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Mundelein High School District 120 2017 Fall/Winter Magazine



Distinguished Alumni recognized at the first awards banquet for MHS. Front: Tami Haukedahl, Ed Suveges, Zaneta Stinson Adams, Hemal Patel, Deirdre Healey. Back: Britt Hanson, Ray Semple, James Swanson, Gary Schnurrpusch, Jay Hightower. The event was held Saturday, Nov. 4. See complete story on Page 8.



Website: www.d120.or Growth, Equity, Collaborati







Superintendent's Message ...



Dr. Kevin Myers, Superintendent

It was great to have everyone back to start the new school year on August 14. Every summer, around July 1 or so, we start to miss having the students and staff in the building. It's just too quiet without them! We are now in the midst of a new year that is one of our best yet. We're happy to have the Eight-Period Bell Schedule in place and everyone involved is adjusting well. Specifically, our students now have the opportunity to take courses in sequence that are meant to be taken that way.

Advanced Placement [AP] courses now run all year long so when the testing comes in May, students will be in the very classes that they are being tested in. Students are also taking advantage of the many opportunities for individualized help, tutoring, study time and break time during the 50-minute lunch periods. And arguably the most important benefit of the new schedule is that students and teachers are together over a much longer period of time, 18 or 36 weeks as opposed to 9 or 18 weeks on the previous schedule. This gives teachers much more time to know the students' individual skills and needs and allows them many opportunities to help students to succeed.

We are extremely proud of the things our students are able to accomplish, and we are impressed with what they do once they leave us. We just had the opportunity to recognize 10 of our alumni at the first **Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet**. These 10 were chosen from almost 40 nominees for the award. I have to say that listening to them talk about their lives after MHS and where their life's decisions have taken them was truly inspiring! And even more importantly, one after another of the alumni mentioned how their goals, **their drive and their accomplishments are a direct result of the education they received at Mundelein High School.**

Finally, we are continuing to work on further developing **our Core Values of Equity, Growth and Collaboration.** We hold these three tenets close to our hearts and are working to incorporate them into all aspects of our teaching and learning. The education we provide is much more than homework, projects and tests. **We are helping our young people develop the knowledge and skills to have happy, successful lives in their futures.** This is truly a great time to be a Mustang.

The Messenger

Mundelein High School District 120 Magazine - Fall/Winter 2017

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Smooth transition to the eight-period schedule

The 2017-2018 school started with a major change for students and staff to welcome, namely a new schedule. A new eightperiod day was put into place and ready for the new school year. Previously, Mundelein High School was on a 4 X 4 Block Schedule.



especially true for Advanced Placement [AP] courses, which all test in May. On the block schedule, many AP courses ended in December and there was a gap of four months before the AP exams were taken.

Another major advantage of the new schedule is the longer lunch

There were many reactions on the first few days of school. Both students and teachers were talking about how fast the school day seemed to "fly by." At the same time, staff members were talking about how exhausted they were at the end of the day. This was due, in part, because teachers now teach five class periods each day, 50 minutes each, as compared to three class periods each day, 90 minutes each. After a couple weeks, the majority of staff members said that they had adjusted to

periods. There are a number of opportunities for students to get individualized help before or after they eat lunch. [See separate story on Page 6].

"Overall, the feedback we've gotten in the Literacy Center is that students seem to be split down the middle," said Anna Grig, instructional aide.

As a teacher, I love it," said Social Studies Instructor Tom Kuhn. "The days go quicker, although I am more exhausted

"I've spent my entire career at MHS, so this is my first time teaching in an eight -period format," said Jonathan Meier, English/Theatre instructor. "So far...I am liking it. I makes the day fly by and I still find myself in mid-sentence when "The students don't seem to be talking much about it, which I see as a good thing. They are young they have adjusted."

-Jonathan Meier

the bell rings, but so far so good. The students don't seem to be talking much about it, which I see as a good thing. They are young—they have adjusted," he ex-

plained.

the new format.

The major reasons for the switch included the "gap time" in sequential classes that were ever-present in the block schedule. Another reason was to have the majority of courses meet for an entire school year rather than for only a semester. This would give students and teachers more time to get to know and trust each other and to create a lasting, positive working relationship. This is

at the end of the day." He went on to explain that from a parent's point of view, "I am seeing the effects of having more classes which means more homework," he said.

"There are definitely some

adjustments that will need to be made," said Stacey Gorman, director of curriculum and instruction. "We are working with staff in order to find a good balance with the amount of homework. We're also looking at the purpose along with the load concerning homework."

Gorman explained that teachers have noticed there is more time between assignments now that classes are a year long rather than only 18 weeks. "Teachers have enjoyed having more time to build a positive classroom climate. These are some positives about the new bell schedule," she concluded.

Heard in the hallways ...

"It's really cool! We get up and move around way more

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during the day."

"It's such a relief to know that I'll be in the same AP course at the end of the school year when I have to take the national exam. Last year it was horrible when my class ended in December and I had to try to remember all that stuff until May."

"There's a lot of time during lunch to eat and then get help if I want it in the Study Café, Literacy Center, Math Lab and other places. Now I have less work to do when I get home after school."

"So, I really liked the Block Schedule with the longer classes...but it did get long sometimes and there was a lot of wasted time in some classes. Now, we get busy right away and the time flies by! I'm liking this more and more every day!" er school."

Per school."

Per school."

"As an athlete, I really like getting out 15 minutes time

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"That first week was killer! I was exhausted. To go from teaching three classes a day to five classes was a big adjustment. But, by the second week, it was getting better and now I would never want to go back. We use the class time from bell to bell and the day seems to fly by. As a sindividuals and it makes it almost rewarding to be able to help them grow and develop over

"I miss the Block Schedule! I liked having only four classes to deal with at a time. Now I have six and it's a lot. There are a couple good things with the new schedule, though. With more passing periods I get to see my friends more often during the day. And I guess the assignments are spread out over the whole year instead of half a year so that's good too. Maybe I'll get used to it."

Study Café a bonus with the eight-period day

One of the advantages of the new eight-period day schedule is that a lunch period is one of the 50-minute periods in the day. On the previous schedule, students and staff had a 30-35 minute lunch period sectioned off during the third period. The new schedule offers a number of ways for students and staff to spend their time.

A lot of alternatives are available during the lunch



periods for students to divide their time between eating

lunch and something else. That could include going to a variety of "resource" areas, staying in the cafeteria the whole time to socialize with friends, or finding a comfortable place to just "chill."

"I'm able to get work done during the school day, yet at the same time there is a 'likeable vibe' in the room."

-Sophia Mendez

One of the more popular lunch

time spaces is the Study Café. This is an informal place to hang out and relax, do homework or even get individualized help from the three or four staff members available each of the lunch periods.

"It has a very calming atmosphere so it is easier to get homework done or study for a test," said Maisy Burklow, sophomore. "With the longer lunch periods, this provides a way to make good use of the time and it is also flexible."

Social Studies Teacher Jesse Piland is one of the staff members available during one of the periods each day. "This is a great concept for students to use their lunch periods in a lot of different ways," he explained. "This gives students multiple points of access to teachers outside of the classroom."

Freshman Sophia Mendez is also pleased with the Study Café. "We didn't have study hall in middle school, so I really like this. I'm able to get work done during the

school day, yet at the same time there is a 'likeable vibe' in the room," she said.

Other students site different reasons for hanging



out during lunch time in the Study Café.

Sophomore Yael Pena likes to eat lunch and then head straight to the Study Café' to get work done. "I like the quiet. In the lunchroom I get too distracted. I'd rather use the time to get

things done."

Senior Demareea Legore has a very simple, yet practical reason for heading to the Study Café: the chairs are much more comfortable than in the cafeteria.

The Study Café is only open during

the lunch periods and is located right off the cafeteria. During non-lunch periods, staff members are available in the Study Hub, located in the Media Center. Other areas for quiet and/or individualized work or to get added help from staff members include the Literacy Center, the Math Lab and the traditional quiet study hall.

"All of these areas provide ways for students and teachers to connect during the school day," said Jessica Herrman, systems of support coordinator. "The new schedule has opened up these extra times throughout the day that students can work on their own or get that individual help that they might need. It's a definite bonus in the day for the students," she concluded.



6

Alumni Focus: Three grads living their dreams



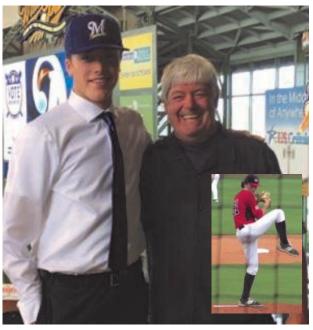
Ryan Borucki

MHS Class of 2012 Toronto Blue Jays Pitcher



Mitch Schulewitz

MHS Class of 2013 Kansas City Royals Pitcher



Brendan Murphy

MHS Class of 2017
Milwaukee Brewers
Pitcher

Distinguished Alumni awards





Top Row: Zaneta Stinson Adams, Britt Hanson, Tami Haukedahl, Deirdre Healey, Jay Hightower. Second Row: Hemal Patel, Gary Schnurrpusch, Ray Semple, Nicole Suveges, James Swanson.

Ten Mundelein High School graduates were recently honored as Distinguished Alumni, chosen from a field of 35 nominees for the first annual Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony and Banquet held Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Double Tree Hotel in Mundelein.

"We hear about so many of our alumni every year who are making positive contributions to the world," said Superintendent Kevin Myers. "We thought it was time to begin honoring those graduates in a public way and to share their stories. This will also serve as an inspiration for our current students," he added.

Those chosen to be inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Class of 2017 include the following:

Zaneta Stinson Adams, Class of 1995: US Army veteran; attorney at law with Williams Hughes PLLC; Challenge America Advocate and spokesperson. Founder of Women Injured in Combat [WINC].

Britt Hanson, Class of 1995: Hematology/Oncology Physician; Volunteer work with Lake County Stormwater Management and with project to help protect Bartlett Ravine and Lake Michigan.

Tami Haukedahl, Class of 1976: Founder and Owner of Hauk Fitness; Deputy Chief of Police, Elgin Community College. Raises money and donations each year for the Palatine Township Food Pantry – four truckloads of food this past year.

Deirdre "Dee Dee" Healey, Class of 1981: Director, Mis-

sion Support Division, Office of Safety and Mission Assurance at NASA Headquarters; panel member, UN Conference on Arms Control; guest speaker at Brookings Institution Women's Leadership Program.

Jay Hightower, Class of 1994: Just completed 20 years in government service – as Sergeant in the US Marine Corps. and now as a senior Federal Air Marshal. Served in the elite Security Forces/Counterterrorism Battalion guarding nuclear weapons; created the "Cheer Dad" movement for fathers of cheerleaders at Grayslake Central High School where his daughter cheered.

Hemal Patel, Class of 1994: Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, University of California at San Diego; Chair, Recruitment and Admissions Committee, UCSD School of Medicine; Research Pharmacologist, VA San Diego Healthcare System.

Gary Schnurrpusch, Class of 1965: Senior Maritime Analyst/Senior Naval Simulation System Modeler, Office of Secretary of Defense Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation Directorate Simulation Analysis Center [SAC]; Forty-eight years in the US Navy and Defense Department; Board of Directors, George Mason University, Friends of the Center for the Arts.

Raymond Semple, Class of 1979: Village Trustee, Village of Mundelein; National Account Manager, Equifax; longest-serving trustee in Mundelein history; serves as Mayor Pro-Tem; has played Santa Claus in Santa's Village in Mundelein for 25 years.

Nicole Suveges [posthumous], Class of 1988: Nine months active duty, US Army, during Bosnian War; US Defense Department Social Science advisor to Human Terrain Team in Iraqi Freedom 2006 and 2008; Killed in Iraq Ministry Building June 24, 2008; Awarded Defense of Freedom Medal July 11, 2008 by US Secretary of Defense

James Swanson, Class of 1967: Senior Executive Service with Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC; Active service with US Air Force 1971-2003; Attained rank of Brigadier General; CEO, Naples Children Education Foundation.



www.mhsedfoundation.net

presented to 10 MHS graduates



Students assist Fremont in installing solar panels

Christopher Michalides, Physical Science and Honors Chemistry instructor at MHS, provided this first-person account:

Alicia Dodd is a volunteer who maintains the Fremont Township Community garden. She contacted me last September about the possibility of installing a photovoltaic (PV) solar system to power electrical devices used for gardening, implements like power tools



and water pumps for irrigating the crops. The project was two-fold; to provide a local source of renewable energy and demonstrate the merits of the technology to visitors. The garden has a secure storage shed that was chosen to mount and house the system. The shed has an optimal view of the southern sky and is located within the garden. The primary topics of the Physical Science course at Mundelein High School are nuclear energy, solar, and wind technologies . A solar project best fit the scope of the course. I accepted Alicia's invitation and shared the project with my Physical Science students. They enthusiastically agreed to accept it.

Before beginning their research, students offered logical questions about solar technology. My primary role shifted



from teacher to mentor. I facilitated what students requested to learn instead of my choosing topics in advance. There was no "going by the book" so to speak. We wrote the book as the project unfolded. Lessons were designed from scratch to address questions students offered about PV solar. A few examples:

- How does it work?
- Can it work in our region?
 - What are the components of a solar array, and the purpose?

By November, a bidding contest was conducted between teams of students. Each had researched and priced out components for a PV solar system that would meet the energy needs of the garden. Alicia, Fremont Trustee Jeri Atleson and Diana O'Kelly, Fremont Township Supervisor visited MHS, listened to each team's proposal, and offered questions about each design. By the end of the bidding process, attributes of several systems were meshed together into a final design. There was no one



"winner." Based on student findings, Dr. Myers, Superintendent of Mundelein District 120, approved a cost of \$2000 for the project. The final version of the PV system ultimately cost \$2233 and was procured from Renogy. Since the garden is dormant during winter, there was no need to install the system until favorable weather returned. Students couldn't install the system because the course concluded in December due to the previous block schedule. Installation of the PV system was completed this summer. Alicia Dodd and I completed the installation ourselves in about four hours.

This project came to fruition because a need found enthusiastic learners and a veteran teacher willing to take a risk. A project such as this did not have a lesson plan to follow. Dr. Myers, Dr. Anthony Kroll, principal of MHS, and science department chair, Dr. David Greenwood, trusted my judgment and supported my efforts, and those of my students, from beginning to end. The students and I were thankful for the opportunity to tangibly improve our local community. Fremont Township received a modern, maintenance-free, and renewable energy source to meet its needs. The project infused the course with new, customized learning materials and expanded my content area background. Students have in -depth knowledge of solar system design and business marketing experience. As a result of this project, the Physical Science course will include design, construction, and testing of small-scale PV solar systems this year. I am returning for my ninth year as a Physical Science and Honors Chemistry teacher. This will be the fifteenth year of my educator career.

New assistant principal joins administrative team



The Mundelein High School District 120 Board of Education has hired Anthony Crespo as its new assistant principal. He succeeded Jesús Tirado who resigned earlier last spring. Crespo began his position July 1, 2017.

Crespo previously served as principal of the East Aurora High School Extension Campus in Aurora, IL, a position he began in 2015. Prior to that he was assistant principal of student supports at Proviso West High School and assistant principal of student life and athletics at Proviso East High School. From 2004 to 2012 he worked as a physical education instructor, athletic director, teacher mentor and basketball coach in Osceola County, Florida. He was also named District Level Minority Teacher of the Year in Osceola, Florida in 2006.

Crespo holds a bachelor of science degree in international business from Ramapo College of New Jersey and a master of science in education, educational leadership from Walden University. He is also fluent in Spanish.

"I am happy to be part of the Mundelein High School family," Crespo said. "What attracted me to MHS was the strong evidence of its

investment in students. I can tell that the MHS staff doesn't take learning for granted," he explained.

Officer Stephen Balogh new SRO at MHS

Officer Stephen Balogh of the Mundelein Police Department joined the Mundelein High School staff as School Resource Officer [SRO] when school opened Aug. 14. Balogh succeeds Officer Sarah Wirth who has a new assignment with the MPD.

Originally from Palatine, IL, Balogh earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University and began a career as an elementary school teacher. After several years of teaching in Illinois and Arizona, Balogh decided he would prefer getting involved with the community on a larger scale so he changed his career direction to law enforcement. He served for three years with the Avondale Police Department near Phoenix, Arizona before joining the Mundelein Police Department. "I am proud to be part of the Mundelein PD where the values parallel my own beliefs about community policing and serving with courage, pride and commitment," Balogh explained. "I am excited about working with the MHS staff and look forward to developing relationships with the students and their families and continuing the positive and safe environment that the high school enjoys," he said.

Mundelein Police Sergeant Brian Kisselburg, a previous SRO at MHS, supports the importance of the position in schools. "An important advantage of having an SRO is that it fosters a positive relationship between the officer and the students, along with their parents," he



said. "[Working in the high school] gave me a better understanding of teenagers' thought processes and the realization that many times their decisions are a result of their environmental influences."

"We welcome Officer Balogh and look forward to working with him," said MHS Assistant Principal Anthony Crespo. "We are fortunate to have an officer in the building at all times and enjoy an excellent working relationship with the Mundelein PD."

Jazz Ensemble featured at "Americana" music event at Mundelein Seminary

The Mundelein High School Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Andy Sturgeon, was one of the featured performers at the "Americana" event held in October at the Mundelein Seminary. It was an afternoon of song, music and good will. The Santa Maria del Popolo Celebration Ringers also performed along with featured organist David Rhodes. He also provided the theatre organ music during a showing of old films. On display was a 1925 firetruck known as "Old Number One." It was the first fire truck put into service in Mundelein, donated by George Cardinal Mundelein.



"The Jazz Ensemble had a great performance at the Mundelein Seminary," Sturgeon explained. "It was a wonderful celebration of Americana music in Mundelein!"

Board of Education earns Illinois Association of School Board's [IASB] recognition



The Mundelein High School District 120 Board of Education is one of 20 boards to earn the Illinois Association of School Board's [IASB] School Board Governance Recognition designation. The recognition is designed to acknowledge those school boards that have engaged in activities and modeled behaviors that lead to excellence in local school governance in support of quality public education.

The honorees were recognized at the Fall IASB Lake Division Dinner Meeting as well as at the Joint Annual Conference in November.

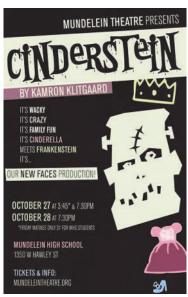
"We commend you for your hard work and the distinction of being a School Board Governance Recognition recipient," said Roger Eddy, IASB executive director.

MHS District 120 Board members are Joanne Anderson, president; Al Hitzke, vice president; Laura Vogt, **12**cretary; Sara Davalos, Laura Mellon, Thomas Ouimet and Jane Siegal.

Theatre season offers something for everyone

In their continuing effort to bring interesting and diverse literature to the students of Mundelein High School and the Mundelein community, Mundelein Theatre has announced their theatre offerings for the 2017-18 school year.

As always, the season began with the **Student Directed One Act Plays**. This year nine different MHS students had the opportunity to direct their own short plays. "It is always an interesting and compelling night of theatre, as these talented young theatre artists put their own stamp on a variety of different plays," Jonathan Meier, theatre director,



explained. The plays were performed in September. The New Faces production was *Cinderstein*, by Kamron Klitgaard. New Faces features freshmen and sophomores, as well as juniors and seniors who have not had the opportunity to be in a show at MHS. The play is a comedy about a local high school drama teacher who writes his own version of Cinderella by combining the Princess's tale with the story of Frankenstein. It does not go well. Directed by Jeff

Harding, the play ran October 27 at 3:45 and 7:30 p.m, and October 28 at 7:30 p.m.

The fall production, *The Arabian Nights*, by Mary Zimmerman, offers a blend of the lesser-known tales from Arabian Nights with the recurring theme of how the magic of storytelling holds the power to change people. Directed by Meier, the play was set to be performed on the 200-seat onstage thrust configuration in the MHS Auditorium. The show ranNovember 16, 17 and 18.

Mundelein Theatre students will once again be competing in the *Chicago Shakespeare Slam*. Formerly known as *Battle of the Bard*, the eight-person team will develop and perform two five-minute pieces to compete against schools from throughout the Chicago area. Last year the team advanced to the final round and had the honor of performing on stage at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre at Navy Pier. There will be a public performance of their slam pieces on November 16 at 6 pm. Co-directed by Mark Landuyt and Meier, the team will be competing in their preliminary bout on November 18 at Senn Arts Magnet High School in Chicago.

The winter play is Figments, by Billy St. John. The play is the



story of a young playwright with a wild imagination perhaps too wild. His thoughts bounce

between his frustrating love life and his play, as the real people and the figments of his imagination come together and clash in hilarious combinations. Directed by Meier, the play will be performed on February 8 at 7:30 p.m. February 9 at 3:45 and 7:30 p.m. and February 10 at 7:30 p.m. Mundelein Theatre will once again be competing in the IHSA Group Interpretation competition. Last year the team placed second in their sectional, advancing to the state finals at University of Illinois - Springfield, where they earned the Sportsmanship Award for the competition. This year they will be performing The Perks of Being a Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky. Landuyt will be adapting this novel (which was also made into a major motion picture) and directing this story of a young man as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. There will be public performances on March 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. The team will compete in their sectional competition of March 17.

Closing out the season will be the spring musical, *Les Misérables*, by Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boublil. This show has been the winner of more than 100 international awards and seen by more than 65 million people worldwide. Les Mis is the uplifting story about the survival of the human spirit. "This epic tale of broken dreams, passion and redemption is set against a nation in the throes of revolution, and features one of the most memorable scores of all time," Meier said. Mundelein Theatre will be performing the School Edition of the show. This edition is very similar to the original, with some minor cuts in the score, as well as some changes in the orchestrations to better suit high school voices. Directed by Meier, the musical will run April 26 and 27 at 7:30 pm. and April 28 at 2 and 7:30 pm.



MHS in the News-Homecoming '17



Second Semester Calendar

Monday, Jan. 8 Teacher Institute—No School

Tuesday, Jan. 9 School Resumes/Semester 2 begins

Monday, Jan. 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—No School

Thursday, Jan. 18 Jazz Concert, 7 pm

Tuesday, Jan. 23 Class of 2022 Night, 6:30 pm

Thursday, Feb. 8 Winter Play, 7 pm [also Feb. 9 and 10]

Thursday, Feb. 15 Winter Honors Band Concert, 7 pm

Friday, Feb. 16 Teacher Institute—No School

Monday, Feb. 19 Presidents Day—No School

Saturday, Feb. 24 Winter Dance

Wednesday, Feb. 28 Choir Concert

Tuesday, March 6 Parent/Teacher Conferences; Student dismissal at 1:40 pm

Wednesday, March 14 Band Concert, 7 pm

Thursday, March 15 Theatre: GI Showcase [also March 16]

Friday, March 16 Half-Day Institute; student dismissal at 12:45 pm

Tuesday, March 20 College Planning Night, 7 pm

Wednesday, March 21 Staff Variety Show, 7 pm

Saturday, March 24 Spring Break begins, through Monday, April 2

Tuesday, April 3 School resumes

Monday, April 9 Solo & Ensemble Concert, 7 pm

Thursday, April 12 Choir Concert off site, 7 pm

Wednesday, April 25 All Area Art Show, 6:30 pm/Also Thursday, April 26, 8 am to noon

Thursday, April 26 Spring Musical, Les Miserables, 7 pm/Also April 27, 28, times vary

Monday, April 30 Night of Percussion

Thursday, May 3 Spring Band Concert, 7 pm

Friday, May 4 Prom, 6:30 to 11:30 pm./Student dismissal at 12:45 pm

Sunday, May 6 Evening of Jazz, time TBA

Monday, May 7 Orchesis Show, 7 pm

Tuesday, May 8 Senior Finals Exams May 8, 9, 10; Senior Honors Ceremony, 7 pm

Sunday, May 13 Graduation, 3 pm, Sears Centre Arena

Friday, May 18 Student Dismissal at 1:40 pm

Monday, May 21 Final Exams, 7:45 am to 1 pm. Also May 22 and 23

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Ron Girard, Ph.D.

Public Information Officer, Editor





Website: www.d120.org