



Defined by excellence. Supported by tradition.

FALL 2017

AROUND THESE HILLS

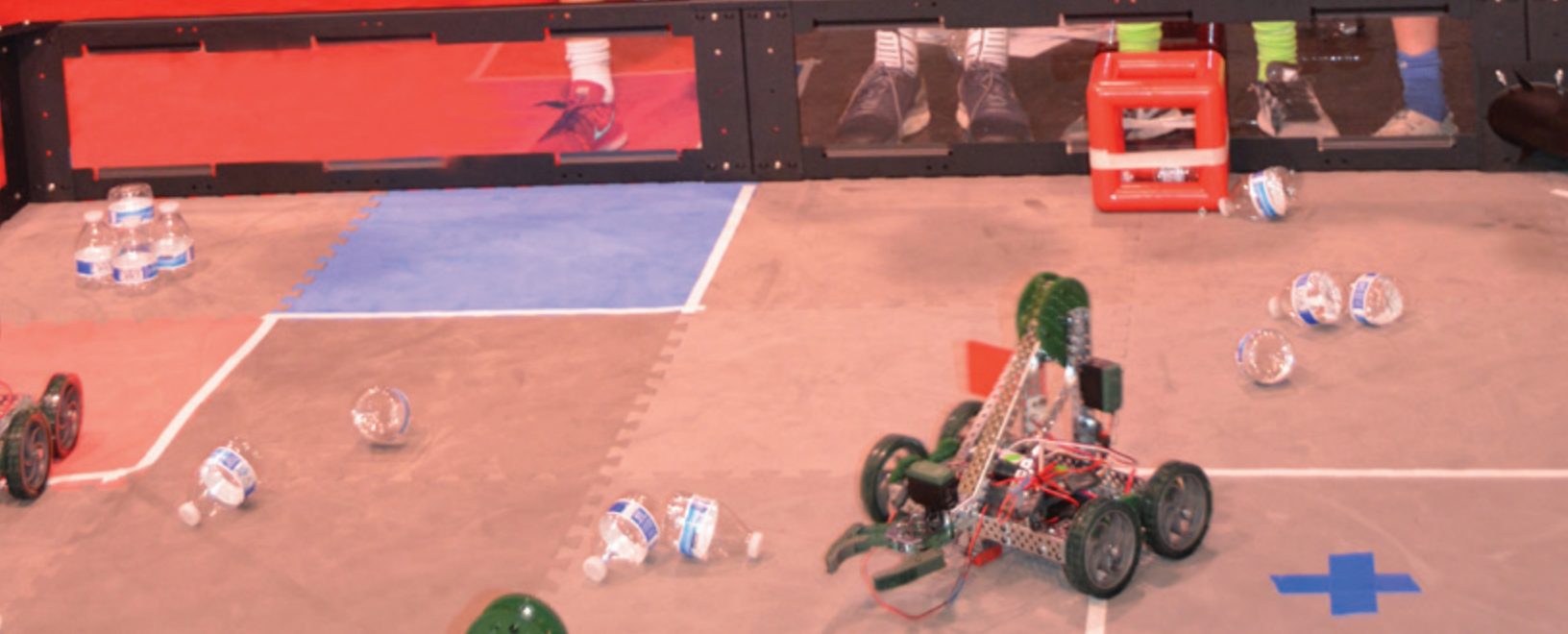
A publication for alumni and friends of **Ottawa Hills Local Schools**

FOUNDATION
GIFTS ALLOW
STUDENTS TO
Experiment,
TO *Create,*
& **PERFORM**

» Full story on page 7

OH ALUM
Leads Students
TO KENYA

» Full story on page 4



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

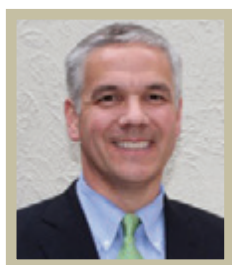
Thanks to our Ottawa Hills alumni, community, and friends, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is making a real and significant impact on our students.

This year's annual campaign raised more than \$250,000 in gifts and pledges. We are well on the way to reaching our goal of raising \$1 million dollars in gifts and pledges by June of 2018.

Your investment truly enriches the lives of present and future students and facilitates our pledge to provide them with superior programming. This past year, the annual campaign enabled the Foundation to support many endeavors that enhanced and extended the Ottawa Hills experience: Agora, the Acting Out production of *The Wizard of Oz*, a robotics camp, a Science Olympiad camp, an expert choreographer for the OHHS dance team, and a classroom set of ukuleles for the elementary music program. *These programs support our mission to inspire confident, compassionate, independent, and creative thinkers who embrace lifelong learning.*

We look forward to sharing the Foundation's continued successes with you. *In the meantime, if you would like to schedule a visit to see, firsthand, how the Foundation is making a difference, please contact us at any time.* Our sincere thanks for your support this year.

Sincerely,



George Lathrop
President
Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation



Erica Silk ('89)
Director of Development
and Alumni Relations



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The mission of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is to permanently enhance and extend the unique experience of excellence that defines Ottawa Hills Schools.

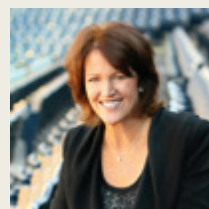
SUPPORTING THE OH FOUNDATION IS EASY!

Visit the Foundation's website at ohschoolsfoundation.org and give online or use the envelope attached to this newsletter.



This fall, the Foundation will recognize its first class of Distinguished Alumni. This award recognizes Ottawa Hills Schools graduates who have made or are making a meaningful contribution to society and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the tradition of excellence at OH. Recipients will be recognized on October 20, 2017 with a dinner reception at the Inverness Club followed by a ceremony during the home football game that evening.

To nominate an individual for the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award, go to ohschoolsfoundation.org/distinguishedalumni.php to download the nomination form.



Christine Brennan ('76)

National Sports Journalist

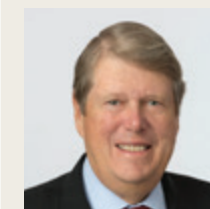
Christine is an award-winning national sports columnist for *USA Today*, a commentator for ABC News, CNN, PBS NewsHour and NPR, a best-selling author, and nationally known speaker. Twice named one of the country's top 10 sports columnists by the Associated Press Sports Editors, she has covered the last 17 Olympic Games, summer and winter. Ms. Brennan earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Journalism from Northwestern University. She is a member of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame and Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism Hall of Achievement. Christine was recently named a National Trustee of the University of Toledo.



Craig Burkhardt ('69)

Leader in Dermatological Medicine

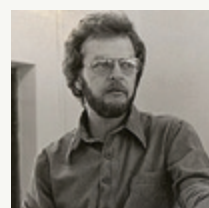
Craig has embraced the Green Bear attitude of being a lifelong learner. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, his Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Ohio, and his Master of Publish Health from the University of Toledo. Dr. Burkhardt owns six U.S. patents, is current editor of three journals, and is author of over 700 publications and 25 book chapters in the fields of entomology, parasitology, dermatology, otology, and internal medicine. Craig lives in the Toledo area with his wife, Anna, has three children, and six grandchildren.



Russell Carson ('61)

Local and National Education Philanthropist

Russ has had an extraordinarily distinguished career in both the business world and in transformational leadership of non-profit organizations. Russ earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Dartmouth College in 1965, and his Masters of Business Administration from Columbia Business School in 1967 before beginning his business career in New York City. Being active in community affairs and caring for others are two traits Russ inherited from his parents and his upbringing in Ottawa Hills. He founded the Partnership for Inner City Education 18 years ago and has raised millions of dollars for scholarships that allow thousands of students to attend Catholic inner-city schools each year in NYC. Russ has also had an outsized impact on some of our most important local institutions, including the Boys & Girls Club and The Toledo Zoo.



Richard DeVore ('51)*

World-Renowned Ceramicist

Richard earned a bachelor's degree in education with an art major from the University of Toledo in 1955. He received a master's degree in fine arts from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1957, and in 1966 became head of the ceramics department at Cranbrook. In 1978, Richard became a member of the Colorado State University art faculty, remaining there until 2004. Richard was installed as a fellow of the American Craft Council in 1987. His work is known for simple, organic forms finished in dull glazes that suggest polished stones, sun bleached bones, or even translucent skin. Richard's work is represented in more than 40 institutions worldwide, including the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

*deceased



John Galbraith ('41)

Last Member of OH's First Graduating Class

John Galbraith and his Class of 1941 classmates shaped the course of Ottawa Hills history by helping to get the bond issue for the new Ottawa Hills High School passed. As the first graduating class, they established a tradition of academic excellence, student involvement, and dedication to the school they love that continues to define Ottawa Hills today. He attended the University of Michigan, and three years later entered the Navy as an officer. After WWII, John attended the University of Michigan law school. After working for a few Toledo-area businesses, John became an Ohio legislator, serving from 1966 to 1986. He has seen or met every President starting with Coolidge. John and his wife Cynthia have been married for 66 years.

*deceased



David Staelin ('56)*

Scientist, Discoverer, Entrepreneur

David worked for more than a half century in the labs and classrooms of MIT as a professor of electrical engineering and computer science. He co-discovered the Crab Nebula pulsar in 1968 as a radio astronomer and later pioneered air quality monitoring networks and video teleconferencing. The discovery of the Crab Nebula pulsar provided proof of neutron stars, whose existence was predicted by theoretical physicists. In 1977, David worked on the NASA Voyager 1 and 2 spacecraft missions, studying radio emissions from other planets. David was described by family and friends as brilliant, self-effacing in nature, and devoted to the open exchange of scientific information. He was engaged with people and engaged in life.

*deceased

Class of 1957 Reunion

Congratulations to the Class of 1957, which celebrated its 60th reunion this past June. Classmates enjoyed a weekend full of festivities, including a tour of the high school. Connections were re-established and many memories were shared. The class looks forward to keeping in touch and getting together again.



Back row: (L to R) Judy Beishline Koles, Doug Stone, George Seney, Steve Nikazy, Ed Stoltenberg, Gus Garver, Dick Epstein, Neil Banting, Ron Shapiro

Front row: (L to R) Ellen Smith Taft, Sandy Frompkin Stuart, Sandy Goerlich Alexander, Tommy Kahle Hartman, Judy Minns Kays



OH Alumnus Fred Roberts ('79) TURNED HIS *dream* INTO OPPORTUNITIES for OH Students

Each summer, a group of Ottawa Hills students joins Fred Roberts at his Batian's View Experiential Education Center in Naro Moru, Kenya as part of the Summer Learning in Kenya (SLIK) program. Students take part in a three-week service learning program, teaching at local Kenyan schools – a life-changing experience.

Fred's path to Kenya began in Ottawa Hills. After graduation in 1979, Fred attended Ohio Wesleyan where he studied geography and zoology. He then pursued an opportunity with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), which provides wilderness education to build participants' leadership skills.

From 1983 to 1986, Fred instructed NOLS courses in the U.S., but his desire was to return to Kenya, where his NOLS experience began. His goal was realized in 1986 when he was offered an instructor's position in Kenya. He notes, "It was the people of Kenya that made me fall in love with the country." During this time, Fred met his future wife, Elizabeth, when she came to Kenya as a student in the NOLS program. Another accomplishment for Fred was reached at age 29 when he was named Director of the NOLS program in Kenya.

In 1999, with heavy hearts, the Roberts family decided to return to the U.S. A shift in Fred's career to education would lead him to St. Gregory College Prep School in Tucson. There, he developed curricula for classes called East Africa Studies and Applied Leadership and Development – the groundwork for the SLIK program.

The NOLS program in Kenya was closing down in 2003. Fred explains, "Elizabeth and I were interested in purchasing the facility. The executive director of NOLS knew we were committed to keeping it an environmental resource. We ultimately came upon our idea –

« PRESTON SMITH WILL NEVER FORGET THE TIME SHE SPENT IN KENYA.

a program focused on team leadership. This is how Batian's View Experiential Education Center came to be."

Since establishing Batian's View, Fred, Elizabeth, along with son Jake and daughters Makena and Brewer have split the year between the U.S. and Kenya.

Since the formation of the SLIK program, Fred has involved students from across the US, including those from Ottawa Hills.

This past summer, 20 students from around the US took part in the SLIK program – 8 from Ottawa Hills. Fred shares, "One of the goals I have is to push the students out of their comfort zones in safe ways. Being the only white person in a school of 300 Kenyans is different, and I want them to feel that. But by the end of their time there, they break down the barriers. Then, I take them up Mt. Kenya and push the envelope even more. Hopefully they'll use these experiences in their future."

OHHS junior Preston Smith reflects, "My time in Kenya wouldn't have been possible without the help and guidance from Fred Roberts. The SLIK students and I were able to gain a completely new perspective on life, and will always remember this amazing experience!"

Through his leadership and example, Fred Roberts is making an indelible impact on students from Ottawa Hills and beyond. The opportunity to pursue this dream is an outcome of his own experiences while a student at OH: "I learned from a lot of caring teachers in a safe community. At Ottawa Hills, I found a lot of freedom to be who I was. I came out ready for college. I guess you could say that Ottawa Hills provides solid grounding. It was a great place to grow up."

For more information about participation in the SLIK program, contact Fred Roberts at frob5350@gmail.com.

FRED, WITH HIS CHILDREN BREWER (14), MAKENA (17), AND JAKE (21)



FRED'S WIFE, ELIZABETH, APPRECIATES HER EXPERIENCES AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE SHE HAS MET IN KENYA.

BACK to SCHOOL Has Special Meaning For Two OH Grads



LIZ, NOREEN HANLON, AND JONATHON

Excitement was buzzing on the OH campus as students and teachers alike began the new school year. For OH grads Jonathon Siebenaler ('05) and Liz (Clement) Puskala ('99), there was a sense of familiarity and comfort being back in the halls they walked as OH students.

Jonathon, a sixth grade science and writing teacher, began his fifth year teaching at Ottawa Hills elementary. Prior to coming to OH, he taught in the Genoa school district and at a local charter school. "When the teaching position at Ottawa Hills opened up, I knew it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up," Jonathon said.

Jonathon and Liz have walked in the shoes of current OH students. They know from first-hand experience how passionate, motivated, and excited Ottawa Hills students are to learn.

As a teacher at the elementary school, Jonathon expressed how he loves the rigor of the curriculum and coming up with new and innovative content. He added, "Students are motivated and do their best to succeed. It's great to see!"

Jonathon reflected on his time as a student at OH and noted all of the opportunities to get involved that were available to him, such as being in the Choraliers, playing in the band,

and running track. "If I wanted to participate in the arts, I could do that. If I wanted to play sports, I could do that, too."

Liz Puskala joined the science department at Ottawa Hills to teach biology, anatomy, physiology, and botany. Liz studied ecology at Michigan Technological University but couldn't find the right career fit she was looking for. "While living in Kansas I worked at a Head Start," Liz said. "It was there I fell in love with education."

For the last five years, Liz taught at Maumee schools. She's excited to be back in the OH district where she has many fond memories, including being a part of the "Kindergarten Club" and participating in field hockey, volleyball, track, and basketball. "There were so many opportunities to find the things you really like to do," she noted.

Both Jonathon and Liz reminisced about being students at Ottawa Hills, and there were several special memories they had in common. Besides the wide range of organizations and extracurricular activities they were a part of, and the traditions they remember such as attending football games and the annual chicken barbeque, another connection Jonathon and Liz share was the support and encouragement of OHHS French teacher Noreen Hanlon. "I was a part of the French program in high school and kept in touch with Noreen after graduation," Jonathon said. "I was a biology major at The University of Toledo and had been on a pre-med track, but following

in my grandma's footsteps and becoming a teacher was in the back of my mind." Jonathon spent the day with Noreen to experience a "day in the life of a teacher," and that experience led him down the path to teaching.

The same rang true for Liz. "I enjoyed studying French with Madame Hanlon, especially French V with its small class size and the opportunity to connect with her and my classmates," Liz explained. "I've stayed in contact with Madame, and she had a huge impact on why I decided to become a teacher."

Jonathon and Liz have walked in the shoes of current OH students. They know from first-hand experience how passionate, motivated, and excited Ottawa Hills students are to learn. And they appreciate not only the students' dedication but also the dedication, commitment, and support of the parents and the Ottawa Hills community.



THANK YOU DONORS!

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the individuals and organizations who contributed to the 2016-2017 Annual Campaign which ran from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Arrowhead (\$25,000 and above)

Annette Boice ('49)
Chris and Aparna Brown and family

Cupola (\$10,000 and above)

David ('97) and Liz Feniger
Dr. Donald and Carleen McIntyre
John ('54) and Helen ('53) Williams

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The Philip G. Simonds Family, in memory of Philip Simonds

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Richard Wolff ('73)
Tristan Wyatt ('05)
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Patricia Williamson, in memory of Mary E. Barger ('53)
David and Candace ('64) Woodbury
Jeremy C. Wright

THANK YOU CLASS OF '17!



Many thanks to the Class of 2017 for their generous gift to the Foundation.

Pictured with Erica Silk, Director of Development and Alumni Relations (center) are Class Officers Michael Veh, Paulina Mendez, Nolan Greeley, Luke Koury, and Sean Kazmi.

Donor Funds

The Talmage Family Fund

The general fund for all unrestricted gifts to support emerging needs and initiatives at Ottawa Hills Local Schools.

The Eleanor Seifried Fund

To support the enhancement of the performing arts – theatre, choir, and dance.

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation STEM Fund

To increase and enhance student opportunities in STEM-based learning: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The Athletic Fund

To provide ongoing support for athletic programs at Ottawa Hills.

The Student Assistance Fund

To provide financial assistance for students to participate in curricular, extra-curricular, and super-curricular programs, regardless of financial ability.

Cornerstone Planned Giving Society

Donors who plan for a bequest in their will.

The Ottawa Hills Foundation recently approved four grants for projects at the elementary school and junior/senior high school. These projects were funded through donor funds like The Talmage Family Fund, The Eleanor Seifried Fund, and the STEM Fund established by Chris and Aparna Brown.



Incoming seventh graders enjoyed an introduction to robotics at a camp sponsored by the Foundation. Students constructed a Clawbot using the VEX EDR Robotics platform. They programmed the robot to drive autonomously and with a remote control, and put their skills to work competing against one another.



The Foundation also sponsored the Science Olympiad competition camp for rising sixth through eighth graders. At the camp, students worked collaboratively on projects such as Robot Arm, Rocks and Minerals, Ecology, Disease Detectives, Helicopters, Forensics Lab, Chemistry Lab, Mouse Trap Vehicle, and Electrical Vehicle. Current members of the state qualifying Ottawa Hills High School Science Olympiad team served as coaches and mentors, building great partnerships between the elementary, junior high, and senior high students.



The Ottawa Hills dance team will participate in a national dance camp thanks to a grant from the Foundation. The dance team will be trained by national collegiate dancers from the Universal Dance Association, which will provide them with additional training in technique, choreography, and safety along with the skills necessary to compete at the national level.



A gift from the Foundation will make it possible for elementary students to learn how to play the ukulele. The grant purchased 30 ukuleles with bags, strings, tuners, and books, to augment the current general music offerings. The ukuleles will provide an introduction to string instruments of the world, while teaching students an instrument used primarily for chording and accompanying a melodic instrument or voice. Playing the ukulele will provide students with an understanding of how string instruments work and will build their knowledge of note reading as well as the fine motor skills necessary to play any instrument.





Ottawa Hills Local Schools

Ottawa Hills Local School District
3600 Indian Road
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

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To join the mailing list, OH friends
and alumni should contact Erica
(Gatchel) Silk '89.

esilk@ohschools.org | 419-214-4838

ALUMNI CAN ALSO REGISTER ONLINE AT:
ottawahillsschools.org/content2/ohalumni



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Ottawa Hills Local Schools
Alumni Association

New Funds *Enhance* Student Experiences

Athletic Fund

The Athletic Fund exists to support Ottawa Hills' high-quality athletic programs, which not only benefit its student-athletes but the entire community. Through our athletic programs, students have the opportunity to learn about the value of hard work, dedication, teamwork, and perseverance. They acquire a lifetime of memories and develop lifelong relationships with coaches and teammates who become mentors, role models, and friends.

Student Assistance Fund

The student assistance fund ensures all students, regardless of financial ability, have the opportunity to collaborate, explore, and engage with the world around them through curricular, extra-curricular, and super-curricular programs at OHLS. Programs beyond the classroom allow students to apply their knowledge and skills and expose them to real-world experiences through travel and other opportunities such as Agora, Camp Storer, and the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.

Your Gift Makes a Difference

These funds have been established through the generosity of Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation donors. Please consider donating today to these or any one of our named funds at ohschoolsfoundation.org/givetoday.php.

A gift of \$25,000 gives you the opportunity to create a named fund. If interested, please contact Erica Silk at 419-214-4838.

Open for MORE NEWS from
AROUND THESE HILLS!