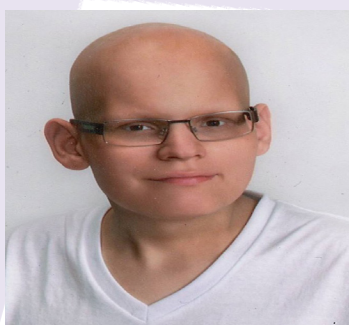


Southwest FOUNDATION news

The Southwest Foundation News is published twice a year. To receive a copy either by mail or email, please sign up in the News section of our website:

SouthwestFoundation.org

Honoring Evan Karges



After surviving brain cancer in 2010, Evan Karges appeared in three Southwest High School plays between 2011 and 2012: as Fauchelevent and a chorus member in *Les Misérables*; as a chain-smoking kindergarten teacher obsessed with death in the one-act

Odds Are; and – wearing a bedsheet toga and laurel wreath – as Homer in the student-directed Black Box production of *Vatzlav*.

Appearing onstage became Evan's favorite part of school (sometimes to the detriment of other subjects). But the cancer recurred in 2012, leading to a year of high-dose chemotherapy, two stem-cell transplants, and missing most of junior year. When the cancer was diagnosed as incurable in October 2013, Evan reluctantly withdrew from Southwest and earned his GED in May 2014. Evan died only a few months later on December 14, 2014.

In memory of Evan's substantive and joyful experiences in Southwest High School's theatre program, we have decided to make an ongoing donation in his name to the Southwest Foundation to benefit the theatre and music departments, and have included them in our estate plan in perpetuity.

[Cont. p4.]

Students Donate Summer Earnings to SW Foundation

Money may not grow on trees, but these students found plenty of 'green:' after a summer of cutting lawns, they contributed \$800 to the Southwest Foundation.



SW Seniors Charlie Shors, Owen Dean, Alexander Matoushek & Caelan Kleinhans.

"We wanted to give back to the school because it has inspired us to do service in our community and has helped us grow."

As part of their IB Diploma CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) Project, Alexander Matoushek, Owen Dean, Caelan Kleinhans and Charlie Shors developed the charitable lawn care business "Laker Lawn Care" intending to donate all proceeds to charities. The four friends chose to work together to create

[Cont. p3.]

YOU'RE INVITED! SAVE THESE DATES!

Southwest Foundation
LAKER Legacy



Thursday, May 9, 2019, 7 pm - 10 pm
At the Minikahda Club. More details in 2019.

Frosh Frenzy: a SWF FUNdraiser

Saturday, January 12, 2019, 7 pm - 10 pm
At the home of Gwen Spurgat. \$20/person.
R.S.V.P. and learn more at SouthwestFoundation.org

Celebrate the end of first semester with other 9th grade parents, meet important staff and admin, and support the mission of the Southwest Foundation!

From our Chair



Adam Barrett, '00

The SW Education Experience

This holiday season, The Southwest Foundation and Southwest community can be thankful for many reasons. News of Dr. Parker's incredible contribution filled our hearts and spirit with warmth and confidence. Her generosity is held as a pinnacle of celebration and while that is exactly how we embrace it, we must also remember that our organization, the high school, and community all raise one another through multiple layers of support.

Our Foundation is relatively small and relies on the dedication and faith of volunteers. The financial backing we receive and allocate within Southwest is the result of an existence established through tireless commitment and investment toward some of the greatest teachers in the world, the students we seek to educate, and a positive future for all.

It's not easy.

Over Thanksgiving, I found focus and relaxation with a binge of, "Mad Men." As the complexities of life's journey were delivered through glamorous actors and strategic angles, a rhetorical question posed to "Don Draper" immediately captured my attention, "What do I want versus what is expected of me?"

The story's script provides a simple view into an existential dilemma that every person confronts, including our students.

As I pressed the pause button to contemplate how the paradox impacted my life, I grew tireless and clamored to compile what 'real'

SW Code Club

As a club, our primary goal is to get students interested and creating in computer science fields. We hosted an event at the beginning of the year to teach coding and engage students to come back and develop their programming skills. We thought that the competitive structure of a hackathon would be a good fit because it would encourage thinking about how to make an app that improves the lives of SW students.



critics thought. The result of entering, "Mad Men, Season 4 Episode 2" into my Google search offered an immediate reminder and affirmation toward an integral lesson of IB: "everything is interconnected."

The "Mad Men" episode frozen in my dark bedroom was written by Southwest, Class of 1983 Alumna, Tracy McMillan.

Only days prior, Tracy organized with The Foundation, boarded a flight from Los Angeles to Minneapolis and spoke with students at Southwest about an infinite number of life journeys and the peace we should find within our unique paths. That, even though we are fueled with an inherent desire to explore our "wants" while seeking to exceed cultural "expectations"-determination, achievement, and happiness are born from discovering a balance between the sometimes conflicted entities.

Of course, a third, and most crucial consideration must ultimately act as a guide; "what's right?"

At Southwest and within IB, we have incredibly high expectations

In total, we had 20 students participate and everyone left with a new understanding of a programming language or what it's like to work as a software engineer.

The money that we received from the Southwest Foundation was crucial to making this event happen.

We've launched Code Club off on a good trajectory, and with a larger more diverse group of students we'll easily be able to build on all the successes we had last year.

and embedded values. These act as benchmarks, encouraging mechanisms toward thoughtful discovery, and inevitably as pressure piles, the root of great personal frustration. Accompanying our rigorous curriculum and core principles must be paths that help to fulfill "wants" while also revealing the importance of sacrifice and service. This intersecting balance creates an "education experience" essential to student and community progress.

Through our fundraising, partnerships, grant allocations, alumni engagement, and firm belief in the strength of Southwest High School and surrounding community, the "paths of exploration" that merge "expectations" and "wants" with integrity and shared success are opened for all our students to travel.

The work is plentiful; The resources are limited.

Your contribution, as we close the year, will help maintain momentum and also build confident strength that propels us forward, together.

We are excited for an incredible 2019, with you by our side!

[Laker Lawn Care Continued]

the business, complete with website, marketing, online interactive tools and exceptional customer service. “We took this opportunity to learn how to create and run a business,” shared Owen Dean. The boys remarked on how they learned how to find and interact with customers, share the work, administer their finances and provide a wide range of lawn care services. “I went from never mowing a lawn to being able to complete a lawn project including

weeding, trimming and landscaping on my own,” remarked Charlie Shors.

The group chose both local and global charities to support. “Over the summer, we earned \$2,500 serving 25 customers. By carefully managing our expenses, we were able to donate \$2,400 to three different charities: Southwest Foundation, the Minnesota Environmental Fund and Feed My Starving Children,” reported Caelan Kleinhans.

“We wanted to give back to the school because it has inspired us to do service in our community and has helped us grow,” shared Alexander Matoushek.

The Laker Lawn Care team intends to continue their business into next summer and perhaps beyond. They can be found at lakerlawncare.weebly.com and on social media @lakerlawncare.

Alumni News

Dr. Betsee Parker ‘69

On November 20, The Southwest Foundation announced a considerable, \$250,000, contribution from Dr. Parker.

Dr. Parker’s involvement with Southwest and the community began at a young age as both of her brothers also attended. In high school, she excelled academically but also grew frustrated with bias demonstrated toward male classmates and a lack of extracurricular opportunities for young women. As her life journey takes her across many continents, into the presence of world leaders and amidst significant environmental and systemic challenges, Dr. Parker embraces direct engagement and philanthropy.



Dr. Parker at an AIDS Orphanage in Kenya.

Dr. Parker recognizes that despite efforts to expand equality, inequities remain. With the designation of half her contribution to directly impact



Dr. Parker working with Pope Francis at the Vatican on the Paris Climate Accords.

Southwest Women’s Athletics, she hopes it will expand opportunities but also communal confidence in an integral piece of development for young women; paths that did not exist when she attended Southwest.

The remaining \$125,000 of Dr. Parker’s gift will focus on grant allocations pertaining to work in the classroom. With the designated pool of resources allocated through Southwest Foundation grants, Dr. Parker hopes teachers can find innovative, impactful ways to expand their classroom presence and subsequently give kids reasons to “want to learn.”

Tracy McMillan ‘82; Distinguished Alumni HoF (‘16)

In mid-November, Ms. McMillan made the journey from Los Angeles, CA to visit Southwest and students in Ms. Megan Marsnik’s “Creative Writing” class.



Tracy speaks to Megan Marsnik’s Creative Writing class.

Tracy engaged in a conversation that described her life’s path as a student from a broken home to Emmy Award Winning writer. Her message to students, “Life isn’t a straight path, it’s a series of zig-zags and that’s okay. Embrace every unique aspect of your journey and know that ‘one size does not fit all’.” A student from the class remarked,

“Tracy Inspired me. She helped alleviate fears about my future and gave me confidence to pursue my passions.”



Tracy McMillan and Megan Marsnik.

Send alumni news to info@SouthwestFoundation.org

SOUTHWEST KUDOS

At State AA Swim & Dive Championships, **Peyton D'Emanuele, Junior**, won the 100 fly. Her time of 54.45 is a new MPS record and automatic All-American time. She is the first SW swimmer to earn a state championship title (in boys or girls swimming) since 1977. **Elle Niebuhr, Junior**, set a new school record while finishing 10th in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:53.54. She also finished third with a new MPS and school record in the 500 free with a time of 4:59.03.

The **Mountain Biking Team** took third at State, marking the fourth straight year SW has finished in the top three.

IB Coordinator **Lisa Ledman** completed the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon!

Mark Pekala, Senior, was one of eight students selected from the state of MN to travel to Princeton University for a national math competition.

Silvia Miller, Sophomore, represented MN in the Guitar All-National Honors Ensemble in Orlando, FL.

Sophomore Soccer All-State player, Ramzi Ouro-Akondo, was featured in a Star Tribune article about how Soccer allowed him to thrive in America.

Sage Curry-Wynne, Isabella Kemling and Mark Pekala, Seniors, earned three of eight possible state-wide spots for honorable distinctions at the All-State Debate honors awards.

Demetrius 'TK' Marshall, Junior, won the Twin Cities Gold district offensive player of the year in football.

Teachers **David McMayer** and **Anne Perkins** served as coaches for the MN All-State Math Team. Their team was one of four that represented MN at the American Regions Mathematics League National Tournament.

Maddie Hannan, Senior, competed at the State AA Cross Country Championships. She broke her own school record, running the 5k in 18:45.

Siobhan Dietz and Henry Stahl, Seniors, have logged the most hours as tutors this year in Peer Math Tutoring than any other SW students.

Cal Thiesing, Sophomore, had his award-winning video 'Kill the Animal' screened in the Twin Cities Film Fest on October 25th at the Showplace Icon in the West End as part of the festival's "Thrilling Tingling Tales Shorts Block."

[Karges Continued]



Evan poses with the cast and crew of Odds Are at the 2012 MN One Act Festival. The group celebrated beating Edina after advancing from the regional competition.

Evan cherished Southwest High School from early childhood in Super Summer programs to his theatre and choir experiences in High School. Theatre provided a haven during Evan's difficult hospitalizations and treatments. It provided valuable friendships and ongoing support. He would often say, "I love my school," and we can think of nothing more meaningful than to continue that love.

~David and Karen Karges

A Meaningful and Lasting Tribute

Everyone knows planned giving rewards your beneficiaries with a lasting gift. What can be surprising is that the significant impact on young lives you make when you include the Southwest Foundation in your estate plan has a remarkably similar rewarding impact on your own life.

The Karges family honors their son and the school he loved with regularly scheduled donations, and they take pride in knowing they have planned a significant gift from their estate to have lasting impact in Evan's name well into the future.

We are so grateful to the Karges family and others who credit Southwest as a positive influence in their loved ones' formative years and choose to donate to the Southwest Foundation in their honor or memory. Southwest High School and the Southwest Foundation: together, the rewards are endless.



Our mission is to work with Southwest High School and its alumni to create an exceptional educational experience for all Southwest students. The Foundation raises money to support academic, athletic, and artistic opportunities for students and to provide scholarships to graduating seniors.

We meet regularly and all meetings are open for anyone to attend. Check our website for agendas and meeting dates.

There are lots of ways to support the Foundation! If you'd like to get involved, contact us through our website at SouthwestFoundation.org to see what will work best for you.

2018-19 Board Members

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Kelsey Stommel '03, Vice Chair
Paul Roach '88, Treasurer
Una Edwardson, current parent
Dan Froehlich '75, Dir. of Alumni Engagement, staff and graduate parent
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Kirsten Mair, Dir. of Operations, alum
Stamatka Platanova, SW Faculty
Dave Premack '04, SW Community Education
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3414 W. 47th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55410

