

Plano ISD Alumni Association



In This Issue

[Alumni News](#)

[Experience in Plano ISD](#)

[Fan Facebook](#)

[Save the Date](#)

Quick Links

[Plano Senior HS](#)

[Plano East SHS](#)

[Plano West SHS](#)

[Alumni Association](#)



Alumni Spotlight



**Hunter
Ryan
Herdlicka,**
*Plano West
Senior High,
Class of
2005*

Plano ISD Alumni Association Newsletter

Homecoming Should Not Be a Once a Year Event

*By Bart Ridley and Mitch Bramlett, Plano Senior High School
Class of 1987*

Homecoming is recognized as the tradition of welcoming back former residents and alumni of an academic institution. While many things about Plano have changed over the years, many of the school activities that constitute our fondest memories remain. The Plano ISD Alumni Association was created with the goal of maintaining the tradition of quality education by building a network of former students, reacquainting graduates with the district, and encouraging graduates to support the district through contributions to the Plano ISD Education Foundation. As a testament to the draw of our community, there are approximately 500 employees of the Plano ISD who are graduates of the Plano ISD. This is the essence of homecoming. The sheer number of graduates who have made the decision to return home, and who now teach at one of the more than 50 campuses within the Plano ISD speaks volumes about the powerful pull of our schools, their commitment to our children and dedication to our community. It has been especially humbling and rewarding for us as graduates of Plano schools to raise our children in Plano and have them attend schools within the Plano ISD.

Plano Experience: Frankford, Shepton, Plano West

University Experience:
Carnegie Mellon School of Drama
- BFA in Acting/Musical Theatre

What is your current job? I
was hired at my first audition in New York City and I am currently making my Broadway debut as one of the lead roles in Sir Trevor Nunn's production of Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*, which starred Catherine Zeta-Jones and Angela Lansbury, and is now starring Bernadette Peters and Elaine Stritch!

How did Plano ISD prepare you for your post-secondary experience? First and foremost, the demands of PISD taught me time management skills. Since Carnegie Mellon is a conservatory program, with days that last sometimes 12 or 13 hours, I was completely prepared, having been schooled in PISD, to excel (and survive) at this top program.

Also, because Plano schools have such strong fine arts programs, I felt completely prepared to keep up with the demands and competition in such an intense acting program, such as the School of Drama at Carnegie, which is currently ranked as number 1 in the country.

What Plano teacher influenced you? How? Almost all of my teachers positively influenced my life as a student, as well as an actor. I always was closest with my theatre teachers, especially Carmen McElwain and Jeni Helms, both of whom I had at Shepton. They constantly encouraged, but also pushed me,

What is the mission of our alumni organization? As former students and parents of current students, our mission is to identify and engage graduates to join us in advancing the legacy of our district by supporting the school district through our gifts and our service. There are numerous ways for our alumni to become involved. The first step in developing an awareness of the great things currently going on within the school district is to visit the district's website, PlanoISD.edu. The Plano Alumni Association has also launched a Facebook group and we encourage all alumni to join this group to network and learn more about ways you can support the district. The Education Foundation in conjunction with the Alumni Association also recently issued a challenge to all past graduating classes of Plano ISD to donate funds as a class gift to support the 5th grade camp scholarships which allow all current 5th graders to build memories that are so fondly cherished by past classes.

As we work to establish increased connectivity with our alumni base, we ask that you stay tuned to learn more about volunteer opportunities, networking events, and consider making a financial contribution to the Plano ISD Education Foundation. Your contributions have a direct impact on the children of Plano ISD and their families - the 5th grade camp scholarships mentioned above is just one of many opportunities made possible through your generosity.

Rest assured that as members of the PSHS Class of 1987, we will not be waiting until the next class reunion or homecoming football game to show our support. Whether you are a proud Wildcat, Panther, or Wolf, the opportunity exists to celebrate homecoming on a year round basis for those who reside both near and far.

From Student to Teacher: My Experience in Plano ISD

By Anna Groysman, Plano Senior High School Class of 2003

I have had a wonderful



to be a stronger actor, as well as a stronger person. Another strong influence was Melissa McKnelly, my English teacher at Shepton, whom I still keep in touch with to this day.

When did you first realize that college might be an option for you? I never questioned whether or not I would attend college, but it certainly wouldn't have been possible for me to attend Carnegie Mellon had I not received a full scholarship.

What is your most memorable high school moment? Performing in 'Scapino' at Shepton High School; it was the most fun I've EVER had onstage!

One piece of advice you would give a graduating senior: No dreams are too big. Never stop dreaming or limiting your dreams because someone else's imagination is too small.

Favorite high school role in a performance: Jean Valjean in Les Miserables at Plano West. I was about 45 years too young for the part, but I have the greatest memories from that show.

Biggest difference between Plano and New York City: Having a car! Everything in my neighborhood in New York is within walking distance!

Actor or Actress you would most like to work with:
Kevin Kline and Meryl Streep.



experience transitioning from student to teacher. I think the best way to describe it would be as an adventure. I attended Plano ISD schools from 5th grade through my senior year, graduating from Plano Senior High. I was unsure on what career to pursue, so I tried a little of everything. My favorite subject in school was always math and even though I was a shy student, I always loved to get up in front of class and explain how I solved a problem. I always liked that there were so many different approaches to solving the same problem which I related to real life situations. That also turns out to come in handy as a teacher. After graduating from Plano Senior High, I attended UT Dallas and experimented with many degree programs. However, after working as an AVID tutor, I found my place as a teacher. As I was getting certified I student-taught at Schimelpfenig Middle School where I also attended as a student. While student-teaching I was lucky enough to work with some of the same teachers that I had when I went there.

This was a completely different experience and I was surprised to see another side of my teachers and I realized that they do have a life outside of school. While student teaching I was able to relate to them with all kinds of stressful situations and rewarding ones. An important lesson I learned was that teaching is more than a full-time job, it is your whole life and the more you put into it, the more rewarding and fulfilling it becomes. I cannot imagine doing anything else and I am very thankful that I have been given this opportunity. I am now a full time teacher at Armstrong Middle School and I am blessed to be able to work with some of the best students and staff a teacher could hope for.

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

Become a Fan: Plano ISD Alumni Launches Facebook Page

The Plano ISD Education Foundation announces the launch of its Plano ISD alumni Facebook page. The new page offers an interactive opportunity for Plano ISD alums to communicate with each other and encourages alums to stay engaged with the Plano ISD.

Last year the Plano ISD Education Foundation

What is your dream role?

'Bobby' in Stephen Sondheim's *Company*.

Favorite Quote: "No artist is pleased. There is no satisfaction at any time. There is only a queer, divine dissatisfaction, a blessed unrest, that keeps us marching and makes us more alive." -Martha Graham to Agnes de Mille.

What is the day in the life of Hunter?

It really depends on the day. Wednesdays and Saturdays are two show days for me, so from 11am-11:30pm I'm at the theatre. Other days, I sleep till about 11, then return emails and phone calls, go to the gym, run errands, eat dinner, and head to the theatre (I like to get there about an hour and a half early to start warming up).

Send your alumni news to alumni@pisd.edu to be included in future publications.

announced its initiative to bring together alumni in support of Plano ISD. As part of that effort they introduced a new webpage at www.pisd.edu/alumni and a quarterly newsletter.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation will use social media as a new form to reach alumni and allow a forum for interaction among alumni. The fan site will include regular volunteer opportunities in the District, reunion updates, sporting event updates, alumni spotlights and many more.

"The Plano ISD has more than 100 years of graduates and they know first hand the value of the Plano ISD education. It seemed logical to get them engaged as they have potential to be the District's biggest cheerleaders and supporters" said Bart Ridley, Co-Chair of the Alumni Committee. Ridley added "College and university boosters make a huge impact on their campuses why not at the K-12 level that laid the important foundation for their education."

The Plano ISD Education Foundation hopes to grow their alumni fan base to 3,500 in the next year. Each year the Plano ISD graduates more than 3,000 seniors.



PLANO ISD
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

[Visit Us](#)

Join Today

Become a member of the
[Plano ISD Alumni
Association.](#)

Contact Us

If you would like to comment on a story, share your Plano memories or photos, submit news or obituaries, volunteer or otherwise get in touch with us, we would love to hear from you.



Ski Plano Emcee Announced

Join us for "An Extraordinary Evening on the Mountaintop" at the 15th annual "Ski Plano" fundraiser to benefit the Plano ISD Education Foundation. This year's event will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 29, at Southfork Ranch in Parker, Texas. This is a great event to support Plano ISD and network

E-mail: alumni@pisd.edu

Online: pisd.edu/alumni

Phone: 469/752-8272

Seeking Volunteers

Interested in serving on the planning committee for the alumni association? Email foundation@pisd.edu

Interested in mentoring a student? Volunteer 30 minutes a week during your lunch hour and make a huge difference in a student's life. Email foundation@pisd.edu

Share Your Story

In future newsletter we will feature a section for connecting with classmates. In this section we will feature latest developments in the PISD alumni community and tell your fellow alums what you've been up to since graduating. Send your news to foundation@pisd.edu.

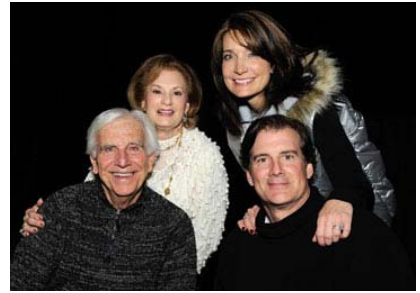
Job promotion? Won an award? Have a photo to share with fellow alums? Great stories from reunions? Making a difference in the community? Send your images and stories.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Plano ISD Alumni Association
2700 W. 15th Street
Plano, TX 75075
469/752-8272 or
alumni@pisd.edu
www.pisd.edu/alumni

with fellow alums.

More than 900 guests are expected to enjoy the evening's activities including a seated dinner and dancing to the music of Mars Hill. Other entertainment will include the live auction, the silent auction, and the one-of-a-kind Avalanche raffle. [Purchase tickets today.](#)



Betty & James Muns and Joa (Event Chair) & John (PSHS '78) Muns

This year's Master of Cermonies is alumn, **WT Greer (PSHS '81)**. WT



W. T. Greer (PSHS '81)

Greer has captured the hearts of listeners from San Diego to the White House, Europe to Africa, and from Australia to Asia. His music is being played on radio and satellite stations broadcast around the world, and his voice can be heard in almost every time zone. WT's name has become synonymous with class and romance and he has been called the Nat King Cole of the new generation.