



Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame Recipients Selected

The Victor Central School District announced its 2020 Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame recipients earlier this year. The awards program, implemented in 2018, was created to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of outstanding alumni, staff and

community members who have excelled in the arts. It was also established to inspire current students to make contributions to the arts by reconnecting those selected for the Hall of Fame with our students, staff and community. This year's award winners may

feature an Academy Award-winning Foley Artist and an award winning editor, but to us, they will always be our talented, treasured friends and classmates.

Please join us in welcoming Victor's 2020 Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame recipients!

Visual & Performing Arts HALL OF FAME



*Shelley Roden
1992 Senior Photo*



*Fred Fouquet
1988 Senior Photo*



Creator

Shelley Roden/Theater

Shelley Roden (VCS Class of 1992) is an Academy Award-winning Foley Artist working at Skywalker Sound in Northern, California. As a Foley Artist, Roden performs footsteps and props in sync with picture, and creates natural and hyperreal sounds to enhance feature film, television, and interactive game soundtracks. Roden utilizes found objects collected throughout her twenty-year career to create authentic original aural textures to convey the filmmaker's sonic landscape. With a focus on improvisation, she works with her two Foley Partners to mold, record, and layer these original sounds. Together, the team discovers a fresh and imaginative approach, advancing the craft of Foley Art.

Roden's Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame nominator,

husband Jeff Roden, said his wife was greatly impacted by her experiences at VCS. In an earlier E-Alumni article, Roden said the teachers at VCS who most inspired her were Kathleen Houser, Nancy Sanders, and Jim Strauss. "These teachers all encouraged me to explore my ideas and dreams through creative art and writing projects," she said.

Exploring ideas and dreams through art is an understatement when you look at her resume today. Roden's favorite projects include Pixar's *Toy Story 4*, Chris Nolan's *Dunkirk*, the Netflix series, *The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance*, Ryan Coogler's *Black Panther*, and Rian Johnson's *Brick*. For a complete listing of Roden's credits go to www.imdb.com

After graduating from Victor High School in 1992, Roden earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Cinema and Photography from Ithaca College in 1996. Outside of her work at Skywalker Sound, Roden has lectured as a visiting artist at Ithaca College and Virginia Commonwealth University. She is currently working on a personal sound art project utilizing instruments gifted to her by her nephew, Steve Roden, a sound artist, and inspired by the minimalist compositions of her husband, Jeffrey Roden.



Creator

Fred Fouquet/Theater

Fred Fouquet (VCS Class of 1988) is an award winning Commercial Editor, widely known in the entertainment industry as "Freditor the Editor." For more than twenty years he has been at the helm of many culturally impactful film, video, commercial, and on-line projects. In addition to editing numerous Super Bowl spots, Fouquet has been an integral part of legendary music videos like Miley Cyrus' *Party in the USA*, Green Day's *Jesus of Suburbia*, Foo Fighter's *Long Road to Ruin* and Dr. Dre's *I Need a Doctor*, among many others. A few of his many film title sequences (*Island of Dr. Moreau*, *Mimic*, *The Avengers*) have gone on to be in the Museum of Modern Art, and also appear in the curriculum of design students. Through the years, many major film directors have also used Fouquet's talents, from model compositing

on the set of *Independence Day* to conceiving and creating a critical scene in *Pacific Rim* and co-editing *London Fields*, a feature film starring Billy Bob Thornton and Johnny Depp. Fouquet has won numerous awards throughout his career – Cannes Lions, Clios, Andys, Monitors, Tellys, Broadcast Design International, MTV video awards, Ad Age “best editing” and others. One of his Super Bowl spots reached number two on *USA Today’s* poll for best Super Bowl spot of the year.

Before becoming an illustrious editor, Fouquet attended Ithaca College where he graduated with a BFA in film, photography and visual arts. His passion for the arts began at Victor High School where he was involved in numerous choral groups and theatre productions. His high school senior yearbook quote was an ironic foreshadow into his successful future. “Technical knowledge is not enough. One must transcend technique, so that art grows from the unconscious.”

Fouquet’s Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame nominators, Joe and Marsha (Loopman) Carey said Fred was a major part of the Arts program while at VCS and his subsequent success as a “Freditor the Editor” make him the ideal candidate for the Arts Hall of Fame. To learn more about what your former classmate and friend is doing, check out his website at: <http://freditor.net/>

Visual & Performing Arts

HALL OF FAME

Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame recipients were originally scheduled to be honored at a special reception on May 14, 2020.

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, this celebration has been postponed to a time yet to be determined. Stay tuned!

Candidates for the Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame can be nominated in one of four categories:

Creators - Individuals and/or groups of Victor Senior High School alumni who graduated a minimum of ten (10) years ago.

Performers - Individuals and/or groups of Victor Senior High School alumni who graduated a minimum of ten (10) years ago.

Practitioners - Staff and community members who have made significant and extraordinary contributions to the Victor Central Schools’ Arts programming for a minimum of five (5) years.

Contributors - Individuals who have made a significant impact on Victor Central Schools’ Arts programming, administration, and/or on regional, state, national, professional, or international levels. This honorary category may include, but is not limited to, VCS staff and local community supporters.

A Message from Our Superintendent, Dr. Timothy Terranova



Dear VCSD Alumni,

It's my pleasure to reach out to you and share my appreciation for your continued support of our fantastic district. I have been Superintendent for about three months, but during this time I have already grown to appreciate the strong community

involvement in our schools. I have said often, in Victor, you do not know where the school district ends and the community starts because they are woven together.

I have spent the majority of my professional career in one suburban school district- West Irondequoit. In my first 17 years in West Irondequoit I worked as an elementary teacher, curriculum supervisor, assistant high school principal, and junior high school principal. Then, for 8 years, I worked in the district office overseeing at various times human resources, finance and curriculum and instruction. My wife and I have two wonderful teenagers and currently live in Webster.

I applied to the Victor Central School District because of its incredible reputation for not only academic excellence, but also for instilling a comprehensive education for our children. Although I do not know the community and school district nearly as well as you, the one thing that stands out in my brief time here is the commitment and dedication of the people working for the betterment of our children's lives. The staff and parents are second to none!

With this said, we face many challenges. The most pressing is the district's financial situation. Specifically, our district has experienced tremendous growth in the past 15 years and our funding has not kept up with this growth. Currently, the Victor Central School District has the lowest per pupil expenditure of any school district in New York State! The lack of revenue has resulted in many areas that are understaffed compared to neighboring districts as well as critically low savings that are needed for emergency situations that develop. Despite these issues, Victor is still considered one of the highest achieving and comprehensive districts in our area. Unfortunately, we will struggle immensely to

continue with this tradition if we do not increase our funding.

The Board of Education is strongly considering a tax increase that would exceed the NY State Tax Cap, requiring a 60% voter approval in June. This tax increase would allow us to maintain existing staff and potentially hire for critical areas like special education, mental health support, and safety and security. In addition, exceeding the cap would protect our already critically low savings from use toward next year's budget. If we cannot exceed the cap, VCSD will be looking at over 3 million dollars worth of reductions, which will impact class sizes, high school courses, art and music at the elementary level as well as musicals at the secondary level, athletics, co-curricular activities such as Robotics and DECA as well as enrichment programs at the elementary level. These reductions would have a devastating effect on our ability to offer the exceptional education the Victor community is used to.

I encourage you to review our budget documents on our website, Victorschools.org, and ask us questions if you have them. If you live in the VCSD community, please don't forget to register to vote and then vote via the absentee ballot process outlined on our website.

Again, The Victor Central School District is a special place. Thanks for being a part of the excellence that we are known for. Thanks also for staying involved in our school community. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or would like to talk further about moving our district forward.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy Terranova".

Timothy Terranova, Ed.D.,
Superintendent of Schools

VCS Proud During Covid Crisis

When the COVID-19 crisis took root in our VCS community, our community took root in friendships, memories, hopes and dreams. This spring, in the thick of chaos and uncertainty, we reached out to our alumni, asking them if they would like to reach out to each other during this historic time. The following alumni asked that we share their special messages with you. From a simple "Hello, we're okay!" to sentimental stories, photos, and tales of ingenuity and heroism, the VCS community never ceases to amaze us. Near or far, in good times and in not so good times, we are VCS Proud!

Holly Wood – '82

Hello Victor friends! I hope everyone is safe during these trying times.

Bruce and I are riding it out here in beautiful Harrisonburg Virginia! We have been doing projects on

our home and our sheds and yard. Our dog Maggie and cats Carmen, Buddy, and Missy have been delighted that we are home all the time.

Lots of love and hope to everyone!

Holly and Bruce Wood (Bruce '83)



Daniel Hall – 1964

As I get older I look back and realize how fortunate I was to have grown up in Victor and to have received a great education at Victor Central High School. One of my fondest memories is playing for Ed Ahonen, my football coach and playing with such fine people as Don Dillman, Jerry Pike, Dick Exton and others who all made this small 136 pound quarterback look good!

Daniel Hall

Victor Class of 1964

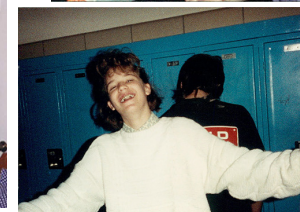


G. Simonds, R. Prizel, J. Hartz, D. Hall, D. Dillman, B. Burns, R. Scoda, J. Colyer, R. Schutte, L. Boughton. ROW 2: Mr. P. Sanatoro, R. Ingold, J. Morrissey, R. Exton, J. Whitney, B. Goldfarb, J. Pike, H. Buck, R. Nolan, J. Samp-

son, M. Riccio, Mr. E. Ahonen. ROW 3: R. Spezio, J. Wendll, R. Smith, R. White, J. Dayton, E. Lee, L. Gardner, N. Cotton, D. Pike, R. Barbato, V. Caruso, C. Sheemaker.

Kelly Cruttenden – '94

Hope everyone is safe, happy and taking some time to appreciate family! Here are some classic Victor photos.



Marty Brown – '67

I honestly doubt that anyone - even from my would-be graduating class of 1967 - will remember me, as I left Victor near the end of the 8th grade when my parents moved. But that's ok - I still have really great memories of Victor.

For one, I was in the first 1st grade class to occupy the new elementary school building across from the high school in 1955.

It was so new that the cafeteria wasn't open at the beginning of the school year and milk and ice cream was

delivered to our class room at lunch time. Mrs Macy - I think - was my first grade teacher, then Mrs. Brown (no relation) was our second grade teacher, retiring at the end of that year. The teachers after that were a blur, but I DO remember spending a lot of quality time in the sixth grade in the principal's office. I'm even funnier now.

I then crossed the field and went to 7th and most of 8th grade in the High School building, playing drums in the high school band, getting in occasional trouble with Vice Principal Carl Palumbo, learning great math skills from Mr. Mykytyn and being amazed at how great the 7th grade girls looked after not being impressed at all with them in the 6th grade. My fondest memories are of the winter night roller skating parties in the high school gym and the really intense basketball games against teams from towns I had never heard of, like Hornell and Gorham and Phelps. Great times, wonderful classmates, excellent learning environment.

I am who I am today because of the education I received in Victor and Brighton High School, where I moved in 1963. My parents must have been running from the law, however, as we moved again out to Southern California after my freshmen year at Brighton. I graduated from University of California - Santa Barbara, married a fellow upstate New Yorker whom I met on - and I mean on - Redondo Beach and have four adult, tax-paying children who actually like each other and us. I'm a retired human resources officer and live in El Dorado Hills in the northern part of California. Nice place to retire. But it ain't upstate New York.



Linda Reese Krausz – 1967

Hi to all of my friends and family from, and still in, Victor! It will ALWAYS be "home" to me, even tho I haven't lived there for 40 some years! My family and I are doing well down here in Mooresville, NC. Thinking of all of you in NY and praying that this will be over soon! Stay safe, stay healthy!

Linda Reese Krausz
Victor Class of 1967

Michelle VandenBout – 2002

My name is Michelle (Shoots) VandenBout. I thought it would be fun to send an update if it's not too late.

First I'd like to say a big "Thank You!" to my old PE teacher, Bob Thompson, for taking me on my first winter backpacking trip with the OAC (Outdoor Activities Club). That trip, combined with many others after it with my youth group, introduced me to a profession I would spend almost 20 years in! I went to Houghton College after high school and received a degree in Outdoor Recreation and a minor in Environment Stewardship. Throughout college I worked at camps and led wilderness trips for many years afterwards. Ten years ago I started working for RIT in their Wellness/Outdoor Education department. I have been enjoying leading Adirondack trips in canoe camping, backpacking (all seasons), hiking, snowshoeing and trail maintenance for the past ten years. So, again I say "Thank you!" to Mr. Thompson for taking me on that first trip. I have been truly blessed by it.

Attached is a photo of my husband, Adrian, our two kids, Cora & Nathan and myself on a recent family biking trip. And a photo from a recent hike as well.

Thank you for putting together this newsletter!

God bless, Michelle



Susan Kashani – '99



Carol Wiley Bossard – 1960

Good Morning.

I always enjoy your newsletters and will look forward to the next one. I was sorry that the Alumni Association has decided already to cancel the June banquet. I haven't been since 1960 – and was looking forward to going.

When I think about Victor schools I get a whole melange of pictures/aromas/people. My entire school time was spent in the building that is, I think mostly administration. The original school on the hill. I remember the shady lawn slanting toward the sidewalk leading to downtown – where we sat between Regents exams. If one walks into the school building, whether while classes are in session or not, there is always a distinctive smell – sort of a combination of tomato soup, floor cleanser, crayons and maybe chalk. And the tiles gleam cleanly and none of the lockers were battered as I've seen in some other schools more recently.

My recollections of elementary school are pretty foggy. But there were some stellar teachers in both elementary and high school. Mrs. Powers introduced us to poetry, asking for a line a day when the roll was called, Mrs. Tallman in sixth grade, created all sorts of projects to keep students interested, Maurice Comings made algebra almost intelligible, Helen Schantz was probably

a far better teacher than we all realized; she probably could have been a college professor. She brought life to Shakespeare and cared very much about her students. Mrs. Dunn made Latin fun; we all had Roman names and wrote notes to each other in Latin – bringing a dead language back to life – at least for a year or two. Roger Strait taught physics so well that when I had to take a physics course as a college freshman, I aced it because it was nearly a repeat of what he taught. Mrs. Popenhusen was an unlikely gym instructor, but she loved her students and – in a time when there were no women's sports – made intramural basket ball exciting.

From the vantage of looking back, I realize how very forward-looking VCS was compared with other schools. In my 60 years out of Victor schools, I've lived in and had children in three different school districts and my husband has been on the local Board of Ed. as well as the BOCES board, so I became aware of the inner workings of several schools. Victor was doing a super job back when I was a student, and probably – I would hope – is continuing to do so. It is bigger than I think is optimum but I suppose that allows for more programming. I hope students don't get lost in the multitudes.

Carol Wiley Bossard – Victor Class of 1960

Megan Norton – 2015

Good Afternoon,

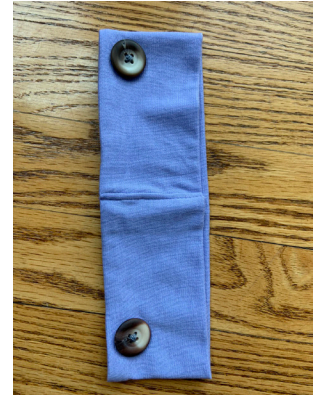
My name is Megan Norton and I am a 2015 graduate of Victor. I saw the email that was sent out and wanted to take the opportunity to shine a spotlight on one of my fellow Victor alumni.

My dear friend and former classmate, Hayley Alden, was also a 2015 graduate of Victor. She graduated from SUNY Cortland this past year. With the pandemic going on in our country currently, she saw an opportunity to support some of the great medical professionals in our community. Many of the medical professionals are required to wear masks over their face, of which, the loops go around their ears. These individuals are required to wear these masks for several hours on end during their shifts, which can as you imagine, can be quite irritating to their ears with the loops being around them. Hearing this, Hayley started making headbands with buttons for these loops to go around, hoping to alleviate some of the irritation. She took to social media to spread the word and distribute some of these headbands for free. Little did she know, the immense impact it was going to have. Within hours, she went viral on social media platforms and the responses were overwhelming. Not only did the word get out to the local Rochester community, but nationwide as well. She now has over 96,000 likes on Twitter alone. She is working incredibly hard to sew and distribute these headbands to as many people as she

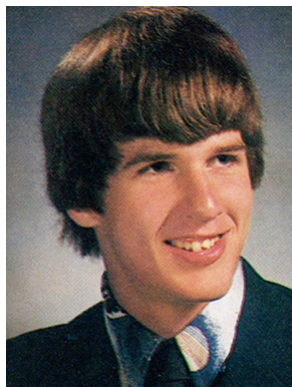
can in need, all while doing this non-profit. This truly demonstrates the kind of individual Hayley is. She is so very kind-hearted and always looking for ways that she can help others. I am so very proud of her and people like her are the reason why I feel so grateful to be a part of the Victor alumni community!

I attached some pictures of the headbands for reference and hope this story can be shared with the rest of the alumni!

Best, Megan Norton



Tom Rothwell ('82) Follows His Passion for Forestry



How does one become a forester? What exactly does the job entail? Tom Rothwell, the sole proprietor of Empire Forestry Consultants shares his story and why being in forestry requires much more than a desire to work outdoors.

What did you do after you graduated from VCS in 1982?

After attending the VCS system since first grade (even kindergarten if that counts), I went to Syracuse University for two and a half years where I picked undergraduate credits with an interest in both forestry and geology. In 1985, I transitioned to the forestry program at the SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, and graduated with honors in 1987.

What did you do after Forestry School?

After graduation, I worked briefly as a teaching assistant at the forestry school summer program at Warrensburg, and then spent one year working for Weyerhaeuser Company in Hot Springs, Arkansas

in a research position.

My first big career break came in 1988 when I went to work as a forester for the Missouri Department of Conservation, in Eminence, Missouri. This job and location provided me with a valuable opportunity to learn forest management on government and private lands, as well as wildfire prevention and suppression.

In 2000, I accepted a job with Lassiter Properties in Potsdam NY. Lassiter Properties was a successful realty and timber company based in Georgia, with large tracts of forest land in northern NY. I worked for Lassiter for 7 years, and during my last two years with the company, I developed a consulting forestry company, DBA: Empire Forestry Consultants (EFC). By the time EFC was up and running, I had developed a great deal of experience and knowledge regarding forest management, timber harvesting, supervising contractors, and employees, marketing forest products, and to a lesser degree, business. In 2007, Lassiter Properties decided to concentrate on the realty company in Georgia, and sold their timberlands. I took over Empire Forestry Consultants as Sole Proprietor, beginning in September of 2007 and have been doing that ever since.

What kind of work does Empire Forestry Consultants do?

Most of my efforts put forth, and income earned, revolve around representing private landowners interested in responsible, long term forest management. This involves forest inventory and timber cruising

(analyzing the forest resource, and providing information to the landowner), development of forest management plans, and setting up, contracting, and timber harvests. Typically in a year, Empire Forestry represents 20 to 25 clients, and manages a few hundred to a few thousand acres.

I have also developed a small scale logging business, which is more of a hobby. I own small acreages of forest land which I and a business partner manage personally.

How did your VCS education help you become a forester?

All levels of education contribute to a good foundation. I certainly learned core information and values that shaped my entire life at VCS. Most everyone benefits from learning speaking and writing skills in English classes, and science and math are equally important. It has been a long time since my high school days, but I felt that Victor always had a very good reputation as a top notch school. With rare exception, the teachers were above average, and a few stood out, because they impressed upon myself and others, why their information would be important to us in our future lives. They could articulate very well, and they made the course material interesting, and even fun. Among these teachers, back in the late 1970's and early 1980's included:

Mrs. McCauley, 10th grade geometry; Mr. Potter, 12th grade math and introduction to statistics.

Mr. Thompson, 11th grade chemistry, and also served as the track coach.

I was on Mr. Thompson's track team during my senior year, and also played on the high school football teams for three years.

How did VCS education prepare you for what you do today?"

It's difficult to answer because growing up in general, and education in particular prepare us for almost everything to some degree, and also, there's a lot of water under the bridge, so to speak, since that period of time. However, with that in mind, the VCS experience taught me how to learn and utilize information, and equally important, how to interact and communicate with people, whether those people are your friends, or even people you might not like so much.

What advice would you give to a student interested in forestry as a profession?

Choose this or any profession, because of your passion for it, not strictly for the income.

Don't underestimate the importance of written and oral communication skills, even in the forestry profession. Forestry is a very long apprenticeship, so look for any opportunities to gain relevant experience and skills. Show up on time, all the time. Work hard and work smart. Be willing to work in any weather and field conditions.

On a personal note, being a sole proprietor is a 7 days a week occupation. I don't have much spare time, like I once did, but I do still enjoy the occasional round of golf, and the opportunity to fish the

Adirondacks and northern NY.

I am also willing to provide additional information in any capacity to any VCS student pursuing forestry or associate environmental professions.



Remembering a Legend

On December 29th 2019 Harlan Munn Jr., longtime Victor Math Educator and successful Varsity Basketball Coach passed away at age 91. He left behind many memories both from the classroom and on the basketball court.

50 years ago (March 1970) Coach Munn and his Victor Blue Devils won the Class A Section 5 Basketball Championship.

Victor's Bill Bowerman was named M.V.P. and current Victor Mayor Gary Hadden was named to the all-tournament team.

Submitted by Tim Munn, Class of 1978



Coach Harlan Munn with 1968 VCS basketball team

Bottom kneeling: Tim Munn sitting Scott Sharp kneeling Coach Harlan Munn, sitting Rick Geno kneeling David Condon;

Top L-R: Larry Howarth, Joe White, Bruce Fisher, Nat Fisher, Pat Lynaugh, Bob Rose, Mark Bell, Jack Frame, Pete Woodworth, Gerry Sharp, Bill Bowerman, Dan Dorsheid, Eric Sharp;

Absent Gary Hadden and Mike Cologgi

Kerry Szymanski ('87) Uses Comedy to Live, Learn and Most of All, Laugh



What did you do after graduating from VCS in 1987?

After graduating from VCS, I attended Syracuse University where I studied International Relations and French. After graduating, I went on to become a USPTA Tennis Professional and coached all over the country. I received a full scholarship to coach tennis while pursuing my MBA at the University of Oregon. During my graduate studies, I was a contributing author to the book, *Advertising and the World Wide Web*. After graduating from the University of Oregon, I worked in marketing for Harry and David in Medford, Oregon. My career took me to Chicago where I worked in marketing for Bally Total Fitness and Duty Free Americas. To escape the cold weather, I moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida where I opened a design your own purse store, SassyBB. For over 15 years I was the Lead Fashion Merchandising Professor at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale where I worked with students to help them

pursue their careers in the fashion industry. In 2009, I was voted one of the “40 under 40” rising business stars in Broward County by Gold Coast magazine. I was featured in local and national magazines, newspapers, television programs and was a judge for ‘America’s Next Top Model’ and ‘Miss Hollywood USA’. Through all of these experiences, I started working with companies to help them with marketing and PR initiatives through my company, Kerry Communications. As an education aficionado, I went on to study my Doctorate of Business Administration from Argosy University and graduated Summa Cum Laude. Currently I am an Adjunct Professor of Marketing online for American Business & Technology University.

In 2014 I published a marketing book, *Seduce Your Customers* and went on a nationwide speaking tour. In order to improve my public speaking skills, I took a stand-up comedy class at the Improv in Fort Lauderdale. I took a break from stand-up comedy to pursue my doctoral studies. After I graduated, I decided to pursue stand-up comedy more seriously. For the past year, I have been performing stand-up comedy all over Florida. In June 2019, I performed at the Carlson Comedy Club in Rochester, NY. I will be performing there again on April 16th. Last summer I was asked to apply to be on America’s Got Talent.

What inspired you to get into comedy?

I was inspired to get into comedy in order to improve my public speaking skills. After taking a class at the Improv, I fell in love with

it. Comedy is a combination of writing and stage performance. As comedians, we write all of our own material. It’s challenging to be able to write material that is relatable and funny to different audiences. Performing stand-up comedy is different every night. The ability to make people laugh is incredible. My goals with comedy are constantly evolving. I would like to become a national touring stand-up comedian and speaker.

One of the wonderful aspects of stand-up comedy is that I get to see a lot of my classmates from VCS! A lot of my classmates and neighbors came to watch and support my comedy show at the Carlson Comedy Club in Rochester last June. Every month there is a VCS alum in the audience at one of my shows in South Florida! It’s been a great way to keep in touch with alumni. I feel incredibly lucky and grateful to have the support from my friends and classmates from VCS!

What classes/activities and/or teachers at VCS most inspired you?

I was very active in sports during high school at VCS and loved all of my time on the tennis courts. All of my teachers were amazing and now as a college professor, I understand how much teachers give to their students and the impact that they have on our lives. I loved all of my history classes with Mr. Olsen. His enthusiasm for teaching has been a large influence in my career as a college professor. The French classes and trip to Paris that I took with Mrs. Shepard were very valuable. I spent a semester studying in Strasbourg, France and all of those

classes were incredibly helpful! Mrs. Gacioch was a wonderful English teacher and Mr. Gacioch made algebra fun. Who would believe that Algebra and fun would be used in the same sentence! The PE classes with Coach Thompson also helped to build a foundation of fitness that I have pursued throughout my life.

How did your VCS education prepare you for what you are doing today?

My education at VCS helped prepare me for my vocation in teaching. My love for learning and teaching stemmed from all of the wonderful teachers and classes that I studied at VCS.

What advice would you give to VCS student interested in pursuing comedy?

Learning how to perform stand-up comedy is a great skill that will help in many areas of life. First, the ability to speak on stage in front of an audience translates into many professions. The ability to write and edit jokes is also an excellent skill to have that is useful in many business opportunities. Comedy is not just about being funny. It's about showing up, watching, learning and networking. The challenge in stand-up comedy is that there is no money in the field unless you become a professional touring comedian. Most comedians work other jobs during the day to perform stand-up comedy at night. It is a wonderful creative outlet, but not one that will pay the bills.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I enjoy walking and going to yoga. I have 2 cats and a dog that keep me very active. But to be honest, most of my spare time is spent doing comedy. I perform at open mics, take comedy classes, work in a writing group and watch professional comedians perform live or through Netflix, HBO, etc. I also host open mics and do the marketing for some local comedy shows. I perform in South Florida two-to-four times per week.

Will you be performing in the Rochester area in the near future?

Szymanski was scheduled to appear at Carlson Comedy Club on Wednesday, April 16, 2020 as the guest opener for the hilarious Earl David Reed. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 crisis has put that gig on hold. Stay tuned!



Sara Adams ('11) Argues Her Case for Becoming a Lawyer



Sara Adams knew that she always wanted to help people. She also knew she was extremely good at arguing, but it was one high school class, one “aha moment” that inspired Adams to pursue her dream of becoming a lawyer.

“I remember a mock senate session in Mr. Olson’s AP Government class where I vehemently argued for a “bill” to legalize same-sex marriage. It wasn’t until Mr. Olson, a very conservative guy, told me that I won the debate that I realized I could argue for a living by being a lawyer.”

Tell us about your journey to becoming a lawyer. What did you do after you graduated from Victor Senior High School?

I went to Monroe Community College for two years, moved to Charleston for a year, then came back to graduate from SUNY Cortland in 2016. I started law school at Syracuse in the fall of that year. During law school I interned at Housing and Urban

Development in Washington, DC. I also interned in the city of Rochester at the State Attorney General’s regional office.

What are you doing today?

Currently, I am a staff attorney at Legal Services of CNY in the Utica office. I advocate for low-income clients who cannot otherwise afford a lawyer. I mostly represent clients in housing court against evictions. Someday I would love to work for the federal government or perhaps run for office.

What classes/activities and/or teachers at VCS most inspired you?

Mr. Strauss was my journalism teacher and became a mentor to me until he retired. I still lived for journalism and loved being Creative Editor for the Victor Voice my senior year. I also enjoyed sparring with Mr. Horst, who definitely should have been a social studies teacher instead of math! I also found Mrs. McManis to be one of the most supportive and kindhearted teachers who fostered my love for reading and writing.

How did your VCS education prepare you for what you're doing today?

I wasn’t always the best student, but I had the best teachers who inspired me to try harder and not give up on myself. Having the chance to take Leadership with Mrs. Thomas taught me the importance of taking charge, which is something I do often in my career. The AP courses I took – Government, Literature, and US History – took me outside of

what I was comfortable with. They also prepared me for the studies I would do in college and even law school.

What advice would you give to VCS graduate interested in law school?

Enjoy yourself in college! Takes classes you’re interested in and go outside of your comfort zone. Look into internships related to the law or politics. Make connections with professors that you can use as references in your law school applications. Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there! There is so much I wish I had done both in high school and college. Take risks and don’t be afraid of failing.



Alumni Cancellations . . .

Alumni Banquet Organizers Announce Cancellation

The 125th Annual Victor Central School Alumni Banquet was scheduled for Sunday June 14, 2020 at Ravenwood Golf Club in Victor, NY. Unfortunately due to COVID 19, we are cancelling the Banquet. Our Banquet at Ravenwood for June 13, 2021, has already been reserved. Banquet attendance in 2019 was fabulous and hopefully 2021 will be the same. We are now living in a very different and strange time. We look forward to our "new normal" which I hope includes your continued enthusiasm for attending the VCS Alumni Banquets!! Please stay safe.

Kay Cotton
Sue Masseth

Senior Citizen's Ball

The 2020 Senior Citizen's Ball, scheduled for Saturday May 9th, had been cancelled for this year due to the COVID-19 crisis. We look forward to sharing a magical night with our seniors next spring!

What Music Would You Like at the 2021 Senior Citizen's Ball?

What kind of music would you and your senior friends like to hear and dance to at next year's Senior Citizen's Ball? Let us know by emailing us at laskysh@victorschools.org and welche@victorschools.org.

Class of 1960 60th Class Reunion

The Class of 1960 made the hard decision to cancel their 60th class reunion that was to be held at Otto Tomatto's Party Room on Saturday, June 13th. They hope to reschedule it for next year.

Class of 1999 20th Class Reunion

Unfortunately the Formal Reunion and Family BBQ that was scheduled for Sunday, July 5, 2020 at Powder Mills Park has been cancelled.

WANTED! Your Reunion Information

*Click on the link below to look
for fellow alumni and to
view any reunions.*

*If you have reunion information
please send that to us at
laskysh@victorschools.org and/or
welche@victorschools.org*

Victor Central Schools
Alumni

Volunteer of the Year Named

Victor resident, Cindy Riley, was named the 2020 Volunteer Committed to Service award recipient earlier this year.

Victor Primary School Principal and nominator, Jennifer Check said, Riley's work, both as the PTSA President and at the building level has been immeasurable. "She has helped foster positive collaboration between students, staff, parents and community members throughout the District. Cindy rallies around families in our community and is always thinking about ways PTSA can support District initiatives and create opportunities for families to connect. She can be seen in our schools and at events around campus regularly and is always offering to help and support our collective work for our children. Cindy brings a positive, collaborative spirit to all that she does," Check said.

Building-by building, Riley has been lauded for her commitment to students. At the Early Childhood School she is known for masterminding field trips that connect children to what they're learning in the classroom. At the Primary School, Cindy has been an incredible partner in creating safe, fun Field Days. The Intermediate School has also benefited from Cindy's support through a Community Read Night, book fair, teacher appreciation events, and unique nutrition experiences, to name a few.

Riley's work in the Junior High included working with the Student Council on their activity nights. She also worked on that building's health and wellness initiatives. At the Senior High,

Riley was instrumental in helping to implement "Books at Breakfast," a program that promotes literacy. She was also incredibly supportive of parent education programs that tackle tough topics like vaping, drug use and mental health awareness.

Riley said her work at Victor schools began six years ago when her family moved here from out of state and she went to a PTSA meeting to meet people and learn about the District. It was there that she said she was introduced to a caring group of people, that she calls her friends today, and to the important collaborations going on between the community, parents, students and VCS staff. "I knew right then that I wanted to help further the decades of supportive work from past PTSA members. I wanted to volunteer because I knew firsthand that when everyone works together a district is stronger, the students have a better schooling experience and it's a win-win for the community and its future. I am blessed to receive this award, but I couldn't have done it without all the help from my supportive family and fellow PTSA/PIE/VOICE colleagues. We are Victor!" Riley said.

The Volunteer Committed to Service award was created in 2009 by Victor Central Schools and the Victor Teachers' Association as a way to pay tribute to those special men and women who give of their time and talents to VCS, whether through one major event or years of service to a group of students or a building.



Victor Bids Farewell to Twenty Retirees

This school year, Victor Central Schools bids farewell to twenty men and women who have made a big difference both inside and outside of our classrooms.

Congratulations and best of luck in your future!

Victor Early Childhood School

Laura Dash, 2005-2020, Reading Teacher

Victor Primary School

Dan Osborn, 1994-2020, Elementary Teacher

Brian Burley, 1992-2020, Elementary Teacher

Diane DiGiacomandrea, 1999-2020, Elementary Teacher

Timothy DiSanto, 1995-2020, Special Education Teacher

Victor Intermediate School

Sara Camp, 1992-2020, Elementary Teacher

Sharon Schmaltz, 1998-2019, Teacher Aide

Dave Labman, 2000-2020, Music Teacher

Junior High School

Paul Mangiamele, 2008-2019, Teacher Aide

Marie Vara, 2010-2019, Typist

Maureen Bolger, 2003-2020, Teacher

Mary Beth Brendel, 2005-2020, School Nurse

Darlene Cowles, 1978-2020, English Teacher

Senior High School

Larissa Foster, 1995-2019, Teacher Aide

Constance Bertucci, 1996-2020, Technology Teacher

Shelly Collins, 1989-2020, Physical Education Teacher

Heidi Nelson, 1994-2020, School Counselor

Heather Zollo, 1995-2020, Teacher Assistant

Transportation

Florence Ingino, 2006-2020, Bus Monitor

District

David Henderson, 1999-2020, Director of Technology

FREE Yearbooks

VCS has a variety of old yearbooks from various years available at no cost. For more information contact, Chuck Callari at 924-3252, ext 3130.

1948	2	1960	1
1950	2	1962	1
1951	2	1979	2
1952	2	1985	3

Retirees as of April

VCS Seeks Names of Distinguished Graduates



Do you know a Victor Central School alumnus or alumna who has made a significant contribution to society? The Graduates of Distinction program honors such individuals. Applications are currently available in the Office of School and Community Relations or on-line at www.victorschools.org. Alumni selected for this honor will be recognized at a special Graduate of Distinction Day next fall.

Nominees to the Victor Central School District Graduates of Distinction program shall be selected based upon the following criteria:

- A. Nominees must have graduated from Victor Senior High (or have attended Victor Schools BEFORE there was a high school in the case of Honorable Recognition) at least 15 years before they are eligible for selection. The committee may waive the graduation time limit requirements in certain circumstances, as it deems necessary;
- B. Significant achievement after attending Victor Schools which include:
 - 1: Educational achievements;
 - 2: Professional achievements;
 - 3: Job-related achievements;
 - 4: Honors, awards, professional affiliations, publications;
 - 5: Civic or community involvement;
 - 6: Other appropriate qualifications which the committee believes merit consideration; Nominations must be submitted by Monday, January 18, 2021 to:

Graduates of Distinction Committee
c/o The Office of School and Community Relations
Victor Central Schools 953 High Street, Victor, New York 14564

Visual & Performing Arts HALL OF FAME

***Do you know a Victor Central School
alumnus or alumna who has made a significant contribution to the arts?***

The Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame honors such individuals.

Nominees shall be selected based upon the following criteria:

- A. Graduated from Victor Senior High School at least (10) years ago. Nominee may have or may not have been affiliated with a VCS arts program.
- B. Staff member, parent or community member who made significant contributions to the VCS arts program a minimum of (5) years.

Suggested "types" of artists that could qualify would be
Creators ~ Performers ~ Practitioners ~ Contributors

Go to www.victorschools.org for more information.

Nominations must be submitted by Monday, November 30, 2020 to:

Visual & Performing Arts Hall of Fame committee c/o The Office of School and Community Relations
Victor Central Schools, 953 High Street, Victor, New York 14564
or by emailing laskysh@victorschools.org

Academic, Athletic and Artistic Distinctions

- ~ In June, 2019, 98% of our students graduated with a Regents Diploma, 66% percent earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
- ~ This past October, the Victor Central School District was ranked 17th in academics out of 431 upstate New York school districts in 48 counties by Buffalo Business First magazine.
- ~ In its 2020 rankings the U.S News and World Report ranked Victor Senior High School the 80th best school in New York State out of 1342 high schools in NY State (top 6%) and the 873rd best school nationally out of 17,792 public high schools nationwide (top 5%). Locally, VSH was ranked 5th out of 75 high schools (top 7%).
- ~ Niche.com 2020 rankings make VCS a top school in a variety of categories:

National:

Best School Districts for Athletes in America ~ 9 of 10,815
Best School Districts in America ~ 428 of 10,782
Districts with the Best Teachers in America ~ 564 of 11,725
Safest School Districts in America ~ 785 of 11,823
Best Places to Teach in America ~ 802 of 11,130

New York State:

Best School Districts for Athletes in New York ~ 1 of 679
Best School Districts in New York ~ 71 of 677
Safest School Districts in New York ~ 91 of 692
Districts with the Best Teachers in New York ~ 93 of 690
Best Places to Teach in New York ~ 209 of 690

Rochester Area:

Best School Districts for Athletes in Rochester Area ~ 1 of 36
Best School Districts in Rochester Area ~ 7 of 36
Safest School Districts in Rochester Area ~ 7 of 36
Districts with the Best Teachers in Rochester Area ~ 8 of 36
Best Places to Teach in Rochester Area ~ 12 of 36

- ~ This April, for the second year in a row, Victor Senior High School earned the Project Lead the Way Distinguished School designation for its PLTW high school program. VSH was one of only five schools statewide and 143 schools nationwide to receive this honor. Each year, the national PLTW organization recognizes select schools that empower students to thrive in an evolving world and achieve exemplary results from their PLTW high school programs.

- ~ The Junior High School has maintained its extraordinary status as a New York State high performing middle school and "School to Watch" for the past 14 years, since first being designated in 2006.
- ~ DECA: Fifty eight students attended the the DECA State Career Conference held at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center February 26-28, 2020. Eight students qualified for the International Career Conference. Two students were also selected to attend DECA's THRIVE academy.
- ~ Last fall, 34 Students were inducted into Tri-M Music Honor Society. This school year, 69 VCS JH/SH musicians participated in All County Music festivals for band, orchestra, jazz ensemble and choir. 38 JH/SH students also participated in Zone 2 Area-All State Music Festivals.
- ~ Sixty-three 5th and 6th graders participated in the All County festival in Honeoye this school year in band, chorus and orchestra.
- ~ Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Results:
 Seven Senior High School Artists Were Scholastic Art and Writing Winners in the Northeast Region at Large: **Honorable Mention:** *Kristina Ingerowski, Elyse Sumarsono, and Garbrielle Constantino*; **Silver Key:** *Kristina Ingerowski and Alex Goodrich*; **Gold Key:** *Natalie White and Natalie Ginther*
- ~ Last fall, the Junior High put on the musical, *Annie!*
- ~ This fall our Senior High Drama club put on the *30 Plays in 60 minutes*. This spring they wowed audiences with the musical, *Mary Poppins!*
- ~ All 2019-2020 fall and winter athletic teams were named Scholar Athlete teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. To receive team recognition with a certificate, the team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00.
- ~ Victor Central Schools boasted many Sectional and State athletic winners during the 2019-2020 school year:
- ~ Fall 2019 Sectional Champions:
Girls Varisty Cheerleading
Girl's Swimming: 200 Free Relay - first place with a time of 1:36.59: *Madi Sargent, Erin Ritz, Emma Hawkins, and Alexis Worrall*

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Nominations Sought

JUNE 5TH DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS

Victor Central School District is seeking nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame Program. Any individual can nominate a potential candidate by completing a Hall of Fame nomination application. The nomination form can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/vcsahofnomination>. Hard copies are also available upon request.

Through nomination and committee selection, the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame will recognize individuals who fall under any of the following categories:

ATHLETES

Individuals who were athletes in the Victor Senior High School and have been graduated a minimum of ten years.

COACHES

Individuals who have made a significant and extraordinary contribution to the Victor Athletic program.

HONORARY

An honorary candidate must have made a significant impact on Victor athletics and/or on sectional, regional, state, national, professional, administration or international levels of athletes. The honorary category may include but not be limited to counselors, faculty managers, scoreboard/book operators, cheerleading coaches, as well as local community supporters.

Inductees will be chosen 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 will serve as a non-voting permanent member of the Committee.

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

Inductees selected for the annual Athletic Hall of Fame will be announced prior to August 1st along with an announcement of the planned celebration event.

For more information on the Athletic Hall of Fame program, please contact Duane Weimer, VCS Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics at (585) 924-3252 ext. 6307 or weimerd@victorschools.org.

Send Us Your News

If you are an alumnus of Victor Central Schools, we encourage you to e-mail us at **alumni@victorschools.org**.

Feel free to tell us about accomplishments or events in your life such as a wedding, birth of a child or grandchild. Whether or not you have visited campus lately, participated in a recent alumni event, or browsed our directory, you are sure to find information instrumental in helping you maintain a connection to your alma mater and other Victor graduates.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Deborah Palumbo-Sanders, *President*

Christopher Parks, *Vice President*

Karen Ballard

Timothy DeLucia

Kristin Elliott

Michael Vistocco

Michael Young

Maureen Goodberlet

District Clerk

Timothy Terranova, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Liz Welch & Sherri Lasky

Office of School and Community Relations

www.victorschools.org/community/alumni



Victor Central Schools Seeks Archives

"Students can benefit in several ways from researching their school's history... This is history that is near at hand and that has a direct connection to their lives."

~ Larry J. Hackman, Director, Truman
Presidential Museum and Library; former
New York State Archivist

Do you have photographs of the victory garden that students in our school planted and tended during World War II?

Does an old box or filing cabinet hold copies of letters that students wrote concerning our country's involvement in Vietnam?

Did the science curriculum at Victor Central School change during the formative years of the personal computer revolution?

Schools produce rich historical records. Yearbooks, school lunch menus, flyers promoting dances, student elections, musicals, plays, photographs, letters, issues of the school newspaper, and other items document not only the history of the school, but often reflect the history of our community, state, and nation.

We have developed a school archives in our records center, housed in room 130 of the Primary School Building. Hopefully, this archive, or historical collection can serve two primary purposes:

1. Be a repository for the collection and preservation of historically valuable documents relating to the history of our school, which would otherwise be lost.
2. Constitute an important element of programs for teaching research-related skills to students.

As a key element in establishing this archive, we are urging the public to help support our endeavors by donating artifacts to the archives that they may have in and around their homes, which may otherwise be lost to future generations. We are particularly interested in:

Student handbooks

Student newspapers

Photographs

School lunch menus

Course catalogs

Student term papers about the school or Community

Artifacts (trophies, flags, uniforms, memorabilia)

Older Newspaper articles from the local newspapers

Special awards received

Records of special school programs

Audiotaped or videotaped oral histories

Scrapbooks

Videotapes of school performances and athletic events.

Perhaps you don't wish to part with your piece of history. You can still help our efforts by loaning us the article to copy, scan, or photograph. We look forward to your response. We also plan on having the artifacts exhibited from time to time. By the way, does anyone have a school bell from one of Victor's many one-room school houses? We'd love to hear from you.....

**Contact Chuck at callaric@victorschools.org or 585-924-3252, ext. 3130*