

# TOWER NEWS



Withrow Alumni • Box 8186 • Cincinnati, OH 45208 • 513-363-9085

Fall 2020

## ... *Arching bridge and shaded valley* ...

by Bob Linnenberg '63

Daily, occasionally, or in the annual graduation Bridge Walk, generations of Withrowites have crossed the graceful footbridge at the entrance to our beautiful grounds, but few know that it might never have been built. In 1915 the architects at Garber and Woodward had to make a decision on what to do about the ravine that ran along Madison Road in front of the proposed East High School.

When it became apparent that it would be too expensive to fill in the entire ravine, it was decided to design and build a footbridge over it. Palladian in

style, the concrete and brick open-spandrel arch bridge proved to be the proper practical and esthetic choice, and its construction was endorsed by the president of the Cincinnati Board of Education, Dr. John M. Withrow.

In the years following, it was sometimes necessary to maintain and make repairs to the understructure and decking, always at the expense of the Board of Education. By 1979, however, lack of funding led to the bridge's having deteriorated to such an extent that it was condemned as unsafe by the City of Cincinnati. A ten-foot high

fence was erected at either end to block its use. The Friends of Withrow, spearheaded by community activist Monica Nolan, was created, and volunteers, alumni, friends and students raised over \$150,000 to help fund the repairs. Reopened in November 1981, the bridge was dedicated in honor of Miss Nolan's sister, Nora May Nolan, a popular English teacher at Withrow from 1953 to 1976 and the main force behind the beautification of the school grounds. Annie Glenn, wife of Ohio Senator John Glenn (the first man to orbit the moon), was guest of honor at the

bridge re-opening ceremony. In 1983 Withrow High School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

By 2010 the bridge was once again showing signs of deterioration. Substantial repairs to the concrete arch and columns were needed. Bricks

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**President's Messages**

by Dave Blocksom '68

*... all our hearts are won*

Bob Linnenberg's front page, timely article, briefly describing the history of our historic bridge, highlights the investments that the alumni have so generously made over the years for the upkeep of the bridge.

Unfortunately, we have again reached the point where we need to make structural repairs to the bridge now in order to avoid more costly repairs later.

Bob's article referred to some repairs that were deferred in 2011, and that deferred maintenance needs to be dealt with now. The concrete support structures at each end of the bridge are deteriorating due to water infiltration and the freezing and thawing cycle. The brick structures in those areas have deteriorated too, due to the same conditions.

I have met with four structural engineers at the bridge to show them the problems and have them submit bids for their engineering services to analyze the problems, develop long term repair solutions to the problems, and develop a scope of work for the project that can be put out to bid. We will then have three or four contractors bid on the repair work. So far, the engineering bids have ranged from \$7,600 - \$9,000. I am going to propose at our November WAI Board of Trustees meeting that we hire one of the engineering firms to do the scope of work documents.

I have also met with Robin Brandon, Director of Facilities for Cincinnati Public Schools, in an effort to get CPS involved in the project and hopefully provide funding for the repairs. Mrs. Brandon said that she would do everything she could to help us with funding, but she reminded me of the budget constraints that CPS now has with the additional costs of education associated with the pandemic. If undertaken, this repair project would happen next summer.

As in the past, we are asking our generous alumni to again step up and help us fund this very important project. The bridge and the clock tower are our front door and are the prominent symbols of our place on the National Historic Register.

At the same time, we are also dealing with water leaks in the clock tower. These leaks have been going on for some time now and are affecting the electronics of our clock system. Two commercial roofing contractors, who do work for CPS, came out and analyzed the water leak problem. They agreed that the "built up" roof on the balcony level of the tower (below the windows and above the clocks) was old and causing the leaks. Imbus Roofing provided the low bid of \$16,632 for a liquid membrane roof and \$21,335 for a copper roof. Your Alumni Board of Trustees voted to spend the extra \$4,700 for the copper roof, which

will last 20 years longer than the membrane roof. That work will be completed in November. In 2007 the alumni paid to have a copper roof and drain installed at the very top of the tower at the cupola level. Unfortunately, CPS has never helped out with repairs to the clock tower. Your financial support for this project would also be greatly appreciated.

### **New board members**

On a more positive note, I would like to welcome four new members to our Board of Trustees. They are Roland West ('62), Arnisha O'Neal Jones ('87), James Robertson ('99) and Dexter McCray ('08). I would also like to thank the following retiring Board members for their service to Withrow: Kitalena Mason (3 years), Cecil Dewberry (9 years), Christy Backley (3 years), Stephanie Ball (5 years) and especially retiring Chairman of the Board Vince Stitzel (9 years). Not only was Vince president of the Board for 6 years, but he started the Withrow Athletic Hall of Fame and remains involved with that committee to this day. Thank you, Vince, for your dedicated service.

### **Check out the web site**

Withrow Principal Jerron Gray gave us a wonderful 12-page *Principal's Message* that we had to condense down to fit in with our Fall Tower News. We have reprinted his entire State of Withrow report on our alumni website, [withrowalumni.org](http://withrowalumni.org). Please take the time to read it; his message is very informative and covers every aspect of Withrow life. Thanks to your generous donations, we

fund many of the programs that Mr. Gray discusses, including the School of Business, ROAR store, Tiger Diner, Fine Arts and Strings Orchestra.

### **Sports updates**

As a follow up to Athletic Director Smith's article in this issue, I'm happy to inform you that despite the pandemic, our student athletes are participating in four fall sports. Under coach Kali Jones our football program is slowly returning to the prominence of the past. There are 60 players on the team this year (an increase from 45 last year). Unfortunately, COVID prevented the formation of a junior high team this year. We have 25 student athletes participating on the boys soccer team and we've fielded a girls volleyball team and a boys and girls cross country team. Twenty members of the cheerleading team have been allowed to participate at the football games. Thanks to your generous donations, the alumni are providing game day meals for these student athletes.

### **CARES act allows additional charitable deductions**

Lastly, I'd like to make you aware of a provision of the CARES Act which was passed by Congress this spring as part of the stimulus packages to combat the effects of the pandemic. Even if you are now taking the large standard deduction instead of itemizing deductions, you can still take a charitable deduction of \$300 for individuals and \$600 for married filing jointly this year (on your 2020 tax return). Again, you do not need to itemize deductions to get this additional

tax deduction; you can still take the standard deduction. This deduction applies only to cash (check) donations to qualified organizations (Withrow Alumni Inc.) and not goods or services. If you are in a position where you have to take a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, you can use part of that distribution as a Qualified Charitable Distribution to Withrow and not have to pay taxes on that part of the distribution. If you have any questions about these tax incentives, please don't hesitate to contact us at [withrowalum@gmail.com](mailto:withrowalum@gmail.com) or 513-363-9085. Thank you for your support.



# Master of Her Craft

by Diane Roland

It would be impossible for me ever to walk past her old room up on the second floor and not recall the scene outside her door on the night before the Dux Femina induction. The hallway would be buzzing with girls, whispering, giggling, ears pressed to the crack beneath her door, straining to hear who would be chosen in the next day's ceremony. It would be inconceivable that March 15 arrive and I forget the scene of her students scrambling over one another to be the first to proclaim "Beware the Ides of March" and win the cash prize.

Although alumna ('60) and longtime English teacher Jane Greene died this summer, memories of her are vivid, cherished, enduring. She dispensed humor and enchantment liberally, transforming vocabulary lessons from mundane to magical—I know you haven't forgotten "Vituperative lan-

guage is repugnant to me"—and generating spark and excitement about literature, particularly Shakespeare. In her Shakespeare course, Jane's students conducted a funeral for Hamlet, replete with a eulogy, hymns, and local press coverage. As advisor to Dux Femina, she created and then burnished activities that became anticipated traditions: planting tulip bulbs on campus and playing touch football with the Sigs in the fall, decorating antlers for Reindeer Day competition before Christmas break, sponsoring the Tigertown Twirl and conducting the senior popularity poll in the spring, and finally, presenting the induction ceremony in May. Remember the "My little sister" verses ringing from the stage? I'm sure many of you have reminiscences to add to mine, and I invite you to share them with me.

A teacher's greatest tribute is perhaps conveyed by his or her students. In 2010, Benjamin

Gorman ('94) shared with Jane the following remembrance of his experience in her class:

*Miss Greene could have broken me down. She could have told me, in front of everyone, that I wasn't as great as I thought I was, that I ought to get over myself. I can imagine her remonstrance mimicked in the halls by students who, despite my best efforts to despise them, were right to look askance at the weirdo white kid in the trench coat with the spikes in the epaulets, hiding in his earphones and a paperback novel from the library. He was a freak, angry and scared and full of himself. Miss Greene could see all of that. She was able to look beyond the arrogance that manifested most fully in her class, where I felt most comfortable with my abilities, and see the kid who was terrified of everything else.*

*One day she asked me to stay after class. I don't remember students "oooo"ing when she asked me to wait which inclines me to believe she did it in a careful, subtle way.*

*"Ben," she said, "I can't teach you how to be a better writer. You're already a better writer than I am. But I know some people who can." And she marched me down to the library and explained how our class would work for the rest of the school year. Her plan was simple. Every few days she'd assign me another book to read. When I finished, I had to write her a paper on each one.*

*When I told her I didn't like a book, she had me read another by the*



Jane aboard the *Delta Queen*, treasured *grande dame* of the inland waterways, owned and operated by her parents, Capt. Tom Greene (Withrow '23) and Letha Greene.

same author. I didn't like The Scarlet Letter. "Six pages and six years pass with no dialogue," I whined.

"You didn't like it? Read The House of the Seven Gables.

I didn't like the first book she gave me by Thomas Hardy. So she made me read Far From the Madding Crowd. I read Turgenev. I read Camus. The more I criticized, the more I read, and now I see that she subtly directed my criticisms, not only pushing me to look deeper but also guiding me to examine the skills she wanted me to work on. Hardy and Hawthorne didn't make me a better writer. Miss Greene did. But she never said so.

*I don't know if I was a better writer than Miss Greene. It doesn't really matter because, either way, she knew I needed to hear that. I'm not sure I'm humble enough to say that if it were a lie, and I'm even less certain I could admit it if it were true. Consequently, I don't think I'll ever be as good a teacher as Miss Greene. But I can admit that she taught me more than writing. She taught me about teaching.*

*Lessons in literature and life delivered by a master. How lucky we were!*

Benjamin Gorman is a high school English teacher and author of the novels *The Sum of Our Gods*, *Corporate High School*, *The Digital Storm*, and *Don't Read This Book*. He is also the founder and co-publisher of Not a Pipe Publishing. He lives in Independence, Oregon.

*Note: Jane Greene taught at Withrow for 32 years.*

## 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 also 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.

# Principal's Message

by Jerron T. Gray

What a year 2020 has been! After celebrating a banner Centennial year, Tigers will forever remember 2020 as the year of COVID-19—the year that has greatly impacted, changed and transformed every life on the planet. From wearing masks to social distancing, this pandemic has definitely challenged us all.

In spite of this pandemic, “the Row” is still alive and moving forward with great pride, promise and expectation! Last spring, we graduated 179 of our 180 in-house Class of 2020 seniors for an overall four-year graduation rate of nearly 85 percent.

The Withrow Class of 2020 will be forever known as the class of hope, endurance, perseverance and resolve. Missing out on their traditional prom, bridge walk and graduation events was unimaginably disappointing. The District, however, allowed us to celebrate our seniors with a drive-through graduation ceremony, which was a huge success!

Our 2020 Grads were able to receive their diplomas on Withrow's campus as they snaked through campus with their families in cars, suvs, party buses, fire trucks and police cars – a celebration they will remember for a lifetime!

## Academic Learning in the COVID-19 Era

The academic challenges that have been created as a result of COVID-19 have caused all Withrow students to start the year

working remotely from home. Cincinnati Public Schools has provided every K-12 grade student a laptop; Cincinnati Bell is providing free wifi. As many of you have experienced with your own families, teaching students to grasp new concepts remotely has created its own set of challenges. But our Withrow Tigers—staff and students alike—are embracing the challenge! CPS currently has chosen to return to face-to-face learning with a 1-2-2 model, where all students in the district will learn remotely from home on Mondays and then return to school for face-to-face learning either Tuesday/Wednesday or Thursday/Friday. The week of October 12 began our students' first return to school. Our focus is that we accelerate student learning while addressing any unfinished learning with precision and mastery of critical work.

Staff and student safety has also been our priority. Classrooms have a maximum capacity of only 15 students (honoring six-foot social distancing guidelines) and have been equipped with essential cleaning and hand sanitizing supplies. Staff and students are required to wear masks at all times and maintain social distancing when entering the building or transitioning through the hallways.

## High School of Business

Our business students have been participating in an international business club called DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America). DECA prepares emerg-

ing leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Recently, Withrow held a virtual DECA-sponsored event featuring guest speaker Al Riddick, founder and president of Game Time Budgeting, LLC, an award-winning financial fitness company that assists its clients in developing behaviors that improve their short- and long-term financial outcomes. Mr. Riddick spent quality time speaking virtually with all our business students, inspiring them to re-evaluate how they think about money and their finances

Additionally, DECA sponsors student enterprise across America. As a result, our Withrow business students taking marketing and finance run a non-food item vending machine, Spirit Box, as a mini-business.

## Engineering and Robotics Competition

We continue to grow Withrow's engineering pathway with another cohort of students excited about engineering and technology. Last year we worked on a range of skills including learning the Python coding language, using the engineering design process to solve real world problems, and working on architectural design and computer graphics.

The highlight of the year was our school's robotics team. We competed in a regional competition hosted by the University of Cincinnati where students had to design a warehouse and an autonomous robot to process items for shipping.

The competition included a presentation and engineering notebook where participants documented their designs and progress. Withrow sent five teams to the competition and won a total of 10 awards!

We are so proud of our students' incredible work and are so excited for their futures. The graduating group of seniors from our engineering class of 2020 will continue their passion for STEM. Some of their future majors include mechanical engineering, information technology, aviation systems and maintenance, mechanical engineering technology, and biomedical engineering.

### **Multiple Disabilities Unit**

Twenty-four students make up the three high school multiple disabilities units at Withrow. These students demonstrate daily that they do not let their disabilities define who they are. The activities and programs they are all involved in prove that they are always striving to build the skills they need for post-secondary goals.

### **ViaQuest**

ViaQuest is an agency that collaborates with Withrow and other area high schools to help students develop work skills necessary for community employment. The volunteer opportunities introduce students to all aspects of working while preparing them for life after high school. The junior and senior students during the 2019-2020 school year volunteered twice per week at Matthew 25 ministries and Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. We

are excited for our future volunteer opportunities in in the community.

### **River Reach Program**

The River REACH program is a floating classroom program that connects schools in Greater Cincinnati to the Ohio River through exciting voyages of science and discovery! While on-board, students tested water quality using the same methods and equipment as scientists who monitor and protect our river. Students were engaged in applied STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines through hands-on water quality monitoring, habitat assessments, and studies of aquatic organisms, including fish and macro-invertebrates that are used to study the health of the river system.

### **Families Forward**

July 2020 began the LaSoupe student athlete feeding program for students participating in fall/winter sports. Students received pre- and post-practice healthy, hot meals with fruit and salad. Recently, the boys soccer team used the service for pre-game meals. Since July, we've consistently fed over 70 students.

Additionally, we rolled out the Kroger Card/Hygiene Kit giveaways to families experiencing need due to COVID. The kits consist of a \$75 Kroger gift card, laundry detergent, masks, hand sanitizer, soap, personal wipes, and sanitary items. We've given these bags to 22 families and will be distributing more.

We received a generous donation of over 50 gently worn and new ties from former Bengals player Solomon Wilcots. These ties will be housed in our professional clothing closet that we've developed as part of our school business program. Once a month, students will be permitted and expected to "dress for success" – coming to school in professional attire. For those young men who don't have a tie, one will be provided to them for the day from the closet. Additionally, we received a generous donation from Maryanne Ries, Realtor/Owner of Coldwell Banker Hyde Park office. Mrs. Ries purchased a beautiful oil painting of Withrow's campus from the silent auction held in conjunction with the Tiger Golf Outing in June 2020. She donated the painting back to the school to display in our Alumni Center.

As we move into this month, we've established a partnership with Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Rookwood. As our two-year partner, Joseph Beth will conduct fundraisers, with funds donated to the Principal's Fund. Joseph Beth will also donate clearance gift items for our Holiday ROAR Store so that our students can purchase the items as holiday gifts for their families. Additionally, Joseph Beth will provide a selection of 1,400 novels to enhance the literary selections offered in our English Department.

## Withrow – The first 50 years

# WITHROW AT WAR

by Bob Linnenberg '63

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, which began in Europe in September 1939. The United States became fully involved with the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Life was about to change for all Withrow students.

Because of Cincinnati's prominence in the production of machine tools vital to the war effort and Withrow's proximity to two major plants, air raid drills were implemented in January 1942. Tower News printed instructions on air raid protocols, but the first few practice drills generated humorous accounts of gym students being caught in the showers and having to dress while running to their assigned shelters.

School-wide scrap metal drives were held to collect material to be melted down and turned into ammunition. Paper and rubber drives were also held to provide valuable resources for defense. In 1943, 12 tons of scrap metal and rubber were collected by Withrow Junior High students alone. They also collected 40 tons of newspapers, magazines and boxes for the war effort. Home Room representatives sold U.S. Government War Stamps and War Bonds to help finance the nation's defense. War Stamps were 10 cents apiece, and when enough stamps were collected, they could be redeemed for a War Bond. In the first two months of the 1942-43 school year, Withrow students bought \$15,000 (228,080 in 2020 dollars) worth

of War Bonds. By the end of the war in 1945, 85 million Americans had bought War Bonds and put forth \$185.7 billion toward the war effort.

A Victory Corps program was established at Withrow. The Corps provided training and education to male and female high school students to prepare them for military service and participation in the war effort. They also helped support our soldiers abroad with mail and needed supplies. Machine shop classes in the Industrial Arts building were stepped up to teach valuable skills needed in defense industries. Classes in aeronautics were begun to teach celestial navigation, a necessary tool for those boys going into the Air Corps. Physical Education classes for senior boys were stepped up to five days a week to prepare them for induction. Every able-bodied male in the graduating class could expect to serve in the armed forces.

Blood drives were organized by students and faculty. A drive to raise \$2,250 (34,213 in 2020 dollars) to buy a Red Cross mobile blood procurement unit that began in May 1943 was so successful that the truck was purchased and turned over to the Red Cross later that year. Girls' groups made first-aid kits for the Red Cross and knit socks and scarves for the troops.

Many Withrow students left school before graduating to join the armed forces or to work in defense industries. Several male teachers

left to join the services or were drafted. Often, servicemen and women reported back to Withrow on their activities in the armed forces. Many of these letters were published in *Tower News*. Other faculty and students volunteered for war-related activities, such as the Red Cross or the USO, or served as air raid wardens. Since many fruits and vegetables were rationed or in short supply, both students and faculty contributed to the war effort by growing a "Victory Garden".

With most meat and produce in the country going to feed the armed forces, the Withrow cafeteria often ran out of meat, including chicken and ham, and ran short of potatoes, vegetables, ice cream, and sugar. Cakes could be made only every other day. The rationing of food, gasoline and clothing during the war caused many hardships, but Withrow students still played sports, put on plays and concerts, and performed in the Minstrels. *Tower News* continued to publish weekly and, along with school news, reported on Withrowites in the armed forces. Two hundred copies of *Tower News* were sent out to service personnel all over the United States and to APO and FPO addresses. *Tower News* also ran casualty lists of former students captured, injured or killed by the enemy. Thousands of Withrow alumni served in some capacity during the war and, unfortunately, 109 Withrowites lost their lives.

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# Beyond the Classroom

by Jonas L. Smith, CAA, Withrow Athletic Director

The Withrow Athletic Department's culture and mindset have changed drastically over the past few years. We have revamped our coaching staff with highly qualified individuals in all our sports. Our coaches truly understand the meaning of a student-athlete. That means school sports are an extension of a classroom, and they teach responsibilities of time management, working with others, and paying attention to detail. Withrow's coaching staff understands academics come first and athletics second. The expectations are very clear; we want our student-athletes

to be leaders in the classroom as well as on the playing field.

Being a 7-12 building and having 16 varsity sports, our athletic participation numbers have increased tremendously during my tenure as an Athletic Director. My coaches know that building a strong foundation at the junior high level, with fundamentals being taught, is paramount to our high school programs' success. This is our first year back in the CMAC (Cincinnati Metro Athletic Conference), after spending six years in the ECC (Eastern Cincinnati Conference). Our coaches, student-ath-

letes, and parents seem to be ecstatic to be back in the CMAC. We have seen a recent uptick in our sporting teams' success.

With no question, sports are the main factor why some kids stay in school. This school year has been a significant challenge with the on-going pandemic in our country. It has increased everyone's workload as it pertains to education-based athletics across the board. During these difficult times, our goal hasn't changed; we want to help our student-athletes receive a high school diploma and then enter college, the workforce, or the armed forces.

*War, continued from previous page*

The 1943 annual, *The New World is Ours*, was dedicated to winning the war. The 1944 annual, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Withrow's opening, pointed out that the school's construction in 1917 was delayed by World War I, "the war to end all wars". The composition of the 1945 annual reflects the shortages in paper and ink due to severe rationing as the war dragged on. The post-war 1946 annual contains a list of all the names, then known, of Withrow alumni killed in the war. Many discharged servicemen, who had left school before graduation, returned to Withrow to finish high school and receive their diplomas in 1946 and the years following.

*Bridge, continued from page 1*

were missing or dislodged on the walking deck. Withrow Alumni Inc., the successor to the Friends of Withrow, needed to raise \$50,000 toward the cost of repairs, with the Board of Education covering the balance. At a cost of \$130,000, repairs began in June 2011 and were completed in Spring 2012. The bridge had a new deck and water guides. Repairs to the understructure were made, but some major repairs had to be deferred due to, once again, lack of funding.

After 100 years the bridge remains an iconic symbol of Withrow. It is in active use by students, alumni and friends, many of whom have contributed to its maintenance and care. The annual

Bridge Walk is still an important and emotional experience for graduating seniors, which hopefully will continue for another 100 years.



# Withrow Athletic Hall of Fame 2021 Inductees

by Dave Blocksom

We are proud to introduce the five athletes who comprise the tenth group to be inducted into the WA-HOF. They are:

**Ron Lague, 1968.** Ron was an outstanding tennis player at Withrow. During his sophomore year Withrow won the PHSL league championship, and Ron teamed with fellow Tiger Joe Dehner to win the district doubles competition and advance to the State matches. There they were the State runner-up in the doubles competition, losing a very close match 5-7, 6-4, 6-2. His junior year Withrow again won the PHSL championship and Ron lost in the district singles competition (to teammate George Mehl) but still advanced to the State tournament. There he lost a very close match in the State semi-finals 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. His senior year the team didn't win the PHSL championship, but Ron won the district singles competition and advanced to the State tournament. There, he advanced to the State finals before bowing out in another close match 7-5, 6-4. After graduating, Ron went on to play tennis for Rollins College. He was a Division II All-American his junior and senior years, playing in the NCAA Division II tennis tournament his sophomore, junior and senior years. His junior year he won the NCAA Division II doubles championship. After college he went on the pro tour for two years and was ranked as high as 50th in the world. Since then he has been a teaching pro, first in Cincinnati and then at a club in the Jacksonville, Florida, area. He recently retired

as a Master Professional which is the highest level one can achieve in the tennis industry, with only 200 Master Pros in the U.S. out of more than 4,000 registered USPTA pros. In 2002 Ron received the lifetime achievement award from the USTA

## **Robert Longmire, 1973.**

Robert was a three-year varsity wrestler at Withrow with a career record of 79-4. His sophomore year he was a second team Enquirer All-City wrestler at 98 pounds. His junior year he was a first team Enquirer and Cincinnati Post All-City wrestler at 98 pounds. He placed third at the State Championship at 105 pounds. His overall record that year was 17-1. His senior year he was second team Enquirer and Post All-City at 105 pounds. He placed second in the State Championship at 105 pounds. Robert received a wrestling scholarship to the University of Cincinnati where he earned a varsity letter his freshman year. (He left UC after his freshman year.) He was consistently a three-year dominant wrestler in the PHSL and the City with his only loss his last two years occurring in the final four State Championships. Robert was elected to the Cincinnati Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019.

**Karl Brown, 1989.** Karl was a strong front liner, whose bulk and strength gave him a tremendous advantage in the paint at Withrow. As a senior he helped lead his Tiger team to a 23-2 record plus a City championship and a place in the State regional finals. Karl averaged 18 points and 12 rebounds an outing his senior year. His rebounding efforts rank among the

best ever at Withrow. Three times he pulled down 20 or more rebounds in a game. He led his team in rebounding three straight years. Among his many honors are AAU All-American, third team all-state, All-City three years and team MVP. Karl attended the prestigious Nike All American camp and was just the second freshman at the time to play varsity. He signed a Division I scholarship with Western Kentucky University. In addition to being a great basketball player, he was a great ambassador for Withrow.

**Steve Gentry, 1989.** Steve was a speedy, crafty, lefty point guard and a tenacious defender with a high basketball IQ. He helped guide his Tiger team to a 23-2 record his senior year. That year he averaged 17 points, 9 assists and 5 steals a game. Steve is still the all-time leader in assists and steals at Withrow. As a varsity starter for three straight years, he led the Tigers to a 29-1 league record with three Eastern Metro League championships. His league honors include: best defender for two years, MVP for one year, First Team All-League for two years, and Second Team All-State for one year. His senior year the Tigers finished the season as Cincinnati City champs and ranked number two in the state. Steve furthered his basketball career at Maine Central for a year before earning a full scholarship to Xavier University

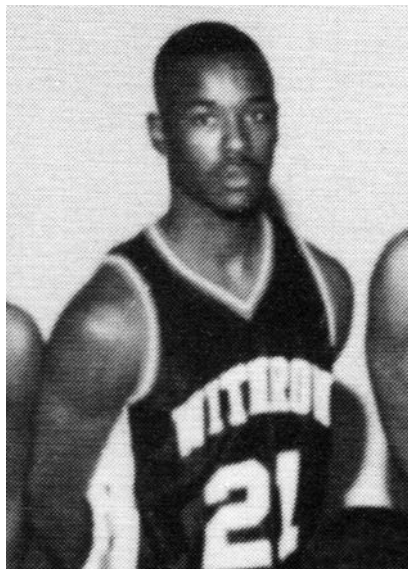
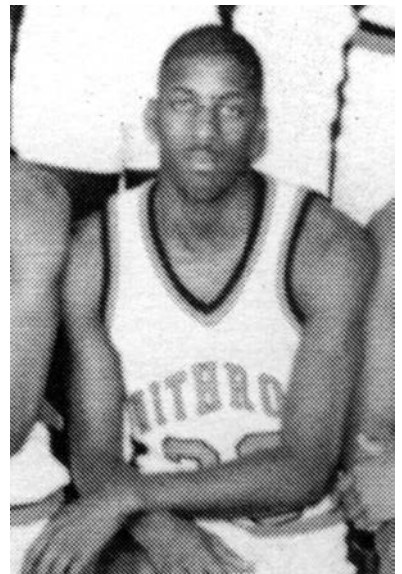
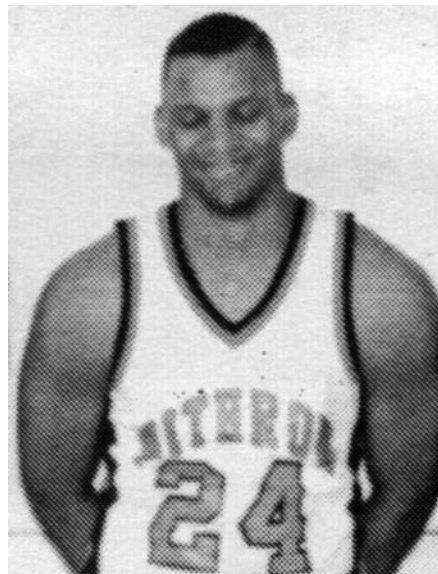
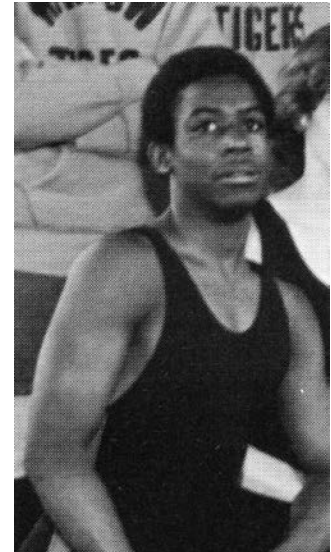
## **Rodney Crawford, 1997.**

Rodney was a tough, hard-nosed, well rounded forward and four-year starter at Withrow. As a freshman he started on a team that finished runner-up in the state tourna-

ment. The team finished 25-1, and Rodney had the best field goal percentage on the team. He was a three-time all-conference selection and conference player of the year his senior year. An All-City performer, he was a three-time MVP and finished his career with over 1,200 points and 500 rebounds. He was one of the winningest players in Withrow's history. Upon graduation Rodney enrolled at Mountain State University; he transferred to the University of Cincinnati where he played for coach Bob Huggins. After college he became the head coach at Harmony Community School and then the head coach at Mountain State University. After Mountain State he moved on to assistant coach at Duquesne, assistant coach at Eastern Kentucky University and assistant coach at Fordham. Currently he is Director of Player Personnel at the University of Cincinnati.

The induction ceremony will take place on Friday evening, January 15, 2021, at half time of the Withrow-Western Hills varsity boys' basketball game, which starts at 7:00 PM. These outstanding athletes will join an exclusive group of 50 previous inductees. Names and bios of all inductees are available at the Withrow 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 alumni website. We need your support of this important recognition effort.



*Top: Ron Lague  
Robert Longmire*

*Center:  
Karl Brown, Steve Gentry*

*Bottom: Rodney Crawford*

**Withrow Alumni Inc.  
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Cincinnati, OH 45208**

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## **2020 WITHROW SPECIAL TIGERS**

Class of 1959

Terri Colangelo '68

Joe Dehner '66

Dick Ernst '50

Susan Onken Fleck '60

Jane Ifland '67

Diane Roland, teacher

Hon. Jack Sherman '55

Dan Shick '66

Debby Diekman Zanglin '65