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# DECATUR HIGH SCHOOL

# *Alumni Newsletter*

POWERED BY DECATUR EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## Greetings!

We hope this correspondence finds you well! Twice a year, we'll feature distinguished alums, DHS happenings and information about upcoming class reunions. But there's no alumni without "U", so please send us your news, and let other alums know we're here!

**Find out more**

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## **DHS Students to Commemorate Martin Luthur King Jr. at the City's Courthouse**

### ***Forgotten Story of the Civil Rights Leader's Time in Decatur Comes to Light***

On October 16, 1960, Martin Luther King, Jr. was illegally sentenced to a prison chain gang after participating in various student sit-ins to desegregate Atlanta restaurants.

In the summer of 2019, DHS students **Genesis Reddicks, Daxton Pettus, Liza Watson, Adi Taylor, Halle Gordon, Emma Callicutt, and Alonzo Labiosa** began to research Dr. King using various county archives and by interviewing multiple individuals who played prominent roles in the event. Among those interviewed were Charles Black, who was in the courtroom when Dr. King was sentenced, Dr. Roslyn Pope, the author of *An Appeal for Human*

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After completing their research, the students began to present their findings to various community organizations with the hope of gaining support and funds that would go to the construction of a plaque commemorating Dr. King's sentencing.

The Decatur Education Foundation helped facilitate the fundraising efforts, and the student group ultimately raised \$10,000 of its original \$5,000 goal from the community to create the historical marker and have it installed. The funds will also go towards future maintenance of the monument. The marker was intended to be installed in March 2021, at the corner of North McDonough Street and West Trinity Place, at the former site of the courtroom where Dr. King was sentenced. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, the installation has been postponed until later in the year.

(Photo: DHS student Genesis Reddicks meets with Charles Black and Dr. Roslyn Pope)



(Photo Credit: Scott Strazzante, [San Francisco Chronicle](#))

## Our Distinguished Alumna:

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This issue's distinguished alumna hails from the Class of 2000. Lauren has been named "most produced playwright in America" twice by *American Theatre* magazine. Her most recent work, "*The Catastrophist*" was inspired by her husband, Nathan Wolfe, who is a virologist. As this [San Francisco Chronicle article](#) reports, Lauren credits her high school physics teacher Mr. Winterscheidt for helping her combine her interests in science and theater by allowing her to write mini plays instead of lab reports in his class. Congratulations on your success, Lauren, and for being named DHS' First Distinguished Alumna!



Does one of your classmates deserve recognition as a distinguished alum? [Click here](#) to fill out a nomination form.

## Sooo...What Have You Been Up To?

Everyone wants to know about life since DHS -- send us your updates and we'll print them here by Class Year. We made it super easy with this quick update form.

[Click HERE](#) for quick update form

## DHS Teachers & Staff Where Are They Now?



Dr. Cara Cassell retired last year after 28 years at DHS. She says she most enjoyed the people with whom she worked. "It was truly a privilege to study great works with great minds and to coach students to find their voices in writing. The students and staff made me laugh every day. She now lives in Chattanooga where she says "yes" to activities on school nights and is training her puppy "Maisy" who she says is more difficult to teach than teenagers!

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longest tenures at DHS - this is his 30th year of teaching! DHS was his first teaching job after he earned his Master's degree from Howard University. He was hired by then-principal Bill Funk. Mr. Flemons says he still enjoys working at DHS "because of the commitment of all teachers to the success of every student. The teachers work together so well, collaborating to make sure we are providing the best quality education for our students. I also appreciate the Decatur community of parents who support the school and teachers." In his spare time, Mr. Flemons sings in a "virtual" a cappella singing group called "Chapter Six" which is comprised of six singers from four different countries.

## Stay Plugged In...

In our next issue, we'll have info about Homecoming meet-ups and School Tours! We hope to include some information about upcoming reunions, so if you have details to share, please email them to [erin@decatureducationfoundation.org](mailto:erin@decatureducationfoundation.org). You can update your profile whenever you have news at [www.decatureducationfoundation.org/alumni](http://www.decatureducationfoundation.org/alumni).

## Bye for Now!

*DHS Bulldog image created by Abigayle Reynolds, Class of 2020.*



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