

# TOWER NEWS



Withrow Alumni • Box 8186 • Cincinnati, OH 45208 • (513) 363-9085 • withrowalumni.org

Fall 2019

## Withrow High School Celebrates 100 Years of Excellence in Epic Fashion

by NICHELLE BOLDEN '84

After two years of organization, meeting, planning, and execution, the Withrow Centennial Celebration took place from September 4 through September 8, 2019. Presented by the Withrow Alumni Association, the five-day celebration marked our 100 years of providing excellence in educational, civic, musical and athletic accomplishments. Additionally,



The gala committee delivered a spectacular evening.

long-standing community and corporate partners, Western & Southern Financial Group, the Cincinnati Herald, Frost, Brown and Todd Legal Firm, and Xavier University, joined the Alumni Association in presenting this grand affair.

Kicking off a host of events was the ORANGE OUT on Fountain Square, where 1,000 Tigers descended upon downtown to commemorate our birthday. Withrow High

School was honored by city, county, and state officials with proclamations officially declaring Withrow Weekend throughout the city. City councilman Jeff Pastor ('01) delivered the first official proclamation from the Mayor's office, followed by Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus and State Representatives Brigid Kelly and Sedrick Denson. Finally, Tiger

alumnus, State Senator Cecil Thomas, presented WAI with proclamations from the Ohio Senate and an official gubernatorial proclamation from Governor Mike DeWine. Former Ohio state representative and class of 1989 President Alicia Reece served as the Mistress of Ceremonies, as four of Cincinnati's legendary DJs—Da'Mon George ('88),

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Holiday Concert Spectacular Returns to Withrow

### The Concert

Thursday, December 12, 2019, marks the return of a Withrow Holiday Concert, the final event of Withrow's Centennial year celebration. There will be one performance for students in the afternoon and a public performance beginning at 7:30 pm in the evening. The performance will last two hours with no intermission. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$2 for children 12 years old and younger. Tickets

will go on sale on November 1, 2019 at <https://whstheaterproductions.org/>. Parking will be available on the streets around Withrow and behind the school near the gym. Use the Dana Ave. entrance.

In addition to performances by Withrow students, the Holiday Concert will feature the Lakota East Choir. Lakota East has an exemplary choir program that starts with a

*(Continued on page 2)*

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Faithfully served 12 years or longer on the Board.

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## Holiday Concert Spectacular Returns to Withrow *(Continued from page 1)*

basic program for junior high students; this early experience enables them to join a wide range of performance groups in senior high.

The Holiday Concert will also feature the Cincinnati New Horizons Band, which performed for Withrow Sounds Again in May. This orchestra includes many very talented Withrow alumni.

### The Program

The effort to bring music and theater back to Withrow is off to a great start. This school year has produced 92 Beginning Band students, who are split among three classes daily. Those classes are being taught by Laura Omais. A drama class of 28 students is taught by Diane Roland, for 38 years a dedicated Withrow teacher. This daily class curriculum includes mime, one-act plays, and writing. In addition, a steel drum class has 28

students split between two classes taught daily by Mike Wendledn.

### How You Can Help

The Beginning Band Program continues to look for instrument donations and/or money to help repair instruments. If you want to donate an instrument or know of a potentially available instrument, please call Zachery Riggins '72 at 652-5080. If you'd like to assist with instrument repair, you may write a check payable to Withrow Alumni Inc. and mail it to Withrow Alumni Inc., P.O. Box 8186, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208. Alternatively, go to <https://withrowalumni.org/> under Help Withrow, Make a Donation online.

### Looking Ahead

Mark your calendar now for the next Sounds of Withrow performances April 30, May 1 and May 2, 2020.





## Withrow High School Celebrates 100 Years of Excellence in Epic Fashion *(Continued from page 1)*

Perry Simmons ('85), Guy Westmoreland ('91) and David Hankerson ('78)—were on the “wheels of steel” capturing the Tiger party spirit.

The epic weekend continued with the Centennial Golf Outing at Reeves Golf Course at Lunken Airport on September 7. At this event, co-chaired by Rich Eby ('59) and Terrance Shearer ('84), more than 65 alum teed off to raise funds for the Major R. McNeal Scholarship Fund. Many noted Tiger alumni who participated included basketball and golf legends, Denny Duermit ('68), John Apgar ('68), Rick Calloway ('85) and Coach George Jackson ('74).

September 8, marked a historic day filled with a host of events Tigers will remember for years to come. We kicked off the day with the Centennial Crosstown Hoop Showdown vs. the Woodward High School Bulldogs, featuring our millennial basketball all-stars. Coached by Steve Gentry ('89), and led by Chris Knight ('05), Anthony McBride ('08) and Josh Reid ('09), the Tiger All-Stars put away the always scrappy Bulldogs, 80-74. Also featured was the halftime Slam Dunk

Contest, led by our young Tiger Cubs, Simon Edwards ('20) and Ivan Mason ('20), who respectively placed first and second.

Later in the evening, over 800 Tiger Alumni descended upon JACK Casino Grand Ballroom for the soiree of the year—the Centennial Gala and After Party. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous surf and turf dinner, and celebrated our storied history through songs and speeches from numerous alumni and Laura Mitchell, CPS Superintendent and keynote speaker. Serving as the Gala Mistress of Ceremonies, former WCPO anchor Jenell Walton ('89) regaled the crowd with hilarious stories about her time spent at Withrow as a member of the Withrow Voice of Communications. Alumni entertainers, jazz artist Kathy Wade ('73) and nationally renowned gospel artist, Darwin Hobbs ('85), delivered powerful solo performances, as well as a moving collective rendition of our Alma Mater. Rich Eby ('59) and Emily Spicer ('44) were crowned Mr. and Mrs. Centennial.

“As a Tiger, I can RRROAR,” quipped Mrs. Spicer in her accept-

ance speech. “And you TOO Tigers, can RRRROOAR!”

Closing out the grand weekend, 150 alumni gathered around the iconic clock tower at the Centennial Brunch on Sunday morning. Guests enjoyed a delectable menu, spirited ambiance, great music, and connections with classmates. DJ Da'Mon George echoed the sentiments of many alumni.

“Anyone who walked the halls of Withrow High School knew it was a special place,” said George. “Our centennial celebrations allowed us to show Cincinnati and the world our generations of bonds, our Tiger Love, and our Tiger Pride.”

Overall, the Withrow High School Centennial Weekend set an amazing precedent in terms of how we honor our history and our historically significant campus, and showcased the overall love we have for our school. We thank all those Tigers who attended, donated, supported, and volunteered time, funds, and effort into making this spectacular event one of the most memorable times in our rich history. And remember— ONCE A TIGER.... ALWAYS A TIGER!



Left, the Golf tournament committee planned a tournament that raised money for scholarships. Right, alumni enjoyed Sunday brunch around the tower.

# From the Principal's Desk

by JERRON T. GRAY

What an awesome Centennial Celebration! From the Orange-Out on Fountain Square to the Golf Outing, Alumni Basketball Game vs Woodward, the packed-house Gala at Jack Casino and the elegant Tower Lawn Brunch, what an amazing celebration week! All I can say is WOW!!!

To be a part of history and to have met so many distinguished Alumni from all across the city and country was truly a tremendous honor. Our Centennial Celebration put on display such grand Tiger Pride that all of Cincinnati Public Schools and the City of Cincinnati stood watching in awe and shared in our Withrow tradition, culture and pride. This was a celebration to remember and will never be forgotten!

As we embark upon our next 100 years, Withrow is still on the move – continuing to impact the academic, artistic and athletic lives of over 1,300 students. Here are just some of the highlights of our school year, thus far:

Academically, our faculty and staff have been working extremely hard to analyze State testing data and develop strategies to enhance student learning across all academic disciplines. Our School of Business continues to forge ahead with partnerships with companies such as: Western & Southern's Mentoring Program and Madison's Sorbet & Gelato Company—working with our 8th grade students to develop feasibility research studies of different gelato flavors that students will

eventually vote on, put into production and market based upon their study; also, through the lens of our Agri-business Program, our Foundations of Economics classes are addressing supply and demand problems related to food scarcity in our city's urban areas and those around the world.

Our Special Needs Program students recently participated in Cincinnati's River Reach Program where they cruised up and down the Ohio River learning about the history of the river and collecting scientific data such as the pH of and the bacteria, micro and macro species levels in the Ohio River. Additionally, our students gain hands-on work experiences twice a week, through ViaQuest Day & Employment Services—working at Matthew 25 Ministries and Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in downtown Cincinnati. Our students also participate in the Cincinnati Arts and Technology Studios (CATS) program where they create pottery, ceramics and digital fine art. Our students are then able to put their work up for sale and keep the profits. And finally, through the support of our Alumni Association, our special needs students run our Positive School Culture (PBIS) ROAR Student Incentive Store, as well as prepare Tiger Diner meals once a month for our faculty and staff as a part of our School of Business Program.

Our English as a Second Language (ESL Program) is helping our international refugee and immigrant stu-

dents acclimate to our Withrow academic culture, as well as partnering with support institutions such as: Refugee Connect, YMCA Young Achievers, Xavier University, University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State Community College. Our ESL-Engineering Pathway program visited the University of Cincinnati's College of Engineering in early October in the first of several joint events with UC and Cincinnati State. As a part of our Robotics Club, our students also recently competed together in a "robots soccer game" competition where student teams programmed robots to compete against each other in a robots soccer game. Great fun, great competition and great academic experience!

Artistically, as a result of the excitement from our Withrow Sounds Again show last spring, we are reviving our Fine Arts Program with the addition of a Drama Course, the hiring of a new Music Teacher and expanding student enrollment in our strings and small-but-mighty marching band programs. On October 31, students in our Drama class performed *Frankenstein* in the school's auditorium. On December 12, students in our Music and Fine Arts program will be performing in our Holiday Concert. Please, come out and support our students!

Our global reach saw three of our students and travel with teachers to New Taipei City, Taiwan in June to participate in our Taipei City-Cincinnati Sister City Culture and Education Exchange Program. The



high level of care, hospitality and cultural education experienced by our student and staff while in Taipei City was phenomenal, and without question will be remembered for a lifetime! Thank you alumni for your continued support of this program.

In line with Superintendent Laura Mitchell's District-wide vision for all Cincinnati Public Schools to prepare our students for the 3 E's: Enrollment into a College or University, Employment in a local, state or national business, and/or Enlistment into any branch of our United States Armed Forces, we held a College, Career and Military Fair in early October at Withrow. There were over 18 Colleges and Universities, six employers, and representatives from each branch of our Armed Forces present at the fair. There was great excitement at the event, which was very well attended by our sophomores, juniors and seniors. Additionally, we hosted HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) Day at Withrow on October 30 and will also took 110 juniors to the Cincinnati Career Expo at the Cincinnati Convention Center on October 31.

Athletically, our fall sports teams are competing well and gaining the respect of the league in football, soccer, volleyball and cross-country. We are growing and building a championship mindset and culture of excellence! Continue to support our athletic program!

Finally, Our Homecoming parade, game and dance brought such joy

and pride to our Withrow students and alumni! We thank all who participated in the week's festivities.

As you can see, we have a lot going on at the 'Row. It is our hope that you will continue to join and support us in holistically developing our students academically, artistically

and athletically in the next 100 years – enabling them to truly know what it means to be a Withrow Tiger – Once a Tiger, Always a Tiger!!!

All the Best,  
Jerron T. Gray, Principal



Classes for beginning band, taught by Ms Omais, and beginning drama, taught by Ms. Roland, are testimony to Withrow's resurgence as a school that values the arts

# 2020 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

by **DAVE BLOCKSOM '68**

We are excited to announce the five athletes who comprise the ninth group to be inducted into the Withrow Athletic Hall of Fame.

*Michael Turner, 1987* – Mike was the starting safety and leader of the defense his junior and senior years. He was All Eastern Metro League and All City both of those years. He was one of two captains his senior year and he received the Mr. Withrow Football Award for being the player who best represented Withrow football in his play on the field and his actions off the field. He led Withrow to the Eastern Metro League Championship and a top five ranking in Cincinnati. He was the starting safety in the Southwest Ohio All-Star game his senior year. Michael was also an excellent baseball player at Withrow.

Mike was offered a full four-year football scholarship to Morehead University, which he accepted. He started all but two games during his four-year career at Morehead. During his time at Morehead, he was coached by defensive backs coach John Harbaugh and defensive coordinator Rex Ryan, both of whom went on to become NFL head coaches. Mike was named captain of the team his junior and senior years and was voted one of the best defensive backs in the Ohio Valley Conference.

*Christopher Hicks, 1972* – Christopher was captain of the football team his senior year. That year Withrow was the PHSL football champion. Chris played both ways as an offensive and defensive tackle.

He received a full scholarship to Indiana State University where he was selected as a first team Kodak All-American and American Football Coaches Association first team. He was named to the Associated Press Honorable mention All-American team. He was one of the best offensive linemen in Indiana State history, starting as the offensive tackle for three straight seasons. He also played guard. He was co-captain his senior year. In 2008 he was inducted into the Indiana State University Athletic Hall of Fame. He was listed in a Sporting News article as one of pro football's lengthy list of draft prospects during his senior year at ISU.

*Ivan Johnson, 1998* – Ivan was an outstanding player and team leader in both football and basketball, earning two varsity letters in both sports. In football he was a hard hitting starting linebacker on a team that won the league championship. In basketball he was captain of the team his senior year, when the team went 20-7 and marched all the way to the final four in Columbus, where they lost in the semi-finals to the eventual State Champions. That year he was selected the Division I Player of the Year by the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Ivan went on to Cumberland College where he had an outstanding collegiate basketball career culminating in being inducted into their Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

*Chris Knight, 2005* – Chris was a first team All-City and a two time All-State selection. As a senior he was the Southwest Ohio Public School League

MVP, averaging 23 points, 12 rebounds and six blocked shots per game, as the team advanced to the district championship. He was also the SWOPL MVP his junior year. In a win over Dayton Dunbar he had 43 points, 24 rebounds and 12 blocked shots. He averaged a double-double as a sophomore. Chris scored over 1,000 points while playing at Withrow.

He continued his basketball career at Bowling Green State University where he played in 53 games from 2007 - 2009 and was ranked sixth in the MAC his freshman year. Chris transferred to Northern Kentucky University and played in 54 career games there. He averaged 9 points per game with 5 rebounds and shot 80% from the free throw line.

From 2012 - 2013 he traveled all over the world playing with the Harlem Globetrotters. Chris also played for the Whittlesea Pacers basketball team in the State League of Australia.

Chris currently works and coaches at Withrow.

*D'Monami Gardner, 2012* – In 2011 D'Monami was the Enquirer track and field Division I athlete of the year. She placed first in the State championship shot put. She was on the Withrow team that placed second in the State and Region. In 2012 she was on the Enquirer track and field Division I first team. That year she placed second in the State championship and first in the District and Region shot put competition.

D'Monami received an athletic scholarship and attended Southern



Illinois University. She participated in the shot put and weight throw in five indoor meets and the shot put, hammer throw and discus in seven outdoor meets. She posted five top third finishes across both seasons. She continued her collegiate career at Tiffin University where she participated in the shot put, discus and hammer throw.

The induction ceremony will take place on Friday evening, February 14, 2020 at half time of the Withrow-Walnut Hills varsity boys' basketball game, which starts at 7:00 PM. These outstanding athletes will join an exclusive group of 46 previous inductees. Names and bios of all inductees are available at the alumni website, [withrowalumni.org](http://withrowalumni.org).

Maintaining a meaningful Hall of Fame requires the efforts of many people, starting with YOUR submission of nominations for consideration for induction. The criteria for consideration and the nomination form are available on our website. We need your support of this important recognition effort.



Michael Turner



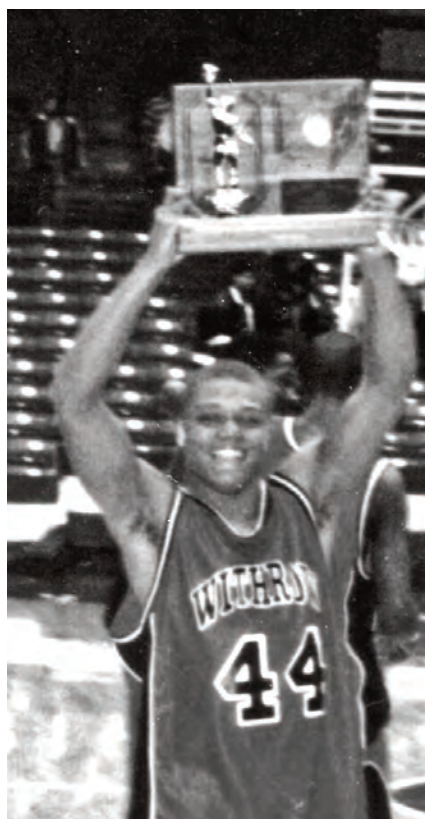
Chris Hicks



Chris Knight



D'Monami Gardner



Ivan Johnson

## SPECIAL TIGER DONORS

We now have 323 names on the John Ruthven Commemorative plaque in the front lobby with the addition of eight new Special Tigers. A one-time gift of \$1,000 or more significantly impacts our ability to support academic and extracurricular programs and conserve our campus and facilities. The most recent Special Tigers are:

Mary Louise Kreidler Clemens '38  
 David B. Bruns '48  
 Mary Lynn Tucker Rose '49  
 William Fowee '56  
 Julie Klopp Adams '57  
 Richard J. Christy '58  
 Bruce Johnson '63  
 Randy and Adrienne Underhill '67

# President's Notes

by **DAVE BLOCKSOM '68**

I want to personally thank all of the volunteers who helped to make our Centennial year celebration a success. Special thanks to Carol Mitchell Lawrence '84, Rich Eby '59, and Nichelle Bolden '84 and their committees who staged the Centennial Gala Weekend events. More than 1,060 alumni and guests attended our Gala Dinner and After Party, 600 attended our Alumni basketball game, 60 participated in the golf outing, and 160 joined the Sunday Brunch and Tour. Proceeds from these events funded the Major McNeil scholarships, the Withrow School of Business, and Withrow's athletic department. Alumni from every class between 1944 and 2019 participated in the events; for many, this was their first alumni event. The Centennial certainly raised Withrow's profile in the community!

## Easy Ways You Can Help Withrow

### Give \$20 in 2020

I would be remiss if I didn't talk about our fundraising efforts. We are encouraging those alumni who have never donated to send us \$20 in 2020 and then pledge to do so every year. When we apply for grants, the number of alumni donors factors into the grantors' decision making. It would be a big step forward if we could get 1,000 donors out of the 10,000 alumni who receive this Tower News.

### Consider an RMD Contribution

If you have to make a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, you can use part of that distribution as a contribution to Withrow; that part of the distribution will not be taxable to you (we are an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit). It's fairly simple to make that distribution. You can also include us in your estate planning. You can contribute low cost basis stock to us and not have to pay the capital gains tax on it, yet still receive the current market value as a tax deduction. Any donation to Withrow Alumni Inc. is tax deductible. If you have any questions about your contribution to Withrow Alumni, please don't hesitate to contact me at [withrowalum@gmail.com](mailto:withrowalum@gmail.com) or 513-363-9085.

## Shop for Withrow through Kroger Community Rewards and Amazon Smiles

We want to thank those Southern Ohio alumni who have participated in the Kroger Community Rewards Program and have designated Withrow Alumni Inc. as their beneficiary. This program generated \$2,252 from 120 participants last year. If you haven't registered your Kroger Plus Card yet, please register online today at [Krogercommunityrewards.com](http://Krogercommunityrewards.com). It's fast, free, and easy. When enrolling, use our NPO # 30808, Withrow Alumni Inc.

Amazon has a similar program through their Amazon Smiles Foundation. Please use the Amazon Smiles website when making any Amazon purchases. You can sign up to have 0.5% of your purchase price be donated to Withrow Alumni Inc. The Amazon Smiles website is the same as Amazon—same prices, same selection, same services (Prime). The donation is made by Amazon and does not increase your purchase price at all. This is a nationwide program and not confined only to Ohio. Please encourage your friends and relatives to do the same, even if they're not Withrow grads. Thanks again for your participation in these two programs.



## Still missing some yearbooks

On a separate note, we are still looking for yearbooks to complete our collection. We need the following years: 1964-1974, 1976-1980, 1983, 1985-1988, 1990, 1993, 1995, 1998-1999.



# 2019 Valedictorian

With a 4.78 GPA Withrow University High School's Centennial Valedictorian is Kristian Young. Kristian is the daughter of Kariss (Caress) and Reginald Young.

Kristian is a member of Cincinnati Public Schools and The University of Cincinnati's Ambassador Program, The Girls to Women program and is also a member of the National Honor Society. As a student at Withrow, along with taking honors and AP courses, Kristian has taken several College Credit Plus courses offered through a partnership with Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. Those courses include: College Algebra, College Psychology, College Sociology, College Spanish and College English. Kristian is graduating today with 24 College Credits. While taking these challenging courses, Kristian has also managed to remain on the A honor for most of her academic career.

Kristian was accepted to Indiana University, The Ohio State University, The University of Dayton, Xavier University and The University of Cincinnati. She was offered over \$ 230,000 in scholarships from these schools.

Kristian decided to attend The University of Cincinnati, where she will major in Criminal Justice and a minor in Communications with the ultimate goal of earning of becoming a Parole Officer.

# 2019 Salutatorian

Isaiah Houston has completed a number of AA, AP, and CCP courses at Withrow graduating with a GPA of 4.58 and over 12 college credits . He is an ambassador for the CPS-UC program. He has tutored students in math since 8th grade. He played football and participated in band and orchestra where he played the

tuba, piano, trumpet, cello, and xylophone.

He is most noted for starting the Withrow Gospel Choir last year where he was the lead director and pianist. The choir performed at the Aronoff. He brought students of different backgrounds together to sing praises to the Lord thereby embracing religion as an afterschool activity.

Outside of school, he is a founding member of the Houston Brothers and ICE Band along with, his brother Chris and his friend Ellis Williams. Together, they traveled around Cincinnati and other states performing Gospel and Jazz music. He is the minister of music and choir director for Providence Baptist Isaiah was accepted at University of Dayton, Xavier University, Southern University and Northern Kentucky University. He has been awarded a total of \$50,000 in scholarships. He enrolled at the University of Cincinnati where he will major in Criminal Justice and minor in Spanish. His Big Audacious Goal in life is to become an FBI Agent.

## GET YOUR OWN PERSONALIZED BRICK AT WITHROW

Bricks are placed on the walkway leading from the Bridge, past the Clock Tower and Rookwood Fountain to the front steps. They provide a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge a former teacher, a friend or relative, or yourself and sustain our efforts of supporting our school. Brick cost is \$100.00 and is tax deductible. You have 3 lines with 13 characters (including spaces) per line.

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Make checks payable to **WITHROW ALUMNI** and use the enclosed envelope.



# Withrow – The first 50 years

by BOB LINNENBERG '63

## Social Clubs

From the day Withrow opened in the fall of 1919, social clubs were part of the fabric of high school life. Chapters of existing fraternities and sororities from other Cincinnati schools were quickly established by incoming members at Withrow. In the 1920s new social clubs were established and chapters of organizations from Hughes and Walnut Hills were added. Fashioned after college fraternities and sororities, the groups had secret rituals and initiation ceremonies and traditions that presumably would bind the members together. These clubs were not sanctioned by the Board of Education and members met out of school, often secretly. However, pins and other insignia could, and would, be worn by member students at Withrow.

The clubs remained “underground”, or unsanctioned, until November 1949, when the Board of Education accepted the social club rules that had been established after long and careful consideration. It was not without controversy that the Board decided to let the clubs exist inside the schools. Technically, high school fraternities and sororities were illegal in the state of Ohio. Cincinnati Mayor Murray Seasongood and many others vehemently opposed them as insidious, undemocratic organizations. The Board of Education, desiring to exercise control over the social clubs, determined how the clubs could be in compliance with Ohio law and went forward with their recognition.

When the social club rules were accepted by the Board in 1949, 24 percent of the girls and 19 percent of the boys at Withrow belonged to social clubs. (This percentage was far exceeded by Walnut Hills, where 72 percent of the girls and 83 percent of the boys belonged.) The takeover of school social life at Withrow was immediate. Many dances and parties held by the clubs were opened to all Withrow students. Intramural sports contests between the groups continued, but now could be reported on in Tower News. The social clubs could now be featured in the Annual, at a cost of course, as they had to pay for the spots just like any other school organization.

As part of the conditions laid down by the Board, social clubs were now overseen by faculty advisors. The club’s constitutions had to be approved and accepted by the Board, and membership in any organization could not exceed 48 students. Under the agreement, academic rules were established and members had to maintain a “C” average to be allowed to participate in club activities. If a student member failed a course in a grading period, they were suspended from the social club until the next grading period. Club schedules for social events had to be approved by the advisors so as not to conflict with another club’s activities. If a club had an unscheduled activity, the entire club was suspended from social events for a grading period. Illegal activities such as drinking or gam-

bling would bring a suspension. Chaperones were required at all fraternity/sorority events. The faculty advisors enforced these rules as best they could.

As a byproduct of the academic rules, social club members often maintained a higher grade point average than non-members. As with intramural sports competition, there was also stiff competition among the clubs for scholastic superiority. The clubs also played an outsized role in the life of the school. Usually social club members were the most active in extracurricular activities such as *Tower News* and the Annual and held most leadership positions in many organizations throughout Withrow. Indeed, in the senior girls service organization Dux Femina, 87 percent of the girls selected for membership during the “legal” period belonged to a sorority. In fact, almost 40 percent of the girls belonged to one particular sorority. Between 1950 and 1963, 72 percent of the boys in the senior service organization Sigma Gamma were fraternity members; half of these boys were members of the one fraternity whose rules forbade smoking and drinking in high school.

One of the requirements laid down by the Board was the continuation and encouragement of charitable works by the clubs. Many a social club raised money for charity, provided and distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the needy, and visited shut-ins and the sick. Several of the clubs had been established for this philanthropic



purpose in addition to providing a social network for the members.

However, after 14 years of school supervision and guidance, a new round of studies by the Board recommended that the decision of 1949 be reversed. There was also the threat of a lawsuit challenging the support of such clubs, which the Board wished to avoid. Social clubs were to be banned effective September 1, 1963. It had been determined that public funds could no longer be used “to nurture, regulate or control the formation and operation of such clubs.” Unlike in 1949, when the clubs had been flourishing, membership in social clubs had been declining for years. Those clubs remaining at Withrow in 1963 either chose to disband or go back “underground.” Membership under student and parental direction continued for about a decade but social clubs no longer held the sway they once had.

One cannot deny that the social clubs were often discriminatory and elitist. Whether or not to join a social club was a difficult decision for many a Withrow student. The rush period could be very stressful for prospective members. Until 1954, freshman rush occurred in the spring. With the opening of several junior high schools that year, sophomore rush was moved to the fall. One was not always invited to join the desired group. Indeed, singer/actress Rosemary Clooney wrote in her autobiography of the social tension of rush and the fact that she was “black-balled” by a sorority at Withrow.

Nevertheless, social clubs helped foster strong, lasting friendships with people one might not have otherwise known in such a large school as Withrow. They provided a sense of place in the turbulent teenage years. An editorial in the Cincinnati Enquirer on January 10, 1963 averred “there is much evidence that the clubs contribute in a vitally important way to the social and civic development of the young people who choose to be affiliated with them.” Whether they were good or bad in the life of high school students remains debatable to this day.

Sororities at Withrow during the “legal” years were Aliquippa, Alpha Beta Kappa, Alpha Beta Chi, Alpha Delta Gamma, Alpha Theta Alpha, Altruist (Alpha Chi Delta), Beta Omega Chi, Chi Lambda Chi, Iota Sigma Chi, Ivyettes, Kytives, Phi Gamma Sigma, Tally Ho (Gamma Delta Alpha), Theta Omega Chi, Sigma Delta Chi and Zeta Beta Kappa. Fraternities during this period were Beta Tau Omega, Chi Omega Sigma, Chi Sigma Chi, Delta Sigma

## Withrow Alumni Luncheons

### Seasons of Kenwood

7300 Dearwester Dr., Kenwood

11:00 Registration • 12:00 Lunch • 1:00 Program

Cost: Lunch, \$10, Wine Bar - \$1

Valet parking available at no cost – leave keys at desk\*

### Information:

Don Andriot 513-831-0879

Dick Ernst 812-667-5187

### Program:

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>November 20</b>      | <b>The Story of Cincinnati Beer</b><br>Bill Frank, Cincinnati State University  |
| <b>December 18</b>      | <b>Withrow Christmas with the Martinaires</b><br>Glenn King, Director   |
| <b>January 22, 2020</b> | <b>Getting Older Ain't for Sissies</b><br>Terri Gaitsaill, RN, Senior Services  |
| <b>February 26</b>      | <b>Military Complex of the Ancient World</b><br>Charlie Wertz, Historian  |
| <b>March 25</b>         | <b>The Sad, Seamy Sinister Side of Cincinnati</b><br>Cincinnati Heritage Programs   |
| <b>April 22</b>         | <b>LaRosa's Pizza — Buddy's Story</b><br>Buddy and Michael tell the story: hard times devastating fire, community help, success, and giving back to the community |
| <b>May 27</b>           | <b>University of Cincinnati</b><br>Scott Ernschwender,<br>Cincinnati Heritage Programs  |

\*If you self park: Please note that numbered spaces are reserved for residents. Park in any un-numbered space.

Chi, Iota Sigma Pi, Kappa Tau Kappa, Omega Kappa, Phi Beta Gamma, Tau Sigma, Tri Chi, and Triginta Optimi. Fraternities known to exist before 1949 include Beta Omega Beta and Delta Beta.

**Withrow Alumni Inc.  
P.O. Box 8186  
Cincinnati, OH 45208**

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## 1943 grad has fond memories

I had three wonderful years at Withrow from 1940 to 1943 when I was evacuated from London to Cincy during the war. I cannot thank all those I met at the time enough. Walter Peoples was principal and Mr. Cadwallader, assistant. Jean Cadwallader was a good friend then. Some fine teachers, such as Sybal Linde and Mrs Vogel. I have since served in the Royal Air Force and the British Army, following which I worked in Barclays Bank International for 40 years, rising to Assistant General Manager. Now age 93.9 years, and quite fit I think. I remember so much about the school, the Tigers, the running track indoors and out, the fine tower, and Tower News, where I was an editor. I was even taught the mystery game of baseball and followed the Reds since. If there is anyone who remembers me I would really like to hear from them via [dsun90@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dsun90@yahoo.co.uk).

Best wishes to all.  
David Sunray

