

# THE EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL

## ALUMNI TATLER

El Paso, Texas

The Lady on the Hill

December 2020

### President's Corner

Dear Fellow Tigers and Friends:

It is with great relief that we bid 2020 farewell. It has been a year like none other, filled with sadness, tears, and chaos, but we have been resilient and weathered this awful storm. We can now look forward to a 2021 with renewed love of God, country, family, and friends.

The Alumni Association like all other organizations was unable to sponsor or participate in any athletics or social events in 2020, but is ready to do so now and hopefully put this nightmare behind us.

I have put together a list of possible future events and endeavors by The Association. Our "to do" list remains almost the same as last year.

Once the "Bond" Construction has completed all renovations and building of The Fine Arts Building, the Association will work on all disturbed areas as we planned. These include the irrigation systems, new grass areas, repairs to all planters, and restoration of plants and trees. All broken concrete benches and tables will either be repaired or replaced and will repaint all orange cement areas and blue curbs and ramps.

Our most anticipated project is still the 1,400 sq. ft. addition to The Historical Museum where we will finally be able to display all our memorabilia for all El Paso to see and enjoy.

It is important that Alumni support all efforts to conserve our school, all grounds, and museum by renewing membership dues of \$20.00 per year or \$90.00 for 5 years. We also welcome all donations large and small (which are tax deductible) with every cent going to student activities, yearly scholarships, and beautification programs.

### Construction and Renovations on the EPHS Campus

It is no understatement that the year 2020 has been unique. Ask a high school senior of the Class of 2020 or the Class of 2021 and they will likely describe their experience this year in terms of a train wreck. Classes let out for Spring Break last March and have not resumed for in-person instruction since then.



**New Fine Arts Building**

Despite the absence of students, faculty, and much of the staff, the campus at your alma mater has been a beehive of activity. So let's take a cursory look at the physical changes.

The major projects visible at EPHS during 2020 have been the Fine Arts addition and conservation of the facade of the national historic landmark Trost & Trost school building. The EPHS Alumni Association has been keeping an eye on both of these projects as previously reported to you. Indeed, if not for the intervention of the Alumni Association, the conservation project would be a perfunctory attempt to wash the exterior of the building and that action might have been catastrophic to the building.

With regard to the conservation of the building facade (to include roof repair and corresponding repair of the foundation), the exterior of the Trost & Trost building has been marked with khaki color paint at every crack, chip, fracture, or replacement identified by a conservation architect's extensive survey. That professional survey was commissioned by the EPISD Trustees only after an ardent campaign by the Alumni Association



**Balustrade Repair**

which demanded such a thorough inspection in order to properly care for a nationally recognized historical landmark. Some conservation has begun as evidenced by repair and restoration of balusters and railing on a decorative balcony on the Virginia Street wing. That piece of work may be only a test of process and materials, but it is a

As you are aware EPISD should begin the 17.5 million dollar Renovation Project to the Roof, Basement, and Façade soon. The Association Board remains committed to observe that all work is done to Historical Specifications and Building Codes with the safety of the students, teachers, and visitors being most important.

The Board looks forward to restoring and sponsoring the Historical Tours of the school, The Outstanding Exes Celebration, The CD Jarvis Basketball Tournament, and a Casino Night. We welcome all ideas and help from all The Alumni to make our activities a huge success.

In the Fall of 2022, The Alumni Association would like to work on putting together a "Rededication of The Lady on The Hill ". This would consist of a large reunion of all classes to celebrate "The Lady's New Look". This reunion would not be nearly as large as The Centennial but along the same type of celebration. We welcome all ideas, participation of all classes, students, and teachers. Please begin to give this celebration serious thought as we truly plan to make it a reality.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Amada S. Flores  
EPHS Alumni Association President-  
"63"

start. How much has been expended thus far of the \$17.5 million authorized by the EPISD Trustees in December 2019 for conservation (repair and maintenance) of the Trost & Trost school building is yet unreported, but it is expected the specialized, critical work will continue throughout 2021 and, perhaps, into 2022.

The Fine Arts Building is part of the 2016 EPISD Bond Issue along with renovations inside the Trost & Trost Building. The construction budget for the new building and remodeling in the oldest building on campus is \$17,803,706. The construction of the new edifice's exterior appears to be about 80 percent complete with interior work just beginning. The school district estimates the Fine Arts addition may be ready for occupancy during the 2021 spring semester. Music, drama, and graphic arts classrooms in the original school building "On The Hill" have already been repurposed and remodeling has been underway since mid-summer to adapt those spaces for their new, student oriented uses. Fine Arts classes are vacant they have temporarily been assigned to cottages across Schuster Ave or are to share classrooms in the original building until the Fine Arts Building is completed.



**Remodeled Men's Restroom (L) and Women's Restroom (R) Main Building**

Not so evident are other changes within the Trost & Trost building. Restrooms have been renovated. Gone are all hints of the white marble partitions and stalls which many alumni may recall. Instead, new ceramic tile covers floors and walls, plus new fixtures add to the gleam of the restrooms. The bathrooms at the JROTC building have also been

renovated and ADA compliant ramps were added to facilitate access thereto.

A modern, greater capacity elevator with wider doors is in the process of being installed where for many years there was no elevator at all. Of course, to accommodate a larger elevator, the previous elevator shaft had to be demolished and a new pit and shaft constructed. That work is nearing completion; elevator equipment should complete installation early in 2021.

A new, state of the art flag pole has been erected at street level adjacent to the electronic marquee on Schuster Avenue. The 40-foot tall pole accommodates a 4' x 6' flag which is visible from I-10. The new flag pole makes the flying of the USA flag more visible to students and passing motorists. The pole allows the daily raising and lowering ceremonies by JROTC cadets to be evident to the EPHS community, adding appreciation to that time honored tradition.



**New Elevator Shaft**



**New Flag Pole**

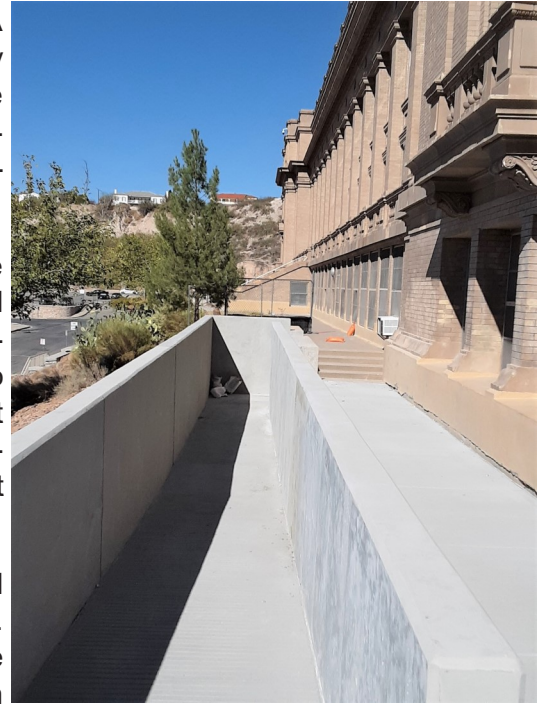


## Construction and Renovations Continued

Near the south end of the Virginia Street wing, a walkway and ADA compliant ramp have been constructed adding a building safety feature to a first floor stairway exit in that part of the building. The contractor has yet to restore the environmentally friendly xeriscaping destroyed during ramp construction. That landscaping restoration will remain a focal point for the Alumni Association.

On the south rim of RR Jones Stadium is the house which the Alumni Association has renovated into the EPHS Museum, opened to the public during Homecoming in October 2019. Although construction has yet to begin, the Association has drawn-up plans to expand the museum building by double (approximately 1,400 sq ft addition) to provide more gallery and more storage space for acquired artifacts dating back to the school's establishment in 1885 at Central School.

On the east side of Ange Street, new tennis courts were completed shortly before the pandemic suspended classes earlier in the year. Nonetheless, tennis practices and interscholastic matches have been conducted on the seven courts which are illuminated with high tech lighting allowing for play into the evening. The new courts were necessary because the Fine Arts Building was plotted on the site of the previous tennis facility, just north of the CD Jarvis Gymnasium.



**ADA Compliant Ramp, Virginia Street**

So, the year 2020 is another historic one at El Paso High School. Unfortunately, the disappointments and dismay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is the big story, but not to be lost in the pages of history are the improvements and additions "On The Hill" which will serve EPHS and the community for many more decades.

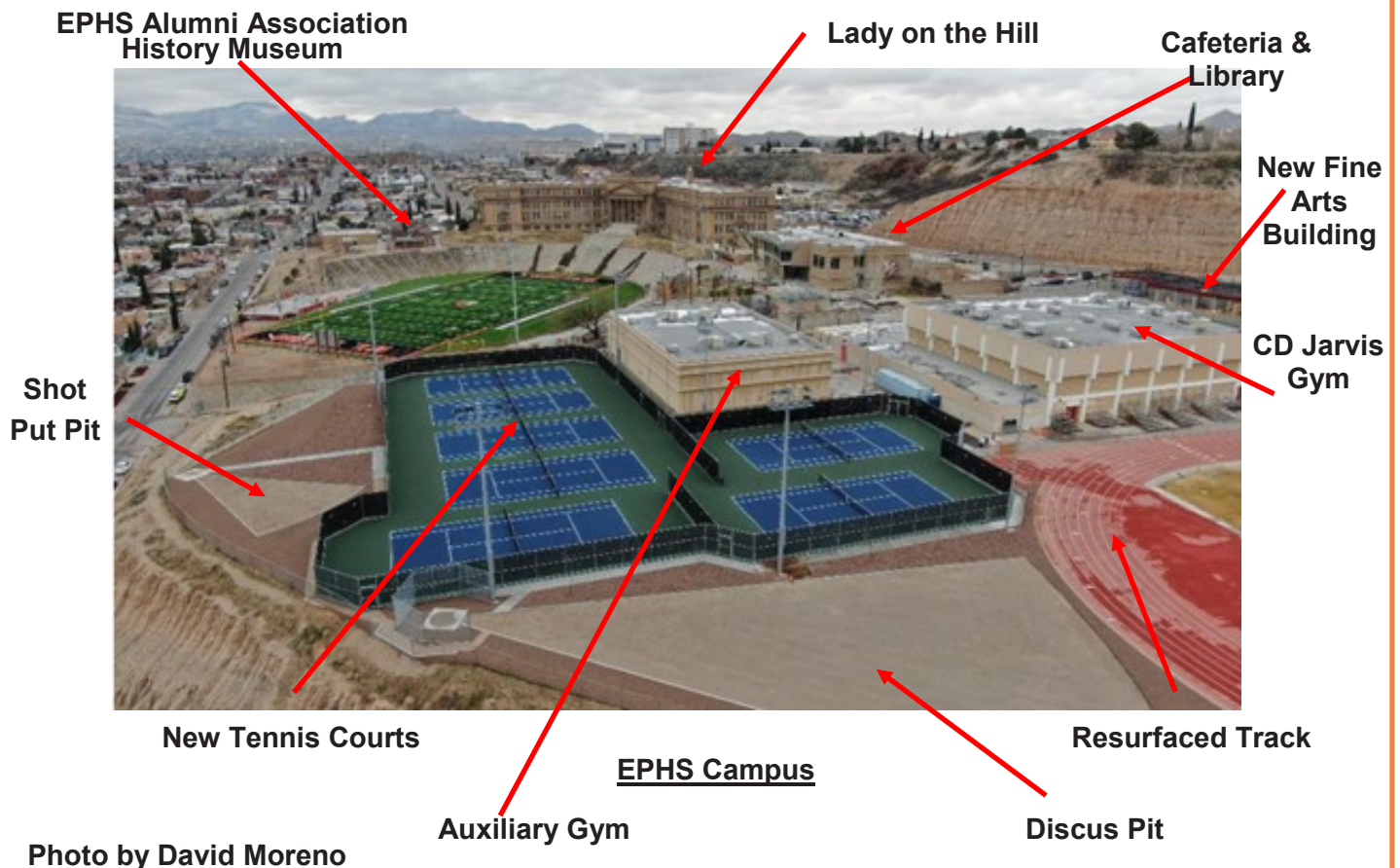


Photo by David Moreno

# EPHS Alumni Association History Museum

Phase 1 of the construction and opening of the museum is complete. Many hours were spent arranging the museum to display the history of El Paso High School, faculty, staff, students and alumni.



Amada Flores, Betty Flores, Irma Terrazas, Sandy Aaronson



Museum Front View



Museum Patio View

Phase 2 of construction is under way. Amada Flores, Alumni Association President and owner of AIM Construction, has designed and readied the plans for the expansion of the museum. Additional room is needed to highlight the 135 years of El Paso High School History. We need your help. Please contact the Association if you would like to volunteer your time or assist with funding.



Yearbooks late 1908 to present

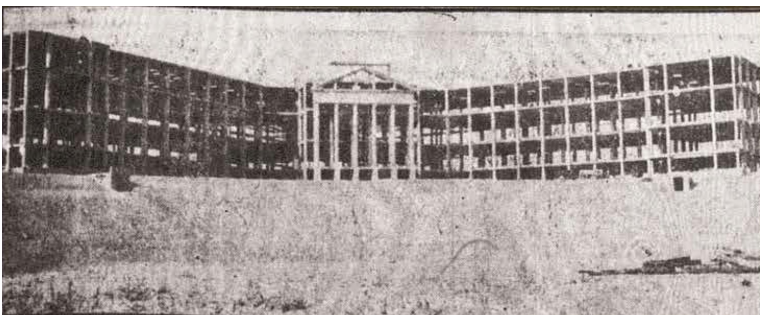


Tatters to Review



Military and the Arts on Display

## Did you know!!!



EPHS Construction, El Paso Herald, Jan 22, 1916



Armistice Day Celebration, El Paso Times, Nov 11, 1918

### EPHS Alumni Board of Directors

Amada S. Flores, '63, President  
Betty Garcia Flores, '62  
George Torres, '70  
Belinda Chavez Cardenas, '81  
Robert D. Novick, '66  
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Hugo Arreola, '73  
Dolores A. Chacon, '70  
Josefina Ortiz, '70  
Irma Terrazas, '62

### Alumni Membership

Join the EPHS Alumni Association TODAY! Help us give back YOUR money to EPHS through scholarships, student organizations, gifts and donations. We also need help expanding the museum to display our 104 yrs of history. All donations appreciated.

**Membership \$20 per year or \$90 for five years|**

[www.ephسالumniassociation.com](http://www.ephسالumniassociation.com)

Checks Payable to EPHS Alumni Assoc.

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