REBEL ALUMNI
WHERE WILL YOU SOAR?

I feel like kids in general, not just African-American kids, are influenced by what they see, both positive and negative. - Curtis Granderson

CURTIS GRANDERSON ‘99

Curtis Granderson, Jr., a native of Lynwood, Illinois, is an American professional baseball outfielder for the New York Mets. He has also played in MLB for the Detroit Tigers (2004–2009) and the New York Yankees (2010–2013). He throws right handed and bats left handed. While primarily a center fielder throughout his career, Granderson made the transition to right field in 2014 for the Mets.

Granderson played college baseball at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and was selected by the Tigers in the 2002 MLB draft. He made his MLB debut with the Tigers in 2004, and signed a contract extension with Detroit in 2008. After the 2009 season, he was traded to the Yankees. After his contract expired following the 2013 season, he signed a contract with the Mets.

Granderson is a three-time MLB All-Star (2009, 2011–2012). He won the Silver Slugger Award in 2011. Off the field, Granderson is recognized for his commitment to the community through outreach and charity work. Many of his charitable endeavors support inner-city children. He has also served as an ambassador for MLB abroad. Granderson won the Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award twice and the Roberto Clemente Award in 2016 in recognition of his contributions in the community. He has consistently returned to the area to speak to students, run clinics, and has donated thousands of dollars to support T.F. South Athletics, provide an annual scholarship to a T.F. South graduate, and funded the lettering on the front exterior of the building, the auditorium, and the Red Gym.
One of my obsessions is animals. I'm into dog rescues. It drives me crazy when people go to pet stores and buy dogs. There are so many dogs that need a good home. And this sounds crazy, but I really believe they know what is happening and are appreciative, and I just think they make for the best pets.

- Jim O’Heir

James O’Heir (born February 4, 1962), a native of Lansing, Illinois, is an American actor and comedian best known for co-starring as Jerry Gergich on the NBC sitcom Parks and Recreation.

O’Heir first became active in Chicago theater and improv during the late 1980s and early 1990s as part of the comedic theater troupe “White Noise”, and appeared in such plays as The Book of Blanche, Stumpy’s Gang and Ad-Nauseam with the group. O’Heir has appeared in several films and made guest appearances on such shows as Friends, Boston Legal, Malcolm in the Middle, Star Trek: Voyager, 3rd Rock from the Sun, ER, and Parenthood.

In 2000, he starred in a regular role in the Comedy Central series Strip Mall as Harvey Krudup, the unattractive husband of protagonist Tammi Tyler, who was played by Julie Brown. In 2009, O’Heir became a regular supporting cast member of the NBC comedy series Parks and Recreation, playing Jerry Gergich.
As the father of 4 sons, I understand the importance of encouragement during teenage years. I received valuable inspiration and support from my friends and teachers at T.F. South and have great memories of my time there.

- Dr. David Kristo, MD

Dr. David A. Kristo, MD is a 1980 Valedictorian of T.F. South. He earned BS degrees in Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and an MD from Southern Illinois University, Springfield, IL. While attending the University of Illinois, he was awarded the George Huff Certificate of Award for Proficiency in Scholarship and Athletics as a member of the Varsity Track Team.

Dr. Kristo served in the United States Army from 1988 through 2008. He achieved the rank of Colonel and served many roles including the Medical Director and Chief of Service at the Combined Intensive Care Unit/Pulmonary & Critical Care Services of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany during Operation Joint Endeavor-Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Chief of Pulmonary Critical Care and Sleep Service at the National Capital Area Consortium Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Among his military service awards he includes the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal for his ICU support for Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Army Achievement Medal for his ICU and extended support of the victims of the 9/11 Pentagon attack.

Dr. Kristo has collaborated on over 30 publications, and presented over 15 times at conferences and symposia, mostly dealing with the topic of Respiratory Care and Sleep Medicine. He is currently the Medical Director at the University of Pittsburgh Sleep Laboratories Oakland/Monroeville and is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. He is also serving on a national level on the American Academy of Sleep Medicine Board of Directors.
A quote I live by is "Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it."
- Agosto Boal

Ben Locke graduated with a double degree in Theatre and Human Services from Millikin University. Since graduating, He has acted in: The Colored Museum with Pulse Theatre, Barney the Elf with The Other Theatre Company and You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown. He is currently doing Hairspray with Windy City Music Theatre and Strangest Things the Musical with Random Acts Chicago.

He will also be: Bottom in a dance version of Midsummer Night's Dream, playing Peter in Peter and the Starcatcher at Metropolis Performing Arts Center this summer (2017). Ben is involved in being an Artistic Associate with Random Acts Chicago and is a dance apprentice with Ardent Dance Company where he has performed in two dance concerts.