



*Defined by excellence. Supported by tradition.*

SPRING 2017

# AROUND THESE HILLS

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

## OH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION HELPS **THE WIZARD OF OZ** FLY HIGH

» Full story on page 3

## **STEM** GETS A **BIG** BOOST

» Full story on page 6



## WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE THE BROWN FAMILY CHALLENGE

We are excited to announce that Village residents **Chris and Aparna Brown** have given \$100,000 to the **Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation** in support of STEM education.

In making the gift, the Brown's intention is to increase opportunities for students and ignite a passion for exploring STEM-based learning – which is centered on critical thinking and collaboration through inquiry and experimentation. The initiative is especially relevant for the Browns who have twin daughters, Nora and Tara, in the second grade.

To magnify the funds' impact, the Browns are challenging alumni and the community to match their gift by raising an additional \$100,000 by June 1, 2017.

The funds will be used to fuel STEM programming and integration at the classroom level, and ensure that all students – of all abilities and interests – have ample opportunities to solve problems, create, and engage with the world around them.

Please join the Brown Family by making a matching gift to further STEM education. Today's students will design, innovate, and create a better world for us to share. A gift from you is an investment in our future. Please visit [ohschoolsfoundation.org](http://ohschoolsfoundation.org) or complete and return the enclosed giving envelope to donate today.

Best regards,



**George Lathrop**  
President  
Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation



**Erica Silk '89**  
Director of Development  
and Alumni Relations



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### PRESIDENT

George Lathrop

#### SECRETARY

Dee Talmage

#### TREASURER

Scott Estes

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Erica (Gatchel) Silk '89

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jackie (Hylant) Berenzweig '93

R. L. Berry '76

Paul Bishop

Troy Greeley

Brad Johnson

Julie Kowalczyk

Kevin Miller

Phillip Mintun

Jeremy Nixon

Judd Silverman '74

Mark Wagoner '90

Andrew Westmeyer '87

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](http://ohschoolsfoundation.org) and give online or use the envelope attached to this newsletter.

With their gift, the Brown family has established the **Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation STEM Fund**. Named funds like this are established with a minimum contribution of \$25,000 and are often used to support specific initiatives. All donors can give – at any level – to an established named fund. In addition to the STEM Fund, the **Talmage Family Fund** has been established to support emerging needs and initiatives. The **Eleanor Seifried Fund** has been created to support the dramatic and vocal arts.

## glimpses of a reunion: OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1955

By Prudy Stone, wife of Spencer Stone '55

No one exclaimed, "You haven't changed a bit since the day we graduated!"

But, by the end of their reunion, members of the Ottawa Hills High School Class of 1955 agreed that their fellow alumni had used the intervening 62 years well.

Eleven graduates, representing nearly a quarter of their small 1955 class, attended the reunion held at Marriott's Grande Vista in Orlando, Florida, in February. They arrived from across Florida, Arizona, California, Illinois, Montana, New York, Tennessee, Michigan, and Ohio.

Conversation quickly sparkled with reminiscences of Ottawa Hills; hilarious tales of high-spirited exploits raced around the room. Classmates recalled inspiring teachers and administrators who made a real difference in their lives. "One of my regrets," a graduate said, "is that I never went back to thank them."

By the end of the reunion, participants had such a good time that they began planning the next gathering – tentatively scheduled for 2018 in Sausalito.



Sitting L to R: Chuck Racine, Prudy and Spencer Stone, Debby and Larry Mindel, and Bernard Kripkee. Standing L to R: Joyce Racine, Tod Roemer, Ron and Mary Louise LaVergne, Bill and Bobby Williams, J. W. and Betty Hart, Gigi and Dave Glow, Roa Lyn Kripkee, and Donna and Court Slayton. Not pictured, Jay Decker.

## YOU'RE INVITED

### TO ATTEND THE NEXT OHHS ALUMNI RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thursday, May 18, 2017  
6:30 – 9pm  
The Capital Hilton  
1001 16th Street NW  
Washington, D.C.

**RSVP** to Director of  
Development and Alumni  
Relations Erica Silk:  
419-214-4838 or  
[esilk@ohschools.org](mailto:esilk@ohschools.org)

#### WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:



**Christine Brennan '76**  
USA Today national sports  
columnist; best-selling  
author and commentator  
for ABC News, CNN, PBS  
NewsHour and NPR; and  
Village homeowner



**Phil Mattingly '02** CNN  
correspondent; Bloomberg  
Television White House  
correspondent; Bloomberg  
News Justice Department  
reporter and finance and  
economics reporter

The *Honorary Liberty Memorial Award* will be received by Becky Staelin Acklin '58 on behalf of **Jim Acklin '58** for his dedication to establishing the Liberty Memorial at OHHS.



## WIZARD OF OZ FLIES HIGH WITH HELP OF COMMUNITY AND DONORS

Audience members who packed the auditorium to see the OHS production of *The Wizard of Oz* in January were taken on a magical trip down the yellow brick road. You couldn't help but leave the school saying, "**life is good.**"

This production provided a truly unique experience for audience, cast and crew thanks to flying effects provided through the financial support of the **Eleanor Seifried Fund** of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

At Ottawa Hills, our "Acting Out" musicals involve students from fourth through eighth grade. The program began with proceeds from the 2014 Green Bear Ball with the goal of giving our younger students the opportunity to perform in quality productions. While involvement fosters a love and respect for the arts, it also teaches our young students important life skills such as dedication to a task, being part of a team, and the courage to stand in front of hundreds of people.

## Spirit of '76 – 40th reunion snapshot



**Members of the Class of 1976 met on July 23, 2016, at Sylvania Country Club.**

Front L to R: Cathy Collins Fitzpatrick, Tracey Walker Maris, and Shelley Wolson. Back L to R: Tom and Lauren Fox, Dave Rohr, Chris Brennan, Robb Sigler, and John Day.





## Reed Silverman {Class of 2011}

The mission of Ottawa Hills Schools is to challenge and inspire each student to realize his or her unique potential; to embrace learning as a lifelong process; and to become an active, responsible citizen.

Reed Silverman '11 will tell you that's exactly what Ottawa Hills did for him.

Reed is currently in a five-year Ph.D. program in political science at Princeton University. Specifically, he is studying political theory and political philosophy. This follows four successful years at Harvard and a year volunteering with AmeriCorps.

At Harvard, Reed majored in Government with a Spanish minor. He only took one semester of Spanish language, and the rest of his foreign language studies were subjects taught in Spanish, such as poetry and film. He attributes this advanced study to the foreign language program at Ottawa Hills and the influence of Señor Hood and Señora Mendez.

Reed chose to close his experience at Harvard with a capstone achievement: a senior thesis in political theory. While writing the thesis was a daunting experience, it was also intensely meaningful because it represented his academic abilities and growth while at Harvard.

"I chose this path with confidence because my educational experience at Ottawa Hills and Harvard had prepared me to do this. I was awarded summa cum laude honors by the Government Department on my thesis. It was the highlight of my academic life at Harvard."

Outside of the classroom, Reed's involvement centered on the theater. He sang with the Men's Glee Club for a year, which afforded him the opportunity to sing at Carnegie Hall. However, his greatest investment of time was in plays and shows. Directing *The Fantasticks* his junior year was his most meaningful experience.

He noted, "I would not have had the courage to do that except for Darrin Broadway, who gave me leadership opportunities at Ottawa Hills. He gave me the chance to direct *Rumors* and do some choreography for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. I was scared going into it, but directing *The Fantasticks* was one of the best experiences I had at Harvard."

During his junior and senior years, Reed was also a cast member of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the oldest collegiate theater group in the country.

Now at Princeton working on his Ph.D., Reed summed up his journey by sharing, "I couldn't imagine Harvard or Princeton without Ottawa Hills. And I couldn't imagine being excited about returning home without everything Ottawa Hills did to shape and enable the friendships I have and the person I am. The whole experience was formative."

---

**"I couldn't  
imagine  
Harvard or  
Princeton  
without  
Ottawa Hills."**

---

David Feniger '97 will tell you the Ottawa Hills experience is a family experience. His father, William, is a 1966 OH grad and his sister, Erin, graduated in 1995. David's son, Yale, is now a second grader at Ottawa Hills Elementary—a member of the Class of 2027.

David attended the University of Denver and returned to Toledo in 2002 to join his family. He had his eye on law school, but after a semester, he knew that his heart was with the family business. However, that semester at the University of Toledo, College of Law was an important one because that's where he met his future wife, Liz, a Sylvania native and Ohio University graduate.

The Feniger family has been in the steel business for three generations. In 2001, the family founded Universal Metals, and in 2005, David partnered with his father to start American Post. Both businesses are based in Toledo. American Post

produces fence posts, and is the last manufacturer of the steel u-post for the lawn and garden industry left in the United States.

After living in Old Orchard for a while, David and Liz moved to Ottawa Hills four-and-a-half years ago to a special house on Boshart Way—the house where David grew up.

It's that generational investment in Ottawa Hills that motivated them to further invest as Cupola-level contributors to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation's annual campaign. "I love the schools," stresses David. "I grew up here. Ottawa Hills is an amazing place to raise a family."

"That's why we take every opportunity we can to support the schools. The work of the Foundation is important. We're glad to be part of it by providing a contribution to the annual campaign."

## David Feniger {Class of 1997}



## Annette Boice {Class of 1949}

As a 1949 OHHS graduate and Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation supporter, Annette (Levis) Boice has deep roots in Ottawa Hills Schools.

Her seven children graduated from OH—John Minns '68, Marcia (Minns) Drumheller '69, Sharon (Minns) Newman '71, Larry Boice '76, Charlotte (Boice) Perry '80, Tricia (Boice) Dooley '82, and Peter Boice '85. She lost a son, Michael, to leukemia when he was in the first grade. Seven grandchildren have graduated from OH, and two grandchildren are students at OHHS.

Annette points out, "Our family has continuously had someone in these school buildings since 1958."

The Levis family moved to Ottawa Hills in 1938, starting Annette's Ottawa Hills career in sixth grade. "I have wonderful memories of my time at Ottawa Hills," she shares. "I was vice president of the Girls Athletic Association my junior year, president my senior year. I was on the field hockey team—we would play Maumee Valley—and I was a cheerleader."

The family has carried on these traditions of involvement. "The boys have played basketball, lacrosse, and football," notes Annette, "and many of the girls played field hockey and cheered."

Annette's Ottawa Hills roots are also evidenced by a special bond she shares with four classmates. They routinely come together to celebrate their friendship at birthdays and other special times. They've come to be known as "The Girlies."

When she learned of the formation of the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, Annette became a member of the Founders' Society and also made a donation to the annual fund campaign as a Mesasa-level donor.

"I have loved it here," she says. "Ottawa Hills has been a big part of my life and will continue to be through my grandchildren. I am glad to give to the Foundation and will continue to do so."



### The Girlies, pictured from left:

Connie (Urschel) Alexander, Shirley (Walbridge) Hancock, Annette, Frances (Little) Keiser, and Joan (DuBois) Haigh.





## THE BROWN FAMILY

take Computer Programming as a College Credit Plus course in conjunction with Owens Community College. Our STEM teacher, Mrs. Dowd, leads the class using the curriculum developed by Owens.

Robotics I and II and Modeling and Simulation are also part of our STEM offerings for high school students. In Robotics, students work with VEX robotics kits to build a robot. Students learn about gears, gear ratios, and how they work. Basic programming is also a part of the process.

The final project in Modeling and Simulation involves creating a computer-generated fire escape plan from the classroom to the football field. Other lessons have students using CAD and SolidWorks to design 3-D models of things that can be created on the school's 3-D printer.

Junior high students experience four different nine-week modules of STEM programming through curriculum developed by Project Lead the Way (PLTW). This national program develops rigorous curriculum specific to STEM-related skills. Gateway to Technology is the junior-high arm of PLTW and provides the training for our teachers to lead these modules.



## STEM gets a BIG BOOST

**COMPUTATIONAL THINKING. WRITING CODE. CREATING WEB APPLICATIONS. VEX ROBOTICS. 3-D PRINTERS.**

Students in our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) classes are gaining exposure to learning experiences unheard of five years ago.

For example, earlier this winter, students in AP Computer Science Principles were fine-tuning their simulators after having completed the initial "explore" phase of their research. This new course is a collaboration between Cleveland State University, the National Science Foundation, and the College Board. Ottawa Hills teamed with Cleveland State to become one of the first schools in the nation to pilot this new curriculum.

Computer Programming is another course in a line of STEM courses that have been added to the curriculum at the junior and senior high schools over the past five years. Today, students have the opportunity to



In 7th grade, students take modules in Design and Modeling and Automation and Robotics. Design and Modeling introduces students to the engineering design process. They use CAD to create a playground, with each group within the class responsible for designing a different piece of playground equipment. In Automation and Robotics, students learn about building with VEX robotic kits. They learn the basics of gears and programming as they build their robots.

In 8th grade, students experience modules in Flight and Space and the Magic of Electronics, which focuses on electronics. In Flight and Space, students build a variety of flying machines—model hot air balloons, kites, gliders, and hovercrafts. They use online simulations to create a model and test its effectiveness before building their own balsa wood glider. The Magic of Electronics teaches by using electricity. Students build DC motors and electromagnets, then use the VEX materials to build a generator. They work with snap circuits and build a variety of circuits.

Ottawa Hills has come a long way in a short period of time with STEM programming! We are currently working to expand STEM offerings to elementary grades and will have more information this spring about STEM summer camps for third through sixth graders. Stay tuned!

# OH QUIZ BOWL TEAMS MAKE HISTORY



## 2017 TAAC ACADEMIC CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS, SIX YEARS IN THE MAKING

For the **FIRST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY**, OHHS is sending three quiz bowl teams to the NAQT Small School Nationals tournament in Chicago.

The OH students have enjoyed much success this season. They were **UNDEFEATED** in winning the Toledo Area Academic Quiz Bowl League championship (TAAQBL), finishing above nineteen other teams from Northwest Ohio to claim the coveted Hermiller Trophy. In the Toledo Area Athletic Conference (TAAC), they dominated the field, wresting the title from perennial rival Maumee Valley Country Day for the first time in six years. And all three OH teams finished in the top five in the Olmsted Falls Battle of the Buzz NAQT Tournament.

### THE GREEN BEARS COMPETE ON WNWO ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Pictured from left to right: Nathan Card, Urvish Patel, Mazin Omer, Daniel Liu, Hank Griffin, and Mady McCabe



## HUNTER SIEBEN JOINS 1,000 POINT CLUB

On December 30, 2016, during a boys' basketball double-overtime win against Pettisville, OHHS senior Hunter Sieben scored 29 points to earn a spot in the elite Green Bears 1,000-point club.

### OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS ELITE CLUB INCLUDE:

Lauren Abendroth '11  
Paul Abendroth '80  
Geoff Beans '14  
Phillip Beans '09  
Adam Brewer '88  
Eliot Browarsky '10  
Allie Dewire '15  
Todd Ferris '92  
Lucas Janowicz '13  
Katherine Jamieson '10  
Megan Jamieson '07  
Lauren Kruse '03  
Andy Lott '88  
Adam Svala '96  
Mike Tanner '73  
Olivia VanSlooten '16  
Peter Westmeyer '97  
Lee Ann Woodward '01





# Ottawa Hills Local Schools

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

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

TOLEDO, OH  
PERMIT #311

Don't forget to  
share the OH News!

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](http://ottawahillsschools.org/content2/ohalumni)



The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is seeking  
nominations for its new Distinguished Alumni Award.

The award will recognize Ottawa Hills Schools attendees  
who have made (or are making) a meaningful  
contribution to society, and whose accomplishments,  
affiliations, and careers have honored the tradition of  
excellence at Ottawa Hills.

Nominations will be considered by a committee comprised  
of Ottawa Hills alumni, faculty, and district officials.

Distinguished Alumni recipients will be recognized on  
Friday, October 20, 2017, with a dinner reception and  
during the half-time ceremonies of the home football  
game that evening.

## NOMINATIONS

To nominate an individual for the 2017  
Distinguished Alumni Award, please download  
and complete the application found at:  
[ohschoolsfoundation.org/distinguishedalumni.  
php](http://ohschoolsfoundation.org/distinguishedalumni.php). Nominations may be emailed to Erica Silk  
at [esilk@ohschools.org](mailto:esilk@ohschools.org) or printed and mailed  
to Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, 3600  
Indian Road, Ottawa Hills, OH 43606.

Applications must be received by May 15, 2017,  
to be considered for the 2017 award process.

Please contact Erica directly with any questions  
at 419-214-4838.

Open for MORE NEWS from  
**AROUND THESE HILLS!**