BIO: Amy Griffin is one of the most respected and successful coaches and goalkeeping specialists in the nation. A US Youth Soccer Hall of Famer, Amy spent five years with the US National Team as a player, winning the first World Cup in 1991. Her experience in coaching soccer spans 33 years and she is in her 24th season coaching at the University of Washington. Amy returned to her native Washington state to coach and after 13 years, two goalkeepers she coached were diagnosed with lymphoma. She began to see a trend as she added 7 and then 13 more players to the list of people she knew who played soccer and had been diagnosed with cancer, primarily in the form of lymphoma. As the number of athletes rose, Amy's exploration of the subject led to an awareness of the materials artificial turf is composed of. With the knowledge that the fields are made of recycled tires, which contain known carcinogens, and the lack of any watchdog organization that deems these fields safe, Amy has drawn national attention to the question of why crumb rubber is being used in artificial turf fields. Amy has made connections with more than 250 athletes that have played on crumb rubber that have been diagnosed with cancer and 60% of those are goalkeepers, despite the statistic that goalkeepers make up only 10% of a soccer team. Goalkeepers are known to dive on the ground 100 times or more, with their faces close to the surface of the ground where they can ingest and inhale the crumb rubber. They also get abrasions on elbows, knees and hips where black dots of crumb rubber become embedded. As her anecdotal list of players has grown and her associated call to action, it has caught the attention of the EPA and Departments of Health, and government agencies around the world who have launched studies to determine the safety of artificial turf fields composed of crumb rubber.

12:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 6, 2019
Winslow Auditorium, 60 College Street

*LEPH 105 1:00 pm pizza lunch *1:45 pm meet EHS students (LEPH 513)