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September 6, 2019

Mr. John Carr
2317 E. 11th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50316

Re: East High Class of 1956

Dear John:

Earlier this week I had an e-mail exchange with Carol Graney DeChant. You might recall. Her father was an Orthopedic doctor at the Wilden Clinic and they lived in a large house on the edge of the Des Moines river just south of Union Park. We used to have parties in her basement where they had an actual human skeleton. Carol entered the marketing world and among her clients was Crayola. I credit her with making that brand famous.

She now lives in southern Florida. Here is what she wrote:

I felt John needed some support & sent a letter commenting on his last news.

The newsletter plea for us to build the scholarship to \$30,000 was good, but it raised my question of whether we're waiting to get there before we dispense scholarships. I recall reading about one scholarship we gave, but don't recall that we've given since.

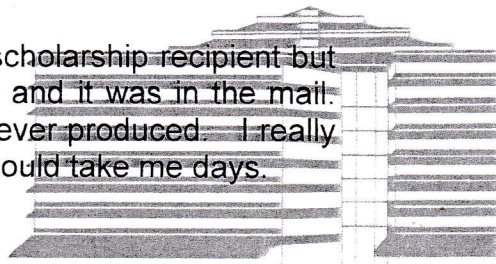
My concern is: are we waiting to build an endowment, and not dispensing what we have? I understand the desire to build something for perpetuity, but from what I understand the need is great now at EHS. And since we may never get to \$30,000....

Since I wonder about this I assume others who contributed may also wonder. You may want to address that in the next newsletter.

Hope all is well with you & yours. I'm awash in Hurricane preparations, so I send you Hurricane Trivia: did you know that people are more likely to ignore orders to evacuate from female-named hurricanes than male-named ones? (Insulting when you think of it: people don't take female hurricanes seriously!) So they're going for gender-neutral names (Dorian). But shouldn't they be using male-names to save lives, like: Rocky, Arnold, Adolph, Brutus, Gorgeous George, etc.

Best, Carol

I explained to her that I had written to you regarding our 2019 scholarship recipient but had not seen a News Letter, and low and behold I went home and it was in the mail. Thank you! This is possibly the best Newsletter our Class has ever produced. I really appreciate your efforts. Just assembling the list of restaurants would take me days.




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You mentioned Apollo 11 landing on the Moon in 1969. But I want to tell our class the story of what East High contributed to that mission. Many people in our class would remember Jack Hartung. He was a 1955 graduate, but would be known since he was selected on the "All-City Team" as the left end in football. Jack also sat on the bench a lot as a basketball player for East -- and he was also on the tennis team. All this in addition to being a straight A student. Jack went to East, having graduated from Warren Harding Jr. High, even though by then his parents lived south of Grand off of 42nd Street, and he had to drive by Roosevelt daily to get to East.

What makes Jack special for us is that after East he went to Iowa State and graduated with a 3.87 in physics. He was hired by NASA as a space scientist, ultimately getting his masters degree in physics. He was the scientist in charge of the contractors building rockets and space ships for NASA. He was responsible for everything that affected the ships trajectory. He told me that the first space ship that took John Glenn into space landed in the ocean about 200 miles from where he had predicted so Glenn had to bob a bit before a ship could reach him. He acknowledged that was a bit of an opps!

Jack was the scientist in charge of the trajectory of the space ship from the Earth to the Moon and everything the Astronaut's did after they arrived on the Moon. He even showed me his desk space in the NASA Mission Control room in Houston. By then Jack wanted to be an Astronaut. He entered Rice University to get his doctorate degree in Lunar Geology. (Not an awfully marketable college major in private industry today.) By the time he graduated NASA had discontinued using scientist in their Astronaut program. But they put Jack in charge of the facility for accepting Moon rocks collected on the Moon. He became the world expert on microcraters in Moon rocks. A bit hard to also market that skill to private industry.

I invited Jack to be the speaker at the East High Alumni Annual Meeting the year I was president of our Alumni Association. I wanted to impress upon the graduating seniors that with the education they had received at East, there were no barriers. You could reach for the Moon and successfully get there. Speaking at our 50th class reunion at East I contrasted Jack with your next door neighbor growing up, Harold Olsen, who never left East High, serving as a High School counselor responsible for our Alumni Association Scholarship program, and guiding students on their career paths. Each reached the top of their profession. Each made a Hugh difference in the lives of thousands of people. Each in their own way. East prepared both of them to make their own lives worthwhile. Each graduate gets to pick their own path through life. We all did, and today we can look back and be proud of our roots that were formed at East High.

Sincerely,

Lyle L. Simpson