



## Celebrating Title IX and a Few VCS Athletes who Experienced Its Impact

Fifty years ago, on June 23, 1972, Title IX of the education amendments of 1972 was enacted into law. Title IX prohibited federally funded educational institutions from discriminating against students or employees based on sex. In essence, Title IX was established to provide everyone with equal access to any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance, including sport.

After Title IX was established in 1972, girls sports took off at VCS! Before Title IX, one in 27 girls played sports. Today that number is two in five. Victor's first official girls sports teams were basketball and "baseball" in '71-'72. Both teams were led by Coach Sitzman. Today, VCS girls engage in 16 different organized sports teams across three seasons - fall, winter, and spring. In this E-Alumni edition, you can read about some amazing Victor athletes (Fran (Carra) Bowe, Hannah (Sharp) Morton and Sue (Caulkins) Sharp) who competed before, during and after the momentous Title IX was enacted.

*"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."*

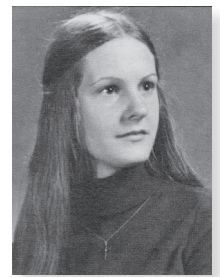
– Federal Title IX Law



Frances (Carra)  
Bowe '49



Hannah (Sharp)  
Morton '04



Sue (Caulkins)  
Sharp '76



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## How One VCS Family Symbolizes the Impact of Title IX

By Mark Emmons



Fran Bowe had the best time at Victor Central School. She was a double-cartwheel-performing cheerleader and a baton-twirling marching band majorette. She played clarinet in the orchestra, performed in plays, participated in intramural sports, and made lifelong friends.

She had done it all by the time she graduated in 1949. Well, almost. Fran never got to play varsity sports.

"Basketball probably would have been my best sport," said Fran, who recently turned 91. "I really like that one. But I didn't feel like I missed out because we didn't have sports for girls. It was just a different time."

In the years since then, she has been a pillar in the VCS community as a supportive mother and grandmother of a remarkable line of Blue Devil athletes – boys and girls. Of her seven children and 16 grandchildren, 10 have either been inducted into or were part of championship teams honored by the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame. Along the way, they also accumulated other accolades, including Athlete of the Year awards, state titles, countless Sectional crowns, collegiate sports careers, and coaching tenures. The extended Bowe clan, spanning three generations, is arguably the first family of Victor athletics.

That success stretches outside Upstate New York. Granddaughter Brittany Bowe, the daughter of Mike Bowe (VCS '79), who grew up in Ocala, Fla., won a bronze medal in speedskating at this year's Beijing Olympic Games. Yet Fran is more proud that Brittany was a U.S. flagbearer during the Opening Ceremony for her act of sportsmanship when she gave up a guaranteed spot in another event to a friend who had slipped during the Olympic Trials.

The Bowe family is also something else: a microcosm of the lasting impact of the landmark 1972 Title IX federal legislation that outlawed discrimination in school sports based on gender. That law fueled the

explosive growth of girls and women's athletics over the last 50 years and is a crucial reason why the women in Fran's family enjoyed the opportunities she never had.

And Fran has spent her life cheering them on.

"She's the rock of our family," said Nina Bowe Kahovec (VCS '77). "Our mom and dad always encouraged us to be active. Not only were we all three- and four-sport athletes, but my sisters and I were involved in band, chorus, musicals, and more. We were never told we could not participate in anything, and our parents were always at our sports events. But my mom is really special."

As daughters Nina and Julie Bowe Vanderstyne (VCS '78) bragged on her during a recent phone interview, Fran listened from her Pumpkin Hook home.

"If you say so," she said, laughing.

Frances Carra Bowe grew up on Main Street when Victor was an ideal representation of small-town America. Her brothers Joseph Carra (VCS '44) and Dominic Carra (VCS '46) were sports stars and are in the Athletic Hall of Fame. (Sense a pattern yet?) During Fran's time in high school, the school published the first Bagel yearbook, and her class had a grand total of 32 graduates.

As she and her husband, Bill Bowe Sr. (VSC '50), began raising their family, it became clear their children would be gifted athletes. Genetics likely has something to do with that. Fran's husband, who passed away in 2020, golfed, played softball, and joined his wife in a bowling league as an adult. But something else was at work. The kids were constantly outside playing together and pushing one another to be better. Games were family events with the boys and girls competing for bragging rights. When it came to baseball on a patchwork field next to their house, the parents joined them.

"Dad would pitch, and mom would bat left-handed even though she threw right-handed," Nina recalled. "If you hit the ball into the cornfields in our backyard, it was a home run. We were never told as girls that we couldn't play because we kept up with the boys. That's what happens when you grow up with brothers. We always played together— even tackle football."

When Title IX passed, oldest daughter Caralee Bowe Ahonen (VCS '73) was already following in her mother's footsteps as a cheerleader. But a few years later,

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*Fran Bowe and family at her 91st Birthday.  
Courtesy of Maureen Kahovec.*



*1949 BAGEL Yearbook*



*1949 BAGEL Yearbook*

Nina and Julie were standouts on some of the first Blue Devils girls' teams – part of an early wave of female athletes that became a national tsunami.

Consider that in 1971-72, 294,015 girls participated in high school sports, according to the Women's Sports Foundation. By 2018-19, that number had skyrocketed to 3,402,793. Also, women's participation in college sports has increased to 44% of all NCAA athletes compared to 15% pre-Title IX.

Today, we have the WNBA and the popular U.S. women's national soccer team. At the Olympics, U.S. female athletes carry their male counterparts. Women played a role in winning 17 of the 25 medals earned by U.S. athletes at the 2022 Winter Olympics and claimed more than 58% of Team USA's total at the Tokyo Summer Olympics in 2021.

The ripple effect goes well beyond sports. Today, girls have the same chance as boys to learn lessons on sports fields that can serve them well later in life, like teamwork, perseverance, and dealing with adversity.

Yet Nina and Julie said they weren't even sure they knew what Title IX was back then.

"The teams were just there when we got to high school, and we wanted to play," Julie said.

Added Nina: "It wasn't until we were adults that we truly appreciated the impact of Title IX on our lives."

Their parents did everything to ensure the kids played whatever they wanted. Because Bill Sr. often traveled as he built golf courses around New York state, Fran became the unofficial chauffeur. She ferried the children (and other neighborhood kids) multiple times each day on the 16-mile round trip to the school for practices in their trusty station wagon. Sometimes, they attended games four nights a week.

"It kept me young," Fran said. "I loved watching all of the kids, but I definitely was very proud of the girls."

When Brittany won her Olympic medal this year in China, Fran was awake in the middle of the night and texting with the rest of the family as they celebrated. She doesn't get to VCS games these days, but it's because there's a pause in the high school sports action for her family. The great-grandchildren are all under the age of 4.

But she remains active. Fran, who has missed only one VCS alumni dinner since she graduated, still drives

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everywhere. She likes to walk at Eastview Mall and rides an exercise bike while watching TV shows like “Jeopardy!” and her beloved New York Yankees.

“She’s very active, and I think that has been the key to a long, healthy life,” Nina added. “She’s always out and about. She’s just so positive and doesn’t like to sit around much. I always say I hope I have her genes because she has not slowed down.”

Fran is much more than the heart of a mini-sports dynasty. She’s the epitome of a life well-lived.

“We are very, very proud of our mom,” Nina said. “She’s awesome.”

### ***Three Generations Recognized by the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame***

*Joseph Carra* (VCS ’44)

*Dominic Carra* (VCS ’46)

*David Ahonen* (Son-in-law) (VCS ’73)

*Nina Bowe Kahovec* (VCS ’77)

– ’76-’77 Girls Basketball Team

*Julie Bowe Vanderstyne* (VCS ’78)

– Individual and ’76-’77 Girls Basketball Team

*Mike Bowe* (VCS ’79)

*Bill Bowe* (VCS ’82)

*Jay Jay Vanderstyne* (VCS ’04)

– Individual and ’04 State Champion Baseball Team

*Eddie Kahovec* (VCS ’04)

– ’04 State Champion Baseball Team

*Bethany Bowe* (VCS ’04)

– ’03-’04 State Champion Girls Volleyball Team

*Carra Vanderstyne* (VCS ’06)

– ’03-’04 State Champion Girls Volleyball Team

*David Michael Ahonen, Jr.* (VCS ’07)

– ’04 State Champion Baseball Team

*Jenee Vanderstyne* (VCS ’09)

## **Success On and Off the Court Hannah (Sharp) Morton, '04**

Hannah Morton’s athletic career may have begun at VCS, but it took her to some pretty amazing destinations, from a competitive Division 1 career to a successful career in finance.



### ***What did you do after you graduated from VCS?***

I attended the University of Louisville my freshman year on a volleyball scholarship before transferring to the University of Oklahoma to continue playing on a volleyball scholarship.

Both schools had high caliber

D1 volleyball programs, making it to the Sweet 16 my freshman and junior years. After graduating from OU with a dual major in Finance and International Business, I started my career with BOK Financial in 2009. I spent the first year in their training program, rotating through various departments gaining an understanding of different career paths. This helped direct my career within Institutional Wealth, focusing on providing services to Employer Sponsored Retirement Plans. After living and working in various states, I returned to the Finger Lakes region with my family and live in Honeoye.

### ***What sports did you play at VCS?***

Volleyball was my main sport, but I also played basketball and softball at VCS before transitioning to only volleyball after my sophomore year.

### ***How did Title IX impact your life?***

Title IX afforded me lots of opportunities, from a college education, to developing life skills, and traveling overseas. With Title IX being passed before I was born, leagues and competitive travel programs were established and readily available. The obstacle wasn’t finding a team, but which sport to pursue. I’m very thankful to the generations before me that fought for women’s sports which created those opportunities.

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## What VCS teachers and/or classes influenced you the most?

Physical Education teacher and Coach Shelly Collins was my biggest influence at VCS. She coached me in varsity volleyball for five years and instilled fortitude, hard work, and self-confidence within her players. She demonstrated integrity while also advocating to ensure women's sports at VCS got equal consideration and representation. She was a force and role model, commanding excellence from her students and players. I am forever grateful to have played under her leadership during my time at VCS.

## How did your VCS education prepare you for life?

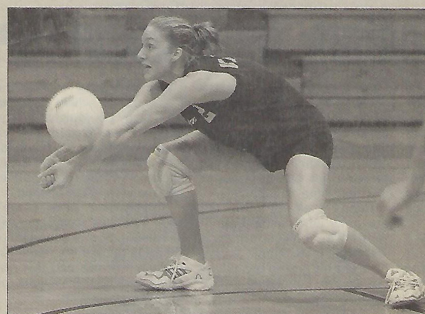
VCS provided me a strong education that prepared me for college and gave me a sense of community. After graduating I realized how fortunate I was for going to a school that promoted a diverse education with its courses, arts, athletics, and social programs.

## What advice would you give to future VCS graduates?

My advice to graduates would be to explore and try a variety of things. Experiences shape you and can change the direction you thought you wanted since life, careers, and sports rarely unfold in a straight, well-planned out line.

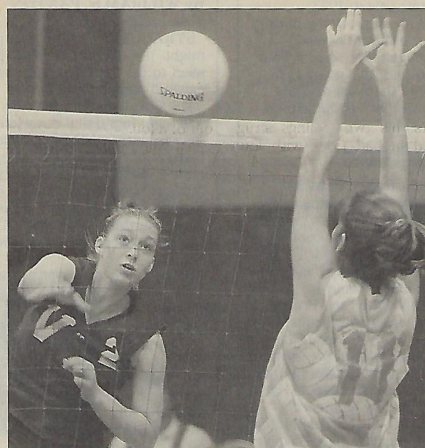
## Athletes in action

Photos by Jack Haley



Victor's Hannah Sharp digs out a hit from Canandaigua in game three of last Wednesday's showdown at CA. The Blue Devils won, 3-2.

## Blue Devils move on



Messenger Post photo by Jack Haley

Victor's Hannah Sharp, left, hits a shot past Livonia's Michelle Orman during last night's Section V Class B pool play match at Canandaigua Academy. Sharp had 23 kills and teammate Nicole Reed had 13 kills and five blocks as the Blue Devils advanced to tomorrow's sectional finals at SUNY Geneseo with 2-0 wins over the Bulldogs, Geneva and Aquinas. Victor's Kelli Thon added 27 assists. The Blue Devils will play Livonia against for the championship. Canandaigua Academy and Bloomfield will also be playing for sectional titles tomorrow. The Braves and the defending state-champion Bombers advanced earlier in the week.

**SUNDAY MESSENGER** **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2003**

**Glenn McCarthy**  
FOR THE RECORD

## One Devil of a day

Victor defeats Corning West to win its first state girls volleyball championship.

By GLENN MCCARTHY  
glennmccarthy@timesunion.com

CORNING — They ousted the defending state champs, won a four-set one-game playoff, and averaged a pair of three-kill rallies.

It just didn't seem like it was, but if this was the way to win a state championship, the Victor girls volleyball team did it with panache. The Blue Devils beat Corning-Painted Post West 25-18, 25-20, 25-20 on Saturday in the state final at SUNY Cortland, claiming the New York State Public High School Class B crown for the first time in school history.

"It's unbelievable and amazing," said Victor senior Hannah Sharp, in her fifth year on the team. "It feels so good to end on a win, after all those years, just to end on a win."

The Blue Devils set up the state title with their backs against the wall, winning straight during Friday's pool play, beginning with a streak of three straight victories over the defending state champs. They had streaked continued on Saturday, as Victor trounced Corning West, the Section V champs, with virtually flawless play.

Out of all games played in the championship match, Victor trailed for only five of them.

"I knew it was going to be a battle. I never thought we'd win in three," said Victor head coach Shelly Collins. "They're such a good team, so well-coordinated, and so athletic. But there was no slipping in our consistency."

Sharp, a first-team all-state selection a season ago who will play at NCAA

Victor outside hitter Hannah Sharp had 11 kills and four blocks in the championship match against Corning West.

Victor's Livonia were serious, and Victor with 11 kills on Saturday and four blocks. Her performance was highlighted by equally strong performances from senior co-captain Bethany Bower (five kills), and juniors Caitlin Richard

**THE VICTOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM CELEBRATES WINNING ITS FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.**

was (four kills, seven blocks), Sarah Carney (four kills), and sophomore Lisa Napolitano (25 assists).

"We called as a team, and tried to set a goal that they were not expecting," said Bower. "They really dropped it up, you know, toward the end of the day, but we knew we had a fight ahead of us."

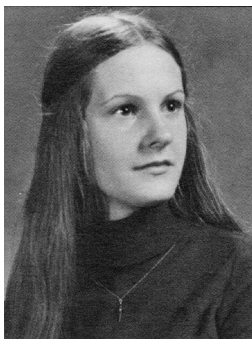
Victor took charge from the match's opening points, taking a 10-5 lead early in the first game and keeping the Vikings at a distance. Sharp closed out the game with an emphatic kill, giving Victor the 25-18 win.

"We talked about winning that first set, because we thought that if it was a close game, we could come out."

**ON CHAMPS** >>>



## Title IX: Transforming Athletics and Careers



### *Sue (Caulkins) Sharp, '76*

Sue (Caulkins) Sharp has worn many hats in her lifetime, as student, athlete, teacher, mother, business owner and Chief Financial Officer, but under each of those hats was a powerful driving force - Title IX. When Title IX was enacted in

1972 it gave Sharp more than just a uniform, it gave her a scholarship to college – the first ever awarded to a female athlete at Victor. Title IX also gave her, and thousands of women like her, opportunities in women's sports which helped develop her in competition, risk taking, teamwork, leadership, drive, and time management, all characteristics that she utilized in her career and life.

### *What did you do after you graduated from VCS?*

After VCS, I attended Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky on a volleyball scholarship. I graduated with a dual certification to teach math and physical education.

My first job after graduation from MSU was teaching math and coaching girls' high school soccer as well as junior high girls' basketball. After teaching one year, I wanted to pursue a different path, so I resigned and explored other career opportunities. I landed a general office job with Monroe Tree and Landscape which after working one season was promoted to work along with one of the VPs in managing their financial books. I thoroughly enjoyed this career but when I started my family, I made the decision to be a stay-at-home mom.

While I was home with the kids, the Sharp family started a Christmas Tree Farm as a side business. The entire family helped in the fields, and I managed the books. We operated the Christmas tree farm until the kids started to be involved with traveling sports and other activities. Once my youngest was going

to school, I partnered with two other friends and started a business called Craft Emporium. We then jumped at the opportunity to have a Card & Gift Shop in downtown Victor. We operated the gift shop for several years, met wonderful business contacts and customers!

After several years, we decided to close shop and I was planning out my next career path when a friend approached me wanting me to assist him in with his startup company. It was a totally different market, and I wore many different hats for his new business but managing the books was the primary role. Soon the business took off and this small business of four employees became 150 employees. I had a fabulous 25-year career as CFO and then in 2020 made the decision to retire.



### *How Did Your Sports Story Unfold Under Title IX?*

At VCS I played soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, and badminton.

At Morehead State Univ, I played volleyball. I had a

4-year scholarship at MSU, and I believe I was the first women at VCS to receive a scholarship. It was unheard of for women to receive scholarships until Title IX. My story on obtaining the volleyball scholarship is unusual. Back then, recruiters were not knocking on my door or calling me like you see today. I credit Carol Martin, my Physical Education Teacher, for showing me an opportunity! She was reading a sports magazine that listed 9-10 colleges who are now offering women scholarships. She encouraged me to reach out to them,



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but I was really shy and unsure. She convinced me that I had nothing to lose so I selected three schools and contacted the Volleyball coaches. After several phone calls and letters, I narrowed down to wanting to attend Morehead State. The coach never saw me play in person so to assess my skills she sent me a VHS tape to record some drills as well as some clips of a game. I was soon offered a Volleyball Scholarship and had a wonderful career at Morehead. I was a starter all 4 years, named to the KY State All Team 3 years and named into Morehead's Hall of Fame and Victor's Hall of Fame.



Title IX had a huge impact to my college and athletic years!

## *How did you view Title IX's Impact on Women's Sports?*

Looking back at my high school years, here is how I personally saw Title IX impact women's

sports immediately in high school term. We were given uniforms and no longer had to wear our gym suit and a pinnie. We were given equal time in the utilization of the High School gym. Before Title IX, the girls had to practice and play matches in the Intermediate gym, which is much smaller than the High School gym. With Title IX, the Athletic Director had to manage a schedule that gave the girls equal practice time and matches in the main High School gym. Sectionals became part of the women's post season schedule. The local newspaper was starting to give attention to women's sports. BUT the most impact of Title IX was it opened opportunity in women's sports which help develop women in competition, risk taking, teamwork, leadership, drive, and time management. All characteristics that I utilized in my career!

## *What VCS teachers and/or classes inspired you?*

As to who inspired me the most at VCS. First, Carol Martin. She was my Physical Education teacher who I felt was ahead of her time. She was innovative, strong, and resourceful. Her encouragement and belief in me pushed me to take the risk and put myself out there. She established a Girls Leaders Club at Victor which was my first experience of working in an organization to promote girl activities and leadership skills. Second would be Frank Rychlik who was my softball coach for 2 years. I credit him for developing my competitive edge, pushing me to another level and tackling challenges head on. Lastly, Deb Lehman who coached me in all four sports. She was always standing up for girls' having equal rights. Change from Title IX wasn't fast and furious but slow and steady. At that time, she was the only coach and voice for women's sports amongst the men. Within three years of my high school years I noticed, girls' sports came from wearing pinnies to establishing Varsity and JV teams with home and away uniforms, equal time at the high school gym and a much more robust sports schedule.



**I'll take it**

Allison Ruger (in white) of Geneva and Sue Caulkins of Victor seem to be arguing over who is going to get the ball during action yesterday at Geneva High where the host Panthers scored a 51-29 decision in a battle of unbeaten Class A-B Finger Lakes girls basketball teams. Geneva won its seventh straight game. (Times photo by Art Foxall).

## *How did VCS and sports prepare you for work and life?*

VCS offered me a wonderful education. I was well prepared to handle the college course work and develop self-confidence. Playing sports helped me develop time management

skills, face challenges and be a well-rounded person. The one area that I didn't have exposure when in high school

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is cultural differences. I grew up with Victor being 99% white and a farming community so interacting with numerous cultures in college was a new and growing experience for me.

### *What advice would you give to a current VCS student athlete?*

- Pick a school that aligns to your career path and your sport.
- Decide what level matches your playing expectations. For example, in volleyball you might be 5'6" and an outstanding spiker for your high school but at Division 1 level the spikers are 6'3" or taller and can jump. So, if playing time is very important to you, align your skills to the appropriate level.
- Execute on time management. Try to take your difficult courses during your off season. Off season schedule can be busy, too. At large schools you will have to include time for recruitment, weight training and community service
- Don't be a gym rat. Explore different clubs and activities.
- Take advantage of opportunities such as internships, study abroad.
- Connect with your professors. They are a great resource and excellent for references.

*To learn more about the history of Title IX go to:*

<https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/advocacy/history-of-title-ix/>

# Then and Now

## Girls Sports Uniforms

Staying with the theme of Title IX, here is an example of how girls uniforms have evolved over the last 40+ years. Tennis from 1976 and 2022. It took some time for girls uniforms to catch up to what the boys were getting.

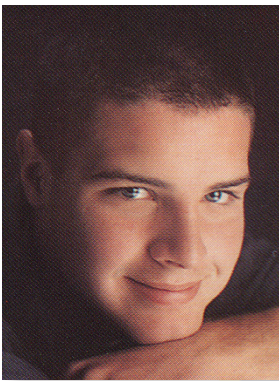




# Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2022 Honored

On Wednesday, October 5, 2022, the Victor Central School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee inducted one former coach and three former athletes into the prestigious VCS Athletic Hall of Fame during a special ceremony at Ravenwood Country Club. Former football coach, Jim Haugh, and former athletes Michelle Prong ('10), Kevin Suhr ('97) and Jay Jay Vanderstyne ('04) were honored for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the Victor Central Schools Athletics Program.

Duanne Weimer, VCS Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics said, "We respect the rich history and traditions of the Victor Blue Devils' Athletics Program. By inducting these individuals into the Athletic Hall of Fame, we are thanking them for the contributions that they have made to our program, and through recognition, those individuals and their families will be reconnected with Victor Central School providing current student athletes with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the history of Blue Devils' Athletics."



**KEVIN SUHR**  
**CLASS OF 1997**

*Cross Country, Football,  
Track & Field, Wrestling*

#### *Wrestling Accolades:*

- 1997 AAU All American Wrestling (4th in country)
- First Victor wrestler to ever place in sectionals for 4 years.
- 3x sectional finalist for wrestling and 4x place finisher
- Finger Lakes first team 3 years and 2nd team for 1 year
- Cadet wrestling freestyle state champion
- 100 Varsity Career wins in wrestling

#### *Track & Field Accolades:*

- Victor 5k champion for high school division 2 straight years
- Sectional champion in 4x8 relay
- League Champion in 800m, 4x8 and 4x4 relays

*1997 Ed Ahonen Award Recipient*



**MICHELLE PRONG**  
**CLASS OF 2010**

*Softball*

#### *Softball Accolades:*

- Daily Messenger Softball All League First team 4 years
- Finger Lakes Softball First Team Honors all 5 years
- NYSSWA Softball First Team All-State 2009 & 2010
- All Greater Rochester Softball Team 2 years 2007, 2009
- Birds Eye Player of the Week Twice
- Inducted into the NYS Softball Hall of Fame in 2018
- AGR Player of the year 2010
- NYSSWA & Coaches Organization for Girls Sports 2015 Scholar Athlete of the Year
- 2015 Heart of the Hokie Award, Virginia Tech Athletics
- 2015 Virginia Tech Scholar Athlete of the Year

#### *Leadership & Service:*

- Aug. 2019-Present Ambassador, Office of Academic Development and Alumni Relations, University of Rochester School of Medicine, Rochester, NY
- Virginia Tech Athletics 2015 ACC Top Six for Service Award





**JAY JAY VANDERSTYNE**  
**CLASS OF 2004**

*Football, Basketball,  
Baseball*



**JIM HAUGH**  
**1991 - 2010**

*Football Coach*

*High School Football:*

- 2002-03 League Champion
- 2003-04 League Champion, Sectional Champion, State Final 4, Finger Lakes MVP, Finger Lakes All Star, All Greater Rochester 1st team, Daily Messenger 1st team, Eddie Meath All-Star

*High School Basketball:*

- 2003-04 League Champion (first since 1979)

*High School Baseball:*

- 2001-02 League Champion, Sectional Champion
- 2002-03 League Champion, Finger Lakes East All-Star
- 2003-04 League Champion, Sectional Champion, State Champion, Finger Lakes East All-Star

*2004 Barney Lynaugh Award Recipient*

*Football Coaching Accolades:*

- Record: 120-50-2; 8 League Titles
- 9 Sectional Final Appearances
- Sectional Championships: 2000 & 2003
- Western Regional Championships: 2000 & 2003
- Served as League Chairperson
- 9 Finger Lakes East League Coach of the Year Awards
- 9 Ontario Honda Coaching Awards
- 2000 AGR Coach of the Year
- 2017 Section V Football Hall of Fame Inductee

*Other:*

- SUNY Cortland Assistant Coach
- Wayne State Assistant Coach
- Ice Hockey Official for 20+ Years
- Presently the East Rochester Superintendent of Schools



*Upper photo left to right: Jay Jay Vanderstyne '04,  
Michelle Prong '10, and Coach Jim Haugh  
Inset photo: Kevin Suhr '97*



# ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

## Nominations Sought

### JUNE 2ND DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS

Victor Central School District is seeking nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame Program. Any individual can nominate a potential candidate by completing a Hall of Fame nomination application. Applications can be completed on-line via [www.victorschools.org/athletics/ahof](http://www.victorschools.org/athletics/ahof). Paper copies can also be picked up at Victor's Athletic Director, Duane Weimer's office located in the Senior High School.

Through nomination and committee selection, the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame will recognize individuals who fall under any of the following categories:

#### **ATHLETES**

*Individuals who were athletes in the Victor Senior High School and have been graduated a minimum of ten years.*

#### **COACHES**

*Individuals who have made a significant and extraordinary contribution to the Victor Athletic program.*

#### **HONORARY**

*An honorary candidate must have made a significant impact on Victor athletics and/or on sectional, regional, state, national, professional, administration or international levels of athletes. The honorary category may include but not be limited to counselors, faculty managers, scoreboard/book operators, cheerleading coaches, as well as local community supporters.*

Inductees will be chosen by the VCS Hall of Fame Committee which is comprised of eight voting members representing coaching staff, administration, Board of Education, students and/or community residents. The Athletic Director will serve as a non-voting permanent member of the Committee.

The Hall of Fame was established in order to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding athletes, coaches, administrators and Blue Devil supporters. Through recognition, those individuals and their families will be reconnected with Victor Central School providing current student athletes with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the history of Blue Devil athletes.

Honorees selected for the annual Athletic Hall of Fame will be announced prior to August 1st along with an announcement of the planned celebration event.

*For more information on the Athletic Hall of Fame program, please contact Duane Weimer, VCS Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics at (585) 924-3252 ext. 1460 or [weimerd@victorschools.org](mailto:weimerd@victorschools.org).*

*The Victor Hall of Fame was founded in 1999 as a way to:*

- Recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding athletes, coaches and Blue Devil supporters.
- Reconnect those individuals and their families with Victor Central School.
- Deepen the current student-athlete understanding and appreciation for the history of the Blue Devil athletes by seeking their participation.



# VCS Honors 2022 Graduate of Distinction, Dr. Laura A. Lane

Dr. Laura A. Lane (Class of 1895) was formally named Victor Central School District's 2022 Graduate of Distinction during a special recognition ceremony at the Board of Education meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2022.

Dr. Lane, a pioneer cancer researcher and physician, was nominated posthumously by Victor Town Historian, Babette Huber in 2020, but due to Covid restrictions, Dr. Lane was not inducted into the prestigious class of graduates until this fall.

After she graduated from Victor High School in 1895, Laura Lane went to live with an aunt in Ann Arbor, Michigan where she attended the University of Michigan and graduated from the Michigan Medical School. She soon became one of the first women to do cancer research there. In 1924 she was awarded the Knapp Memorial prize for her research work in the use of radium for the treatment of the eye.

In 1936 Dr. Lane reported at the clinical congress of the American College of Surgeons that "... an analysis of about 100,000 cases of cancer showed a markedly higher occurrence among individuals subject to continuous bright sunlight ... and in patients following recovery from influenza."

Sometime in her career (date unknown) Dr. Lane had to retire because of radium damage to her hands. She eventually came back to her childhood home in Victor.

In addition to sharing Lane's story at the Board recognition ceremony, Huber engaged the Senior High Medical Explorers Club with a presentation on Dr. Lane. The Medical Explorers Club is comprised of Victor Senior High School students interested in careers in the medical field.



*Babette Huber along with  
the Medical Explorers Club*



*Graduate of Distinction  
Committee members Katie  
Lew '05, Brian Champan  
'07, Babette Huber, Board  
members Kristen Elliott, and  
Christopher Parkes.*



*Babette Huber  
and Superintendent  
Tim Terranova*

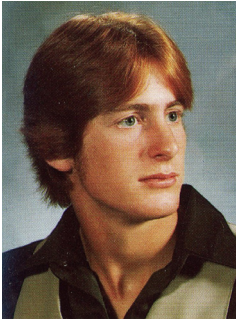


VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS  
**Graduate of Distinction**



## VCS Educational Foundation Launched New Alumni Podcast in June

*Submitted by Keith Partington (VCS '79),  
VCS Educational Foundation Alumni  
Connections Committee*



*Bob Drete '81*

Historically, alumni needed to wait five or ten years for the traditional reunion event to catch up with their classmates.

The annual alumni association banquet has also been a great way to connect with alumni from multiple classes over the past 125 years. Countless alumni also enjoyed homecoming weekend or the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at local alumni-owned establishments including McGhan's and the Black Diamond.

The rise of the internet has made it easier to stay connected with VCS alumni. Our VCS Community Relations team has published a fantastic twice-annual electronic newsletter. If you are reading this article, you, like me, are a huge fan of that amazing publication. Two years ago, our VCS Educational Foundation sponsored a LinkedIn Group for students, alumni, staff, and retirees. If you have a LinkedIn account, enter Victor Central School Alumni and Staff in the search box on the upper right menu and click the blue request to join button. This past year, Kay Cotton (VCS '64), President of the VCS Alumni Association sponsored



*Bob Drete '81*

a Facebook group page. You can search for Victor Central School Alumni Association, Victor, NY and click on request to join.

In March, the VCS Educational Foundation sponsored a new alumni podcast, "Where have they been, where are they now?" Bob Drete (VCS '81) hosts the audio streaming interview format. Drete graduated from Westminster College in 1984 with a degree in Computer Science. He became a consultant for General Electric and worked with Kodak where he was awarded a software patent. Drete founded his own company, Bytronics, Inc. in 1990. His software dispatching application is utilized by more than 250 utility companies, pipelines and municipalities throughout the United States and Canada. Bob was a three-sport Blue Devil athlete and was inducted into the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019.

Bob's awesome inaugural podcast interview was recorded with Norma Weissend (VCS '74). The foundation for Norma's incredible life journey from her VCS early roots was set in 1963, when she and the first four of her seven siblings moved into their new home on Tareyton Drive, as one of the first families in the Victorwood subdivision. Norma thrived at VCS

as both a student and athlete in our community. She teamed with VCS players and coaches to successfully pioneer a set of firsts alongside the enactment of Title IX in 1972 for the thousands of student-athletes that followed including fifty-nine female inductees in the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame.

Unable to play youth sports due to program unavailability, she polished her basketball skills in a neighbor's driveway until finally, VCS offered a girls basketball team during her eighth-grade year in 1969/1970. Her VCS athletic run started with an under-funded uniform combination of gym suit and pinnies and ended with the first official uniform her senior year in blue shorts and white t-shirts with gold numbers. Her team finished that memorable season with 17-1 record, their only loss coming in Victor's first-ever Section Five finals game against Alexander Central. Norma, along with Sharon Duffy (VCS '75) were named to the first-ever Section Five Class B girls' All-Star team. Norma's leadership skills were off and running when she graduated in 1974 with 146 classmates. She received a degree in mathematics from Potsdam State, starting as a first-year student on the woman's basketball team, until the demands to financially work her way through school ended her dynamic school athletic career.

After college, Norma entered officer training school and served four years of active duty in the United States Air Force. She added a meteorology major from Texas A&M to her studies and moved into a remarkably interesting role as a weather officer. We are thankful for Norma's service that

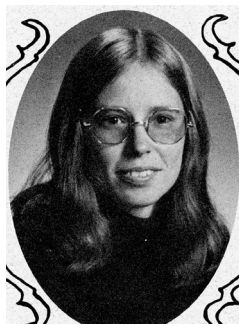
also included a twenty-year career as an intelligence officer in the United States Air National Guard, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Norma's civilian career is full of skills and experiences in education and technology. She taught at VCS for two years, worked for the BOCES Educational Technology Center to automate the school libraries in our area, and retired from Williamson Law Book Company in a role where she trained and installed their payroll application for municipal government customers.

Norma is now super busy in retirement. When she is not on the golf course, she supports two veteran service organizations including the American Legion and the Military Officers Association of America. She also sponsors an annual memorial golf tournament in memory of her son Mike who passed away in 2013.

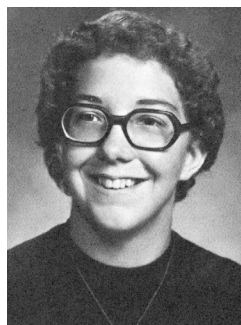
Bob will be hosting four podcast episodes a year. We are excited for Bob's next podcast interview with Tom Turner (VCS '90) which will be available later this year. You can access the audio file or PDF transcript of all podcasts at <https://vcsef.com/vcs-alumni-podcast-where-have-they-been-where-are-they-now>. Thanks for your continued interest in this extensive range of VCS alumni connection programs.



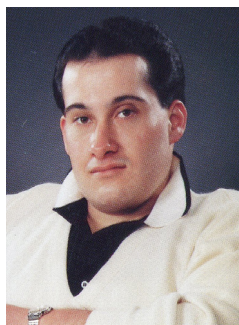
*Kay Cotton '64*



*Norma Weissend '74*

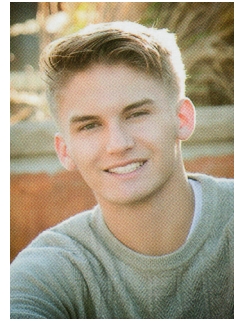


*Sharon Duffy '75*



*Tom Turner '90*

## Alumni Sighting at VCS



### *Caleb Choate, Class of 2017*

Caleb Choate returned to Victor Senior High School this past month as the College Representative from Houghton college at the WNY College Consortium! "It is always exciting when our alumni return to help our current Victor students in their college and career search." said Mary Banaszak, Coordinator of Counseling K-12 and School Counselor at VSH.





## From Music to Mars!



### *Gabriel Gowman, Class of 2018*

VCS alumnus Gabriel (Gabe) Gowman was best known

for his musical talents at VCS, playing in the marching band, the drumline's front ensemble, orchestra, and musicals, so when VCS learned that he participated in The University Rover Challenge (URC), the world's premier robotics competition for college students, we took note, but not the music kind!

### *What did you do after you graduated from VCS?*

After I graduated from VCS in 2018, and went to the University of Michigan. This past spring, I graduated with my BS in Physics and Astronomy, and am now taking classes and getting involved in Planetary Science research at the University of Arizona before (hopefully) heading into a PhD program in Planetary Science.

### *What is the University Rover Challenge?*

Each June, teams from universities around the world come to the Mars Desert Research Station in Hanksville, Utah to participate in the University Rover Challenge (URC). For this competition, each team designs and builds a rover that

can accomplish a variety of tasks, including performing scientific analysis, carrying heavy loads, locating signposts autonomously, and finely maneuvering a gripping hand with fine motor skills. Every year, the Michigan Mars Rover Team (MRover) prepares a brand-new rover for this competition.

I was a part of MRover's science branch from the beginning of my time at Michigan and became the branch lead in my senior year. My job was to research and select different tests that the rover could run to determine whether soil samples contained any signs of life. This was both exciting and challenging for me, as astrobiology was an unfamiliar topic for me in my typical studies.

For URC 2022, our goal was to beat our previous record of seventh place and hopefully aim for a podium finish. In the end, we were rewarded for our efforts with the team's first ever 1st-place finish! We also went for the first time to the Canadian International Rover Challenge (CIRC) in August 2022, simply trying out a new competition for us to test our rover but naturally aiming to do the best we could. The new leadership team took over for this competition, and the former leadership (including me) operated as advisors as we made slight adjustments to our URC rover for the second competition. Long story short, we won at CIRC as well! It felt amazing to be rewarded like this for our hard work, especially after being unable to attend any competitions after URC 2019 due to the COVID pandemic.

### *What activities did you participate in at VCS? How did they prepare you for The University Rover Challenge?*

This may be surprising, but I was not a part of the Robotics Team at Victor (though I had many friends who were). I took a few Project Lead the Way classes, but my extracurriculars were actually all in music. I was in the marching band and drumline's front ensemble, played violin in orchestra, and participated in musicals in my time at Victor. I think that even if the music part was not directly part of my education or career goals, it was a great experience to have a role in a larger group where everyone came together for a common purpose. There are definitely parallels between fulfilling an ensemble role in a musical group and working as one part of a broader project team. I really enjoyed my time in Victor's music ensembles as a way to create something special with many of my friends.

### *What classes and teachers at VCS inspired you the most?*

I really enjoyed taking physics (AP 1 and AP C) with Mr. Engels in my junior and senior year of high school. Those classes were a major part of why I chose to study physics at Michigan. I was also taught through my classes and my extracurriculars how important it is to find something you enjoy and find a community of people who will enjoy doing it with you.



*What advice would you give to VCS graduates, especially those interested in STEM work?*

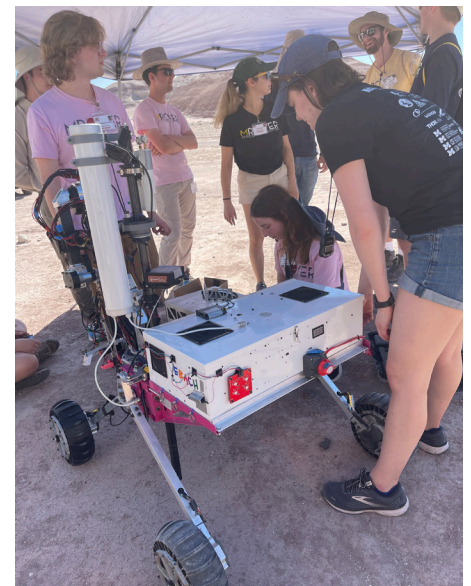
Try new things! I did not participate in Robotics at VCS, and I was not part of the College of Engineering that MROver and other project teams like it are primarily targeted toward. When I arrived at Michigan, I heard about MROver and decided to check it out, just because it sounded cool. It ended up being an amazing experience that taught me a lot and introduced

me to many new people. You never know where life can take you, so try things that may not be quite aligned with your main goal. Perhaps you will find something new and exciting that you hadn't considered previously.

Even within STEM, try new fields of science or engineering that are different from your course of study. It is always valuable to have a variety of experiences that can help you face whatever challenges you may come across in classes or elsewhere.

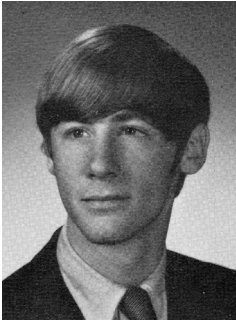
The University Rover Challenge (URC) is the world's premier robotics competition for college students. Held annually in the desert of southern Utah in the United States, URC challenges student teams to design and build the next generation of Mars rovers that will one day work alongside astronauts exploring the Red Planet.

URC was launched in 2006, with competitions being held every summer since 2007. URC consistently draws an international field of the most talented and promising students around.





## Delivering The Best Goods and Services Since 1975



### *Gary Hadden, Class of 1971*

Gary Hadden never aspired to be the Mayor of Victor, but when a friend encouraged him to get involved in local politics, much like every other challenge he has taken on in his lifetime, Gary did so with thoughtfulness, enthusiasm, and humility.

### *What did you do after graduating from VCS?*

Professionally, after I graduated from VCS in 1971, I worked in roofing and trim carpentry as an apprentice from 1971-1972. In January 1973, I was hired by the United States Postal Service to be the emergency sub carrier in Victor. I was appointed as a full-time Rural Mail Carrier in 1975. I also did some supervisory and training details during the 1980s and 90s and was a union steward for rural carriers for over 20 years. In 2016, I retired from USPS and in January 2017, I became the courier/messenger for Victor Central Schools.

Personally, I married my wife Kathy in 1982. We have two children: Tim '87 and Corey '91. As a parent and former athlete, myself, I became involved as a coach in youth baseball and basketball in the 1990s. I also established and administered a youth basketball program for Victor Parks and Recreation for 15 years from 1994-2009.

Politically, I have always been involved in the community in some form or another. As a long time Village resident, I was appointed to the Village Zoning Board of appeals in 1998. My neighbor was the mayor at the time, and he encouraged me to apply for the position. My motivation was to take advantage of a new learning experience outside of my job with the Postal Service. Also, I felt it was an opportunity to be a good example for my two sons who were 12 and 8 years old at the time. From there, I was appointed and elected to the Village Board of Trustees 2005-2016. I was elected Mayor in 2017 and reelected in 2019 and 2021.

### *What's it like to be the Mayor of your hometown?*

Being Mayor of my hometown is both challenging and rewarding. It is a humbling experience when you realize that regardless of your title, you are one person working with a team of many that requires your leadership in helping that team work together for the common good of the people of the Village. I try to never forget that I am a resident first and the Mayor second. I feel proud and fortunate to be a public servant in my hometown.



### *What activities did you participate in as a student at VCS?*

I was involved primarily in athletics at VCS. I participated in basketball from 5th grade through 12th grade and in tennis all through high school.

### *What inspired you the most at VCS?*

Athletics. They taught me two important things: Life is a continuum of wins and losses; and the journey along the way is filled with opportunities for personal growth.

### *How did your VCS education prepare you for your career?*

The list of teachers, classes, etc. that inspired me is endless. However, I am not afraid to admit that I didn't realize as an adolescent that I was inspired for the future. Looking back, I clearly was inspired by the overall support system from administrators to teachers to coaches and support staff and student peers at VCS along with my family to become an adult ready to accept responsibility for my actions. My education and experiences at VCS taught me that I don't have to be "the best" but to always strive to be "my best." These are the principals that I have tried to live by as an employee of the USPS and now as a Mayor in the Village of Victor.



## Class of 2000 Reunion

The Victor High School Class of 2000 Reunion was held this past July. On Saturday, July 30, alumni gathered at Twin Elder Brewery. On Sunday, July 31, attendees toured the new high school, attended a memorial dedication for former classmates and held a picnic at the Victor Municipal Park.

### Planning Committee Contact Info

Meghan Graham (Gallahan):

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Sarah Steffler (Alexander): [sarahsteffler20@gmail.com](mailto:sarahsteffler20@gmail.com)

James Purdie: [jamespurdie3@gmail.com](mailto:jamespurdie3@gmail.com)

Chris Murphy: [cmurphy1313@yahoo.com](mailto:cmurphy1313@yahoo.com)





## 2022 Alumni Banquet Celebrates 125th Year

*Submitted by Kay Cotton*

The Victor Central School Alumni Association celebrated their 125th meeting on June 12, 2022 at Ravenwood Golf Club. The association was unable to meet in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid19.

Kay Cotton, VCS Class of 1964 and President of the Alumni Association, welcomed the 155 attendees who were excited to be back together. Five members of the Victor class of 2022 attended the banquet as did VCS Superintendent Mr. Tim Terranova.

The Alumni Association sponsors two scholarships for Victor graduates. The Class of 2022 recipients, Lauren McCay and Scarlet Ulatowski, attended their first banquet and told the audience where they were going to college and their degree plans. Lauren and Scarlet were both very involved in VCS activities and their school spirit distinguished them as scholarship recipients.

The VCS Class of 1972 was recognized for their 50th year anniversary. Also recognized for their 50th anniversary were the classes of 1971 and 1970 as the alumni association didn't meet the last two years.

Retired VCS high school social studies teacher Mr. Mike Goodman surprised the class of 1972 by attending the banquet. The class of 1972 dedicated their yearbook to Mr. Goodman as he was tremendously supportive of the class during all four of their high school years. Mr. Goodman began teaching in Victor in 1967 and retired in 2000. The members of the Class of 1972 wish to thank Mr. Goodman for joining them for the evening.

The Alumni Association recognized and thanked Charles 'Bud' Militello, Jr., Class of 1955, for being Treasurer of the association for the past 15 years. The association was very fortunate to have Bud as Treasurer and looks forward to seeing him at many future banquets.

A video presentation cycled during the evening highlighting VCS classes in five year multiples going backwards beginning in 2017. The class officers' senior picture for each year were shown. Many candid pictures from the 50th year yearbook (1972) were included along with sports teams, cheerleaders, student council even the bachelors' club.





## 2022 Alumni Banquet *continued*



### *Staying Connected to Alumni Online*

- The VCS Alumni Association is on Facebook. Check it out. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/812853279306280>
- The Victor Educational Foundation has a Facebook page. Check it out. <https://www.facebook.com/VCSEFoundation>  
They also have a LinkedIn page for Victor Alumni and Staff: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8828159/>

## WANTED! Your Reunion Information

*Click on the link below to look for fellow alumni and to view any reunions.*

*If you have reunion information please send it to:*

*[laskysh@victorschools.org](mailto:laskysh@victorschools.org) and/or [welche@victorschools.org](mailto:welche@victorschools.org)*

**Victor Central Schools Alumni**



# Your New Alumni - VCS Class of 2022



Kaya A. Adams  
Taylor D. Adams  
Amelia Ahern  
Adrian Ahrens  
Cailyn T. Alianell  
Cate M. Allen  
Felicia M. Amadio  
Nicholas Anania  
Alaina M. Andre  
Haylee Antoine  
Christopher A. Arellano  
Ty A. Arnold  
Bradley D. Atherholt  
Dominic M. Attardi  
Lilianne G. Augustine  
Carlos L. Badillo Vega  
Matthew S. Baird  
Cian Y. Baldwin  
Adam J. Barbato  
Emma L. Barstow  
Aiden H. Beal  
Cameron N. Beal  
Jordan E. Benson  
Blake T. Bentley  
Carly J. Bentley

Jack N. Berl  
Anna J. Besaw  
Ronik N. Bilimoria  
Abigail M. Black  
Jordan T. Boje  
Marissa L. Booth  
Christina J. Borja  
Matthew J. Brady  
Emily J. Brame  
Logan E. Brasacchio  
Matthew C. Braun  
Anthony J. Brescia  
Sarah K. Brownlee  
Olivia Grace Bruno  
Nicholas Buchovecky  
Julia C. Bullwinkle  
Patrick R. Burns  
Grace C. Callahan  
Esteban Canto-Flamenco  
Christopher J. Capezzuto  
Nicholas D. Carlson  
Nadine T. Carr  
Mallory E. Casler  
Isaac L. Cassady  
Megan E. Catholdi

Ryan O. Chaney  
Jonathan T. Chapman  
Stephanie C. Cherry  
Rohan A. Chitre  
Audrey H. Chung  
Marsala A. Cinquegrana  
Mallory C. Clar  
Brennan C. Clark  
Izabella E. Clarke  
Lucas J. Cleary  
Mackenzie H. Coleman  
Jacob M. Commisso  
Marcella Constantino  
Sydney G. Constantino  
Alison R. Cook  
Sarah A. Cooper  
Jacob O. Corporan  
Noah Couser  
Kalliope E. Cragg-Hoer  
Marley P. Crane  
Jesse A. Crego  
Emily A. Cromheecke  
Connor Edward Cronin  
Alexander J. Crossing  
Liam M. Culhane

Phoebe A. Cushman  
Luceila M. Dalupang  
Samuel L. Dane  
Emily M. Davis  
Noah R. Debasitis  
Bryant M. Decker  
Ayden Delforte  
Zoe DeMeyers  
Andrew N. Dempsey  
Amber L. DeRosa  
Faith E. Desassure  
Quinlan D. Devanny  
Luis A. Diaz Rivera  
Jillian N. DiMarzo  
Joshua M. DiPalma  
Tessa Ditko  
Tiffany Doan  
Delio Dominguez  
Keira M. Donnelly  
Ryan Dorman  
Harrison S. Doty  
Cierra M. Douglas  
Madison M. Dragomani  
Michael J. Dumas  
Jack P. Dunfey

William J. Duryea  
Joon S. Echols  
David J. Eisler  
Brody S. Engelbrecht  
Arianna C. Epps  
Dexter R. Ernest  
Olivia R. Eschler  
Peter D. Eygabroad  
Yeadleshka J. Fargas Alomar  
Paige C. Farrell  
Kevin J. Fernandez Merced  
Dylan A. Ferraro  
Alexandra A. Finocchario  
Brianna J. Firkowski  
Kelsey E. Flaitz  
Grace K. Flansburg  
Julian P. Fontanel  
Maddox C. Fooks  
Paige E. Ford  
Shauna E. Ford  
Emily Francher  
Emily E. Frey  
Max Hawkins Friedlander  
Tyler M. Frungillo  
Maggie E. Galewski



# Your New Alumni - VCS Class of 2022

Jack D. Gallagher	Lucas V. Kosarko	Grayson Natale	Atena Rahman	Laura R. Stubbings
Lila K. Gartley	Andrew J. Kovaleski	Alia M. Nearpass	Carson X. Ralyea	Timothy E. Sumarsono
Hallie E. Gates	Lindsay E. Kulesa	Gabriel P. Newson	Evan C. Ranney	Benjamin S. Swackhamer
Louis C. Germain	Christian P. Kurz	Maria C. Nicoletta	Kathryn M. Rauscher	Matthew J. Sykes
Tristan D. Gilbert	Alexander J. LaBarge	Emily R. Nielsen	Makayla A. Raymer	Jonathan R. Szijarto
Rachel E. Gill	Kiera A. Lalley	Philip O. Nwugwo	Hannah Redington	Lita Tambe
Johannes H. Ginder	Nicolas Aaron Lamparella	Brodin E. O'Leary	Karlee G. Reed	Isla S. Tait
Tyler G. Gleason	Lauren E. Lanning	Logan R. O'Leary	Nolan J. Reh	Collin R. Taney
Andrea L. Gonzalez	Rachael E. Lanning	Luke R. O'Leary	Alex W. Reiffer	Erica L. Tarantelli
Marquez	Richard J. Lee	Eva R. O'Neil	Nicholas R. Reifsnnyder	Andrew D. Tavolette
Adale M. Graham	Matthew Leone	Elizabeth Margaret Onze	Sarah L. Reifsnnyder	Amber Thomas
Ethan J. Gray	Finn M. LeStorti	Nathan R. Ortiz Orellana	Carolyn S. Reilly	Calvin Samuel Graham
Cameron R. Guarino	Allison R. Lettman	Jacob P. Ostendorf	Colten P. Richards	Tongue
Sydney J. Haas	Jan Li	Alex C. Ottnod	Braydan Riesenberger	Scarlett D. Ulatowski
Kaden M. Haines	Matthew B. Lindsey	Makenna C. Overton	Noah J. Rodgers	Adam R. Usselman
Nolan J. Hamann	Valor Linke	Cody J. Padgham	Fideliz R. Rodriguez	Jason E. Vander Linden
Markyse Hampton	Maxwell W. Lockhart	Alisa M. Padilla	Efrain Roman	Ryan D. Vanegas
Skylar M. Harden	Morgan R. Long	Logan F. Palmer	Kiarelys M. Roman-	Jillian G. VanKuren
Rylee Hardgrove	Zachary T. Long	Matthew Parks	Sanchez	Leah Marie VanWyk
Andrew J. Haugh	Caleb R. Loyd-Payton	Trinity Megan Agustin	Charles J. Romeis	Jose Isaac Velazquez
Hannah D. Havill	Kyra R. Lynch	Pasion	Adam J. Rothfuss	Guzman
Joseph N. Hawryschuk	Madison H. Mabbett	Kendall C. Pask	Karleigh E. Ruffalo	Gabriel V. Verzella
Alexa C. Henehan	Marissa S. Mancini	Zachary A. Pavia	Cooper M. Ryczek	Wirlanys A. Vizcarrondo
Zachary B. Herendeen	Anthony Marcano	Hunter A. Payne	Drew A. Ryczek	Gonzalez
Javier G. Hernandez	Eric M. Marchetti	Jackson R. Pealer	Kelsey L. Sackett	Lisa Wang
Paige M. Hersh	Andrew J. Matteson	Devin J. Pearce	Brynn A. Sandruck	Sharon Wang
Jansen P. Hildman	Liam T. McAdoo	Owen C. Pender	Madison L. Sargent	Emily K. Webb
Cole T. Hogan	JonMichael S. McCaffrey	Mikayla T. Peris	Hailey M. Sasso	Mekai J. Wennergren
Lukas D. Holbrook	Lauren A. McCay	Owen W. Pettee	Lauren E. Scarsella	Emma H. Werkmeister
Grace N. Horihan	Dylan C. McFadden	Ava G. Pezzimenti	Logan W. Schaeffer	Carter Westfall
Joelle E. Jay	Lydia K. McGraw	Hannah M. Phillips	Avery M. Schoff	Rylind Whalen
Cally A. Jensen	Alexandria Zabik McKenzie	William M. Phillips	Kennedy M. Schottland	Aiden J. Wheeler
Benjamin B. Johnson	Sydney E. McKinnon	Theodosios J. Pierce	Jaden H. Secker	Grant C. White
Karson L. Johnson	Colin R. McNamara	Eleanor F. Pierpont	Natalie C. Sheahan	Jaden N. White
Aidan Jones	Nathaniel J. Meehan	Madeline T. Pitts	Hailey M. Sheridan	Jonah T. Whittier
Reilly E. Jones	Rylan T. Meilutis	Sophie K. Pogoda	Zachary M. Sidare	Elianna C. Wilder
Christopher J. Kalen	Ryan A. Merced	Igor A. Polotai	Allison Marie Simmons	Emily G. Willow
Isaac Kamara	Cody R. Meunier	Aiden T. Post	Garrett W. Simpson	Lauren K. Willow
Israel Kamara	Jake T. Miles	Christian R. Priel	Cole M. Smith	Scott W. Wilmot
Lamia Karabegovic	Ryan M. Militello	Jace N. Priel	Madeleine Spindler	Noah R. Wojcik
Eleni K. Kazacos	Katja J. Miller	Zachary P. Prior	Connor J. Staiger	Dominick E. Wright
Caitlin R. Keenan	Robert J. Miller	Evanthia Zoe Pronti	Isabelle R. Stephens	Roman J. Wright
Jacob T. Knapp	Andie E. Moszak	Helen T. Qian	Jack T. Stephens	Camryn C. Yates
Joshua E. Knapp	Kaitlin E. Murphy	Owen D. Race	Owen C. Stone	Ryan R. Zaccour
Karlie A. Kondziela	Kaitlyn A. Nardoizzi	Abiha Rahman	Annika K. Stresz	Winson Zhu

# Dollars for Scholars Phone-A-Thon

This October, over two nights members of the VCS Class of 2023 made over 500 phone calls requesting donations to the Victor Scholarship Program Dollars for Scholars. An additional 450 community residents were mailed letters requesting donations. All donations received will be awarded next May during the scholarships program's annual Awards Night.

This was the 26th year the Victor Scholarship Program (VSP) has held a Phone-A-Thon to support graduating seniors. The Phone-A-Thon has raised over \$210,000 and 100% has been awarded to Victor graduates.

Since 1988, when the Victor Scholarship Program was chartered as a chapter of the national organization ScholarshipAmerica, a total of \$2.3 million dollars has been awarded to over 3,000 VCS graduates. VSP is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization due to its affiliation with ScholarshipAmerica.

Donations payable to the Victor Scholarship Program may be mailed to:

Victor Scholarship Program  
Victor Senior High School  
953 High Street  
Victor, NY 14564



*The VCS Dollars for Scholars Program has received numerous bequests over the years to establish many memorial scholarships to support VCS graduates. This past year the program gave over \$125,000. in scholarships to the class of 2021 graduates. Over 2.2 million dollars in awards have been given to VCS graduates since the VCS Dollars for Scholars Program began in 1988.*

*If you have any questions in regards to bequests of your own estate, contact your lawyer and/or our Dollars for Scholars Program treasurer, Jim Exton. For more information on our program, visit our website: [www.victor.dollarsforscholars.org](http://www.victor.dollarsforscholars.org) or email us: [victorscholarshipdfs@gmail.com](mailto:victorscholarshipdfs@gmail.com)*



## Upcoming Music Events:

### December 12th

VSHS Orchestras & Choirs Concert,  
7:00 pm, JH/SH Arts Center

### December 15th

VIS Orchestras Concert,  
7:00 pm, JH/SH Arts Center

### January 10th

6th Grade Band and Choral Concert,  
7:00 pm, JH/SH Arts Center

### January 17th

Beginning 4th and 5th Grade Chorus Concert,  
7:00 pm, JH/SH Arts Center

### January 18th

Beginning and 5th Grade Band Concert,  
7:00 pm, JH/SH Arts Center

## Free Yearbooks

VCS has a variety of old yearbooks from various years available at no cost.  
For more information contact, Sherryl Knoebel at 924-3252, ext 7414.

SENIOR HIGH	1948	1	1950	1	1960	1	1979	2	1981	1	1990	3	2000	6
			1951	3	1962	1			1982	2	1982	7	2001	4
			1952	1					1983	1	1993	3	2002	5
			1953	1					1985	6	1994	4	2003	1
			1954	1					1987	7	1995	8	2004	1
			1955	1					1988	2	1996	6	2005	1
			1956	2					1989	3	1997	4	2008	1
			1957	2							1999	3	2009	1
			1959	1										
JUNIOR HIGH			1972	1	1982	1								
			1976	1	1986	3								

## WANTED! Your Reunion Information

*Click on the link below to look for fellow alumni and to view any reunions.*

*If you have reunion information please send it to:*

*[laskysh@victorschools.org](mailto:laskysh@victorschools.org) and/or [welche@victorschools.org](mailto:welche@victorschools.org)*

**Victor Central Schools Alumni**

# VCS Seeks Names of Distinguished Graduates



VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS

## Graduate of Distinction

Do you know a Victor Central School alumnus or alumna who has made a significant contribution to society? The Graduates of Distinction program honors such individuals. Applications are currently available in the Office of School and Community Relations or on-line at [www.victorschools.org](http://www.victorschools.org). Alumni selected for this honor will be recognized at a special Graduate of Distinction Day next fall.

Nominees to the Victor Central School District Graduates of Distinction program shall be selected based upon the following criteria:

- A. Nominees must have graduated from Victor Senior High (or have attended Victor Schools BEFORE there was a high school in the case of Honorable Recognition) at least 15 years before they are eligible for selection. The committee may waive the graduation time limit requirements in certain circumstances, as it deems necessary;
- B. Significant achievement after attending Victor Schools which include:
  - 1: Educational achievements;
  - 2: Professional achievements;
  - 3: Job-related achievements;
  - 4: Honors, awards, professional affiliations, publications;
  - 5: Civic or community involvement;
  - 6: Other appropriate qualifications which the committee believes merit consideration;

**Nominations must be submitted by  
Monday, January 23, 2023 to:**

Graduates of Distinction Committee

c/o The Office of School and Community Relations

Victor Central Schools 953 High Street, Victor, New York 14564



# Visual & Performing Arts HALL OF FAME

***Do you know a Victor Central School alumnus or alumna  
who has made a significant contribution to the arts?***

The Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame honors such individuals.

Nominees shall be selected based upon the following criteria:

- A. Graduated from Victor Senior High School at least (10) years ago. Nominee may have or may not have been affiliated with a VCS arts program.
- B. Staff member, parent or community member who made significant contributions to the VCS arts program a minimum of (5) years.

Suggested "types" of artists that could qualify would be  
***Creators ~ Performers ~ Practitioners ~ Contributors***

*Go to [www.victorschools.org/community/alumni](http://www.victorschools.org/community/alumni) for more information.*

**Nominations must be submitted by Tuesday, January 24, 2023 to:**

Visual & Performing Arts Hall of Fame committee

c/o The Office of School and Community Relations

Victor Central Schools, 953 High Street, Victor, New York 14564

or by emailing [laskysh@victorschools.org](mailto:laskysh@victorschools.org)

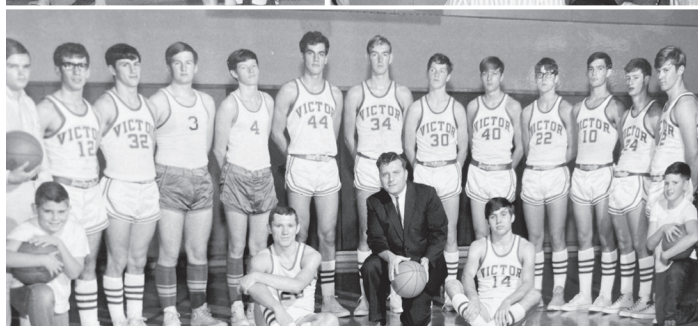




V I C T O R   C E N T R A L   S C H O O L S

# 126TH ALUMNI BANQUET

*Open to ALL VCS Graduates!*



## Sunday, June 11, 2023

### Ravenwood Golf Club

929 Lynaugh Road, Victor, NY 14564

6:00 p.m. Cocktails (Cash Bar)

7:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner

*The cash bar will remain open for one hour after the completion of the banquet.*

### **Reservations Required**

*\$25 per person, payable on arrival*

*For reservations please contact:*

**Susan Whitney Masseth '66**

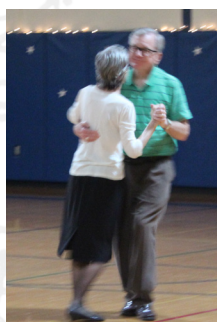
[Susanjmasseth@gmail.com](mailto:Susanjmasseth@gmail.com)

585-727-2359

**Let's attend the banquet and reconnect with classmates and friends!**

**We will again have Door Prizes!**

# 20th Annual Senior Citizens Ball



Free and open to ALL  
Victor Central School District  
Senior Citizens!  
(55 and Older)



*Scenes from our 2022 Ball*

Presented by  
VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS  
The Senior High Key Club and  
Office of School & Community Relations  
and

*Special Thank You to the Kiwanis Club*

ENJOY

## *Dinner & Dancing*

AND ENTERTAINMENT BY

## *Western New York Big Band*

Saturday, May 6 2023

5 – 7 p.m.

Victor Early Childhood School Gymnasium

Reservations required, call School & Community Relations at 924-3252, ext.1407 or e-mail [welche@victorschools.org](mailto:welche@victorschools.org) and [laskysh@victorschools.org](mailto:laskysh@victorschools.org)



# Send Us Your News

If you are an alumnus of Victor Central  
Schools, we encourage you to e-mail us  
at **[alumni@victorschools.org](mailto:alumni@victorschools.org)**.

Tell us about accomplishments or events  
in your life such as a wedding, birth  
of a child or grandchild.

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Timothy DeLucia, *President*  
Christopher Parks, *Vice President*  
Kristin Elliott  
Lisa Kostecki  
Elizabeth Mitchell  
Debbie Palumbo-Sanders  
Trisha Turner

Maureen Goodberlet,  
*District Clerk*

Timothy Terranova, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Liz Welch & Sherri Lasky  
*Office of School and Community Relations*

[www.victorschools.org/community/alumni](http://www.victorschools.org/community/alumni)

# VCS

## Substitutes Needed

Apply at [victorschools.org](http://victorschools.org)  
Full-Time, Part-Time, with Flexible Schedule

## TEN WAYS TO MAKE IT A

# Blue Devil Day!

**1 Be a Cheerleader!** Attend any one of our hundreds of yearly sporting events.

**2 Support the Arts!** Take the family to a school musical, play or art show.

**3 Get in Tune With One of Our Music Programs.** Go to a band, orchestra or choral presentation.

**4 Play!** Take some time with your children after school or on the weekend and play on one of our great playgrounds.

**5 Get Involved.** Volunteer in your child's classroom or for a special event or organization.

**6 Jump In!** Take a dip in our swimming pool during open or family swim times.

**7 Make a Difference.** Take part in one of the District's food drives or community service efforts.

**8 Take a Walk.** Our new campus fitness trail makes for great exercise.

**9 Show Your School Pride.** If you are a VCS alumni, get involved in the VCS Alumni Association or attend your class reunion.

**10 Stay Connected.** Check out our website on a regular basis for the latest news and information at [www.victorschools.org](http://www.victorschools.org)





# Victor Central Schools Seeks Archives

*"Students can benefit in several ways from researching their school's history... This is history that is near at hand and that has a direct connection to their lives."*

~ Larry J. Hackman, Director, Truman  
Presidential Museum and Library; former  
New York State Archivist

Do you have photographs of the victory garden that students in our school planted and tended during World War II?

Does an old box or filing cabinet hold copies of letters that students wrote concerning our country's involvement in Vietnam?

Did the science curriculum at Victor Central School change during the formative years of the personal computer revolution?

Schools produce rich historical records. Yearbooks, school lunch menus, flyers promoting dances, student elections, musicals, plays, photographs, letters, issues of the school newspaper, and other items document not only the history of the school, but often reflect the history of our community, state, and nation.

We have developed a school archives in our records center, housed in room 130 of the Primary School Building. Hopefully, this archive, or historical collection can serve two primary purposes:

1. Be a repository for the collection and preservation of historically valuable documents relating to the history of our school, which would otherwise be lost.
2. Constitute an important element of programs for teaching research-related skills to students.

As a key element in establishing this archive, we are urging the public to help support our endeavors by donating artifacts to the archives that they may have in and around their homes, which may otherwise be lost to future generations. We are particularly interested in:

*Student handbooks*

*Student newspapers*

*Photographs*

*School lunch menus*

*Course catalogs*

*Student term papers about the school or Community*

*Artifacts (trophies, flags, uniforms, memorabilia)*

*Older Newspaper articles from the local newspapers*

*Special awards received*

*Records of special school programs*

*Audiotaped or videotaped oral histories*

*Scrapbooks*

*Videotapes of school performances and athletic events.*

Perhaps you don't wish to part with your piece of history. You can still help our efforts by loaning us the article to copy, scan, or photograph. We look forward to your response. We also plan on having the artifacts exhibited from time to time. By the way, does anyone have a school bell from one of Victor's many one-room school houses? We'd love to hear from you.....

*\*Contact Sherryl at [knoebels@victorschools.org](mailto:knoebels@victorschools.org) or 585-924-3252, ext. 7414*