy announced he was making a \$2 million gift to the DuPage County Convalescent Center, prompted by his “deep desire to help seniors and disabled adults.” The facility was renamed in his honor as the Kenneth Moy DuPage Care Center. Additionally, Judge Moy established a scholarship fund with the DuPage Community Foundation and awards a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a York High School senior who plans to pursue a career in a science-related field.



Judge Moy grew up in Elmhurst during a time when there was little Asian-American representation. He beat the odds and found success in spite of the discrimination that many Asian-Americans faced, particularly during World War II and the Vietnam era. His tenacity, perseverance, and determination to succeed is an inspiration for all York students.

Judge Moy is kind, thoughtful, and self-deprecating. Due to his tenacity, perseverance, and determination, Judge Moy found great success in his career which has allowed him to give back a great deal to the Elmhurst community including providing a scholarship opportunity to a graduating York senior each year through the DuPage Community Foundation awards a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a York High School senior who plans to pursue a career in a science-related field.

*Nominated by Amy Thompson*

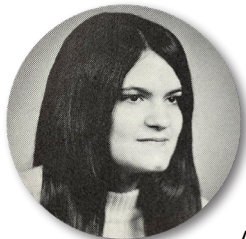


## MARTHA GARMAN VANGHEEM CLASS OF 1972



Matha Garman VanGeem was one of the first 25 women to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Illinois, where she graduated with high honors in 1976. She is a licensed engineer (IL) with more than 40 years of consulting experience and has had her own consulting firm for the last nine years. She serves as a specialized technical consultant in the areas of building science, building materials, green/sustainable/resilient buildings and infrastructure, energy use in buildings, and building codes. She is a national expert on concrete energy-efficiency and sustainability-related properties.

She represents the U.S. on several international ISO standards committees and holds leadership roles on many energy-efficiency and green-building standard-writing committees, including those within ASHRAE and ASTM. She strives to find consensus in creating codes and standards that are technically-based and impactful, yet realistic and usable so that they will be adopted by countries, states, and cities. She has authored more than 120 articles and published reports.



Among her awards are the 2013 ASHRAE Standards Achievement Award and the 2018 Concrete Sustainability Award from the American Concrete Institute (ACI). She is a fellow of ACI, as well as a life member of the Society of Women Engineers and ASHRAE. She has an MBA from the University of Chicago.

She has balanced her career with family: currently, with three adult children - two daughters who are teachers and a son who works for the Department of Defense - as well as five grandchildren.

*Nominated by Candace Purdom*



# PREVIOUS HONOREES

## YDAP CLASS OF 2013

Dr. John Baumrucker ('62)	Dr. Claudia Lucchinetti ('82)
Ron Guenther ('63)	Kenneth Paulson ('72)
John Hagstrom ('83)	Dr. Charles Tilly ('46)
Dr. Peter Holbrook ('62)	Sidney Carne Wolff ('58)

## YDAP CLASS OF 2014

Dr. Robert Chen ('73)	Kathleen Sherman, CSJ ('73)
John Coughlan ('60)	Dr. Martin Stoker ('39)
Beth Finke ('76)	Sgt. Joseph Vanek ('03)
Gary Rydstrom ('77)	

## YDAP CLASS OF 2015

Lee Daniels ('60)	Dr. Clifford McDonald ('80)
Mark Dyer ('80)	David Swartz ('59)
Susan Grosser Groenwald ('67)	Kenneth von Heidecke ('70)
Tom Marcucci ('70)	Samuel Williams ('03)

## YDAP CLASS OF 2016

Dan Konopka ('93)	Dr. Barbara Lunde ('55)
Jack Lavin ('80)	O. Robert Nettelmann ('65)
Judd Lofchie ('76)	Dr. Alan Tereba ('74)
Tekki Lomnicki ('74)	

## YDAP CLASS OF 2017

Lieutenant David Bosse ('80)	Linda French ('82)
Blake Byrne ('53)	Dr. Judith Bond Johnson ('55)
Brig.-Gen. Thomas Fisher ('86)	Mary McEnerney Woolley ('64)

## YDAP CLASS OF 2019

Thomas Ballent &	Joel Herter ('55)
Alice Jahnke Ballent ('74)	Susan Grohne Harry ('90)
Kathleen Harger ('72)	Laura Orvidas ('78)



# YORK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the York Community High School Alumni Association (YCHSAA) is to serve and support the school and its alumni by fostering and enhancing communication and camaraderie among alumni; maintaining a strong relationship between the school and its alumni; preserving, promoting, and celebrating the history, traditions, and memories of York; and contributing to the growth and welfare of York and its students.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Regular:** A Regular member is a person who attended York as a student for at least one day and whose class has graduated. Regular members include graduates and non graduates.

**Associate:** An Associate member is a person who did not attend York. This may include teachers, administrators, employees of York, spouses and parents of Regular members, and supporters of York. Associate members do not have voting privileges and may not hold elected or appointed office, but may attend Association meetings and events and serve on committees.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership is free! There are no fees or dues. Funds to support the Association and its initiatives will be raised through donations and fundraising events.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- 📖 Participate in all Alumni Association meetings and other activities
- 📖 Propose and discuss matters of interest to and for the welfare of the Association
- 📖 Have access to the Association by-laws and events schedule
- 📖 Regular members may run for elected office and be eligible to serve as voting members
- 📖 Receive issues of the electronic newsletter

## YCHSAA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Kathy Wilson ('65), President  
Debbie Linhart ('67), Vice President  
Linda Boeske-Aldis ('74), Treasurer  
Kristen Samuelson ('05), Membership

Stay in touch...  
update your  
contact information!

[www.elmhurst205.org/  
alumni/alumni-association](http://www.elmhurst205.org/alumni/alumni-association)

## HAIL TO YORK HIGH



HAIL TO YORK HIGH!  
DEAR BELOVED NAME  
WE WILL EVER SING IN JOYFUL PRAISE.  
STRIVING IN ALL WE DO TO BRING THEE MORE FAME.  
VOICING OUR LOVE FOR THEE IN LOYAL ACCLAIM, YEA!  
DEAR OLD YORK HIGH, WE WILL FIGHT FOR THEE  
STRONG IN BATTLE, TRUE IN LOVE  
BOTH OUR HEART AND OUR HAND  
WE DO PLEDGE AS WE STAND.  
DEAR OLD YORK HIGH. HAIL TO THEE!

WRITTEN BY YORK'S FIRST BAND DIRECTOR,  
**MR. GEORGE STRICKLING, 1928**