

# *Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame*



**Dr. Dawn Mitzner Laporte**  
*Class of 1987*

Dawn Mitzner LaPorte was a scholar from a young age. As a high school junior, she was commended by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, and as a senior she was a Westinghouse Science runner-up who also was named the 1987 Watchung Hills Valedictorian. After graduation, Dawn was accepted at MIT, where she was a pre-med major and found time to be elected as the Senior Class President. After graduation from college, she attended Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where she was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. Dawn found a home at JHU, and she attained a global reputation with many marvelous surgical contributions to her name.

Dr. LaPorte is the second woman ever to be a full professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She has been the Johns Hopkins Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program Director for the past 16 years and currently serves as the Vice Chair for Education. She has committed her waking hours to researching and contributing to the cutting edge techniques to repair hands, and has performed miracles in the operating room. Dr. LaPorte co-founded Woman in Orthopaedics Worldwide which counts its members from over sixty countries on six continents. She has served as Vice Chair of ACGME Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Review Committee and is viewed as a global expert in hand surgery. In fact, Dr. LaPorte was a leader on the surgical team who completed the first bilateral hand transplant in the United States. Over her career, she has authored over one hundred peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. LaPorte was voted Teacher of the Year by the orthopaedic residents and received the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award. This extraordinary surgeon was awarded the Johns Hopkins Orthopaedic Surgery Greatest Influence on the Residents Faculty Award, and the ASSH Emmanuel Kaplan Award for Anatomic Excellence. In her various roles, Dr. LaPorte served as a mentor to countless medical students who were unsure of their specialization and many who arrived in Baltimore committed to learning more about hand surgery. She helped to foster greater engagement in the medical Orthopaedic Interest Group activities. Dr. LaPorte also finds time to serve on the steering committee for the Women in Hand Surgery Organization, and she has led their efforts to fund two hand surgery fellowships. For the past four years, Dr. LaPorte has also been named one of Baltimore Magazine's "Top Doctors."