



Fall 2007

E-ALUMNI NEWS

www.victorschools.org

Four Join VCS Athletic Hall of Fame

Well over 100 people gathered at the October 11 Victor Central Schools' Athletic Hall of Fame dinner to honor 2007 inductees David M. Ahonen, Carol Martin, Keith Shields and Kenneth Weigert. Each represent qualities that make them role models for those who will follow in their footsteps. Their hard work and dedication have made extraordinary differences in the lives of students.

Mr. Ahonen, a 1973 graduate of VHS, competed in football, basketball and tennis. In football, he received the Greater Rochester Honorable Mention and was named All-Conference Quarterback for two years. He was on the All-Conference Second Team in basketball for two years and also the team co-captain for two years. In tennis, he had an undefeated season in 1973 and was the Finger Lakes B Team champion, as well as on the League All-Star Team. "He was one of the most versatile athletes ever to come through the Victor system," said Class of 2000 Hall of Famer Michael Guinan, who described Mr. Ahonen as an all-around team player.

In 1977, Mr. Ahonen was named the recipient of the Spud Kruzan Award for Outstanding Senior Athlete. Mr. Ahonen went on to compete in both varsity football and lacrosse at SUNY Albany for four years, and later served as the VCS Boys Basketball Booster Club president for four years, as well as the Victor Saints coach and Developmental Basketball assistant. Mr. Ahonen, whose father Ed Ahonen was inducted into the Hall of Fame with its first class in 1999, said receiving the honor was "a dream come true."

Mrs. Martin was a physical education teacher at Victor Senior High for 31 years, retiring in 1996. During her tenure she coached cheerleading, softball and badminton. Teaching both before and after the passage of Title IX, she is considered a true pioneer for her eagerness to try new endeavors. Her contributions influenced the lives of many of students. Before girls had the opportunity to participate in athletics, Mrs. Martin



David Ahonen, VHS Class of 1973, addresses the crowd during the October 11 dinner after being inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

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Retired physical education teacher and coach Carol Martin, left, accepts a plaque from Diane Guinan, Hall of Fame Class of 2001.

brought the concept of “Sports Nights” to Victor, highlighting both boys’ and girls’ activities while also including the arts and dance in order to encompass the entire student body.

“Play Days” were another way in which Mrs. Martin brought boys and girls together to socialize and participate in activities including volleyball, ping pong and badminton. She also founded the “Girls Leaders Club” to promote girls being involved in athletics and to develop leadership potential.

According to Diane Guinan, a member of the 2001 Hall of Fame, Mrs. Martin was a resourceful, engaging and commanding leader who was known for a devious wit and unpredictable pranks. In her acceptance speech, Mrs. Martin said she would cherish the honor for the rest of her life.

Mr. Shields taught at VCS for 34 years, retiring in 2007. He served not only as the director of the school’s aquatic program, but was also the town of Victor’s summer aquatic program director for 28 years and an American Red Cross water safety instructor for coaches and lifeguards. As the boys varsity swim coach for 34 years, the girls swim coach for 29 years and the community swim club head coach for 23 years, Mr. Shields led students to numerous meet records and titles. His finest achievement was winning 116 straight Finger Lakes

meets with the girls varsity team. Son Scott Shields noted that his father taught every student who came through Victor schools, and marveled at the number of lives he touched

His passion and dedication earned Mr. Shields much recognition over the years, including the 1994 ARC Volunteer of the Year in Water Safety, the 1995 Niagara District Swimming Volunteer of the Year, the 1995 U.S. Swimming Outstanding Service Award, the 2004 ARC Health and Safety Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2004 ARC Honor Award Special Citation for Exceptional Volunteer to the Greater Rochester Chapter of the ARC. Earlier this year, Mr. Shields was named the Kiwanis Victor Citizen of the Year and also was the very first recipient of the High School Coaching Excellence Award from the Monroe County Sports Commission.

“Simply, he has done it all,” Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics Ron Whitcomb said of Mr. Shields.

Described by Mr. Whitcomb as “truly Victor’s No. 1 fan,” Mr. Weigert is a 1950 Victor graduate and 33-year member of the VCS Board of Education who has had an enormous impact on the athletic programs and facilities on campus.

With two years on the VHS varsity basketball team, Mr. Weigert served as co-captain and was also named to the All-League Team in both 1949 and 1950. He also played on the varsity baseball team for three years. Mr. Weigert’s community service in the years since is far-reaching. In addition to serving on the school board, he has been both its president and vice president. He has been a member of the VCS Campus Improvement Committee, the VCS Graduate of Distinction Committee (as chairman), the VCS Hall of Fame Committee, the New York State School Boards Association and various



Keith Shields, left, was introduced by his son, Scott Shields, right, during the Hall of Fame dinner.

committees of the Four County School Board Association. In addition, Mr. Weigert is a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus.

“If there were a ‘Mr. Victor,’ it would be Ken Weigert,” said Timothy J. McElheran, superintendent of Schools. In his speech, Mr. Weigert said he felt privileged to have worn the Victor jersey and thanked his wife Ann, “always my favorite cheerleader.”

Inductees to the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame are chosen each year by the VCS Hall of Fame Committee, which is comprised of eight voting members representing coaching staff, administration, Board of Education, students and/or community residents. The Athletic Director serves as a permanent member of the committee.

The Hall of Fame was established to recognize the accomplishments of outstanding athletes, coaches, administrators and Blue Devil supporters. Through recognition, those individuals and their families are reconnected with Victor Central Schools, providing current student athletes with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the history of Blue Devil athletes.



Ken Weigert, a VCS graduate who has served 33 years on the Board of Education, was described as Victor's "No. 1 fan" during the awards dinner.

Victor Schools Seek Names of Distinguished Graduates

Do you know a Victor Central School alumnus who has made a significant contribution to society? The Graduates of Distinction program honors such individuals.

The program selection committee is now soliciting nominations for 2008. Alumni selected for this honor will be recognized at graduation in June.

Posthumous nominations will be accepted. Upon request, information on individuals making nominations will be kept confidential. Honorees must meet the following criteria to be considered: (1) a Victor central school graduate of at least 15 years; (2) Post-graduation achievement that includes job-related achievements; professional honors and awards, professional affiliations, publications; (3) Civic or community involvement; (4) Educational achievements; (5) Other appropriate qualifications that merit consideration. **Nominations must be submitted by March 15, 2008.**

More information can be found at www.victorschools.org (under "People and Community").

Help Us Honor Graduates!

Victor Central Schools is looking for new members for its Graduates of Distinction committee. Any alumni is welcome to apply.

Send a letter of interest to:

Maureen Goodberlet, District Clerk
Victor Central School District, 953 High St.,
Victor, NY 14564
or GoodberletM@victorschools.org

Board of Education:

<i>Stephen R. Martin, President</i>	<i>Scott S. Sprague, First VP</i>
<i>Timothy M. DeLucia, Second VP</i>	<i>James Dailey</i>
<i>Mark J. Hamilton</i>	<i>Kathryn Hart</i>
	<i>Kenneth R. Weigert</i>

Timothy J. McElheran
Superintendent of Schools

Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo
Director of Special Projects and Programs

Anne Johnston
School and Community Relations Coordinator

Alumni@victorschools.org

Alumni on front lines of war on terror

"People wait an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. Marines don't have that problem."

That quote from Ronald Reagan was the quote that Marty Galbraith chose to have appear next to his photo in the 2004 Victor High School yearbook, and in the years since, he has adhered to its message. Marty, who decided upon a career in the military following the September 11 attacks during his sophomore year, enlisted in the Marines the summer before his senior year and left for training at Parris Island, S.C., one week after graduation from VHS. He is now on his third tour of Iraq, having been injured during the second tour when a roadside bomb exploded and sent the truck he was driving into a canal.

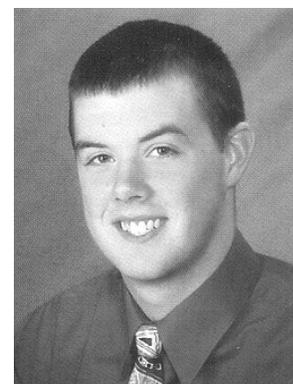
During a 10-day leave earlier this year, Marty told a local newspaper he was not afraid to return to Iraq and knew he could make a difference there. He shared, for example, how a young boy with one arm had approached him one day and said, in Arabic, "Thank you for saving my father."

Joshua Domalski, a 1999 VCS graduate, has also made a difference in Iraq. He spent a year there with the Army Reserves' 329th Medical Unit. His unit trained Iraqis and also followed convoys to tend to the wounded in the event convoys were attacked. While Joshua encountered combat, he was not injured and returned home safely in September, to continue his education.

Family members of both young men who still have ties to the VCS community say support at home has made things a little easier to cope with. If you know of other alumni assisting in the war on terror and would like the alumni community to know about their service, please contact us at Alumni@victorschools.org.



J. Domalski

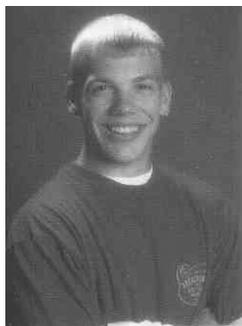


M. Galbraith

1999 VCS Graduate Earns National Honor

Jason R. Seifert, a 1999 graduate of Victor Central Schools, was named the Army's 2008 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year on October 9, 2007.

The Farmington native, who is stationed at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., was one of 13 U.S. soldiers worldwide who were finalists for the distinction. He was evaluated based on an essay and a written examination, as well as his use of the M-4 rifle and his skills in hand-to-hand combat. Jason is a



J. Seifert

staff sergeant in Company A, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Infantry, and was among the search, rescue and recovery teams at the Pentagon after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In nominating him for the award, his superiors cited his focus, determination and discipline.

Having joined the Army to pay for higher education, Staff Sgt. Seifert was quoted in news reports as saying that the military agrees with him. "The Army is a melting pot of people from all over the country, all different backgrounds," he said in one newspaper article. "It's amazing to see how well the training can bring us together as one team."

Congratulations, Jason!

The District has received much attention of late for its athletic and academic achievements. Here is an update on some of the good things that have been occurring at your alma mater.



Blue Devil News

* In 2006-2007, 24 out of 28 varsity teams received the New York State Scholar Athlete Award. To qualify as a Scholar Athlete Team, each team must have a composite GPA of 90 or more.

* During the 2006-07 school year, Victor earned seven league championships, which brought the five-year total to 54 league championships.

* In the junior/senior high, Victor now has nearly 400 one-sport athletes, more than 600 two-sport athletes and approximately 450 three-sport athletes. These student athletes have 28 sports including varsity, junior varsity and modified programs offered to them.

* Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics Ron Whitcomb was recognized by the New York State Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Council of Administrators as the 2007 recipient of the Ellis H. Champlin Physical Education Director of the Year Award.

Academic and Artistic Distinctions

- 94 percent of the class of 2007 earned a Regents diploma and 62 percent of the class earned the diploma with advanced designation.
- In 2007, 324 students took 519 Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams. Eighty-seven of those students (27 percent) earned the AP Scholar Award from the College Board.
- In 2007, Victor Senior High was the only local International Baccalaureate Diploma Program to have 100 percent of students who completed the program earn the diploma.
- Victor Junior High School was named one of seven "Schools to Watch" by the NYS Education Department in 2007.
- Earlier this year, Victor High School earned a spot on the list of top high schools in America. The list, released by *Newsweek* magazine, ranked Victor at No. 217 out of 27,000 high schools.
- The Victor Central School District has now been named a NYS High Performing School District for three consecutive years (2005, 2006 and 2007) and the Junior High has been named a High Performing Middle School each of those years. In 2007, Victor Intermediate School was named a NYS High Performing Elementary School.
- In 2007, 37 Senior High School students were recognized in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition.
- This fall, the Marching Blue Devils were named Division I Champions at the NYS Field Band Conference for the second consecutive time.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Diane Jensen Robinson, Class of 1960, recently opened a gift shop at Valentown Museum on High Street in Victor. Mrs. Robinson is the former Farmington town historian and in 1976 compiled and edited “The History of Farmington” for a Bicentennial project. Her new gift shop sells products with a late 1800s flavor, including tea pots, dolls, cast iron accessories, baskets and quilts. Shortly after opening, Mrs. Robinson reported that she had already seen a number of familiar faces, and had even met a fellow VCS graduate: Arizona resident **Larry Levitt**, a Class of 1957 member.

Robin (DiRenzi) Allison of the Class of 1982 is wondering if there are any other alumni with triplets in their family. On September 4, 2003, she and her husband welcomed Emily Rose, Olivia Mae and Christopher Mario. Mrs. Allison is hoping to hear from others who are parents to triplets, and can be contacted at nytriplemommy@stny.rr.com.

Aaron Fagan, a member of the Class of 1992 now living in the Bronx, recently published

a book of poetry called *Garage*. Described by *Publishers Weekly* as “resolute, understated and sometimes sullen” the debut collection

of poems was called “intelligent” and “impeccably crafted” by critic Christopher Kennedy. Another critic, Harold Bloom, wrote, “Fagan’s first book is vivid and aesthetically disturbing work. His promise is considerable because his originality should prove to be decisive.” Mr. Fagan, who attended Hampshire College and Syracuse University, previously worked in Chicago as an assistant editor for *Poetry* and a reference assistant for The Newberry Library. His work has appeared in several publications, including *The American Poetry Review* and *The Yale Review*.



A. Fagan

HELP US REACH MORE CLASSMATES!

As we attempt to get as many VCS alumni as possible to register on the alumni directory, we are asking for your help in spreading the words to classmates. It takes just five minutes to sign up, and it allows alumni to keep in touch with others, share good news and learn about reunions. It is simply a great opportunity to stay connected to the Victor schools community, so please encourage others to sign up today!

To register:

1. Go to www.victorschools.org
2. Click on “People and Community” on the home page and choose “Alumni Directory”
3. Click on “Get Info”
4. Click on “Add Your Data”
5. Fill in the information and click on “Submit Info” (at the bottom)

ALUMNI UPDATES

A date is expected to be set in the near future for the Victor High School **Class of 1988**'s reunion. The tentative plans call for members to gather during Homecoming Weekend, with dates for which will be chosen by school officials in December or January. To get on the contact list and find out more, e-mail **Tracey DeBruyn** at tdebruyn@rochester.rr.com.

Victor High School **Class of 1958** is planning a reunion for the fall of 2008. Tentatively set for Thanksgiving weekend, the reunion will include a tour of the school building now known as the Victor Educa-

tion Center, where the class attended kindergarten through 12th grade and where its 35 members walked across the stage to receive their diplomas in the auditorium. A tour of the new buildings on campus is also planned. For information, contact **Joan Matthews** at jmatthews1@rochester.rr.com.

Do you have a new career venture, an addition to your family or more good news you wish to share? Perhaps you are planning a class reunion? Please contact us at Alumni@victorschools.org and we will be sure to include your item in the Spring 2008 edition of E Alumni News!

WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

The Victor Central School District wants your input as it explores the possibility of moving its athletic teams from the Finger Lakes League to the Monroe County League. Many parents have suggested that the move would provide student athletes with better competition and opportunities to challenge themselves. The district is seeking the entire community's input as a committee works on a recommendation for the Board of Education.

To download a survey on the issue, go to the Web site at www.victorschools.org and look under "Quick Links."

Save the Date

VCSD ALUMNI BANQUET

Sunday, June 8, 2008

DiPacific's Restaurant

Farmington

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE BANQUET OR ABOUT JOINING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, CALL KEN WEIGERT AT (585) 924-2944