



Defined by excellence. Supported by tradition.

FALL 2018

AROUND THESE HILLS

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



COMMUNITY HONORS 5 Distinguished Alumni

» Full story on page 3

HISTORIC GIFT Makes an *Impact*

» Full story on page 4

Donation *Enriches* Student Research OPPORTUNITIES

» Full story on page 6

Making CONNECTIONS, Enriching LIVES

As the fall season arrives, we want to thank you for believing in and supporting Ottawa Hills students and their educators this year.

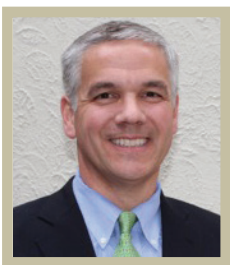
Because of you, we have reached our goal of raising **\$1 million** in gifts and pledges for the Foundation's Endowment Fund, *The Talmage Family Fund*. This extraordinary commitment from our donors is a commitment to Ottawa Hills Local Schools. It allows us to keep moving forward and ensures we will continue to positively impact the lives of OH students.

Because of you, we are providing grants to students throughout the district that enhance their experiences at Ottawa Hills. We strive for continuous improvement to provide challenging curriculum, hire dedicated and talented educators, and involve alumni and the community as partners in the education of our students.

Because of you, we have enjoyed a remarkable five-year history. We have seen the establishment of *The Mindel Family Athletic Fund* and *The Irene A. Aubin Student Assistance Fund* to join our other named funds: *The STEM Fund* and *The Eleanor Seifried Fund for the Performing Arts*. These funds are instrumental in making a lasting impact on every student, every day.

The Foundation Board of Trustees will continue to foster the tradition of excellence that defines Ottawa Hills Local Schools. It is the Trustees' goal to inspire empowered, confident, creative, and committed students who succeed not only during their time at Ottawa Hills but well into the future.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank you for your support.



George Lathrop
President
Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation



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



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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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 Local Schools.

**SUPPORTING THE OHS
FOUNDATION IS EASY!**

Visit the Foundation's website at
ohschoolsfoundation.org
to contribute online or use
the attached giving envelope.



A SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE

Five accomplished graduates of Ottawa Hills Local Schools – a journalist, surgeon, restaurateur, lawyer, and educator – have been selected as the newest recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Started last year by the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, the award recognizes graduates for making meaningful contributions to society and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers honor the tradition of excellence at Ottawa Hills. Twelve alumni have now received the award.

Several of this year's inductees spent time before the ceremonies with current students by visiting



FRED ROBERTS, LARRY MINDEL, ROA LYNN, JIM GEIGER, SCOTT PEELER

classrooms and speaking to them. Later, family and friends honored the Distinguished Alumni at an evening program and dinner reception at the high school. Honorees remembered their time at OH and acknowledged the coaches, educators, and friends who had lasting impacts on their lives.

They were recognized again with an on-field appearance and warm crowd applause during the Green Bears' football game.

THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CLASS OF 2018 INDUCTEES ARE:



DR. JAMES GEIGER ('79)

Dr. Geiger is one of the nation's top pediatric surgeons and serves as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Toledo College of Medicine

and Life Sciences and as a professor of surgery in the Section of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Michigan.



ROA LYNN ('55)

Ms. Lynn is a journalist whose work has appeared in *Time* and *Newsweek*, as well as in poems, novels, and non-fiction books. Her coverage of Brazil for the Brazilian embassy in Washington, D.C., resulted

in her receiving the "Order of the Rio Branco" by the Brazilian government.



LARRY MINDEL ('55)

Mr. Mindel is an entrepreneur and pioneer in the restaurant industry. He was the first American to win the prestigious "Caterina de Medici" medal for preservation of Italian

heritage. He also is founder of Il Fornaio, a chain of West Coast restaurants celebrating Italy's culinary traditions.



M. SCOTT PEELER ('89)

Mr. Peeler is a former assistant district attorney in New York who now leads several departments at the law firm of Arent Fox in New York. He has appeared as a commentator on national

news programs and been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*.



It's not too early to begin thinking about 2019 inductees. Nominate someone today. See details on the back page of this issue.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBERS OF THIS YEAR'S SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THEIR SERVICE:

Kate Backoff ('77), Jackie Berenzweig ('93), Betsy Brady ('64), Chris Hardman, Ben McMurray, Dr. Kevin Miller, Erica Silk ('89) and Judd Silverman ('74).



FREDERIC ROBERTS ('79)

Mr. Roberts has 35 years of experience in education, from teacher and dean of students to director of an outdoor leadership school. Each summer, a group of Ottawa Hills

students joins him in Naro Moru, Kenya, as part of his Summer Learning in Kenya program.

OH Schools Foundation Receives **Historic Donation** *from* **THE KADENS FAMILY**

Ottawa Hills High School alumni Pete and Amy (Robbins) Kadens ('96, '99) have announced their plans to donate to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation which will make a lasting impact on OH students for generations to come. Their generosity to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is the largest gift to date for the Foundation.

The Kadens family firmly believes in philanthropy and they have donated generously to organizations that aid the homeless and underserved over the last decade in their current hometown of Chicago. Pete is the longtime Chairman of the Board of Streetwise, one of the largest homeless aid agencies in the Midwest. In 2011, Amy founded Share Our Spare, an organization dedicated to fulfilling the needs of low-income families in Chicago by collecting and distributing new and gently-used baby and toddler items.

"Amy and I wish to donate to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation as a way to give back to our former community in recognition of the influence the schools had in helping us become who we are today," Pete said. "We want our donation to benefit the whole student – mind, body, and spirit. We are incredibly indebted to the teachers, coaches, and community members in Ottawa Hills and we feel that this is a great way to repay this debt of gratitude."

The Kadens' donation will have an immediate impact on Ottawa Hills students at every age by opening opportunities and providing new resources that otherwise would not be possible through the district's normal operating budget.

"The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation stands with the Kadens Family in their belief that providing students with life-changing experiences while they are at an impressionable age will help them achieve their potential, instill self-confidence, spark a desire to work hard throughout life, and encourage them to give back to their community when the time is right," said Erica Silk ('89), Director of Development and Alumni Relations. "The Foundation is incredibly grateful for the Kadens' generosity."



INSIDE THE **GIFT**

WHAT THE KADENS' GIFT IS FUNDING

- Construction of a much-needed fitness center at the Junior/Senior High School to include cardio equipment, weight-training areas, open areas for floor exercises, yoga space, and more. The fitness center will support health and physical education curricula, be available to all students and staff, be monitored by trained wellness personnel, and benefit our theater program by giving them back much-needed storage space beside the auditorium stage that has been serving as the schools' only weight room area.
- Establishment of a unique fund to host national and local authors, scholars, speakers, and other experts who will present forums, lectures, interactive dialogue, and educational opportunities to positively impact student growth in learning, leadership, philanthropy, health, and wellness, and more. These visiting experts will bring the world to our northwest Ohio students at both the elementary and junior/senior high schools.



GIVING THANKS

FOUNDATION EVENT CELEBRATES DONORS

THE OTTAWA HILLS SCHOOLS FOUNDATION CELEBRATED FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS THIS FALL DURING ITS ANNUAL DONOR APPRECIATION NIGHT.

Hosted at the Inverness Club, the evening showcased the talents of more than three dozen students, from ukulele-playing elementary school students to high school researchers and members of the Choraliers. Each performance was selected to highlight a program made possible through Foundation grants.

High school biology teacher Jeremy Nixon and senior Abigail Berk spoke of how a gift from ProMedica is advancing student research opportunities.

Elementary students Haley Gibson (sixth grader), Olivia Bridges (sixth grader), Abby Pommeranz (sixth grader), and Alexa Potts (fourth grader) sang and played ukuleles purchased through a Foundation grant designed to enrich and enhance the elementary music curriculum. They were introduced by Courtney Gibson, elementary school teacher.

The Choraliers, led by Vocal Music Director Donna Wipfli, performed three songs. Senior Lauren Rownd spoke on behalf of the Choraliers and thanked supporters for enhancing students' experiences by underwriting events such as performance trips to New York City and Chicago. "Without your generous donations, none of that would have been possible," Lauren said.



If you would like to contribute to the Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77) memorial bench fund, please send contributions to Erica Silk, Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation at esilk@ohschools.org.



INNOVATIVE SCIENCE CLASS PARTNERS WITH PROMEDICA

STUDENTS AT OTTAWA HILLS LOCAL SCHOOLS WITH A PASSION FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CAN TODAY PURSUE THOSE INTERESTS MORE DEEPLY THANKS TO A \$15,000 GRANT FROM PROMEDICA.

The grant has allowed Jeremy Nixon, the district's high school biology teacher, to create a new honors-level class and buy research-quality science equipment. The class helps students learn how to find, read, interpret, and write their own research and become proficient in using modern lab equipment. Finally, it introduces them to leading college researchers and their labs.

The idea for the grant – officially known as “The Honors Scientific Research Class in Partnership with ProMedica” – began about a decade ago when Mr. Nixon was a student himself in a six-week summer program for high school science teachers. That class helped teachers better understand how professional science labs were run and the research equipment and techniques used in them. He was assigned to Bina Joe, Ph.D., a professor in the University of Toledo's Department of Physiology and Pharmacology. Under

her supervision, Mr. Nixon conducted experiments and learned more about the process of scientific inquiry. The time spent with her and in the lab ultimately resulted in a peer-reviewed, published research paper of his own – and the planting of a seed to one day bring the idea to high school students.

“I wanted our kids to be able to walk into the college interview of their dreams and say they had experiences that set them apart even more.”

“The goal was to find a way to bridge the gap between the local research community and our students,” Mr. Nixon said. “I wanted our kids to be able to walk into the college interview of their dreams and say they had experiences that set them apart even more.”

One such student is senior Abigail Berk. Before enrolling in the course, she already had an interest in scientific research inspired by the breast-cancer death of her mother in 2016. Abigail began to read about the genetic origins and triggers of certain breast cancers. With that knowledge, she chose to write her 35,000-word Junior English Project last year on CRISPR, a technology that allows scientists to edit human genomes. She is mentioning that research and her passion for studying cancer in college application essays. “This class has worked into my goals for high school and is propelling me toward my goals in college,” Abigail added.

The equipment, while purchased specifically for the course, is available to any biology student at Ottawa Hills High School. The grant also was used to purchase a refrigerator for storing samples and a freezer capable of storing items at minus-25 degrees Celsius.

Students have toured labs and met researchers. If students do not find a lab match, they still can conduct their own research by using the new equipment. Being able to accurately and safely use the equipment is an important skill when seeking internships or applying to colleges. “Without knowing the techniques ahead of time, the labs won't want us there,” Abigail said.



2017-18 Annual Campaign

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the individuals and organizations who contributed to the 2017 – 2018 Annual Campaign, which ran from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Arrowhead

\$25,000 and above

Larry ('55) and Debby Mindel
William Lange and Glenn Scott –
in memory of Irene A. Aubin

Cupola

\$10,000 and above

ProMedica
John ('54) and Helen ('53) Williams

Mesasa

\$5,000 and above

Owens Corning
Stephen ('66) and Mickey Swigart
Tamara Talmage ('82)

Fellowship of the Crest

\$2,500 and above

Peter ('96) and Amy ('99) Kadens
Faculty and Staff Campaign –
Cynthia Bodziak
Gerry Davis
Jasa and Brian George
Melissa Jankowski
Rita Johnston
Hannah Lehmann
Karen Mayfield
Bill Miller
Kevin Miller
Lynn Sarno
Erica Silk ('89)
Tamara Talmage ('82)
Susan and Gary Wilson
Donna Wipfli
Amy Wolff ('83)
ProMedica Health System on behalf
of Dr. Praveen Tamarisa
Tony and Kim Heldreth

Veni, Vidi, Vici Giving Society

\$1,000 and above

Tom and Betsy ('64) Brady
Sam Carson, Jr. ('68)
Class of 2018
Lucas Dixon ('05) and Bethany Halasz
Jim and Kristi Hoffman
Corey and Sandy Hupp
Brad and Allison Johnson
Bryan and Erica Kelm
James ('62), Heide, and Jonah
('92) Klein – in memory of Dr.
Alexander and Mrs. Charlotte
Klein – parents of: Richard ('50),
Thomas ('53), James ('62); and
grandparents of Deborah ('78),
Daniel ('83), and Jonah ('92)

Veni, Vidi, Vici Giving Society

(Cont.)

Marc Levin and Terrell Allen –
in memory of Dave Larabee
Mohammed Maaieh and Rania Jaouni
Neil's Men's Shop
Norman Niedermeier
John ('99) and Sara Roemer
Todd ('85) and Jenny Seifried
Jim and Erica ('89) Silk
Dennis and Jeni ('78) Tucker
Welltower
Bill ('90) and Kerry Wiley

Victory Bell

\$500 and above

Dr. Edward and Carol Bardi – in honor
of the Byrne (Pam '89), Rownd,
and Kleiser (Susan '85) Families
Eric Barnum ('66)
Christine Brennan ('76)
Class of 1967
Andy and Bethany Dale
Paul Daverio ('88)
David Effler
Andrew Effler ('06)
Bob and Barbara Gatchel
Andrew and Ava Harter
Kim Jordan ('54) – in memory of
Don Sattler and Ethel B. Sager
Joseph Kidd
Gordon ('52) and Marla Levine
Judy McCracken
Benjamin McMurray
and Noreen Hanlon
Phillip and Jane Mintun
Brent and Carol Ponder
Stephen ('63) and Penny ('64) Staelin
– in memory Tiffany E. Staelin ('91)
Joe and Diane Stancati
Denis Stefango ('62) – in memory
of Lou Mulford ('62)
Toledo Community Foundation, Inc.
Matthew Van Tine ('76)
Dr. Richard and Patty Westmeyer
Dr. John and Val Wiley

Green Bear

\$100 and above

Anonymous
Tom and Kate Backoff ('77) – in
memory of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
Steve and Deb Baehren
Jim Bailey ('51) – in honor of Mary
Frank; in memory of Helen and
Tom Bailey and John Bailey
Jim Bailey ('51)
Roger Bell ('65)
Timothy Bosserman ('10)

Green Bear (Cont.)

Renee Bruno ('77) – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
John ('70) and Amy Buckley
James Buckley ('96) – in honor
of William and Jean Buckley
Casey Carver
Tamara Christen ('79)
William Ciralsky
Class of 1957
Stephen ('67) and Debbie Dolgin
Rod and Joan Durgin
Richard Fassler ('59) – in memory
of Paul Schnitker ('59)
Robert Franklin ('61)
Michael and Cathy Gordon
Mary Gunther
Joan Haigh ('49) – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
Chris Hamilton and Maara Fink
Chris and Jeanie Hardman
Cathleen Heidelberg
Carolyn Herman
Joel ('74) and Daryn Hutton
Jagadish Jhunjunwala
Brad and Allison Johnson
John Kendrick ('70)
Chuck Kennedy ('71)
Kindergarten Girls:
Janet (Haunstein) Barwig ('54)
Joan (Black) Davidson ('54)
Carolyn (Mindel) Herman ('54)
Kim (Hielt) Jordan ('54)
Mary (Hill) Liz King ('54)
Sue (York) Steward ('54) – in
honor of Larry Mindel
Gretta Laskey ('63)
George and Kathy Lathrop
Kewal and Neerja Mahajan
Michael ('93) and Kelly McCullough
Jay ('58) and Gloria McGiveran
Michele Mester ('77) – in memory of
Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
Donna Niehous
Stephen Northcraft ('70)
Charles Racine ('55) – in honor
of Larry and Debby Mindel
Seamus Ragan ('90)
Kimberly Ramey ('77)
Kyle and Laura Randall
Bob and Donna Repp
Nancie Howe Entenmann Roberts ('52)
– in honor of the Class of 1952
Tom Roemer ('63) – in memory
of Donald Scott Roemer
Penny Rogers-Geresy – in honor
of Lawrence Geresy
Heidi Schultz ('72)
Tom Seiple ('63)
Jim and Kay Silk, Sr.
Stephen ('63) and Penny ('64) Staelin –
in memory of Amy Oathout ('89)

Green Bear (Cont.)

Stephen ('63) and Penny ('64) Staelin –
in memory of Joanne S. Murtagh
Beth Strater Wahl ('60) – in memory
of Don Strater, Ned Dybvig ('62),
and Jim Acklin ('58)
Nancy and Dan Sturtz
Lionel and Kris Sully
Carol Taft
Tyler Thompson ('07)
Will and Tracy ('88) Tunis
Christine Vischer ('60)
Richard ('73) and Cheri Wolff
Kenneth Wood
Susan White ('77) – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)

Additional Gifts

all other amounts

Barbara Akl ('77) – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
Bush Bailey
Tom ('60) and Karen Baither – in
memory of Eleanor Seifried
Jean Bina ('78)
Athur Brecher – in memory
of Laura Brecher
Richard Cohen ('61)
Ron Cooperman ('61)
Ron and Paula Creed – in memory
of Judith Baron LaValley ('77)
Carolyn Crow Duncan ('59)
Ruth Ann Fleck
Shirley Levy
David G. Morrison ('55) – in
memory of David Melhorn ('55)
Cathy Netter ('77) – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
Nancy Brown Nicholson ('47)
Mark Nickerson ('77) – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
Joan O'Connell – in memory
of Maurice O'Connell
Ann O'Connell ('77) – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
Karen Packer ('77) – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
Charles ('55) and Joyce Racine
Kimberly Ramey ('77) – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
Nancie Howe Entenmann Roberts ('52)
Anne Saxby ('70)
Gordon Schiff ('77) – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)
Hassnaa Semaan
Judd ('74) and Lisa Silverman
Paul Stebing ('72) – in honor
of Walter and Virginia Stebing
Philip Stichter ('56)
Janet Thieman McMillan ('66)
Nan Tobin Webber – in memory
of Betsy Keiser Roarty ('77)



Ottawa Hills Local Schools

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

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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



Like Us On Facebook
Ottawa Hills Local Schools
Alumni Association



Nominate an OH Grad for **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes Ottawa Hills Local Schools attendees who have made a meaningful contribution to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the tradition of excellence at Ottawa Hills.

Nominees will have:

- **Made significant accomplishments** while maintaining high standards in personal integrity and character;
- **Exhibited outstanding leadership** in his or her field;
- **Been of service** to his or her community and humanity through local, state, national, or international organizations; and/or
- **Demonstrated exemplary accomplishments** in the following areas: arts, education, government, science, business, or public service.

NOMINATIONS

If you would like to nominate yourself or an individual for the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award, please complete the online application found at:

ohschoolsfoundation.org/distinguishedalumni.php.

Nominations will be considered by a committee of Ottawa Hills alumni, faculty, and district officials. The Distinguished Alumni recipients will be recognized on Friday, September 20, 2019 at a dinner reception and during the half-time ceremonies of the home football game that evening.

Nominations may be emailed to Erica Silk at esilk@ohschools.org or mailed to Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, 3600 Indian Road, Ottawa Hills, OH 43606.

Applications for the 2019 award must be received by January 1, 2019.

Open for MORE NEWS from
AROUND THESE HILLS!