ALUMNI EXCELLENCE

5 HONORED WITH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME LAUNCHES WITH 4 INDUCTEES

» Full story on pages 4, 5

Fitness Center TAKING SHAPE

» Full story on page 6

STRAIGHT A'S

Again On State Report Card

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Students are enjoying the start of another remarkable school year – thanks in large part to you, the supporters of Ottawa Hills Local Schools. The love for our district is never-ending, but can best be expressed by what transpired over a two-day period in September.

It began with the inaugural lecture in the Kadens Family Leadership Series, an educational enrichment initiative funded by Pete (‘96) and Amy (Robbins ‘99) Kadens. Students in grades 7-12 heard a remarkable and moving talk from Rodney Walker, who shared his unbelievable journey from residing in a dozen foster care homes to graduating from two Ivy League universities.

That same day, the Foundation Board of Trustees recognized dozens of its supporters at the annual Donor Appreciation Event. Attendees were regaled with students’ musical performances but also heard them share moving stories about how donor-driven programs are reshaping their personal and academic lives.

The signature event came as we hosted our third Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony. Thank you to the five alumni who accepted the honor and became the newest additions to this prestigious group. Sharing the limelight that evening were the four inaugural inductees into the newly launched High School Athletic Hall of Fame, an idea discussed almost since the Foundation’s founding (see more coverage on pages 4, 5).

As all of this was occurring, we continued to provide grants to support curriculum enhancement and expansion, experiences inside and outside the classroom, and opportunities in the arts and athletics. Meanwhile, fundraising for and construction on the Kadens Family Fitness Center progresses nicely. The facility is the cornerstone of the Kadens Family Health & Wellness Capital Campaign, the Foundation’s first-ever capital campaign.

Thank you for making this a wonderful place to teach, learn, and live.
The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation had much to be thankful for last year, and it shared that gratitude with supporters at a special reception Sept. 19.

During its remarkable year, it embarked on its first-ever capital campaign and received the largest gift in its history. About 100 friends attended the event at The Inverness Club. The program included performances and presentations by students: a piano recital by Reyan Shariff (9); a duet from “Beauty and the Beast JR.” by Sam Smithberger (9) and Ella Douglas (8); an overview of her research by Priya Bhatt (12); and songs by The Choraliers. The evening included remarks from George Lathrop, Foundation president; Erica Silk, Foundation executive director; and Dr. Adam Fineske, district superintendent.

“It truly does take a Village to make our children successful and Ottawa Hills is the perfect example of such a Village,” said Dr. Fineske. “We have parents who make education the No. 1 priority at home; students who are active and engaged in their learning; outstanding educators; and a community that centers itself around the school district.”

(While the Foundation has a July-June fiscal year, it hosts its Donor Appreciation Event in the fall to coincide with its Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony.)

Through your generosity, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is able to enhance and extend the learning experiences of students. Here are two recent examples:

» A gift of $5,000 is making it possible for Elementary School students (grades K-6) to have richer art and music experiences. The students are now using iPads and Logitech Crayon Digital Art Pencils in their classrooms. Teachers are using the devices in educational units such as Dr. Seuss (K-1), Science of Sound (5-6), Composing with the Dot and Dash robots that play xylophones (K-6), Recorder (4), Digital Drawing (K-6), digital art museum visits and scavenger hunts, and architecture applications. The $15,000 cost of the devices was shared equally among the district, The Foundation, and the Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association.

» A $10,000 donation is bringing the 2019-2020 Symphonic Band (freshmen through seniors) one step closer to their goal of traveling together to Toronto, Ontario. The three-day trip is over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in January 2020. Many stops are planned, including attending a clinic with music faculty at the University of Toronto; hearing a performance of The Toronto Symphony; and attending a performance of “Dear Evan Hansen,” which won “Best Musical” at the 2017 Tony Awards. The band will perform at several historic spots, including Casa Loma and the Ontario Science Center.
Five notable alumni, from artists and business owners to philanthropists, received the Distinguished Alumni Award Sept. 20. This year’s inductees were: Betsy (Carson) Brady ‘64, Pete Kadens ’96, Rustin “Polly” (Steele) Levenson ’65, Robert “Bob” Shopneck ’68, and Dr. Catherine Webb ’66. The induction ceremony took place at the John Lindsay Court at the Junior/Senior High School; inductees also were introduced on the field at halftime of the boys’ varsity football game that evening.

BETSY (CARSON) BRADY ’64
Mrs. Brady is a well-known business leader, community advocate, philanthropist, and fundraiser in northwest Ohio. In 1985, she and husband Tom founded Plastic Technologies, Inc. PTI has become globally recognized within its industry for sustainable packaging innovation with more than 1,000 clients across the globe. She is currently chairman of the PTI board. Mrs. Brady is actively engaged in the community, including serving as chairman of the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce in 1990 (the first woman to lead the group); past (and first woman) board chair of the Toledo Museum of Art; and a board member of ProMedica, the University of Toledo, Toledo Community Foundation, and Junior League of Toledo.

PETE KADENS ’96
Mr. Kadens is a dedicated philanthropist and organizational leader who seeks to transform lives and strengthen communities. He is chairman of The Kadens Family Foundation, which is dedicated to closing the pervasive U.S. wealth and education gaps. He retired in August 2018 as chief executive officer of Green Thumb Industries, one of the nation’s largest publicly traded, legal cannabis operators. Over his 16-year career as a chief executive, Mr. Kadens provided more than 4,000 people and created over $5 billion in shareholder value. He is a 2019 Henry Crown Fellow of The Aspen Institute, a prestigious fellowship for individuals who have the capacity to create ventures that solve one of society’s intractable problems.

RUSTIN “POLLY” (STEELE) LEVENSON ’65
Mrs. Levenson is an internationally known painting conservator and author. After positions at the Canadian Conservation Institute and the National Gallery of Canada, she moved to New York to join the Painting Conservation Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. With referrals from Met colleagues, she founded ArtCare Conservation (artcareconservation.com) and began working with museum, corporate, and private clients throughout New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. She later opened studios in Miami and Los Angeles. In addition to conserving paintings and supervising conservation studios, she and art historian Andrea Kirsh co-authored “Seeing Through Paintings: Physical Examination in Art Historical Studies,” an award-winning book used in art history courses and graduate schools.

ROBERT “BOB” SHOPNECK ’68
Mr. Shopneck is general partner of Denver-based Pinetree Financial Partners. After moving to Denver, he earned master’s and law degrees and realized that real estate and not law was his chosen path. He began by investing in houses near the University of Denver. He parlayed those investments into building new homes; converting renovated apartment buildings into condominiums; and making other real estate investments. As business grew, he moved into commercial lending. Today, his private bank is the largest of its kind in Colorado. He joined the board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and later made the lead gift and spearheaded fundraising to build the region’s first new club since 1964.

DR. CATHERINE WEBB ’66
Dr. Webb graduated from the Medical College of Ohio in 1980. After hearing a lecture in medical school by a pediatric cardiologist, she became fascinated by congenital heart disease. She spent nine years in clinical training at the University of Michigan. In 1989, she joined Children’s Memorial Hospital at Northwestern University, retiring as professor emeritus in 2010. She returned to the University of Michigan Congenital Heart Center and currently works as an outreach pediatric cardiologist in Northern Michigan. She is internationally known with more than 50 published peer-reviewed papers and 30 years of service on many American Heart Association councils and committees. She is a governing member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

NOMINATION PROCESS:
If you would like to nominate yourself or an individual for the 2020 Ottawa Hills Distinguished Alumni Award or the Athletic Hall of Fame Award, please complete the application found at: ohschoolsfoundation.org/distinguishedalumni.php. The deadline for submission for the 2020 awards is February 1, 2020. Nominations will be considered by a committee comprised of Ottawa Hills alumni, faculty, and school district officials. Nominations may also be emailed to Erica Silk at esilk@ohschools.org or mailed to Erica Silk, Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, 3600 Indian Road, Ottawa Hills, OH 43606.
The Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame was created to honor the outstanding athletes, teams, coaches, and supporters of the district’s athletic programs. It recognizes individuals who have made exceptional and extraordinary contributions to the OH athletic program; had outstanding statistical achievement in an individual sport or sports; and/or conducted themselves in such a way as to reflect honor on the school and must have exhibited those qualities of character and standards of conduct consistent with their status as a role model to the community.

To celebrate the achievements of athletes, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation created a High School Athletic Hall of Fame and inducted its inaugural class Sept. 20.

“Athletic competition and success is a big part of the high school experience at Ottawa Hills, and we felt it was time to honor the greatest of the great,” said Erica Silk, the Foundation’s executive director. “The Hall of Fame serves as a symbol of our appreciation of the excellence, honor, and devotion displayed by these celebrated individuals and teams.”

THE INAUGURAL INDUCTEES ARE:

**JIM TENNEY ’58 AND JOHN M. HILL ’56**
Mr. Tenney (left) and Mr. Hill won the state doubles title in 1956, beating a team from Mansfield (6-4, 6-3). They were coached by Donald Drake. (During this era, all schools competed against each other regardless of enrollment.) In his junior year, Mr. Tenney was runner-up in state singles. As a senior in 1958, he was team captain and won the state singles title.

**LAURIE IMES ’81 AND KELLY COLEMAN ’82**
Ms. Imes (left) and Ms Coleman won the Ohio Class A-AA doubles title in October 1980, defeating a team from Kenton (6-2, 6-1). They were coached by Ronald Ricketts. In October 1981, Ms. Coleman defended the doubles title against a team from Bexley, but this time with partner Torrey Lott (5-7, 6-1, 6-4).

ABOUT THE HALL OF FAME:
The Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame was created to honor the outstanding athletes, teams, coaches, and supporters of the district’s athletic programs. It recognizes individuals who have made exceptional and extraordinary contributions to the OH athletic program; had outstanding statistical achievement in an individual sport or sports; and/or conducted themselves in such a way as to reflect honor on the school and must have exhibited those qualities of character and standards of conduct consistent with their status as a role model to the community.
UPDATE

KADENS FAMILY Fitness Center

A SPECIAL THANK YOU
to our generous capital campaign donors as of October 1, 2019

Leadership
$500,000 and above
The Kadens Family Foundation ProMedica

Valedictorian
$100,000 and above
Leslie and George Chapman
Ottawa Hills Local Schools
The Village of Ottawa Hills

SAVE THE DATE:
Ottawa Hills Local Schools plans to officially open the Kadens Family Fitness Center with a dedication ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 11, following the boys’ varsity basketball home game that evening.

KADENS FAMILY Fitness Center

UPDATE

Brick by brick, the Kadens Family Fitness Center is becoming a reality. Construction work is progressing on schedule. The Kadens Family Health & Wellness Capital Campaign received great news in September when the Village of Ottawa Hills voted to give the Board of Education $100,000 over two years to help with renovations to the Multipurpose Room and boys’ and girls’ locker rooms. The district also is preparing a survey to find out how the community wants to use the facility.

SAVE THE DATE:
Ottawa Hills Local Schools plans to officially open the Kadens Family Fitness Center with a dedication ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 11, following the boys’ varsity basketball home game that evening.

Summa Cum Laude
$50,000 and above
The Ciralsky Family;
Billy and Nancy Ciralsky;
The Friedmans;
Kevin and Meredith (Ciralsky);
Emma, Cooper, and Hudson;
The Waldmans;
Todd and Jessica (Ciralsky),
Jacob
The Levis:
Jon and Schuyler (Ciralsky),
Jack, Wyatt, Scarlett, and Henry

Magna Cum Laude
$25,000 and above
The Hylant and Berenzweig Families
Craig and Amy Findley
Ottawa Hills Boosters
The Swigart Family
Peter and Sofia Westmeyer

Distinguished Honor Roll
$10,000 and above
Chuck and Joni Arredia
The Estes Family
The University of Toledo
Troy and Wendy Greeley
George and Kathy Lathrop
The O’Neill Family
Chase Ornond and Niko Ornond
Bill and Laura Rudolph
The Rudolph Libbe Group
Signature Bank, N.A.

Founder’s Society
$5,000 and above
Richard, Denise, Claire & Caroline Arnos – In Memory of Richard and Joan Arnos
Hal, Ben, and Jack Burke
The Cooper Family
The Denner Family: Devin, Michelle, Nicole (’12), and Michael (’16)
Effler Schmitt Co.: Kelly (Effler) Longthorne; Dan Effler
Fifth Third Bank
Dr. Adam Fineske and Family
Jim, Kristi, Brett and Drew Hoffman
Corey and Sandy Hupp
Brad and Allison Johnson
Ed and Sally Lee
The Levine Family: Gordon and Marla Levine, Terry and Larry Robbins, Arleen and Jon Levine, Marci and Andy Klumb
Molly and Geoffrey Meyers
Kevin and Carla Miller and Family
The Mitchell Family
Owens Corning

Friends Of The Foundation
$1,000 and above
The Abendroth Family
Aly Sterling Philanthropy – In Honor of Dr. Kevin Miller
The Andersons: Scott and Julie, Cole, Nikolas, and Tyler
Todd and Christi Ansberg
The Assi Family
Carol and Ed Bardi
R. L. ’76, Karen, Kristen ’15 and Kelsi ’16 Berry
Michael and Leslie Brookman
Robin and Keith Buckey and Family – In Honor of John Lindsay
Graham and Ben Burns
Class of 2018
Class of 2019
Cal and Laura Coy
Amy Sue Culler and Family
The Dale Family
The Douglas Family – In Honor of Ella, Trace, Jay and Finny
Jonathan Downing and Megan Meinerding
Rod and Joan Durgin and Family
Sue and Aaron Eidenier
Maara Fink, Chris Hamilton and Family
Ann Fleck
Bob and Barabara Gatchel
Brian and Jasa George
The Gnepper Family
The Goik and Barrett Family
Chris and Jeanie Hardman
The Heldreth Family
The Hickey Family
The Hopkins Family
The James and Mary Geiger Family
Lucas Janowicz
Michael and Kristen Janowicz
Michael and Judith Kadens
Paul (Coach K) Komisarek
Mary and Peter Koury and Family
The Ledgard Family – In Memory of Albert Berg

Friends Of The Foundation (Cont.)
Eddie and Julie Lee
Gift in Honor of John Lindsay
The Linver Family – In Memory of Michael Linver M.D. and Bella Linver
Gift in Honor of the Class of 1970
Valle Homes: John Longthorne, Rich Effler
The McCullough Family
Ben McMurray and Noreen Hanlon
The McQueen Family
Jason and Carin Miller
The Monoky Family
The Naddaf Family: Mark and Erika, Samuel, Jonathan, and Emily
John and Nadine Nemunaitis
Norm Niedermeier
Jano and Bob Nolette
The Padhye Family
The Pixler Family
The Robson Family
John and Sara Roemer
Gabriel Allos, Christian Allos, Isabella Allos
The Sherman Family
The Shimborske Family
Lisa and Judd Silverman
The Simonds Family – In Memory of Phillip G. Simonds
The Szyperski Family
Marc Thompson and Alta Richter – In Honor of Judy and Mike Kadens
The Thurston Family
The Toma Family
Michael and Summer Vanni
Mark and Meredith Wagoner
The Philip and Marina Yang Family
The Zakeri Family

Additional Gifts
all other amounts
Ann and Alan Albert and Family
Deb and Steve Baehren
Geoffrey Beans
Eliot Browarsky
Sandy and Jim Brown
Phil Beans
J.J. Buckey
The Figy Family
Mark and Karen Fine
Tom and Chris Frazier
The Greg Kadens Family
Tammy Mallue
Nancy and Larry Metzger
Matthew Moore
The Moreau Family
Jennifer Nagy
Jeremy Nixon
Jack and Sarah Puffenberger
Ben Silverman
John and Val Wiley
Dick Wolff
2018-19 Annual Campaign

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the individuals and organizations who contributed to the 2018 – 2019 Annual Campaign, which ran from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Valedictorian
$100,000 and above
The Kadens Family Foundation

Arrowhead
$25,000 and above
The Ciralsky Family; Billy and Nancy Ciralsky; The Friedmans; Kevin and Meredith (Ciralsky), Emma, Cooper, and Hudson; The Waldmans: Todd and Jessica (Ciralsky), Jacob; The Levins: Jon and Schuyler (Ciralsky), Jack, Wyatt, Scarlett, and Henry

Cupola
$10,000 and above
Annette Boice ('49) – In Memory of Tom Baither ('60) of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77) – In Memory of Larry Mindel ('55) – In Memory of Walter W. “Bill” Lathrop, Jr. of Kay Edmunds ('65) of Ross Wesolowski ('04) – In Memory of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Dr. Lynne Stover McCullough of Maurice D. O'Connell – In Memory of Dr. Lynne Stover McCullough of Barry M. Millman – In Memory of Walter W. “Bill” Lathrop, Jr. of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77) – In Memory of Dr. Lynne Stover McCullough of John Wiley – In Memory of Walter W. “Bill” Lathrop, Jr. of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77) – In Memory of Dr. Lynne Stover McCullough of Dr. Lynne Stover McCullough of Steve ('63) and Penny ('64) McCracken – In Memory of Larry Mindel ('55) of Penny McComber ('56) – In Memory of Larry Mindel ('55) of Carol Bower Johnson ('59) – In Memory of Walter W. “Bill” Lathrop, Jr. of Susan “Sue” S. White – In Memory of Walter W. “Bill” Lathrop, Jr. of Laura Brecher – In Memory of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Laura Brecher – In Memory of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Walter W. “Bill” Lathrop, Jr. of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of John Wiley – In Memory of Walter W. “Bill” Lathrop, Jr. of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77) – In Memory of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Dr. Lynne Stover McCullough of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77) – In Memory of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barbara Schlatter ('53) of Barb
The Ohio Department of Education in September awarded Ottawa Hills Local Schools all A’s on the state School Report Card. The grades are for the 2018-2019 school year; the district now has earned all A’s for five consecutive years.

Not only did the district receive an overall “A” grade, but so did Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School and Ottawa Hills Elementary School.

“We are extremely proud of our Report Card. It validates the team approach we take toward education, an approach that requires the participation of the community, parents, teachers, and students,” said Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske. “As important as the Report Card is, it is only one way we measure our success as a district. There are countless other ways we celebrate our success as well.”

To begin the grading process, districts and individual schools around the state self-report information on specific marks of performance (called measures) and within broad categories (called components). They receive letter grades (A-F) for six components: graduation rate, achievement, progress, improving at-risk K-3 readers, gap closing, and prepared for success.