

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Ahna Skop, HHS Class of 1990

Dr. Ahna Skop has two passions that seem to be divergent but, after hearing her story, are natural complements.

Dr. Skop earned a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology, and is pioneering scientific discoveries that could lead to breakthroughs in treatment for Parkinson's, Lou Gehrig's, and other diseases. Additionally, she is an award-winning artist whose "tiny art" and has been shown at the Smithsonian, featured on NPR and PBS and written about in several publications. Skop says her images "inspire imaginative exploration and interpretation, drawing out emotional responses from viewers" and scientifically, they "offer meaningful answers to well-defined questions".

Skop, daughter of former HHS Art Teacher Kathy Skop and the late Michael Skop, a renowned local sculptor and anatomy educator and



illustrator; had early exposure to both science and art. "I grew up in a house where both parents were artists, so my passion for art is in my genes. I always tell people that genetically I'm an artist, but ended up a scientist who does art as well."

While at Highlands she says she found "the joy and excitement about scientific discovery that sparked my interest in how things work and gave me confidence that I could be a scientist." As the president of the science club at HHS, Skop got to go behind the scenes at the Cincinnati Zoo, meet the Tide detergent chemists at Proctor and Gamble, and see the stars on the historic telescope at the Cincinnati Observatory. "Mr. Gerrard really made science fun in and outside his classroom," says Skop. So much so, in fact, that Skop wanted to be like him- a scientific researcher and a teacher.

Skop has found a way to combine her passions by creating "scientific art" which is art inspired by science and natural design. Skop is the embodiment of her favorite quote "if you love what you do, you will never fail." She shares that by studying hard and doing well in high school and college, she was able to receive scholarships and grants that have allowed her to follow her passions. Her best advice to soon-to-be HHS graduates – "follow your passions and stay curious. If you love something, do it!"



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NEWS FROM THE NEST

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LETTER FROM JACK MOHR (former HHSAA President)

Dear Highlands High School Alumni:

The Highlands High School Alumni Association was founded in 1987 "to encourage, enhance and reward academic excellence in Highlands High School." Over the years, the Alumni Association has donated nearly \$50,000 to the Fort Thomas School System, graduates, and school organizations. It is with that purpose in mind and the goal of having a continued impact on the Highlands High School community, that the Alumni Association is choosing to take action to boost membership and community involvement. The Board of the Alumni Association has voted to organize as a committee of the Education Foundation to continue our mission. As an Alumni we hope that you will support this new course for the Alumni Association which is directed towards growth and impact upon Highlands High School as well as its Alumni community.

LETTER FROM AMY SHAFFER (Chair, FTEF Board of Directors)

On behalf of the FTEF Board of Directors, I'd like to thank Jack and the other leaders of the HHSAA for their time and dedication to the Alumni Association. The FTEF is honored to become a part of this group and excited about some of the new things we are planning (like a Reunion Resource Kit). You can expect to get a Newsletter from us several times a year to keep you up-to-date on all of the exciting things happening at HHS. If there are items you'd like us to focus on, please send us an email at HHSAA1891@gmail.com. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and check out our website for current news and information. If your contact information changes, let us know so we can stay in touch.

We can't wait to see you at the Alumni & Teacher of the Year Dinner on April 29th and the Homecoming Tail Feather Tailgate on September 15th.

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SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 29
Alumni & Teacher
of the Year Dinner
SEPTEMBER 15
Homecoming

STAY CONNECTED

HIGHLANDSALUMNI.COM

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859.815.2004



MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?

1 Year Free. Rejoin today.
HIGHLANDSALUMNI.com
or 859-815-2004

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Make sure to let us know
so we can keep in touch.



BRIEFS & BRAVOS

Lots of exciting things going on around campus at HHS

HHS STUDENTS TOPPING THE CHART

★
MOCK DEBATE TEAM won State

★
ROBOTICS TEAM won 2nd place in regional competition

★
WE THE PEOPLE won State

★
PERFECT ACT SCORES
Donnie Adams & Helen Ross

★
NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS
Helen Ross & Corrine Smith

★
HIGHEST GRADUATION CLASS ACT
in HHS history (24.7)

★
AP HONOR ROLL - 62.5% of graduates in 2016 passed at least one AP test

★
Newsweek top 250 (2nd in Kentucky)

★
Washington Post #125 in country
#1 in state

★
U.S. News and World Report one of only 5 Gold level schools in Kentucky

★
Bestschools.org

★
ranked HHS 74th best public

HIGHLANDS ATHLETIC TEAMS CARRYING ON THE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

LADYBIRDS BASKETBALL TEAM
2017 36th District Champs!



HHS BOWLING TEAM
2017 State Runners-up in first ever
"Unified Bowling" division



HHS DIVING TEAM
Finn Murphy 2017 State Runner-Up



HHS Athletics has a new website, www.highlandsathletics.com, which includes the application for HHS Athletic Hall of Fame nominations (due April 14th)

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 28

KEENELAND

Join us for a day at the Races while supporting your alma mater. Tickets are \$200 a person - includes round trip bus, light breakfast, catered lunch, cocktails and Club House access. For more information visit: www.ftef.org/keenland

For tickets: ftef.org or
859-815-2004

April 29

TEACHER & ALUMNI OF
THE YEAR DINNER

We will recognize three FTIS teachers and the Most Distinguished Alumni of the Year and honor Gene Kirchner, outgoing FTIS Superintendent.

Highland Country Club. Cash bar 5pm, Dinner Served at 6pm

For Tickets: ftef.org or
859-815-2004

April 8 & June 7

HHS NIGHT AT GABP

HHS Baseball v. St. X on April 8th @ 4pm and Cincinnati Reds v. St. Louis Cardinals on June 7th @ 7:10pm (HHS recognized during pre-game activities). Two games for \$10.

For tickets:
www.highlandsathletics.com

September 15 & 17

HOMECOMING &
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Come back to the Nest homecoming weekend. Join us for the Tail Feather Tailgate before the game on Friday night (v. Lexington Catholic). 2017 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner are on Sunday. Nominate a deserving classmate—applications can be found at highlandsathletics.com.

HOF Nominations due April 14

July 2-8 FORT THOMAS SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
www.ftthomas.org



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HIGHLANDSALUMNI.com for all up to date news.