



IN THE NEWS

Another Graduate Success Story



Terry Dangerfield

1994 JFK High School Graduate

Amere 14 years after his graduation from JFK in 1994, Terry became Superintendent of Lincoln Park Schools.

I attended Taylor schools K-12

- Edison – Kindergarten
- Taylor Parks – 1st & 2nd
- Racho – 3rd – 6th
- Brake Jr High
- Kennedy High School – 1994

I was very active in band beginning in 5th grade with Mr. Mike Bass. He inspired me to really want to be the best I could be in music and he gave me many opportunities. He was my band director from 5th grade through 8th grade. I then had Mr. Tom Smith during high school (10th

through 12th, we had a one year band Director my 9th grade year because Mr. Smith was on a leave). Mr. Smith grew me as a musician and provided many opportunities for me. This included helping me get a job at A&R Music in Lincoln Park which led to a whole nother set of wonderful opportunities and growth as a musician and person. Because

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Taylor Alumni Association
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tayloralumni.org

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of this, I attended EMU to pursue an Instrumental Music Education degree. That became the catalyst that has launched my career.

Because of Mr. Bass, Mr. Smith, and the opportunities they both provided me, I have been blessed to have performed classical and jazz music for people in many venues and in many locations around the country and Canada. I became a teacher, starting out for 1 semester in Almont and then due to a great opportunity to be closer to home, I took a position in the Lincoln Park Public Schools. I just finished my 21st year in Lincoln Park. I have been a band director growing the program from 50 students to 150 in 7 years, an elementary principal, high school principal, director of human

resources, and for the past 6 years, the superintendent of schools.

My education

- o Bachelors in Instrumental Music Education – EMU 1998
- o Masters in Instrumental Music Education – EMU 2004
- o Specialist in Administration and Supervision – Wayne State University 2006

I played little league baseball at Taylor South Little League.

Both of my parents attended Taylor Schools and also both worked for the Taylor Schools.

I met my wife Dawn (Dawn McCoy, Kennedy 1996) in the band program. We were high school sweethearts and have been together for 28 years. We have two children. Sophia is 18 and Zach is 16.

We live in Ypsilanti Township and have been there since 2008.

I enjoy home repair, repairing musical instruments, coaching baseball with my son, my family, and cooking.

I have been very lucky to have the life I have with the people I have it with. I received a great education in the Taylor Schools and I met so many fantastic people and was taught by some incredible educators including Mr. Bass, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Handy, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Chora, Mr. Delo, Mrs. Batchelder, and great administrators like Mrs. Trent, Dr. Kolka, and Dr. Szalka. My past is rich with amazing experiences and my life is richer because of them. All of this because I went to Taylor Schools and wanted to play the saxophone.



GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL

— 2020 GRADUATING CLASS —

Top Two Academic Performers

➤ #1 in the Class - Dawna Vaughan | GPA 4.25



Dawna Vaughan

Dawana plans to study Biomedical Engineering at U of M Dearborn. He has Four varsity letters (swim, track, marching band and academic), advanced placement college board award, The All

American Academic Award and spent all four years on the honor roll.

➤ #2 in the Class - Adria Nyarko | GPA 4.24



Adria Nyarko

Adria plans to study Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University. She is a four time DECA State Champion, two time DECA International Competition Qualifier, DECA Emerging

Leader Award Recipient, University of Southern California Bovard Scholar, Jack Cooke Semifinalist, two time Quiz Bowl Most Valuable Player.

THERE IS A LOT HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR



✓ MUSIC AND ART IN THE GARDENS

The summer concert series ends August 5, 2020. The last of 8 concerts held in the beautiful Conservatory. Take a lawn chair and enjoy the music of "The Invasion", a British band playing music from across the pond from the 60's & 70's. Delicious food, desserts and beverages are available for purchase.

✓ FARMERS MARKET

Largest market in the downriver area, with 41,000 sq. feet, located in the Pavilion at Heritage Park. Hours: M-F 6am-9pm, Saturday 7am-5pm and Sunday noon-5pm.

✓ 2020 TAYLOR FESTIVAL LABOR DAY WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 4th -5th

The tremendously popular summer festival was originally scheduled for late June but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Taylor Festival VIP concert package has earned the reputation as the "Best Ticket Downriver". The menu this year will include pulled chicken and pulled pork.

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Dennis DeYoung and the Music of Styx will be on stage Friday September 4. DeYoung's voice is one of the most recognizable in the world. He has recorded seven solo albums including "Desert Moon", which achieved top 10 status.



Dennis DeYoung and the Music of Styx

Saturday will feature country music sensation, Dylan Scott, whose latest release, "Nothing To Do Town" debuted at No.1 on the Billboard Country Album Sales Chart. He was a 2019 iHeartRadio Music Awards nominee for best new country artist.



Dylan Scott

The evening will also feature special guest Adam Doleac. Doleac has staked his claim as one to watch in Nashville, thanks to the No.1 hit single "Famous" on Sirius XM's Hot 30 Countdown.



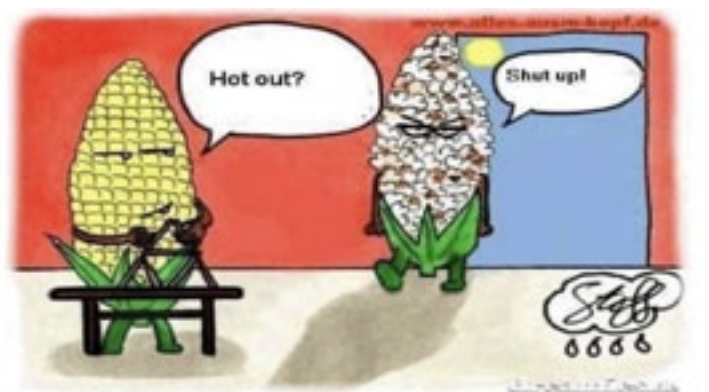
Adam Doleac

The "big night" will be capped by the Taylor Festival Fireworks Display. Many feel the Fireworks display is always one of the top shows in the state.



August 5th Last concert in the Gardens of the Taylor Conservatory. "The Invasion" a premium British band playing music of the 60's & 70's.

August 20th TCH Class of 1960 monthly luncheon 12:30pm at...?





WE HEARD FROM YOU!

➤ **Bill Leak, TCH Class of 65'**

Bill was good enough to call and point out an error in the Obituaries. We also learned that Bill was a Varsity Basketball player for 3 years and modestly proclaimed that his pride was no doubt better than his skills. His interest in high school sports-cross country, track, basketball and baseball carried over into his adult years. Bill lives in Alabama and has coached youth baseball for years.



➤ **Lanny Mills, JFK**

Lanny Mills was an outstanding Gymnast at both JFK and Eastern Michigan University (EMU). We asked Lanny how he met the challenge of losing a leg. This is his response:

After competing on EMU's Men's Gymnastics Team, I was fortunate to obtain my dream teaching and coaching position in Trenton Michigan. My teaching position was in Middle School Industrial Arts with Wood Shop, Metal Shop and Drafting classes. My coaching position was the Boys' Gymnastics Team at Trenton High School. Near the very end of my first year I was in a severe automobile accident that resulted in numerous fractures, internal injuries and the amputation of my right leg five inches below the knee.

Due to my family upbringing and the fine examples of teachers and coaches at Kennedy; like Roger Bechtol and Al Checkler, I was imprinted with the belief that in life attitude is everything. Even before the surgery I had decided that this event would be no more than a minor inconvenience and that I was probably the luckiest man to even be alive after the car I was riding in hit an overpass abutment.



limb loss awareness ribbon

During hospital post-op recovery, I was interviewed by the head nurse. She explained that many of her staff were very concerned about my mental state. Quite confused, I asked her specifically what was their

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concern. She explained to me that they feared that I did not realize the severity of my condition. I found this more than a little bit amusing. After a long conversation I was able to convince her that I was not delusional and had a perfectly realistic view of my situation.

I believe that life has been uncharacteristically kind to me beyond what I deserve. Because of that, and the fact that every day I have lived beyond June 10th of 1972 is a bonus day, I truly try to do whatever great or small thing I can to make the world brighter for every person I come in contact with.

► **Judy Sumner Nieman, TCH Class of 60'**

In the fall of 2013, Judy, was diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer. She has graciously shared her journey with us.

Even though Judy's dad was an accomplished guitar player and vocalist he did not steer her into music lessons. But at an early age she saw and heard someone playing the accordion. That experience encouraged her to learn to play the accordion and piano. She became talented to the point of becoming an instructor of both instruments. In 1963, Judy married her high school classmate Murlyn Nieman. They now have 2 daughters and 4 wonderful grandchildren.



Cervical and Ovarian Cancer Ribbon
logo source [etsy.com/shop/RoyceN](https://www.etsy.com/shop/RoyceN)

In 2013 she was diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer and thought she would not live long. But, she says, God proved me wrong. Her Minister told her he had not seen anyone with such faith.

She goes on to say, "I've had a good life and this year we celebrated 57 years together."

We thank Judy for bravely sharing her story and offer her our prayers and support.



OBITUARIES



The Alumni Association members would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the former classmates mentioned below. You will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.

Please Note: Some of the deceased listed below are from years past. If we receive deaths from the past that are not listed in our newsletter, they will be posted on the "In Memoriam" section on our website. If you know of a deceased graduate that is not listed in the Memoriam section of our website please let us know the name, school, graduating class and date of passing.

Taylor Center High

Richard Wagner, Class of 1960 (passed May 29, 2020)
Napoleon Ross, Class of 1974 (passed November 1979)
Richard Rowley, Class of 1986 (passed May 18, 2020)
William "Bill" Cannon, Class of 1962 (passed May 21, 2020)
Gary Zollweg, Class of 1962 (passed May 2020)
Marlene Stapleton Garner, Class of 1963 (passed May 24, 2020)
Alan J. Kennedy, Class of 1988 (passed away July 27, 2020)
Larry Hill, Class of 1969 (passed May 3, 2018)
Dale Herron, Class of 1965 (passed February 10, 2018)

John F Kennedy High

Kenneth Boike, Class of 1972 (passed June 25, 2020)
Cheryl Shivel Hodge, Class of 1969 (passed July 1, 2020)
Keith Renner, Class of 1972 (passed July 12, 2020)
Gayle Bartlett LaFleur Grant, Class of 1968 (passed July 10, 2020)
Mark Knight, Class of 1973 (passed July 4, 2020)
Carrie Clickard, Class of 1979 (passed June 10, 2020)
Michael Simms, Class of 1992 (passed July 4, 2020)
Nancy McDonald, Class of 1971 (passed July 22, 2020)

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Truman High School

Kenneth Sorke, Class of 2014 (passed May 23, 2020)

Shaun Hawkins, Class of 1988 (passed May 31, 2020)

Tama Baize Pierson, Class of 1983 (passed July 16, 2019)

Staff

Robert Bohn, retired Teacher JFK (passed May 20, 2020)

Carol Anne Camacho, retired Teacher from HST (passed May 24, 2020)

Joyce Fletcher Giraud, retired bus driver and maintenance employee (passed July 14, 2020)

Amazing Milestone - Georgia Collett, district secretary, (passed October of 2019) just weeks before her 102nd birthday.

Thank you to Bill Leak, TCH Class of 1965 for pointing out an incorrect posting in the July issue. Dale Herron's passing was listed under STAFF and he was a member of the Class of 1965.

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit the alumni website tayloralumni.org and click on "In Memoriam".