

Caston's Distinguished Alumni Program

The Caston School District comprised of Adams and Bethlehem Townships of Cass County, and Liberty and Wayne Townships of Fulton County united on August 2, 1959, under the jurisdiction of a school board comprised of the Township Trustees. During the 1961-62 school year, the four schools of Fulton, Grass Creek, Twelve Mile and Metea were combined into two high schools known as North Caston High School and South Caston High School. The Caston School District became the Caston School Corporation on January 1, 1964. The first class graduating from one high school known as Caston High School was the class of 1964-65, even though it still operated on two campuses at that time. This was done to help merge the two student bodies into one and to better accommodate their educational needs. In August of 1964, the Caston School Building Corporation was formed to provide adequate financing for the construction of a new facility that could house grades K-12. On April 24, 1966, groundbreaking ceremonies were held on a rainy day with a sizable crowd present to celebrate the beginning of construction for the present facility. On November 19, 1967 a formal dedication was held for the new school.

Many of the graduates of Caston High School have gone on to lead highly successful lives. This year, 2013-14 marks the presentation of the third class of distinguished alumni for Caston School Corporation. The purpose of the distinguished alumni program is to demonstrate to students, staff, community members and nearby areas that Caston has much to offer and there are many paths one may take upon graduation that results in successful and productive lives.

We encourage individuals to nominate successful Caston graduates since the class of 1962, living or deceased, who have been out of school for at least ten years for the distinguished alumni program. Publication for nominations will be made annually and forms will be available on the school webpage (www.caston.k12.in.us) or can be requested in the school offices.

Caston School Corporation Distinguished Alumni Class of 2014



**Cindy (Campbell) Douglass
Class of 1982**



**James Collins
Class of 1984**



**Aaron Ault
Class of 1999**



**Leslie (Good) Beagle
Class of 2000**



Chasity (Dillman) Johnson, Class of 2002

Cindy (Campbell) Douglass '82

Caston School Corporation has been a “home away from home” since 1969 when Cindy stepped into room 101 as a kindergarten student. *“I can still remember the building looking and smelling new the first time I walked in – it seemed so big back then!”* When you add the past twenty-three years spent as an administrator, coming and going from Caston has been a regular routine for thirty-six of her fifty years of life.

Cindy graduated from Ball State University in '86 with a degree in Business Education. That summer after graduation, she and Craig were married, and she began at West Lafayette High School as a business teacher. There she had the opportunity to teach in one of the first Apple Mac labs in the state, which was a model program for other schools. It was not the norm for women to get school administrative degrees in the 1980's, but she began her career in education working under two successful women mentors who served as HS Principal and Superintendent at West Lafayette which made it seem like the logical path to take when she began working on her Master's degree.

In '91, Cindy was hired as the K-12 Assistant Principal. She spent the next four years in this position, and then stepped in to fill a vacancy for the Elementary Principal in 1995 where she continued until the fall of 2013. She was awarded the Innovation Award by the Indiana Principal's Leadership Academy. Since November she has been the Interim Superintendent and has agreed to continue as full-time Superintendent for Caston School Corporation.

Cindy serves on boards for community organizations such as Junior Achievement and the Fulton County Economic Development Corporation. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary educational sorority. She is also a member of Metea Baptist Church where she and her family have attended for over twenty years. The Douglass's have three kids: Emily (20) a junior in Purdue University's School of Nursing; Quentin (18) is a graduate of this year's class of 2014 and will attend Purdue University this fall, and Eli (16) will be a Sophomore next year at Caston HS. They live less than two miles from the school on the family farm where Cindy grew up.

“Caston's been a big part of my life. I can't imagine spending the majority of my career doing anything more rewarding than having a hand in the education of the youth in the community I've lived most of my life. I feel like I got a great start at Caston, and I want to see that opportunity continue for kids in our community. It's important work that I believe I've been called to do . . . I consider it a privilege.”

Jim Collins '84

Hard work, perseverance, willingness to take risk and following “The Golden Rule” have been the trademark qualities that have served Jim Collins well since graduation. Jim's involvement in music, drama and a wide variety of sports earning him a place in the Caston Sports Hall of Fame proved his versatile range of talents, skills and interests.

Jim immediately entered the workforce out of high school by landing a job with a top-producing restaurant; he was quickly recommended for the Daland Corporation Management training program and became the youngest manager for the corporation. Jim learned the value of taking advantage of quality training programs provided by the corporate world, so explored several different fields such as home healthcare, the Indiana Department of Corrections, and Insurance. With each venture, Jim successfully learned along the way. This paved the road for him to establish his own company.

Jim currently owns Collins Insurance Company in Knox, Indiana. Voted “Best of Starke County” as Favorite Insurance Office and Favorite Insurance Agent for three of the past 5 years, he has built a solid reputation of service and dependability in his community. His local involvement goes well beyond his insurance business, as Jim is extensively involved in clubs and organizations and enthusiastically supports a number of youth sporting activities in the Knox area, as well. Jim has a heart for handicapped individuals who struggle to have their needs met, and contributes his time and financial resources to many very worthwhile causes that assist with this population; he has noted this as his greatest passion.

“I always try to remember where I came from and give due credit to my wife, my family, teachers, coaches, my staff and everyone I come into contact with that has helped me achieve my goals. My hope is that I may be a positive influence to help others do the same.” Jim and his wife, Viola, reside in Knox, Indiana.

Aaron C. Ault '99

The theme of the 1999 Exodus, "As We See It," gave a glimpse of the future through the eyes of the Caston Seniors. Aaron Ault's peers astutely voted him the "strongest" the "smartest" and "most likely to succeed." Aaron was also the President of the FFA that year; certainly his interests and aptitudes were well aligned with the path ahead of him.

Aaron went on to Purdue University where he studied Electrical and Computer Engineering. He earned both a Bachelors of Computer Engineering and Master's of Electrical and Computer Engineering from Purdue University within six years. Aaron has been published and has presented work at more than ten international academic conferences.

Since 2005, he has taught all aspects of electrical and computer engineering to over 250 students at Purdue University. Aaron has served as project lead for the Open Ag Data Alliance, an open source cloud services framework for the worldwide agriculture industry. He has led software teams on large-scale projects in many modern programming languages and founded the currently active ISOBlue (<http://isoblue.org>) and Open Ag Toolkit (<http://openagtoolkit.com>) open source projects for agriculture.

Currently Aaron is a research engineer for the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University. He is also Vice President of Ault Farms, Inc. where he manages his family farming corporation with 3,100 acres of corn and soybeans and 3,000 beef cattle. Additionally, he works as an independent software consultant. Aaron and his wife, Laura, along with their three children, Alex (6), Audrey (3) and Annie (1), reside within Caston school district near their family farming operation.

Leslie (Good) Beagle '00

It was evident Leslie Good Beagle was a fighter and achiever when she was born six weeks early, weighing in at 4.5 pounds and was dismissed from the hospital just three days later. Leslie was raised in a Christian home near Fulton where a strong work ethic and the need to succeed were instilled and became keys to Leslie's success.

Leslie participated in cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, and track all four years of high school and ran x-country her junior year. Her outstanding attitude earned her many mental attitude awards and "Student-of-the-Month" honors. She was active in FFA and FCCLA and co-editor of the yearbook. She graduated salutatorian of her senior class and was admitted to Purdue's elite School of Nursing. She was inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society, Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society at Purdue. As a member of Purdue's Army ROTC program, she rigorously trained daily. She attended summer training at Ft. Lewis, Washington where she excelled in all categories. Leslie was on the Dean's list each semester at Purdue and graduated in '04 with a BS in Nursing.

Upon graduation, Leslie was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. She was also hired as a registered nurse at Clarion North in Indianapolis. Her army training continued at Ft. Bliss and Ft. Sam Houston in Texas, and Ft. Sill in Oklahoma. She was promoted to a First Lieutenant. In '05, her unit was deployed to southern US to help with the relief effort from Hurricane Katrina. In '07 Leslie was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for "Exceptional Meritorious Service" while serving as a nurse during the 76th infantry brigade soldier readiness process. Leslie was then promoted to the officer rank of Captain. In '09, she was awarded the Army Commendation Medal by the secretary of the Army for "Extraordinary performance while serving as medical case manager for the soldier readiness program." In May of '09 she was deployed as a nurse to Iraq returning in June of '10 and receiving the Meritorious Service Medal for "professionalism and dedication to duty" that were, "instrumental in the success of the unit's mission accomplishment." In October '13, Leslie was again awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for, "technical skill, superior work ethic, and professionalism" that "resulted in less than a 1% REFRAD rate for INARNG soldiers during the highest levels of mobilization." Leslie has also been awarded various additional awards and recognitions throughout her military career. Leslie was promoted to the rank of Major in November of '13 and serves as a Major at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, as Lead Case Manager. In February, she began classes in the Primary Care NP program at Indiana Wesleyan University. She is also actively involved in her community of Carmel and is a member of Second Presbyterian Church.

In April '12, she married the love of her life Captain John Beagle. They are expecting their first child in August of '14.

Chasity (Dillman) Johnson '02

It is no surprise Chasity was selected for the superlative, “Most School Spirit”, having served as Senior class president, a cheerleader, a yearbook editor, and a member of the dance team. Sitting in the gymnasium at her graduation she had no idea what adventures awaited her.

Chasity would describe herself as an ordinary girl, but during her freshman year at Ball State University she began to understand an extraordinary message. In the midst of pondering compelling life questions, the message of Salvation became real to her for the first time, transforming her heart and life. After a summer mission trip to Virginia Beach, Chasity sensed that God’s plans for her were different than those she had in mind for herself, and she made the commitment to share his message with others.

Upon college graduation, Chasity interned with Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) at Ball State University for two years. During that time, she traveled to India to explore the opportunity of establishing a partnership with the Cru Great Lakes Region. They now send short-term missions to India and have established campus ministries there. She joined Cru full-time and co-led a missionary team in East Asia for one year. Upon returning to the states, she accepted the role of Missional Team Leader at Northern Illinois University, directing the staff team and ministry for over three years. She returned to East Asia for a six-week summer mission trip with students from all over Illinois during that timeframe. Chasity currently serves with the Cru staff at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. Many of those who have supported her ministry over the years are from Cass and Fulton counties, and she is incredibly grateful for their partnership, prayers, and support.

During the past eight years in ministry, Chasity has been privileged to share her faith with hundreds of people through student seminars, training staff women with Cru and speaking engagements with both small and large groups of students. She has mentored twenty-eight college women in their desire to grow in their faith. Her reward in this effort has been seeing those women go on to mentor other women and knowing this cycle continues. This fuels her desire for everyone to have the opportunity to hear and respond to the reconciliation that God offers each of us through Jesus.

Chasity and her husband of this past November, Michael, are actively involved in the Christ Community church. She also has a stepson, Aiden (6). *“We are excited to see what the years ahead hold, and hope to see God’s redemptive work in the lives of those around us and in the Champaign-Urbana area.”*