

Caston's Distinguished Alumni Program

The Caston School district composed 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 composed 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, 2016-2017, marks the sixth class of distinguished alumni for Caston School Corporation. The purpose of the distinguished alumni program is to demonstrate to students, staff, community 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 outstanding 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 is made annually and forms will be available on the school web page (www.caston.k12.in.us) or can be requested in the school offices.

Caston School Corporation Distinguished Alumni



Class of 2017



Ryan Zimpleman '97



Arthur "Todd" Miller '85

Ryan Zimpleman '97

Ryan grew up on the family farm in the Fulton area, the second of four children to Jack and Diane Zimpleman. At Caston, Ryan excelled both in the classroom and on the athletic fields. He participated in basketball, track & field, and baseball, but his most impactful performances took place on the football field. In a four-year career wearing a Comet uniform, he rushed for nearly 3700 yards. After a winless season his junior year he helped carry his team to an improbable 6 – 4 senior season in 1996, rushing for 1,921 yards and scoring 20 touchdowns, good for 10th place in state. That team was the last Caston football team to beat Pioneer and Lafayette Central Catholic. He was named the All-Loganland Offensive Player of the Year in 1996 as well as Indiana Single A All State Football Team.

Ryan then went on to attend Butler University, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in International Business Management and was a member of Sigma Chi Social Fraternity and Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity. While at Butler, Ryan successfully continued his football career. As a sophomore in 1998, he tied the NCAA record for most kickoff returns for touchdown in a single season with 4 and broke the NCAA career kickoff returns for touchdowns with 5 in 1999. His name can still be found in the NCAA record book, ranking 8th all-time for the highest single-season kickoff return average in NCAA FCS history with 34.7, just above NFL legend Randy Moss of Marshall University. His 972 kick return yards in 1998 is 4th highest in Pioneer League history, and his 1,896 career kickoff return yards also ranks 4th all-time in the Pioneer League Conference. He ranks 7th all-time in Pioneer League history with 144 all-purpose yards per game average for a career, and his 162 career points scored ranks 6th all-time in Butler history. He was named an NCAA Division 1-AA All-American in 1998.

After the September 11, 2001 attack Ryan felt moved to join the US Army National Reserve as a Psychological Operations Specialist in 2002, following the footsteps of service of his grandfather Bill Zimpleman, who was a decorated combat pilot in WWII, and his great grandfather Edward Zimpleman who served in WWI. Ryan later fulfilled his dream of being selected and completing the arduous training to join the US Army Special Forces Regiment, more commonly known as the Green Berets. Among many short-term assignments to Senegal Africa, Serbia, and Croatia he has been a part of 3 major deployments in Kosovo and Afghanistan. In 2009 Ryan deployed with the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) to Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom where he earned a Bronze Star and an Army Commendation with Valor Device. In 2016 Ryan deployed again with the 19th Special Forces Group again to Afghanistan for a 6-month tour again earning a Bronze Star while holding the rank of Sergeant First Class.

In 2013, Ryan became a Principal Partner at Smith, Sawyer & Smith in Rochester, IN. He earned a Master's Degree in Management from the American College. He has been able to double the agency size within the last four years while increasing the once community-based insurance agency's footprint to Indianapolis, New York, California, and Michigan. He is a member Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Freemasons, Special Forces Association, and was on the Green Beret Foundation Next Ridgeline Advisory Board as well as

on the United Way of Fulton County Board of Board of Directors. Ryan also found time to help coach his son's little league baseball team throughout the last five years.

Ryan and his wife Lisa have been married for 16 years, and have four children: Bailey, Emma, Maddie and Lila. They reside just outside Fulton, IN, just half a mile from the family farm.

Arthur "Todd" Miller '85

Todd grew up in the Twelve Mile area and was the middle child of Craig and Barbara Miller. Todd was involved in a variety of high school activities -- a testimony to his many talents. He participated on the Football, Cross Country, Wrestling and Golf teams throughout high school, and also served in leadership roles through student council and as senior class president. Todd's greatest talents, however, were revealed through his participation in the music and theatre programs, including swing choir, the band, and various roles in school musicals and plays. It was no surprise that Todd was voted as the most musically inclined as well as the funniest by his fellow classmates.

Todd continued his post secondary education at Purdue University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology. While at Purdue he was a member of the prestigious Purdue Varsity Glee Club where he continued excelling in the performing arts.

Upon graduation from Purdue University, Todd began his engineering career at Honda of America Mfg. where he served for six years on the engineering staff. During that timeframe, he was transferred to Japan for 2 years as a technical rep under the NATG (*North American Task Group*) program to facilitate the 1994 V6 Honda Accord Crank Shaft/Drive Shaft Program. In 1996 Todd left Honda to return to the family business, Myers Spring Co., Inc. in Logansport, where he currently serves as President and CEO.

Todd serves on numerous state and local boards and is actively involved in several organizations including WHIN - Greater Lafayette Regional Plan Steering Committee, Purdue University MEP (Manufacturing Extension Partnership), Indiana Chamber of Commerce, President's Council - Purdue University, Cass Logansport Economic Development Organization, Spring Manufacturer's Institute (SMI), Kiwanis International - Logansport Morning Club, Logansport Municipal Utilities (LMU), and the Salvation Army. He also serves as the Political Relations Chair for the Cass County Chamber of Commerce and is a managing partner for Cass City Center, LLC.

Todd continues to share his outstanding musical talents with the community, and can frequently be heard singing at local events or churches. On more than one occasion Todd has sung the Star Spangled Banner for events such as the annual Twelve Mile Lawnmower race. Todd's business generously sponsors numerous worthwhile causes in the community and most recently sponsored the Caston Robotics Teams by providing start-up costs as well as sponsorship to the World competition in Louisville, KY.

Todd and his wife Gretchen reside in Logansport, IN. They have two daughters Eberle and Cecilia. Todd is also a member of All Saints Catholic Church where he serves as Cantor.