

Celebrating **Alumni** *Achievement*

2023 INDUCTION CEREMONY



September 22, 2023
Ottawa Hills High School

Program



4:00 Reception, The Foundry

5:00 Dinner and Induction Ceremony, Gymnasium

7:30 OHHS Football Game and Halftime Recognition

Inductees will be recognized on the field at halftime.

A tent is provided for inductees and their guests.

About the Awards



The Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 2017 to recognize Ottawa Hills Local Schools' attendees who have made a meaningful contribution to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the tradition of excellence at Ottawa Hills. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have made significant accomplishments in the following, while maintaining high standards in personal integrity and character:

- An outstanding leader in their field;
- Service to their community and humanity through local, state, national, or international organizations; and/or
- Demonstrated exemplary accomplishments in the following areas: arts, education, government, science, business, or public service.

The Distinguished Alumni Committee is comprised of Ottawa Hills alumni, faculty, and district officials.



The Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2019 to formally honor the memory and contributions of the many outstanding athletes, teams, coaches, and supporters of our athletic programs. The Hall of Fame serves as a symbol of our appreciation of the excellence, honor, and devotion displayed by these celebrated individuals and teams. The Athletic Hall of Fame Award recognizes those who:

- Made exceptional and extraordinary contributions in our athletic program;
- Had outstanding statistical achievement in an individual sport or sports; and/or
- Conducted themselves in such a way as to reflect honor on the school and must have exhibited those qualities of character and standards of conduct consistent with their status as a role model to the community.

The Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is comprised of Ottawa Hills alumni, faculty, and district officials.

The Class of 2023

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



Shelley Wolson ('76)

Creative writer and editor with a passion for words



Steve Jenks ('77)

Venture capitalist, community leader, and mentor



Kristján Gíslason ('74)

Adventurer, writer, documentary filmmaker, and businessman

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



John Buckey ('69)

Tennis doubles team brought home the first of several state titles



Craig Burkhart ('69)



Michael Tanner ('73)

Quiet leader and four-year varsity basketball starter



Richard Kuzma

Three consecutive championships as varsity basketball coach



Girls Athletic Association

Trailblazers in OH Athletics



Penny Carver Dean ('63)

Multi-sport athlete and city tennis champion



Gretta Fleck Laskey ('63)

National record-setter in swimming



Marianne Fleck Gehring ('63)

Swimmer with a long list of athletic prowess



Diane Smith Kerin ('63)

Decorated athlete who excelled at various sports



Margo Seney Morrow ('63)

Trailblazing competitor embodied determination



Jane Ulmer Kuta ('63)

Multi-sport athlete with passion and perseverance



Joan Ulmer Fisher ('63)

Diverse talents with a love of teamwork

Past Honorees



Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

2022 INDUCTEES

Dr. Jessica Ciralsky
Carl Heiles ('57)
Phil Mattingly ('02)
Cleveland O'Neal III ('74)
Jim White, Jr. ('58)

2021 INDUCTEE

Dr. David Glow ('55)

2020 INDUCTEES

Barbara Barker ('79)
Mary (Carson) Fedderke ('65)
Constance Hauman ('79)
Amul Thapar ('87)
Gary M. Woodbury ('58)
Robert (Bob) Hinkle ('56) (in memoriam)

2019 INDUCTEES

Betsy (Carson) Brady ('64)
Pete Kadens ('96)

Rustin "Polly" (Steele) Levenson ('65)
Robert (Bob) Shopneck ('68)
Dr. Catherine Webb ('66)

2018 INDUCTEES

Dr. James Geiger ('79)
Roa Lynn ('55)
Larry Mindel ('55)
M. Scott Peeler ('89)
Frederic Roberts ('79)

2017 INDUCTEES (INAUGURAL CLASS)

Christine Brennan ('76)
Craig Burkhart ('69)
Russell Carson ('61)
Richard DeVore ('51) (in memoriam)
John Galbraith ('41)
David Staelin ('56) (in memoriam)
Sally Stuckey ('74)

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

2022 INDUCTEES

Paula (Wagoner) Conway ('94)
Norm Niedermeier, Coach
Sandy Osterman, Coach
John Spengler ('77)
Jim White, Jr. ('58)

2021 INDUCTEES

Wendy (Roberts) Pavicic ('97)
David Roadhouse ('62)

2020 INDUCTEES

Jamie O'Hara ('68)
Katherine (Jamieson) Folino ('10)

2019 INDUCTEES (INAUGURAL CLASS)

Kelly Coleman ('82)
John M. Hill ('56)
Laurie Imes ('81)
Jim Tenney ('56)

Shelley Wolson ('76)

Creative writer and editor with a passion for words



Shelley Wolson's journey as a freelance editor and writer has been characterized by her passion for words, her diverse expertise in food, lifestyle, and family topics, and her commitment to excellence. With over 40 years in the journalism field, she has crafted a remarkable career defined by creativity, dedication, and an eye for detail.

Throughout her career, Shelley has contributed her talents to an impressive array of magazines and brands. Her work has appeared on the pages of Condé Nast publications such as *Vanity Fair*, *Glamour*, *Bon Appétit*, and *Vogue*. Her copyediting work has also extended to *Scholastic Inc.*, *Money* and *Fortune* magazines, *Fast Company*, and the Hearst lifestyle magazine group, including *Prevention*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *Woman's Day*. In 2009, Shelley also wrote *Budget Celebrations*, a book in which she shared ideas on festive, stress-free holiday entertaining.

Reflecting on her time in Ottawa Hills, Shelley cites her involvement in school activities and her teachers as influencing her growth and success. Leadership roles in the AFS club, participation in Student Council, and her cherished involvement in the school newspaper, the *Arrowhead*, equipped her with invaluable experiences. Shelley also competed in state choir competitions and

performed in school musicals.

Shelley said the respect from teachers at Ottawa Hills High School helped set the bar high for her future. Reaching academic goals gave her the confidence and work ethic that carried over into college and grad school, and still impacts her today.

As her career continues to flourish, Shelley has embraced new opportunities. Currently serving as a senior copy editor at AARP, she is instrumental in enhancing the quality of articles for the organization's publications and digital platforms. Shelley is also an adjunct professor at NYU, where she imparts her wisdom to the next generation of aspiring writers and editors.

In Shelley's personal life, she is a dedicated mother to daughter, Emily, and spouse to Bruce. Her family enjoys hearing stories about Ottawa Hills and Shelley's childhood spent in the close-knit community. A treasured memory Shelley shared is from her time working on the *Arrowhead* when she and her classmates barely made a print deadline. With typewriters and rubber glue, they completed the final version, tossing it out the window into the editor's car ready to zoom down Kenwood to the post office with less than 5 minutes to spare. The students met their deadline!

Steve Jenks ('77)

Venture capitalist, community leader and mentor



Steve Jenks stands as an outstanding citizen at the intersection of business acumen and civic dedication, carving a distinguished path over the past 35 years. He has impacted the landscape of venture capital, fostering growth and change, while maintaining a strong commitment to uplifting the community. In 2008, Steve co-founded Candescent Partner, a venture capital firm, of which he is still a managing partner. Jenks finds his most significant professional achievements were in launching two successful businesses. His first venture took flight at the age of 28, with a second following suit at 49. These milestones underscore his willingness to embrace challenges and adapt.

It's not just about financial investment. Beyond boardrooms, Steve has taken the mantle of mentorship. His engagement with inner-city high school students through programs like BUILD and KIPP Academy speaks volumes about his dedication to change at the grassroots level. His board membership with the Lever Fund exemplifies his commitment to socio-economic transformation. This organization strategically invests in businesses to uplift economically distressed areas in western Massachusetts. His current role as vice-chair of the board of trustees of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art

(MASS MoCA) demonstrates his commitment to cultural enrichment and community engagement.

Steve's roots in Ottawa Hills have profoundly influenced his trajectory. As a stage manager for various theater productions, he learned life lessons that continue to resonate. The theater's demands of preparation, organization, and maintaining composure in high-pressure situations have been key in shaping his approach to business and life. Life lessons he learned in Ottawa Hills helped shape him into a business creator and pillar of community service, standing as an embodiment of how professional success and civic responsibility go hand-in-hand.

Amidst his professional pursuits, Steve treasures the role of family. Together with Lisa, his wife of 41 years, he has raised three accomplished children. His three grandchildren are his greatest joy in life. In reminiscing about his time at Ottawa Hills, Steve fondly recalls the sense of community and culture of family that is central to growing up in the village. A favorite memory of his youth is spending almost every day all winter skating on Ten Mile Creek with friends, venturing all the way to what is now Wildwood Metropark.

Kristján Gíslason ('74)

Adventurer, writer, documentary filmmaker and businessman



Kristján Gíslason, an OHHS alumnus, has woven a captivating narrative through his life's journey as an adventurer, writer, and documentary filmmaker. Known for traversing the globe on two wheels, he has etched his name in tales of exploration and cultural understanding.

The documentary "Sliding Through" chronicles his remarkable motorcycle odyssey spanning ten months and 34 countries; which made headlines after airing on Icelandic media. His first documentary series covered his trip around the world in three episodes, and he continues to make more episodes covering his travels, 13 in total with 2 additional episodes in the works. Kristján later traveled to Africa on his motorcycle. His literary creations – "Andlit Afríku," "Hringfarinn," and "Sliding Through" – encapsulate the people and places he's encountered, and the proceeds from these works support youth drug prevention programs, and the education of children in Kenya.

Yet, Kristján's journey extends beyond personal adventures. His footprint in the business world is equally impressive. A visionary mind, he became a partner in a software company that crafted a unique GPS fishing device tailored for Icelandic fishing fleets. The company later became a pioneer and dominant player in the satellite communications field for the Icelandic shipping industry. He further worked to establish courses for captains, training and equipping them with navigation device

expertise, something he knew was critical given his background in IT. Kristján's passion for innovation and education seamlessly intersected in these ventures, reshaping the industry.

Generosity and a sense of responsibility define Kristján's character. His endeavors ripple beyond geographical boundaries. His home country of Iceland remains a focal point, but his impact knows no limits.

In reminiscing about his time at Ottawa Hills, Kristján treasures the influence of the Jenks family, his hosts during his senior year as an AFS exchange student. This experience kindled a flame of curiosity, setting him on the path of adventure that would later define him.

Returning to Ottawa Hills in 2022, Kristján shared his insights with the student body. He spoke of intertwining a passion for exploration with a drive to foster global awareness, support education, and combat the opioid epidemic. This visit was a testimony to the enduring connection between his past and present.

Kristján has shared his life with his wife of 45 years, raising three successful children that are influencing the fields of mathematics, photography, and engineering. He has five grandchildren that no doubt love to hear of his many adventures.

John Buckey and Craig Burkhardt '69 Tennis Champions

Dedication and determination set an example for their peers



John Buckey and Craig Burkhardt, two exceptional athletes, cemented their names in Ottawa Hills High School through their remarkable achievements on the tennis court. In 1969 the tennis doubles team, under coach O'Connell, brought home the first of several state titles for Ottawa Hills High School. John and Craig's names will always be associated with one another in Ottawa Hills tennis lore. Their achievements on the court were the embodiment of hard work, discipline, and a shared passion for the sport.

Beyond tennis, their impact extended to other realms. Craig's talents included cross-country, basketball, musical and theater performances, and journalistic pursuits. John's involvement in basketball showcased his versatility as an athlete. Their dedication and determination set an example for their peers, shaping the ethos of Ottawa Hills High School.

Craig went on to achieve the Western ranking of #6 (which included Ohio and five adjoining states) and a national ranking of #26 in his age group for tennis. He played intercollegiate tennis and squash at the University of Pennsylvania. Notably, Craig coached his sister Wendy, who went on to win two national titles and played in the US Open. He also coached his own children, leaving a lasting impact on future generations of athletes.

A Distinguished Alumni Award recipient from 2017, Craig was recognized for his contributions within the medical community. He completed his medical/dermatology residency at the University of Michigan, received his Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Ohio, and his Master of Public Health from the University of Toledo. Craig owns six U.S. patents, is current editor of three journals,



and is author of over 700 publications and 25 book chapters in the fields of entomology, parasitology, dermatology,

otology, and internal medicine.

John's affable personality and quick-witted humor made him a beloved figure, endearing himself to teammates and opponents alike. He was quick to snap into competitive mode with the drive and discipline necessary to be a great athlete. John set a record of most points scored by an individual in a basketball game that was a long standing record at Ottawa Hills. During his senior year, he was a suburban all-star athlete in basketball, averaging 23 points per game.

John continued his tennis triumphs in college, playing varsity tennis for Duke University and working as a tennis pro during college summers. After college, John's accomplishments extended to the fields of law, accounting, and real estate development, where he showcased his entrepreneurial spirit. Together, with his wife, Amy, he cheered on his three children, Brian, Kate, and Laura in numerous OH athletics throughout the years. His son, Brian, continued his legacy by playing tennis and basketball in high school. John's love for sports influenced his son's career as

a sports writer for *The Toledo Blade*.

His engaging nature and unique ability to connect with others made John a cherished friend and confidant. His devotion to family and friends was palpable. John's sudden passing in 2023 marked the end of an era. Craig and John's journey from the tennis courts of Ottawa Hills to the larger world beyond exemplifies the power of friendship, hard work, and unwavering dedication to one's passions.



Michael Tanner ('73)

Quiet leader and four-year varsity basketball starter



Michael Tanner was the first freshman to start on the varsity basketball team at Ottawa Hills High School. His journey encompasses a legacy of basketball leadership, academic excellence, and a fulfilling professional career.

As a four-year starter, his dedication and skill grew, guiding his teams to three conference championships. Recognized as a three-time, 1st team all-conference player and a two-time first team all-suburban team selection, he went on to achieve in his senior year the accolade of 3rd team all-state player. Michael was a quiet leader on the basketball court who always demonstrated composure and respect for his teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials. Beyond basketball, Michael's achievements reached the state track and field championships, where he qualified in the discus.

His most cherished athletic accomplishment started in 9th grade, when he was able to play on the varsity basketball team under the mentorship of Coach Kuzma. Michael attributes Coach Kuzma as laying the groundwork for him to go on to play four years of basketball at Williams College. Ottawa Hills' influence on Michael's life transcends athletics. The rigorous academics and exceptional faculty prepared him for his collegiate challenges. Following his athletic

career, Michael graduated from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry and completed his residency in Periodontics. With over 30 years of practice, he established himself as a respected Periodontist in Columbus, retiring happily in 2018.

Michael's legacy is intertwined with his family's achievements. He has been married to Marie for over 42 years. She is a Registered Nurse at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus. Together, they have nurtured a remarkable family. Their son Stephen flourished into a successful lawyer, married to Kelly, a Ph.D. and Occupational Therapist. Their children, Ben and Will, form a generation of promise. Daughter Christie, an Occupational Therapist, is married to Orthopedic Surgeon Scott, and their sons Adam and Daniel herald a future of accomplishment. Michael's sister Mary Ellen, (Ottawa Hills 1970), has also been a wonderful sister, sister-in-law and aunt.

Amid the accolades, Michael's heart resonates with cherished memories of Ottawa Hills. From a tight-knit community to athletic triumphs and lasting friendships, each facet contributed to the success he had as a youth that continued into adulthood.

Richard Kuzma

Three consecutive championships as varsity basketball coach



Richard "Dick" Kuzma is a name etched in the annals of Ottawa Hills High School coaching history. Serving as the head varsity basketball coach at OHHS from 1964 to 1974, his impact on the sport and his players is nothing short of remarkable. During his tenure, Dick's leadership was synonymous with excellence. His teams achieved a string of victories that cemented their dominance in the league. A highlight of his coaching career came between 1971 and 1973 when his teams secured three consecutive league championships. This streak was accompanied by an impressive 47-12 record, attesting to Dick's skillful coaching.

Beyond his team's wins, Dick's conduct and demeanor stood out. His coaching style wasn't just about fostering athletic strength but also building character in his student athletes. Dick's kindness, fairness, and unwavering commitment to treating all players with respect made him a true role model. He wasn't just respected within the confines of his team; high schools and coaches across Northwest Ohio held him in high regard.

Behind every successful individual often stands a pillar of support, and for Dick that has been his teammate in life, his wife Barbara. As he dedicated himself to coaching, Barbara played an instrumental role in raising their children. Dick also attributes part of his success to the contributions of his assistant coaches, Bob Walter and Ron Stewart. The camaraderie and teamwork extended to the faculty and students of Ottawa Hills, who rallied

behind the basketball teams with unwavering support.

Reflecting on his time coaching, Dick couldn't help but mention the exceptional seasons he experienced at Ottawa Hills High School. Among the standout achievements were numerous conference championships and a memorable sectional championship. While victories were celebrated, Dick's focus remained on the growth and development of his players. He recalls the incredible talents of the student athletes he was able to coach at Ottawa Hills High School. Many players stood out for their skills and dedication, contributing to the legacy of Ottawa Hills High School basketball.

For Dick, coaching wasn't confined to the court; it was a community effort. He acknowledged the students' competitive spirit and the parents' role in supporting the teams, often providing pre-game meals to fuel their success. Among the many honors Kuzma received, one that was personally special was the dedication of the 1967 MESASA yearbook to him. This recognition was a testament to his enduring influence within the school. In the realm of basketball coaching, Dick's name is synonymous with excellence, mentorship, and sportsmanship. His legacy lives on not only through the championships his teams won but through the lives he touched and the values he instilled in his players.

Girls Athletic Association

Trailblazers in OH Athletics



The Class of 1963 Girls Athletic Association (GAA) stands as a collective embodiment of remarkable athleticism, unyielding dedication, and enduring camaraderie. Comprising a group of several female athletes, these exceptional individuals left an incredible mark on Ottawa Hills High School's sports legacy.

These extraordinary athletes boasted an undefeated record in approximately 95% of their games over four years. Their commitment to excellence was displayed across multiple sports, including field hockey, volleyball, swimming, tennis, track, and basketball. The GAA members were a testament to the power of unity, sportsmanship, and determination.

Before Title IX was enacted in 1972, athletic opportunities for girls were few- with no uniforms, shoes or transportation. Title IX, among other things, ensured that girls cannot be denied the benefits of athletics in public schools. GAA members said, "It is great to see so many opportunities for young women to participate in athletics today."

When Ottawa Hills High School lacked a swim team these remarkable females shattered barriers in the realm of swimming. They were part of relay



teams that broke national records and even achieved an individual national record.

At the heart of this formidable group was the exceptional mentorship of Barbara MacDonald, affectionately known as Miss Mac. Under her guidance, the GAA flourished, not only as athletes but as well-rounded individuals. Miss Mac's influence extended beyond the sports arena; she emphasized the importance of friendships and character, guiding her students toward success in life.

"Miss Mac" went on to have a great influence on many individuals in girls athletics, until her retirement in 1991, and was an active member in her community. In 2017,

at the age of 82, Miss Mac passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends.

The GAA's impact extended beyond the sports they excelled in. The bonds forged in athletics translated into lifelong friendships and a sense of unity that persists to this day. The lessons learned on the field, on the court, and in the pool, such as teamwork, determination, and resilience, shaped their paths in various aspects of life.

Penny Carver Dean ('63)

Multi-sport athlete and city tennis champion



Penny Carver Dean was a multi-sport athlete whose talents encompassed basketball, volleyball, tennis, and field hockey where she was a 3-year starter on the team. Her dedication and skill were evident early on, earning the title of city tennis champion multiple times. Penny says her most memorable wins from her time at Ottawa Hills were beating long standing rival Maumee Valley, in field hockey, and Rogers High School in tennis.

Athleticism extended to Penny's college years, where she played in the starting lineup for tennis all four years. She continued playing basketball during her freshman year. Beyond college, Penny's dedication thrived in recreational leagues, where she wielded the pitcher's role in softball and clinched numerous titles in local tennis tournaments.

An athlete at heart, Penny's passion remains unwavering. She continues to indulge her love for tennis, competing in USTA tournaments and recently contributing to a team that secured third place at Nationals in Orlando. Penny has also embraced the popular sport of pickleball, and enjoys active time spent with any four-legged fido.

Penny's influence extends within her family. Her

brother, Gus Carver, a high school superstar, set the precedent for excellence in football, basketball, and baseball. The legacy of athleticism resonated with her children, Debbi and Mike, who both contributed to their high school tennis teams. Her grandson, Carver Dean, continues the tradition, securing his place in three teams that qualified for the Virginia State Championships.

Stepping into the role of a coach, Penny guided the Women's Tennis program at BGSU for a remarkable 25 years. Her commitment to empowering the next generation echoes through her coaching journey and her enduring love for the sport.

Reflecting on the evolution of women's sports, Penny draws a stark contrast between the '60s and the present day. The transformative impact of Title IX has propelled the expansion of women's sports, ushering in new opportunities and increased recognition. From volleyball and softball gaining prominence to female coaches earning substantial salaries, the landscape has witnessed a radical transformation.

Gretta Fleck Laskey ('63)

National record-setter in swimming



Gretta Fleck Laskey's story is one of determination, achievement, and a commitment to making a positive impact. She has broken records, embraced challenges, and left a lasting mark on Ottawa Hills athletics. From swimming and track to field hockey, basketball, and volleyball, Gretta thrived in a variety of sports.

Gretta's crowning achievement came in 1960 when she shattered a national record in the long course 50-yard pool in Chataqua, OH. Her name, alongside her sister Marianne's, became synonymous with national relay records in the 200-yard freestyle and 220-meter medley events. Gretta's dedication and tenacity were evident in her relentless pursuit of excellence.

Reflecting on her high school days, Gretta says her favorite memories are in the camaraderie shared amongst her teammates. The impact of coaches like Miss Mac (Barbara MacDonald), Coach Peg Seney of Glass City Aquatic Club, and Coach Alex Steve of Sylvania Country Club resonates as she recalls their guidance and support.

While collegiate sports for women were limited at the time, Gretta's affinity for sports remained unwavering. A triumphant triathlon marked her accomplishment post-high school, followed by her participation in Pelotonia, a

charity cycling event supporting the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. Gretta's commitment to raising funds and awareness for cancer research exemplifies her dedication to meaningful causes.

Retiring in 2022 after 55 years of work, Gretta embraced new pursuits. An ardent pickleball player, she also ventured into substitute teaching, offering her expertise to Ottawa Hills' future generations. Gretta's family life is as dynamic as her accomplishments. Mother to three children, grandmother to nine, and instrumental in raising eight step-children, she radiates the spirit of the "Brady Bunch" era.

Beyond her athletic feats, Gretta's legacy is one of service and humanity. Her involvement with the D.O.V.E. Fund exemplifies her commitment to humanitarian causes, including the construction of Linh Thuong Elementary School in Vietnam in memory of her fallen classmates Ned Dybvig ('62) and Bob Hansen ('59). Gretta reflects on the transformation of women's sports since her school days, attributed in part to Title IX. She finds happiness in the newfound opportunities for women athletes to excel and pursue their passions on collegiate and professional levels.

Marianne Fleck Gehring ('63)

Swimmer with a long list of athletic prowess



Marianne Fleck Gehring had athletic prowess that spanned across a spectrum of disciplines. She embraced field hockey as a center forward, exhibited her agility in basketball as a roving guard, and showcased her versatility in track, specializing in sprints. Additionally, she ventured into the world of tennis, and her tenacity triumphed in a senior-year match that left a memorable mark.

Amid this varied landscape, swimming remained Marianne's first love since the age of six. Together with her twin sister, Gretta, she spent many hours in a pool. While Ottawa Hills High School did not have a swimming team, Marianne found her platform with the Glass City Aquatic Club, competing in AAU events and contributing to relay teams that shattered national records. She was a successful athlete in synchronized swimming and earned accolades in summer club competitions.

Marianne's fondest high school memory goes beyond the thrill of victories. It lies in the camaraderie of a remarkable group of female athletes who dominated all sports. The unity and shared passion remain as a special bond even decades later.

Post high school, college life shifted her focus from sports to her major in accounting, graduating from Miami University in 1967. However, her college journey was marked by involvement in various organizations, reflecting

her leadership qualities. Marriage to Jeff Gehring (OHHS '61), mother to three children, and a fulfilling career as a CPA/Controller followed, but Marianne's connection to sports persisted. She thrived in the realm of slow-pitch softball, participating with fellow Hall of Fame classmates, and embarked on a successful stint in women's doubles tennis and even clinched a singles event victory in a club tournament.

Currently, Marianne finds joy in the fast-growing sport of pickleball, actively participating in leagues across Delaware indoor facilities. Reflecting on the landscape of women's athletics, she highlights the disparity that existed in the 1960s, with limited scholarships for female athletes. Title IX, although enacted in 1952, was only revamped in 1972 to address educational inequalities and gradually rectify historical gender imbalances.

Marianne's personal journey is interwoven with that of her husband. Jeff's remarkable athletic achievements in basketball and track complement Marianne's legacy. His induction into the Miami University Hall of Fame attests to his prowess, leadership, and impact. A dedicated guidance counselor for 35 years, Jeff's partnership with Marianne embodies shared values and accomplishments, celebrating 56 years of marriage in 2023.

Diane Smith Kerin ('63)

Decorated athlete who excelled at various sports



Diane Smith Kerin's journey through sports has been marked by natural talent, unrelenting dedication, and a passion for competition. A true multisport athlete, Diane's talents extended across various disciplines, earning her a well-deserved place in Ottawa Hills High School's hall of athletic excellence.

Diane's love for sports was evident from a young age and her athleticism allowed her to excel in numerous sports, making her a standout on the field, court, and beyond. She was on the swim team that broke the national freestyle record. In addition to her personal accomplishments, Diane and her sister Carol (OHHS '62) both received the Outstanding Female Athlete Award at graduation—an honor that speaks volumes about their dedication and influence within the athletic community.

Swimming was not the only sport Diane excelled at. In fact, she seemed to have a knack for excelling in any sport she put her mind to. Other accomplishments of note was her impressive feat of bowling a 600 series underscores her tenacity and skill on the lanes. In golf, Diane not only

reached the status of a district golfer but also claimed the title of senior club champion at Inverness on three separate occasions.

Among Diane's cherished memories at OHHS, the unity and triumph of her class stand out. Her classmates were not only exceptional athletes but also a closely-knit team, conquering opponents in various sports. The remarkable camaraderie and countless victories left an indelible mark on Diane's high school experience. Her journey continued beyond high school, where Diane's competitive spirit remained undiminished. She continued to showcase her talents in softball, bowling, platform tennis, tennis, and golf.

Coming from a large family of seven children, Diane's athletic prowess was part of a legacy of achievement. Her connection to Ottawa Hills runs deep, with her grandchildren representing the fourth generation to attend the school. This multigenerational bond underscores Diane's lasting impact on her alma mater.

Margo Seney Morrow ('63)

Trailblazing competitor embodied determination



Margo Seney Morrow, an exceptional athlete and trailblazer, embodied the spirit of determination and achievement. While Title IX had yet to be enacted, Margo's high school experience was marked by her involvement in the Girls Athletic Association (GAA), an organization that would pave the way for her athletic success.

Under the guidance of the visionary Miss Barbara McDonald, Margo and her fellow female athletes defied limitations. Clad in distinctive blue uniforms, they competed in a range of sports, including field hockey, volleyball, and basketball. The victories they achieved against rival schools like Maumee Valley Country Day School, Rogers High School, and Anthony Wayne High School stand as testaments to their talent and dedication.

Margo's passion for swimming took root at an early age, with her mother Peg Seney coaching her. Competitive swimming soon became her domain, leading to remarkable achievements in the water. Margo, along with her teammates, contributed to the national record-breaking freestyle relay team, leaving a lasting legacy of success.

In 1972, Title IX was enacted as an amendment to the civil rights law. Having graduated from high school in 1963, Margo and her teammates were not able to benefit from the amendment. At that time, there were few colleges with women's teams and scholarships were not available. Limitations did not keep her from continuing her passion for sports. In adulthood, Margo continued her active lifestyle, participating in college intramurals, Masters swimming, racquetball, jazzercise, aerobics, scuba diving, snorkeling, boating and water skiing. Her family also enjoyed camping and swimming.

Her commitment to physical activity translated into her roles as a teacher, coach, and advocate. Margo taught 4th grade swimming and assisted with the swim teams of various age groups. She became an influential parent in Solon City Schools, championing equal opportunities for athletics and fine arts. Her 20+ years as an elected member of the Solon City Schools Board of Education exemplified her dedication to creating equitable facilities and opportunities for all students.

Jane Ulmer Kuta ('63)

Multi-sport athlete with passion and perseverance



From her early days as a multi-sport high school athlete to her achievements in college and beyond, Jane's story is one of passion and perseverance. During her high school years, Jane's sporting repertoire extended across an array of disciplines including basketball, volleyball, field hockey, and swimming. Jane acknowledges the trailblazing role of Ottawa Hills High School in 1963. Ahead of its time, the school's emphasis on girls' athletics, led by Miss Mac, offered opportunities that were rare in an era where many high schools lacked inter-school sports for girls.

College beckoned with a new arena for Jane's athletic talents. At Bowling Green State University, she enjoyed success in swimming and basketball, and playing softball in the summer. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree she taught physical education in Michigan. In 1968 Jane married Dave Kuta, a second lieutenant in the Army. The motto of their household became "stay flexible and adjust" which is just what she did. The first assignment was to Bermuda where Jane taught physical education for the

Department of Defense. The Kuta's would end up moving to several states over the years and, with each new move, Jane found ways to share her passions and give back to the community. She found volunteering to be very rewarding and shared her time with schools, libraries, churches, Cub Scouts, and hospitals.

Jane's love for athletics remained steadfast and flourished throughout her adulthood. She enjoys swimming, biking, and pickleball. She also competed in inter-club tennis and the Michigan Senior Olympics, where she has won numerous gold medals. Jane and Dave returned to the Toledo area in 2016 and now enjoy spending time with her sister, Joan, the friends that have shared travel journeys, and with her old friends and teammates from Ottawa Hills. They have two sons, Jeff and Matt (Jill), and five grandchildren (three living in CA and two in Germany).

Joan Ulmer Fisher ('63)

Diverse talents with a love of teamwork



Joan Ulmer Fisher's athletic journey, she says, would not have been possible without the support of mentors like Barbara McDonald, fondly known as "Miss Mac". Joan credits Miss Mac with instilling in her a love of sports and the concept of working as a team.

Joan's high school years were defined by her passion for volleyball, basketball, and field hockey. The guidance of Miss Mac extended beyond the conventional sports, as she introduced Joan and her peers to the world of bowling at University Lanes. Amid these diverse sports, a standout memory for Joan is the victory over rival Maumee Valley in field hockey.

Post-high school, Joan's dedication to sports continued to shine. She embarked on a collegiate journey at Wittenberg University, where she excelled in both volleyball and basketball for four years. Pursuing a major in Health and Physical Education, she not only honed her athletic skills but also cultivated a deep understanding of sports' impact on health and well-being. Joan spent 25 years working in Toledo Public Schools, where her commitment to education echoed her dedication to sports—both endeavors aimed at nurturing growth and potential.

Joan's post-college life has included various sports. She participated in tennis leagues, co-ed softball, and platform tennis tournaments. She was part of a team that qualified for the Senior Olympics Nationals in basketball. Her enthusiasm for sports evolved as she embraced different activities, including pickleball, kayaking, hiking, bike riding, golf, and travel. These not only kept her physically active but also provided a sense of adventure and exploration.

She was a dedicated mother to her son Timothy and daughter Tracy, both of whom have grown into their own lives with their respective families. Her four grandsons bring an extra dimension of joy and love to her life.

Despite her remarkable achievements, Joan remains humble, attributing much of her success to the mentorship of Barbara "Miss Mac" McDonald. Miss Mac's guidance, passion, and emphasis on teamwork were pivotal in shaping Joan's perspective on teamwork and friendship. She recognizes the evolution of opportunities for young women in athletics today and acknowledges how sports have united her and her peers for over six decades.

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