

September 2023

FOUNDATION NEWS



Partnering with the community to enhance educational opportunities for Durand Area Schools students.

A LESSON PLAN THAT HIT IT OUT OF THE BALLPARK

Major league baseball is always exciting. Durand High School math teacher, Annette Johnson brought baseball into the classroom and brought the classroom to Detroit Comerica Park with a lesson that was a big hit.

Students in Johnson's Statistics and Probability Math Class had been studying how math is a part of everyday life. They learned about measuring data and how to chart information using Microsoft and Google applications. They discussed theoretical versus actual and talked about things that may impact expectations. Then, they studied baseball. Students began collecting data on specific baseball players. They focused on batting averages, appearances on base and runs scored. Once they had statistics, they charted data. They examined probability. Then Durand Educational Foundation funded a trip to Comerica Park so they could see math in action.

"If you have to be in math class, I cannot think of a better place to hold it than Tiger Stadium," said Kwin Knapp, DHS Statistics student. Kwin and his classmates enjoyed their day at the ballpark and according to their teacher, classmates also developed a bond that improved their teamwork skills when they returned to the classroom.

For many of the students, this was their first trip to a major league ballpark and for all of them it was the first time they realized how game managers actually use statistics.

Following the game, students charted the difference between pregame historical data and the actual game data.

The Detroit Tigers lost that ballgame to the Houston Astros with a score of 1 to 2; however the lesson plan was a winner in everyone's book. Ms. Annette Johnson has taught at Durand High School for six years. In addition to teaching that Statistics and Probability class, she has taught Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and Trigonometry. DEF is proud to fund unique and memorable learning experiences like Statistics with the Detroit Tigers. See a list of other funded activities on page 3.



Stay Informed

Current news and events are posted on Durand Educational Foundations website at www.durandeducationfoundation.org. For your convenience, grants submissions, distinguished alumni nominations, payroll deduction forms and online donations are now available on the website.

TEN YEARS THAT IMPACT THE FUTURE

In less than a decade Durand Educational Foundation (DEF) has injected over \$100,000 into programs, activities and enriching experiences for local students. But the accomplishments of the DEF go well beyond providing for students who occupy chairs in today's classrooms. When the organization began, founders decided that they wanted to make a long-lasting impact on the Durand community. They wanted to encourage all students to maximize their potential; they wanted teachers to have the tools for high quality lessons; and more importantly, they wanted an organization that would impact teaching and learning for many years.

Fundraising began. Board members reached out to everyone they knew. Friends, neighbors, relatives, former classmates and colleagues were approached. It worked! Donations came in and grants to fund classroom activities were issued. Nothing was long-term, but many classroom needs were met. In 2015, things changed.

A donor offered to give Durand Educational Foundation up to \$10,000. There was a stipulation. DEF had to match the donation, dollar for dollar.

The DEF Board rejoiced. Then DEF board secretary, Teresa McKay, said what everyone else was pondering, "That is great; but how are we ever going to raise \$10,000 by the end of the year?"

The board got down to business and created its first fundraising campaign. Letters were mailed and conversations began. Donations were coming in when the family of Doris Kiacz, a former Durand teacher and principal reached out. The Kiacz family heard about the matching funds and wanted to be sure the Foundation was able to meet the \$10,000 offer. The family wanted to make a donation in memory of Mrs. Kiacz. They donated \$10,000 to DEF. The match was secured. An investment account was opened. History was made and road to the future was underway.

Investing for the future of an organization is confusing to many people. Some may ask, "If you have money invested, why do you need my donation?" Although a nonprofit board makes final decisions on how donations are used, having money endowed makes the organization much more attractive to donors who can give large amounts. Many major donors want a legacy gift, a gift that will last for many years. Those donors also create the incentive for others to donate, thus making their gift twice as valuable. The large gift provides for the future, the matching gifts provide programs for today. DEF is fortunate to have both.

Durand Educational Foundation has been the recipient of twelve major gifts of \$10,000 or more and forty-one additional gifts ranging from \$1,000 to \$9,000. For the past eight years, at least one donor has pledged a major gift with a matching donation offer.

DEF recently received notification that the trend continues. A Durand graduate has pledged up to \$15,000.... if that amount can be matched by December 31, 2023. Your donation will make this happen. Donations can be made online at durandeducationfoundation.org or by using the envelope within your newsletter.

DURAND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning balances, July 1, 2022

General checking:.....	\$17,733
Savings (Smith & Fuller funds).....	\$5,726
Endowed amount at SCF*:.....	\$178,780
Spendable account at SCF:.....	\$114,861

*Shiawassee Community Foundation

Income:

Matching fund donation,	\$15,000
Other cash donations,	\$32,807
Total cash donations	\$47,807
Fundraising net earnings	\$4,579
Investment earnings at SCF	\$8,957

Expenses:

Grants issued to staff	\$23,398
Website set-up (one-time expense).....	\$1,745
Supplies, printing, fees	\$1,959

End of year balances, June 30, 2023

General checking:	\$14,294
Savings (Smith & Fuller funds).....	\$3,949
Endowed amount at SCF.....	\$214,780
Spendable account at SCF.....	\$118,318

SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23 GRANTS AWARDED

Vocal Music Multi-School Trip, Middle School

Furnishings for Calm Down Room, Bertha Neal School

Rocket Math Program, Grades. 2-5, Robert Kerr School

Stats with Detroit Tigers Field Trip, High School

Christmas Carol Theatre Trip, Middle School

DHS Athletic Hall of Fame Event,** High School

Book Club Supplies, Middle School

Cookies & College Application Night Materials, High School

SAT Testing Supplies, Grade 8, Middle School

American Literature Play, Middle School

Brain Bin Refresher Supplies, Kindergarten, Bertha Neal School

RAZ Kids – Reading Practice Program – Kindergarten, Bertha Neal

Holocaust Museum Field Trip, Grade 10, High School

Robotic Team, High School

Attendance Incentive Program, High School

Social Emotional Learning Books, Bertha Neal School

Reading Month Magician Program, Bertha Neal and Robert Kerr Schools

FCCLA State Conference, High School

Greenfield Village-Henry Ford Museum Field Trip, Grade 5, Robert Kerr School

All-school STEM Skate Trip,*** Robert Kerr School

Year-End Field Trip, Grade 7, Middle School

Holocaust Museum Field Trip, Middle School

Spanish Club Cinco de Mayo Activity, High School

Classroom Supplies, Play Dough, Bertha Neal School

Boys Basketball Camp,** High School

Year-End Ice Truck, Middle School

Girls Volleyball Camp,* High School

*Funded by Marjorie Smith Fund

**Part or all funded by Jim Fuller Fund

***Partially Funded by Doris Kiacz Fund

2023 DURAND DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Durand Educational Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Alicia Spoor class of 1998 and Clark Harder, class of 1973 as distinguished alumni for 2023. The individuals were selected from a pool of highly qualified candidates nominated by their peers.



Dr. Alicia Spoor



Clark Harder

CLARK HARDER & DR. ALICIA SPOOR SELECTED AS DHS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Dr. Alicia Spoor is a top leader in her profession of audiology. After graduation from Durand, she earned a B.A. from Michigan State University, including studies abroad in London, England. She graduated cum laude in 2002. Dr. Spoor earned her Master of Science degree followed by a Doctorate in Audiology, both from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. She worked at Mayo Clinic Arizona, Audiology Associates in Ellicott City, Maryland, and A&A Hearing Group in Rockville, Maryland where she served pediatric through geriatric populations.

Dr. Spoor started a private practice from the ground up, serving as president of Designer Audiology in Highland, Maryland, where she grew a caseload of 200 patients in the first two years. She also established a bone-anchored hearing aid (BAHA) and cochlear implant network with select surgeons from Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Johns Hopkins University, and Georgetown University Hospital. In addition, Dr. Spoor served as graduate teaching assistant, and then adjunct professor, level 3, for Gallaudet University and supervised upper level Doctorate of Audiology Candidates from universities around the country. She has received multiple awards for her work, research, development, business success, presentations and publications. In 2021, MSU awarded Dr. Spoor the Outstanding Alumni Award for her success and leadership in her career area.

Clark Harder is well known throughout the mid-Michigan area for his leadership and volunteerism over the past 50 years since his graduation from Durand. He began a career in radio announcing while still in high school. Clark earned a B.A. from Michigan State University, studying Journalism, History, Political Science, Television and Radio. In 1985 he entered the political arena as a staffer for the Michigan Speaker of the House, later becoming Chief Legislative Aide for State Representative Spaniola. In 1990 Clark was elected as State Representative/Legislator, where he held assignments in advancing transportation, education, senior citizen and retirement, agriculture, mental health, & tourism. He was elected to the

CLARK AND DR. ALICIA SPOOR SELECTED AS DHS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Continued

office 3 times. Clark has served since 1999 as Executive Director of the Michigan Public Transit Association, providing urban and rural transportation advice, education and consulting.

He conceived of and developed Rides to Wellness, a non-emergency medical transportation program which has spread statewide and been replicated in other states. The programs have brought transportation access to thousands needing access to medical treatment. In addition, Clark has a long history of volunteer leadership and service with the Durand Union Station, American Cancer Society, Shiawassee Arts Council, and other local causes. He has earned and received the Shiawassee Legend Award, plus multiple awards from the Democratic Party, the Michigan Municipal League, the Henry Ford Museum, the Michigan Manufacturers Association, the Michigan Farm Bureau, and Lansing Community College.

Harder and Spoor were honored at a reception at Durand Union Station on August 13, 2023

TRIVIA NIGHT IN DURAND



If you are looking for a great evening out, DEF has an event for you. Trivia night will be take place Saturday, October 28th at St Mary's Church, Durand. Teams of up to eight players pool their knowledge to answer a wide variety of off-the-wall questions. This is not a game just for Jeopardy fans, though there will be questions that are sure to be a challenge. The game is quirky, fast paced and very entertaining.

Cash prizes are awarded to teams finishing in first or second place. While DEF will not guarantee that your team will win cash, we are certain you will have an evening filled with a lot of laughs.

Light meals consisting of meat & cheese trays, burgers, etc. will be available for purchase, along with water, beer, wine and soft drinks. The drinks are cheap and the food is good.

The cost to play is \$10 per person. Space is limited so tables should be reserved in advance. Text Jan at 989.277.2926 with questions or to reserve your space. If you do not have a full team, DEF will try to fill your table with the smartest people we can find.

Doors open at 6pm, game starts at 7pm. at St. Mary's Church, 700 Columbia Drive, Durand. Proceeds will be used to fund programs for Durand Area School students. All player fees will be matched by an anonymous donor.

Additional Trivia games will be held through the school year. Details can be found on the Foundation website at www.durandeducationfoundation.org.

FOUNDATION DONORS (gifts received July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

If we missed you, we apologize. Please contact us immediately at durandeducationfdn@gmail.com so we can add your name to the list of people who generously support education in Durand.

Norm & Rachel Abdella
Acker Insurance Agency
Terry & Pam Allen
Fred Anderson
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Adam & Christine Bell
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Reginald Coady
Coffield Oil Company
Janeen Cole
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Jeanne Plashek Davis
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