

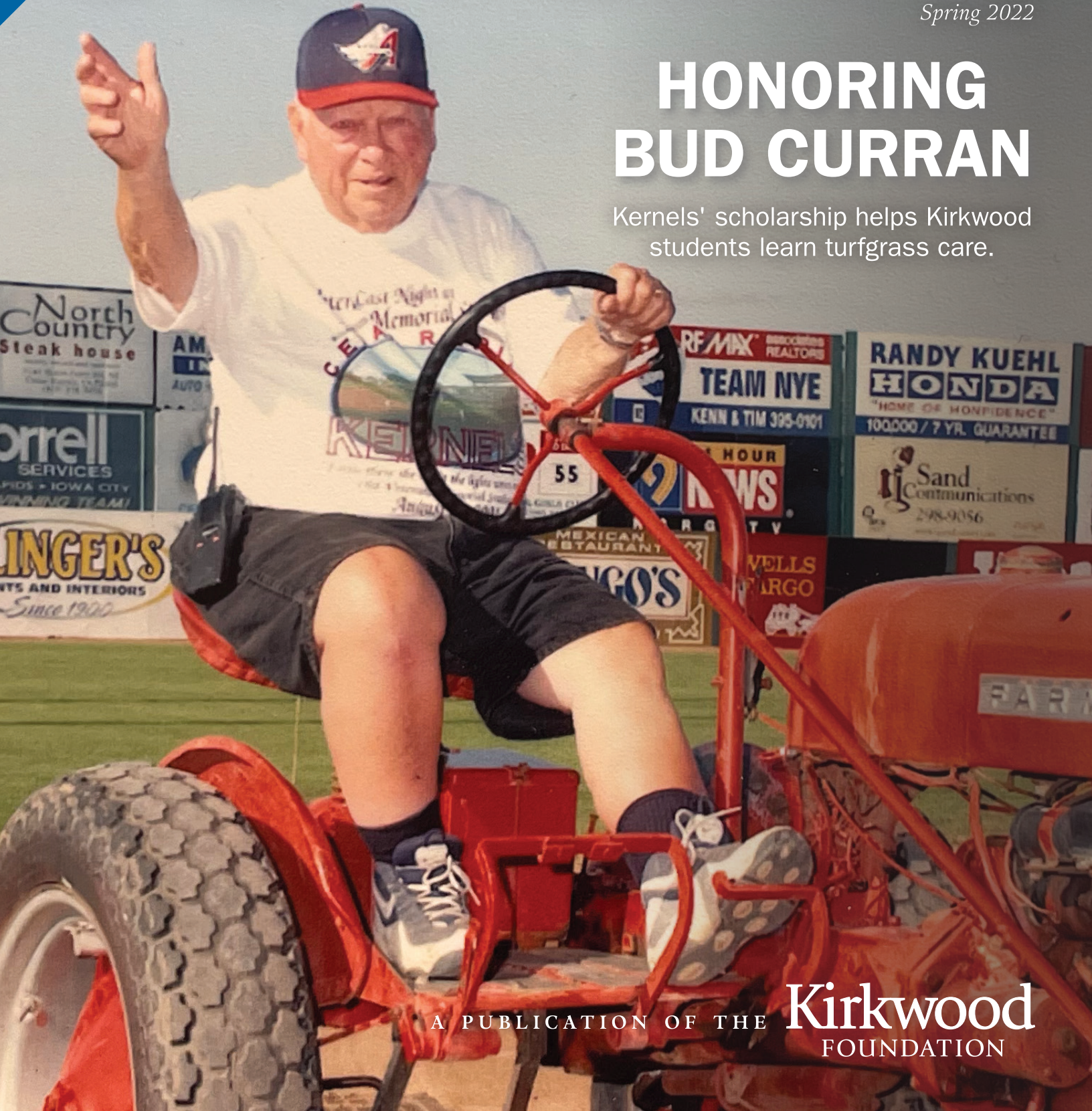
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

curren**t**s

Spring 2022

HONORING BUD CURRAN

Kernels' scholarship helps Kirkwood students learn turfgrass care.



A PUBLICATION OF THE **Kirkwood**
FOUNDATION

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MAKE A GIFT

You're only a Kirkwood student for a couple years, but you're a Kirkwood alumna or alumnus forever.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; color: #0070C0;">5</h1> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: #0070C0;">DECADES</p>	<h1 style="font-size: 48px; color: #0070C0;">3</h1> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: #0070C0;">GENERATIONS</p>
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200,000+

ALUMNI

Visit www.kirkwood.edu/foundation/give to make a positive impact on the next generation of Kirkwood alumni.

Gifts at every level have a direct impact on Kirkwood students and enable us the opportunity to provide an exceptional learning experience.

Congratulations

2022 KIRKWOOD GRADUATES!



Dear friends,

It's shaping up to be a big year at Kirkwood. We're not even halfway through the calendar and we've already seen some major moments happen at the college.

May is always my favorite time of year because it's when we hold our Commencement ceremony. It was really wonderful to be able to hold it in person again after two years of virtual events. There was a lively energy in the air as those students graduated and

are now ready to move on to the next stage in their lives. Regardless of their path, it's so thrilling to see them succeed.

That success was also recently showcased on the basketball court as our women's basketball team finished an incredible season by bringing home a national championship. This is the eighth title for Head Coach Kim Muhl and it symbolizes everything we strive to do here at Kirkwood: achieve our goals with hard work and determination — no matter the odds.

But those events are just the beginning of the great things happening at this institution in 2022. Change is in the air, and I'm very excited about it. Recently, we began to focus our efforts to achieve higher rates of student success by tailoring our educational and academic support strategies to the needs of today's students. These changes are happening on numerous fronts and are designed to make a significant impact.

Of course, the most obvious will be our new student center in Iowa Hall, which is scheduled to be open this fall. This state-of-the-art facility will bring all student services under one roof, making college life easier to navigate for our students. It will be the hub of campus and a one-stop shop for them on their way to graduation.

At the same time, various other changes are occurring including the institution's commitment to Guided Pathways, an educational framework that meets students where they are and streamlines their academic journey from beginning to end. It represents a shift in philosophy where an emphasis is placed on providing structured choices, redesigned support services, and clear learning outcomes. In addition, resources are also being allocated for other new initiatives, including career counselors placed at various area high schools, and equity coaches, which help our students of color get connected to and supported with campus and community resources to increase their success.

When we accomplish our mission, the impact will be transformational.

I want you to know just how much I appreciate your dedication to Kirkwood. Whether it be Commencement, national championships, a new student center, or groundbreaking educational strategies, you help make it all possible with your support — and I can't thank you enough.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Sundberg
President

2022 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

The Kirkwood Women's Basketball team won the NJCAA Division II National Championship 49 44 vs. Morton. This marks the eighth national title for the Eagles, all under Coach Kim Muhl.

In addition to the national title, Ashley Tull was named NJCAA Division II Women's Basketball Player of the Year, and Head Coach Kim Muhl was named Coach of the Tournament and NJCAA Coach of the Year. It truly was an incredible season.

GO EAGLES!



STUDENT FEATURE

WOMEN IN NATURAL RESOURCES CLUB

FINDING THAT NICHE IN THE FIELD

Students in Kirkwood's Parks and Natural Resources program learn to channel their love of the outdoors into learning to preserve and manage natural resources, from campgrounds and parks to natural preserves.

During their two-year program, students get hands-on experience managing a 600-acre off-campus site, a swan pond, and several prairies around campus. The program is ranked sixth in the nation for the number of students graduating in natural resources.

Still, horticulture professor Ken Carroll knew the program needed to expand its offerings to students interested in getting more engaged outside the classroom.

"We established some things here that helped," Carroll says, including classes in naturalist certification, which involves more fieldwork.

In 2011, students formed the Conservation Club.

"Then in 2012, we started seeing a bump in the number of women students," Carroll adds. "There was a strong group of women here and they started the Women in Natural Resources (WINR) club."

Carroll advises the club, a collegiate chapter of Iowa Women in Natural Resources, which nurtures women's professional development for careers in natural resources. It's also a member of the National Association of Interpretations, which fosters work with zoos, naturalist centers, and state and national parks.

"We've got a great reference network across the state of Iowa," Carroll notes. "We're probably their most active school. They offer more than you can get in the classroom, which better prepares our students

for working in the field."

Locally, the Conservation Club and WINR have worked with Trees Forever and the Indian Creek Nature Center. In 2021, the groups jointly established a resource/reference library for natural resources students.

Amanda Stallman, Kirkwood's 2022 Outstanding Student of the Year in Parks and Natural Resources, is a leader in both the Conservation Club and WINR, the latter of which now has 15 members. She lights up when she describes the exposure and knowledge the clubs' participation in regional and national conferences has provided.

She shared, for example, that in December 2021, 12 Kirkwood students attended a national conference in Palm Springs, California, enabling them to interact with field professionals who offered



guidance and examples. Four students in the Conservation Club and WINR and one professor also went to Indiana in March of this year for the Great Lakes National Institute Training.

“We were almost the only group of students who were there,” Stallman recalls. “It exposed us to different topographies, landscapes, and ecosystems from all over the country. That opens opportunities for jobs across the country.”

The clubs’ main source of income for national and regional conferences is controlled prairie burns, which is unusual, Carroll says.

“Our students are trained in prescribed burns in classes and by collaborating with private landowners who benefit from controlled burns. They, in turn, donate to both clubs to help fund trips, conferences, and activities,” Carroll explains.

With more and more women interested in Parks and Natural Resources, Stallman says it’s important to have professional groups for women. “We have regular hikes together and support systems. We help each other strive for the best.”

Stallman is quick to credit Carroll for offering key support.

“We wouldn’t have been able to do any of this without Ken,” she says. “He opened doors for us we didn’t even know existed.”

Carroll says he enjoys encouraging female students to keep growing. Second-year students, like Stallman, mentor younger colleagues, and the connections remain strong. One group of 2013 graduates still returns for reunions.

“That’s unusual for a community college,” he says. “And they’re working all over the country in natural resources and as park rangers.”

Stallman will graduate in fall 2022. She works part time for the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department helping with prairie and garden areas. She’s considering transferring to Upper Iowa University to study Conservation Management or may pursue a degree in Tourist and Parks Information online with the University of Missouri–St. Louis, whose representatives she met at the Palm Springs conference.

2021 – ’22 Women in Natural Resources Club members with club advisor, Ken Carroll.



ENDOWMENTS

Creating a Legacy Now and Forever

An endowment is a wonderful way to honor someone who is living or deceased. Endowed funds can be created through outright gifts of cash or appreciated assets, gifts of life insurance or retirement plan assets, a bequest in a will, or through a life income gift such as a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust. Once the endowment is established, a fixed percentage of its annual value is designated to the scholarship or program each year, reinvesting additional earnings and building up the fund over time. Because use of the fund is restricted to a small portion each year, the fund can last in perpetuity. Donors who endow a scholarship are invited to join the Samuel J. Kirkwood Society, which hosts a special evening at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center each fall.

For more information about endowments, please contact us at 319-398-5442.

ALUMNUS FEATURE



TANNER DICKHERBER

HANDS-ON LEARNING LEADS TO A DREAM CAREER

Tanner Dickherber grew up mowing lawns. The Kirkwood Community College graduate still does it today, but on a grander scale.

Dickherber is the sports turf manager at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa — not the one that was created for the 1989 movie of the same name, but the one that was built to host the state's first Major League Baseball game on Aug. 12, 2021.

More than 5.9 million people tuned in to watch the Chicago White Sox take on the New York Yankees in a dramatic game even Hollywood couldn't touch, with the White Sox clinching a 9-8 win with a walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth inning. Dickherber was one of the lucky few who got to see it in person.

"The experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and just breathtaking," the 20-year-old said. "To see all of the reactions on people's faces when they saw the field for the first time was truly a great feeling knowing that the hard work my colleagues and I put into the field really paid off. It was definitely my best moment in the industry yet."

Dickherber graduated from Kirkwood in the spring of 2021 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Golf Course and Athletic Turfgrass Management. The Clinton, Iowa, native specifically chose to attend Kirkwood for the Agriculture Sciences program.

"In high school I got a job with the Clinton LumberKings on their grounds crew and I realized I love doing it," Dickherber said.

The LumberKings were members of Minor League Baseball's Midwest League from 1956 to 2020. Now they are a collegiate summer baseball team of the Prospect League.

Dickherber graduated from Clinton High School in 2019 and enrolled as a full-time student at Kirkwood that fall.

"I realized during a visit that the school had an amazing turf program and that it was the best fit for me," he said.

Kirkwood's Golf Course and Athletic Turfgrass Management program has been around in various forms since 1967. That was the year the school added horticulture programs to course offerings. It evolved to grounds/turfgrass programs in the 1990s, then was renamed Golf Course Maintenance in 2000. It became the Golf Course and Athletic Turfgrass Management program in 2007.

The program touts extensive classroom and lab experiences related to the design, installation, and maintenance of turf grass systems; cultural and chemical turf controls; irrigation systems; and how to operate and maintain turf equipment.

"We did a lot of hands-on stuff that I really enjoyed because I believe that's the best way to learn the material," Dickherber said. "There are a lot of things I took away from the program."

His education was so extensive that his first day with BrightView was the day after his last day at Kirkwood. The Pennsylvania-based commercial landscape company designed and constructed the new Dyersville field, including site grading, installation of drainage, laying sod, fencing, bullpens, foul poles, and more. BrightView also oversaw the installation of the backstop net and various player-related areas.

While the park was finished in 2020, COVID-19 forced it to remain unused for a year. That's when the BrightView team transitioned into a sports turf maintenance role to perform upkeep work, which is what Dickherber focused on when he joined the company.

"There are a lot of things I did to prepare for this game, such as dialing in the infield dirt and working on the pitcher mound and home plate to perfect them for the game," he said.

The design of the ballpark pays homage to Comiskey Park, which was home to the Chicago White Sox from 1910 through 1990. The pattern work of the outfield viewed by so many was courtesy of Dickherber's mowing skills.

"I've always dreamed of being a groundskeeper at a high level, but to be a big part of Iowa history like this was an unbelievable opportunity and experience," he said.

The game may be over, but Dickherber's job isn't finished. Maintenance on the field continues, as MLB will hold another game at the stadium in 2022 between the Cincinnati Reds and Chicago Cubs, proving once again that if you build it, people will come.

"I am thankful for the Kirkwood turf program and everyone that has helped give me this opportunity," Dickherber said.



More than 5.9 million people tuned in to watch the Chicago White Sox take on the New York Yankees at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa – not the one that was created for the 1989 movie of the same name, but the one built to host the state's first Major League Baseball game. BrightView, a Pennsylvania-based commercial landscape company, designed and constructed the field.



Tanner Dickherber, front row center, is the Sports Turf Manager at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa. He graduated from Kirkwood in the spring of 2021 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Golf Course and Athletic Turfgrass Management.

BOARD FEATURE



STEVE CAVES

KIRKWOOD COMMITMENT ENRICHES HIS LIFE

years as a banker with U.S. Bank; he retired in 2018 as senior vice president of U.S. Bank Wealth Management. His involvement with Kirkwood has shown him the many facets of its outreach that have helped in the development of the Cedar Rapids community. That made him a better banker too, Caves notes.

Kirkwood offers concurrent enrollment for high school students through its regional centers, giving students the chance to earn college-level credit for classes. For Kirkwood students looking at a four-year college, all their class credits transfer and they've saved a great deal of money by opting for a community college.

For those seeking a second career or just a fresh start, Kirkwood offers training in a wide range of hands-on programs and partners with businesses needing more workers. Through the Kirkwood Foundation, a number of scholarships offer support to students who need a hand up. Today there are 350 scholarship funds available at Kirkwood, and more than \$24 million in scholarships has been given over the last 10 years.

"Kirkwood is well known for innovation and offering new programs that are relevant to an ever-changing work environment as well as understanding the changing needs of students," Caves adds.

These needs have changed over the last 10 years, he points out.

Kirkwood recognized that and developed more resources to provide better outreach for at-risk students, addressing issues such as food scarcity, housing, and mental health.

Foundation board members learn more about these needs when a current student shares his or her educational journey at the beginning of each meeting. "They tell their story [of] how Kirkwood worked for them, the difference that support made. Their stories are impactful and inspirational. Some of their journeys have been tough. It sets the tone and focus for our meetings: learner success."

"That confidence and momentum don't stop when our students leave," he continued. "Kirkwood is really a launching pad. [For me,] it's really a privilege to be a part of Kirkwood."

The number of years that Steve Caves has been involved with Kirkwood shows his commitment:

- Kirkwood Foundation Board of Directors since 1993
- Foundation board president since 2011
- Kirkwood Board of Trustees since November 2021, representing District 8

Caves is quick to deflect praise for his involvement. "It's fulfilling and rewarding," he says. And he gets back more than he gives.

"I love students and I have seen the impact education has on their lives," Caves says. "Kirkwood's breadth of programs and offerings are vital not only to students but also to the communities in the region it serves."

Caves learned how important community is during his 40-plus

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There are so many reasons to rejoice this time of year. The warmer weather, sunshine, graduations, celebrations, blooming flowers, and returning to some of our most favorite pastimes.

The Kirkwood Alumni & Friends program is pleased to welcome another outstanding group of graduates, our newest alums! For the 2021 - '22 school year, 1,763 graduates received their associate degree, and a passage for budding opportunities. After two years of the online alternative, we celebrated our

favorite Commencement program in person at the Alliant Energy PowerHouse. Congratulations to the class of 2022!

The dust is settling, and everything is taking shape in the newly remodeled Iowa Hall. Throughout campus, you can feel the excitement and anticipation for this new space to officially open. After years of planning and substantial construction, the building will be a hub of all student resources. Along with the necessities of admissions, advising, financial aid, student life, and veteran affairs, students can look forward to shared spaces, study pods, a robust café, coffee shop, and more! The space will be stunning, and a wonderful complement to our magnificent campus. Come share in the excitement and attend our **Sept. 13 Alumni Social/Open House from 4 - 6 p.m.** All are invited!

In February, Kirkwood Athletics hosted its inaugural Hall of Fame dinner and induction. The evening was as superb as our All-American inductees. Congratulations to Lu Ann Campbell Schlafke ('85), softball and basketball, Desiree Francis ('98), basketball, and Coach John Lewis, baseball. The acceptance speeches were full of heartfelt memories and notable experiences.

The ninth annual Celebration of Success event was held April 28 at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center. This signature event is an all-time favorite! Kirkwood Alumni & Friends are pleased to share this year's award recipients:

- **GreatAmerica Financial** – *President's Award*
- **Jody Donaldson**, Director of Advancement, Kirkwood Community College Foundation – *Trustees' Award*
- **David Junge**, Founder & CEO, Junge Control – *Distinguished Alumni Award*
- **John Oxley**, LMSW, Veteran Affairs – *Distinguished Alumni Award*
- **Ron Rausch**, President & CEO, Wired Production Group – *Distinguished Alumni Award*
- **Cassandra Brower**, Associate Professor, Instructor, Entrepreneur – *Distinguished Young Alumni Award*

Thank you to our event sponsors **Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust, The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, and TrueNorth Companies.** We would also like to thank **Alliant Energy, Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust, Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival, Corridor Property Services, and The Waldinger Corporation** for giving current students an opportunity to attend and enjoy the experience.

Celebration of Success recipients are selected from external nominations. Help us recognize Kirkwood alumni who are doing great work! www.kirkwood.edu/nomination

View photos of this year's event on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kirkwoodalumni. Save the date for Celebration of Success 2023 on March 30, 2023.

Our Kirkwood Alumni & Friends program is forever growing and having fun! We hope to see you at our next opportunity.

With gratitude,
Jody Donaldson
Director of Advancement



9th Annual Celebration of Success



KERNELS FOUNDATION FEATURE



*In
Memoriam*

When it came to having a green thumb, Bud Curran and his magic touch as a groundskeeper kept the turf at Veterans Memorial Stadium, home of the Cedar Rapids Kernels Minor League Baseball team, in prime condition for years.

So, what could be more fitting than the Kernels Foundation and Kirkwood partnering to provide scholarships in his name for students studying turf management? Since 2008, each year, one student in Kirkwood's Golf Course and Athletic Turfgrass Management program gets a \$1,000 scholarship; another Kirkwood turf management student does an internship with the Kernels grounds crew.

The Guy "Bud" Curran Memorial Scholarship was established by the Kernels Minor League Baseball Club and its booster club. Curran, considered the patriarch of Cedar Rapids'

HONORING BUD CURRAN

KERNELS' SCHOLARSHIP HELPS KIRKWOOD STUDENTS LEARN TURFGRASS CARE

first family of baseball, was groundskeeper at Veterans Memorial Stadium from 1949 to 2001.

Under Curran's care, the stadium gained a reputation as one of the finest minor league facilities in the country. He was honored as the Midwest Minor League's top groundskeeper in 1993, and the Cincinnati Reds asked him in 1988 to help with construction of their new spring training complex in Plant City, Florida.

Curran, who served on the Kernels' board of directors, died in 2007 at age 88. His son Jim, also a board member, has been a groundskeeper and still helps with maintenance for the Kernels.

The Kirkwood scholarship in Curran's name is funded by annual gifts from the Kernels Foundation. Fourteen students have received the scholarship.

The Kirkwood Foundation chooses the student recipient for each year. The Kernels conduct a check presentation at home plate with the scholarship recipient before a Kernels game, says Doug Nelson, CEO of Cedar Rapids Ball Club Inc.

It has been a win-win, Nelson says. The turf management program has helped several highly qualified people work for the Kernels grounds crew, he adds. Kirkwood students hone their skills and learn what it takes to shape that field of dreams.

The commitment is serious. Keeping the field clean, green, trimmed, and ready for every game is a full-time job. Groundskeepers must mow it daily, maintain and repair irrigation lines, trim the field's edges, and maintain the pitching mound and home plate as well as all maintenance equipment. After each game, the groundskeeper spends at least an hour repairing the field from that night's game, putting tarps on the pitching mound and home plate, and cleaning the dugouts.

Bud Curran got his first taste of turf management as a kid living across the street from Old Hill Park stadium, his son Jim says. He spent time there, began helping take care of the field, and became the clubhouse boy working on the grounds.

"He learned it by working on it — by hand," Curran says of his father. "And he could be outside. He just loved it."

Kirkwood's turf management program is excellent, Nelson notes.

"Whenever we need a groundskeeper, we look for someone with that degree," he says. "Any Kirkwood graduate can apply."



KIRKWOOD IS THE ONLY
COLLEGE WITH AN INDOOR
LANDSCAPING LAB



K
ATHLETICS
HALL OF FAME

In addition to the Hall of Fame recognition ceremony, Kirkwood men's and women's basketball players celebrated Sophomore Day Feb. 19. Pictured left to right, Sophomore Dre Anderson, Sophomore Alycia Patterson, HOF inductees Lu Ann Campbell Schlafke, Coach John M. Lewis, and Desiree Francis Walker.

Kirkwood Athletics held its inaugural Hall of Fame awards banquet this February. The event recognized former intercollegiate student-athletes Lu Ann Campbell Schlafke, softball and women's basketball 1983 – '85, and Desiree Francis Walker, women's basketball 1996 – '98, as well as former Head Baseball Coach John M. Lewis, 1979 – 2011.

Honorees were selected for their extraordinary athletic ability, leadership roles, and public service both during and since their time at Kirkwood. Nominations were sought in July from present and retired Kirkwood coaches, administrators, alumni, faculty, and staff.



Presenting the Bud Curran Scholarship check at home plate before a Kernels game.

For more information or to submit a nomination for 2023, visit www.kirkwoodeagles.com.

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