

Celebrating Alumni Achievement

2022 INDUCTION CEREMONY

PRESENTED BY
THE OTTAWA HILLS SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



September 16, 2022

 OTTAWA HILLS SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

Program

*Celebrating
Alumni
Achievement*

4:00 Cocktail Reception

5:00 Dinner

6:00 Induction Ceremony

7:15 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 his or her field;
- Service to his or her 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 2022

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



Carl Heiles ('57)
Noted astrophysicist & mentor



Phil Mattingly ('02)
White House correspondent for CNN



Cleveland O'Neal III ('74)
Award-winning, multi-media entrepreneur



Dr. Jessica Ciralsky
Ophthalmologist and gifted clinical educator

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Paula (Wagoner) Conway ('94)
Multi-sport athlete and field hockey leader



Sandy Osterman
Sports pioneer and beloved coach



Norm Niedermeier
Teacher, coach, AD and friend



John Spengler ('77)
All-around athlete and kicking star

Dual Honoree: Distinguished Alumni Award and Athletic Hall of Fame



Jim White, Jr. ('58)
Star quarterback, business and civic leader

Past Honorees



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)



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)

Nominations for 2023

If you would like to nominate an individual for either award for 2023, please complete the online form at ohschoolsfoundation.org/distinguishedalumni.php.

Nominations also may be emailed to Erica Silk at esilk@ohschools.org or mailed to Erica Silk, Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation, 2532 Evergreen Rd., Ottawa Hills, OH 43606.



Jim White, Jr. ('58)

Star quarterback, business and civic leader

No other quarterback in Ottawa Hills history has traveled the highs and lows of football more than Jim White, Jr. He started as a freshman in 1954, the first year Ohio allowed 9th graders to play at the varsity level. The team went 0-8. The sophomore campaign started poorly, with three losses in the first four games. But then fortunes changed.

UNDEFEATED 1957



LLP, a prestigious Toledo-based law firm with 340 lawyers and offices in five states. (He earned his law degree in 1965 from OSU, where he was president of his senior class. He also earned a master of law degree in taxation from New York University in 1967.)

He has served on every major regional private and public board, from the Toledo Museum of Art and Toledo Symphony

Orchestra to the Port Authority of Toledo and ProMedica. Mr. White was widely heralded as the driving force behind the successful \$35 million campaign that restored the historic Valentine Theater in downtown Toledo. And he's been a part owner of three Toledo hockey teams: the Hornets, Goaldiggers, and The Storm.

"I believe in giving back, as did my father. Support the community and the people that supported you," he said. "That's the best way to do business."

The family name is best known through its affiliation with a car dealership empire that spans four states. The business began with the opening of the first dealership by grandfather Hugh White in Zansville, Ohio, where Mr. White was born, and was carried on and expanded by Jim White, Sr. Mr. White continues to serve on the board of directors of The White Family Companies, Inc., which today has nearly 40 dealerships.

His family – mother Nelda, father Jim Sr., and brothers Dave ('55) and Tim – moved from Sylvania to Ottawa Hills in 1951. His parents were among the Villagers who raised money for construction of the concession stand at the football stadium. He and late wife Sue later established residency in the Village where they raised daughter Carey ('89) and James III (St. John's Jesuit High School graduate).



The 1955 team won its final four games, and the 1956 and 1957 teams – both with White under center – went undefeated. That's 21 wins in a row by an average score of 34-5, including 11 shutouts. And they were the 1956 Class B state champions. (No such calculation or honor was made after the 1957 season, but it's possible the team would have won back-to-back state titles, giving its signature wins and margins of victory.)

The streak's most notable win came in 1957 in a 21-20 victory against St. Francis de Sales High School, a true David vs. Goliath showdown. The game drew an estimated 5,000 fans to Devilbiss High School, which hosted the contest.

"It's fair to say they underestimated us," recalled Mr. White, who at 6-foot-1, 210 pounds, played nearly every snap in the game (either at quarterback or nose tackle). "They took great delight in calling us 'Cake Eaters,' 'Cadillac Kids,' or the 'Gold Doorknob Boys' because we were from Ottawa Hills. They used to make all sorts of fun of us."

As a student, Mr. White also played four years of varsity baseball (first base, relief pitcher) and basketball (point guard). He even earned a varsity letter in track his senior year by throwing the shot put. "We would play day and night if we had the weather. We all loved playing sports," he said of his classmates. "We lived and died for sports when you were my age."

His football abilities earned recruiting offers from The Ohio State University (OSU), University of Michigan, and Northwestern University. Mr. White continued playing football at Princeton University before an injury, and a desire to focus more on academics, forced him to hang up his cleats after his junior year. He graduated in 1962.

Mr. White would carry his competitive passions and belief in teamwork from sports into the worlds of business and civic engagement. His achievements are so significant that he is the first alumnus to simultaneously be honored with both the Distinguished Alumni Award and induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Today, he is a successful businessman and investor as well as managing partner of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick,





Carl Heiles ('57)

Noted astrophysicist and mentor

Born and raised in the Village, Carl Heiles developed an interest in science among a small group of friends, including older brother William ('54). That curiosity was further kindled by William Fulgum, the junior high science teacher who had a telescope in his classroom that students could check out. Dr. Heiles remembers taking the telescope home and looking up into the Toledo night sky and wondering about the objects he observed.

Dr. Heiles took that passion for knowledge and discovery and created a celebrated 50-year academic career in astrophysics at the University of California, Berkeley. He is best known internationally for co-authoring a model – the Hénon-Heiles system – that presented a theory to explain how objects move through space.

“It’s my most widely quoted paper and what I’m most known for,” Dr. Heiles recalled. “But the rest of my life was spent doing observational astronomy, which is a pretty far cry from the theoretical physics models that do not use data obtained from telescopes.”

At the time, Dr. Heiles was a promising doctoral student at Princeton University. Dr. Michel Hénon, a French mathematician, was there to conduct post-doctoral research. Dr. Heiles was one of the few students who could program a computer, a skill he developed while an undergraduate at Cornell University working on a project related to what would become the Apollo program.

“He was a brilliant guy. And the only reason I was on that paper was that while I was at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia, I learned to program computers. That was rare in those days,” Dr. Heiles recalled of the 1964 article published in “Astronomical Journal.” “I was one of the few people fortunate enough to be exposed to computers just as they were coming into

importance. So that’s how I got onto that paper.”

Before Princeton and the publishing of the famous model, he was at Cornell. He selected it in part because of the encouragement of fellow 1957 classmate Alan Dybvig. “I entered planning to major in electrical engineering. When I actually started taking classes, my eyes were opened to the vastness of the intellectual world – all the fundamental things we know little about,” he recalled. “So I decided I wanted something broader than double EE. And they offered this engineering physics package, which I thought was the perfect mix of practicality and intellectual abstraction.”



It was at Cornell that he got to work on a project with noted Professor Tommy Gold, who had a contract with the National Aeronautics Space Administration to study the density of the surface of the moon. “The question was how deep did the dust go,” Dr. Heiles said. “Was there a possibility that if someone walked on the surface, they would sink down into the dust and never be seen again?”

As part of that project, he spent a summer in West Virginia collecting and analyzing data from the moon about thermal radiation.

After earning his doctoral degree from Princeton in 1966, Dr. Heiles immediately joined the astronomy department at Berkeley. Among his more notable professional achievements are receiving the Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics in 1989 and being accepted into the National Academy of Science in 1990.

But he feels his greatest contribution was as a teacher and mentor. In 2002, Berkeley awarded him the Donald Sterling Noyce Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Students in his undergraduate radio astronomy course constructed and operated their own radio telescope to measure our galaxy’s speed of rotation.

“A lot of the students were turned on by that lab course. There was a lot of one-on-one teaching. I taught them how to troubleshoot,” he said. “The National Academy and Heineman prize are nice, but that’s much more important to me.”

He retired in 2015 but continues to collect and analyze data. “I’m still doing a lot of research with collaborators in Europe, China, and the United States,” he said. “I still spend most of my days going over data.”





Phil Mattingly ('02)

White House correspondent for CNN

When it came time to choose between writing for the OH student newspaper or yearbook, Phil Mattingly made the obvious choice. “I chose Mesasa because it had the cooler break room,” he said dryly.

Thankfully for the world of journalism, Mr. Mattingly – who today is the White House correspondent for CNN – became inspired to develop his writing skills in the classroom of English teacher Darrin Broadway.

“Mr. Broadway made me fall in love with writing. It was the first time I genuinely looked forward to going to class every day,” he said. “I loved every minute of it and every minute of trying to get better.”

It’s easy to forget that in the early part of his 14-year career—before his presence became a common sight on Bloomberg Television and then CNN—Mr. Mattingly was an accomplished print reporter. Years before he started to travel the world with President Biden, he worked news sources on Capitol Hill for multiple publications and news websites.

Mr. Mattingly and his family arrived in Ottawa Hills in 1994 after moving frequently during his father’s military career. “Ottawa Hills became our first full-time, long-term home,”

he said. (His sister Erin is a

1999 graduate.) He played baseball and was on the 2001 team that lost in the State Finals. His play was good enough to earn a scholarship to The Ohio State University, where he moved from shortstop to third base. But a knee injury as a sophomore prematurely ended his career. He stuck with English as a major and started writing for The Lantern, OSU’s student newspaper.

After graduating in 2006 and without the writing clips needed to win a job, he asked around the Village for help. Everyone pointed him in one direction: Christine Brennan ('76), an internationally known sports reporter. Her advice: Go to graduate school and get more clips.



He enrolled at Boston University (BU) in the fall of 2006. During his first summer in the master’s program, he sent 114 letters to newspapers asking for an internship. Only The Lima News in Lima, Ohio, made an offer, but it was unpaid. Mr. Mattingly quickly accepted. “I wrote every single day,” he said. “It was the luckiest break ever I got.”

Another break occurred in his final semester, when he got a months-long internship with The Cape Cod Times that placed him in Washington, D.C. “At that point, I was basically a full-time reporter looking for stories through a local lens,” he said. “And that’s when I fell in love with D.C.”

After graduating from BU in 2008, he was offered a full-time reporting position by Congressional Quarterly to cover the banking industry and economy. “They said nothing ever happens in this beat and we’ll switch you over in about a year to cover military affairs,” Mr. Mattingly recalled about the offer. “And I said, ‘Great, I got a D in my econ class in college.’” But by fall, the Great Recession had begun.

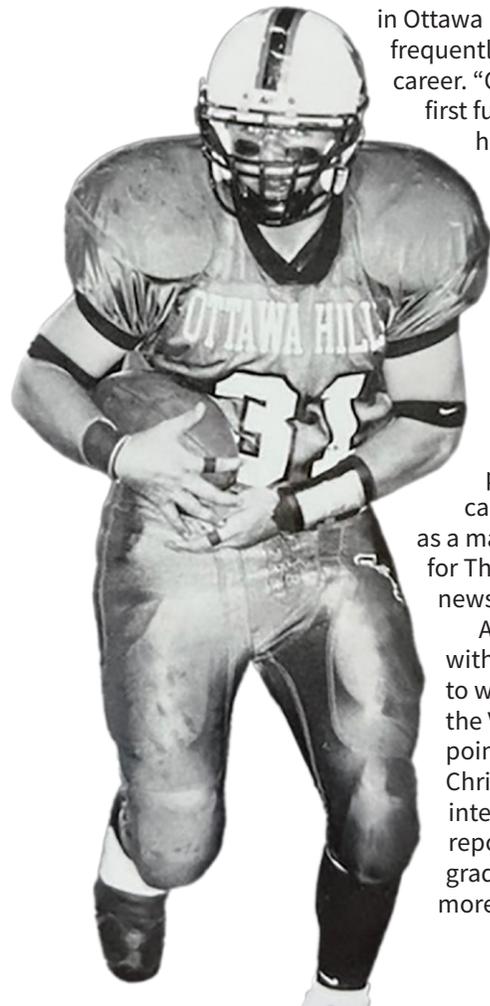
“It was pretty advantageous for a young journalist to be covering those issues,” he said. “I was in a really good position, almost by chance, to break news and make a name for myself far earlier than I probably would have otherwise.”

Bloomberg News later hired him to cover the same beats. In late 2013, his employer asked him to start appearing on camera on Bloomberg Television—his first regular taste of TV reporting. Impressed with his abilities, he was named White House correspondent covering President Obama. CNN recruited him away as a New York-based correspondent in late 2015. He spent 2016 on the campaign trail covering presidential candidates Chris Christie, John Kasich, and Donald Trump.

He then covered Congress for four years, including the events of Jan. 6, 2021. He transitioned to covering President Biden after the swearing-in ceremony. “We follow his rhythm and tempo,” he said of his fellow White House correspondents. “That’s our day to day job.”

All that air time has made him a celebrity of sorts. You know you’re famous when People publishes an online exclusive about the birth of your fourth child. Or when Men’s Health publishes a workout feature on you about how to tame stress. Or when the President of the United States calls you out by name at an international press conference and says, “I watch you on TV a lot.”

His parents and sister now live nearby in Washington, but all are planning to return for the Sept. 16 induction ceremony. “Ottawa Hills is getting the full Mattingly treatment,” he said.





Cleveland O’Neal III (’74)

Award-winning, multi-media entrepreneur

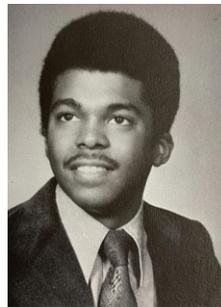


Dream. Believe. Achieve. This is the inspiring advice Cleveland O’Neal III would give today’s Ottawa Hills students. It was these three words, along with hard work, focus and dedication, that propelled Cleveland from Ottawa Hills student to an award-winning, multi-media entrepreneur who recently acquired the Fortune 100 digital media company, **Moviefone**, formerly owned by AOL/Verizon.

As Creator & Executive Producer of the Emmy-nominated, nationally syndicated TV series franchise **Made In Hollywood**, in its 18th season airing on CBS, FOX, ABC and CW affiliate stations in over 94 percent of the U.S., Cleveland was able to realize his strategic plan for a perfect marriage of entertainment brands combining the digital/mobile/social **Moviefone** assets with the TV/video assets of **Made In Hollywood**.

“Firsts” has been a familiar theme for the O’Neal family. Cleveland O’Neal Jr. was one of the first African-American rocket scientists hired by NASA. And, Cleveland III has had an impressive list of his own “firsts” beginning as a young man in Ottawa Hills Local Schools – he was the first African-American to score a touchdown, to star in a school musical, and to graduate from Ottawa Hills High School (1974).

During his time at Ottawa Hills Cleveland was involved in sports such as tennis and football, but was drawn to theater. He earned



starring roles in all of the Ottawa Hills high school productions including *Carousel*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Oklahoma*. He fondly remembers Vance McCarter, drama teacher and director of musicals. “Mr. McCarter was great, and I appreciated his fair, open and forward thinking approach,” he said. “It was the early 70s and right on the heels of the civil rights movement and I was the only African-American in the cast. There was

always a buzz if I had a kissing scene. We would always sell out those shows.”

After graduating from Ottawa Hills, Cleveland attended Boston University to pursue his love of acting. As a young college student, Cleveland performed at the New York Shakespeare Festival in *Hamlet* with an all-star cast including John Lithgow and Sam Waterston. Then he got an agent and went on to Broadway to pursue his dream, and in doing so learned an important lesson. “I realized being in the theater is a lot like a lottery – some win and some don’t – so I changed course and became a TV reporter for the NBC affiliate in Boston.” He added, “This path would allow me to ‘perform’ in front of the camera and write and produce segments while learning more about media’s business side.”

Cleveland continued to learn about all aspects of media as a radio sales manager in Boston. He eventually moved across country to Los Angeles where he became a radio station executive while continuing his acting career, working on shows such as *Married with Children* and *Dynasty*.

The extensive network Cleveland built through his acting and media careers were keys used to build his production, distribution, and talent management company Connection III Entertainment Corp. “I wanted to connect

three things – music, TV, and motion pictures – and create, develop, and produce projects for these platforms.”

Another “first” for Cleveland was he got his first big break with *What About Your Friends*, the first African-American afterschool special in network television history. “We produced the project and from a business standpoint it was key that we owned it as well.” He further explained, “By owning the intellectual property library and building it, we control the trajectory of the work. This is how to build a successful company.”

“The control factor, the ability to control the company’s destiny, is gold,” Cleveland adds. “It’s how I built my ‘bootstrap business’ from the ground up without having to rely on investors or venture capital. It took discipline and many years of focus and sacrifice, but the reward is the true freedom of business ownership.”

When asked what advice he would give today’s Ottawa Hills students, Cleveland’s repeated a word – dream. Pursue your dreams. Dream big. Dream unlimited. Dream and follow up with a written plan. Keep the focus so your dreams come to fruition. Dream. Believe. Achieve. This philosophy certainly worked for Cleveland – his dream came true!





Dr. Jessica Ciralsky

Ophthalmologist and gifted clinical educator

Dr. Jessica Ciralsky grew up in The Village enjoying many friendships, youth activities, and sibling fun with sisters Meredith ('94) and Schuyler ('99). She also was uniquely talented as a pianist, so much so that she dreamed of playing professionally. She and her parents William and Nancy decided her senior year would be spent



at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in northern Michigan instead of Ottawa Hills.

“My parents and I agreed that before I made the commitment to pursue those studies in college and ultimately professionally, I

should immerse myself in music to confirm that choice,” said Dr. Ciralsky. “What I came to understand through my experience at Interlochen is that while I loved playing and learning music, it was more of a passion than a vocation.”

While she still enjoys playing the piano, that decision in the spring of 1996 set her on another path of professional achievement and fame. Today, she is a successful and well-known ophthalmologist, with a thriving private practice on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Her practice interests include corneal diseases and corneal surgery, advanced cataract surgery, and ocular surface disorders. New York magazine has named her a “Top Doctor” for six consecutive years; she has also earned the “Top Doctors New York Metro Area” honor for six consecutive years.

In addition, she is an associate professor of clinical ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medicine, teaching classes, conducting research, and mentoring the next generation of ophthalmologists.

After graduating from Interlochen, she enrolled at Brown University still unsure of a career path. While there, she volunteered at a local children’s hospital, an experience that helped her decide about a career in medicine. “I came away so impressed and moved by the level of care and interactions between patients and the health care providers,” she said.

Upon graduating magna cum laude from Brown in 2000, she received the Anne Crosby Emery Fellowship, which is given to only two graduating seniors in recognition of their scholarly ability and excellence of character. She then enrolled at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and earned her doctor of medicine degree in 2004.

While at Johns Hopkins, she was drawn to the field of ophthalmology in part because of the delicate hand-eye coordination required of its practitioners. “I spent so many years developing my hand and finger dexterity as a pianist

that I knew I wanted to apply those abilities as I set out to choose a specialty,” she said.

After Johns Hopkins, she completed an ophthalmology residency and cornea fellowship at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, a Harvard Medical School teaching hospital and a world-renowned research center. While there, she was elected chief clinical fellow of the Cornea Service, earned a Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Fellowship in 2008, and was named “Fellow of the Year” in 2009 by its residents for her dedication and contribution to their education.

“I love being able to share my passion and experience with aspiring physicians,” Dr. Ciralsky said, which she continues to do through her teaching and research duties at Weill Cornell Medicine. “It gives me great pride to earn their trust and help them as a mentor. I had great mentors throughout my career and their guidance was invaluable.”

She has served on numerous ophthalmology boards and participated in many professional conferences and summits, both within the United States and across the world. “Collaborations, through consulting and clinical research, help keep me on the cutting edge,” she said.

“I have such fond memories of my time at Ottawa Hills. The community is truly like an extended family. Everyone was so supportive and nurturing,” she said.

Those feelings and memories help explain why in the spring of 2020, the Ciralsky sisters created a fund through the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation in memory of their father, who passed away in 2018. The Billy Ciralsky Entrepreneurial Endowment Fund enhances student entrepreneurial initiatives and projects.

“My class was full of amazing people. Many of my classmates have gone on to have really interesting careers helping the world become a better place in so many different ways,” Dr. Ciralsky said. “I love the education I received at Ottawa Hills High School and will always cherish the times I had there.”





Paula (Wagoner) Conway ('94)

Multi-sport athlete and field hockey leader



Paula Wagoner Conway ('94) earned 16 varsity letters at Ottawa Hills. But it was her extraordinary abilities in field hockey that made her famous locally and established her national reputation in the sport.

She was the center midfielder on OH teams that made it to three consecutive state title games from 1992-1994. The Green Bears won the championship in 1993 and 1994.

"Both wins were memorable, but the senior year was special because not every high school athlete gets to play their final game by winning a championship," she said. "To celebrate that way, in my final game at Ottawa Hills, was amazing."

She also played four years of basketball and track and cheered varsity for four years. In her senior year, she was editor of *The Arrowhead* and Homecoming Queen.

Mrs. Conway said her love of sports and competitiveness was fueled in part by her brothers Greg (1993) and Mark (1990). "A lot of my success came from my brothers being great athletes. They really paved the way," she said. In fact, all three siblings won the high school's "Athlete of the Year" honor as seniors.

She also credits her late father Mark "Mick" Wagoner, Sr., who was active in Village athletic circles and coached many youth and OH teams. "Our lives really revolved around Ottawa Hills athletics and being the best teammate, player, and representative of the school that we could be," she said. "His core values really taught us to give back and be a part of the community."

Her dominance in field hockey continued at Providence College, a Division I university in the Big East Conference. She was named an All-American and All-Big East three times; she also earned both "Rookie of the Year" (1994) and "Offensive Player of the Year" (1998) honors. She graduated in 1998 with a degree in elementary and special education.

From 1998 to 2006, Mrs. Conway achieved great success as an assistant coach at three Division I programs: Georgetown University, Kent State University, and Boston College. During three years at Kent State, her teams won two Mid-American Conference championships and appeared in three consecutive NCAA tournaments. In her final season there, she led the planning and organizing for the 2001 NCAA Field Hockey Championship, hosted by Kent State.

During this time, Mrs. Conway was active within the United States Field Hockey Association by serving as a head coach in the Futures Development Program and as a Super Camp Instructor.

In 2006, she and husband Nick moved to California, after the Team USA field hockey program relocated its Olympic training center from Virginia to the San Diego area. Mr. Conway had earned three national titles while a coach with the girls' team at the University of North Carolina and was head coach

of the men's national field hockey team for six years.

A year later, she joined La Jolla High School in the San Diego Unified School District as an English teacher. She later taught physical education and began coaching the girls' field hockey team. In 2013, she became the school's first-ever female athletic director. Two years later, she was named "Rookie Athletic Director of the Year" by the California State Athletic Directors Association. In 2021, she became athletic director at The Bishop School, a prestigious private school in the San Diego area.

"As a professional, I've taken so much from my time at Ottawa Hills, especially about being a multi-sport athlete and being involved in different activities," she said. "I always encourage student athletes to try multiple sports. OH is such a special place because it's small.

The teachers there were like family with me. I always felt most at home when I was on campus."



Sandy Osterman

Sports pioneer and beloved coach



As the nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of Title IX this year and the sports equity it made possible, few women can appreciate its significance more than Sandy Osterman. First as a student in high school and college and later as a teacher and coach in Ottawa Hills, she lived the inequities first-hand.

No access to team buses. Tape on gym shirts to create make-shift uniforms. No referees. Equipment borrowed from gym class. No varsity letters awarded.

But what endeared Miss O – as she was affectionately called – to OH students and athletes over a 27-year career was her infectious smile and love of sports. In those early years, she organized and coached as many as six sports a year. And often capped those unofficial matchups with local schools with a post-game buffet of milk and cookies.

“I wouldn’t give up anything I did. It was a different time, but there was a real closeness,” said Ms. Osterman, who retired from teaching and Ottawa Hills in 1998. “It was a wonderful thing, but it’s a wonderful thing now, too. The girls’ opportunities now are beyond me.”

For female athletes today, the world before passage of the federal law known as Title IX seems as foreign as the days of horse and buggy. But it was the only one known by female athletes such as Ms. Osterman. Born in Toledo, she graduated from Whitmer High School in 1964 and then Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in 1968. For all that playing time (particularly field hockey and basketball), she never earned a varsity letter or played for a championship of any kind.

Sports for females at the junior high and school levels operated for decades under the national umbrella of the Girls Athletic Association (GAA). The organization’s purpose was as much about creating social networks and opportunities for physical activity as learning skills and strategy for a particular sport. “We would have ‘play’ dates and invite other schools to play. Sometimes we had officials, but we usually referred our own games,” she said. “This was the real beginning of the girls’ sports.”

Ms. Osterman started teaching at Ottawa Hills in the fall of 1968, shortly after graduating from BGSU. She entered college in part through the encouragement of her Whitmer physical education teacher, Sally Craden. In addition to teaching health and physical education, Ms. Osterman coached all the GAA sports offered at Ottawa Hills: field hockey, basketball, softball, track and field, volleyball, and tennis. She taught in Florida and Michigan over the next two years before returning to Ottawa Hills in the fall of 1971.

Even after Title IX became law in 1972, she still had to make requests and sometimes argue for better funding for girls’ sports – all while often coaching both junior varsity and varsity teams. “For eight years, I established the girls’ competitive sports program at Ottawa Hills,” she recalled. “I had to fight like heck to get anything out of the budget.”

Today, Ottawa Hills offers 10 varsity sports for girls (including the co-ed teams of swimming and track and field).

Her career as a coach reached its pinnacle in the fall of 1979, as she led the OH field hockey team into Ohio’s first-ever sanctioned championship tournament for that sport. The Green Bears lost in the state semifinals. But it was the start of a sports dynasty, one in which OH field hockey teams would win three state titles over the next 20 years. She coached through the spring of 1980, and then focused her energies on teaching.

Her support of students and love of sports was best captured by international sports journalist Christine Brennan (’76), who contributed a chapter dedicated to Ms. Osterman to the 2011 book titled “Coach: 25 Writers reflect on people who made a difference.”

“Were it not for my experiences playing sports at Ottawa Hills, being encouraged every step of the way by my parents, my siblings, and Miss O, I am certain I would not have taken the path I did in my life,” Ms. Brennan wrote.

“For me as a teacher, OH was where I belonged,” Ms. Osterman said. “I felt appreciated. I loved the kids and I think they loved me back.”



Norm Niedermeier

Teacher, coach, AD, and friend



Biology teacher, football coach, tennis coach, basketball coach, athletic director, dean of students. Norm Niedermeier wore many hats during his 40 years at Ottawa Hills Schools – and he impacted many lives.

Coach Niedermeier retired in 1997 and has stayed connected with Ottawa Hills and his former students over the years. For example, there was an informal gathering of graduates that was tabbed “Dinner with Norm.” Fifteen or 20 of us would get together at the Beirut every other year and shoot the breeze for hours. It’s a great group of kids and everyone has done well. They’re all retired now too! Some have moved south, but they still would come back for ‘Dinner with Norm.’”

After his retirement, Coach Niedermeier spent his time “going wherever I felt like going, any time I felt like going.” He and his wife, Mary Ann, enjoyed traveling together until her passing several years ago. He then traveled alone, enjoying a trip to Italy as well as driving trips throughout the southern United States. He explained, “A lot of times I drove so I could stop and see some of my old players and students. Every few years, I would go through Nashville on my way back from Florida to see Jamie O’Hara. I considered him the best athlete to ever graduate from Ottawa Hills. But in high school, he was also in the choir, and he became a professional songwriter, singer and

entertainer so his whole career was in the music business, not sports.”

Topping Coach’s list of favorite things to do is spending time with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who are scattered around the country.

Regardless of the number of years he’s been away from Ottawa Hills, he’s still “Coach” or “Mr. Niedermeier” to his former students. “I would always tell them, ‘You can call me Norm. We have no connection but friendship now.’” But most have told him, “I just can’t do it!”

A fond memory Coach Niedermeier shared was of Jim White, who was the senior quarterback of the football team in 1957, his first year at Ottawa Hills. Coach noted Jim was a great athlete in all sports. “Jim and I were walking out of a funeral a several years ago,” he recalled. “Jim said, ‘You know, Coach, when you coached us you were only four or five years older than us.’” Coach reminded him, “You know what, Jim, I’m still only four or five years older than you!”

Norm Niedermeier has only fond memories of his years at Ottawa Hills. “I always told people it’s one of the best school systems in the country, and I spent my whole life there. I would talk Ottawa Hills up wherever I go. The people are great, the faculty is great and the kids are great. It’s a wonderful place. I wouldn’t trade the 40 years I was at Ottawa Hills for anything.”



John Spengler ('77)

All-around athlete and kicking star



John Spengler ('77) is a rarity among OH high school athletes: He earned varsity letters in five sports. He was a member of two undefeated varsity football teams and the 1974 golf team that won the Ohio State Championships, and with partner Keith Buckey, lost in the State Semifinals in doubles tennis in May 1977. He also played basketball for three years and started at second base as a freshman and sophomore.

But it was his success as a kicker that defined his high school career. He was the first student who kicked soccer style – the then-emerging way of driving through the ball and getting better distance and accuracy. He kicked extra points, kickoffs, and field goals on varsity for four years. He also has the distinction of kicking the first extra point in OH Junior High history (teams would always go for two points prior to that).

Mr. Spengler was introduced to the soccer-style approach while living abroad in England with his family.

(His dad William was a senior executive for Owens-Illinois, Inc. and was assigned to company facility there for three years.) “They play a lot of soccer or, as they called it, football,” he said. “You get a break, you played soccer. After school, you played soccer. There’s always a soccer ball nearby that people are always kicking around.”

The family moved to the Village upon their return to the United States, and four Spenglers would graduate from Ottawa Hills: William ('73), John ('77), Mary ('75), and Caroline ('79).

As a senior, Mr. Spengler was named Second Team in football, more for his play at quarterback and defense back than for kicking. At that time, no athlete was named as kicker to the All-Michigan-Ohio Border Conference (MOBC) teams. He also was named First Team All-MOBC in golf.

One of his fondest sports memories came in the fall of 1975, as the golf team had again made it to States. But he and teammates Richard Berry ('76) and Fred Lumm ('76) also played football. So they played the first round of States on Friday in Columbus, boarded a private plane owned by a Villager, flew into Toledo, and drove back to Ottawa Hills in time to take the field.

“Then after the football game, we fly back to Columbus, slept, and played the second round of states. Only in Ottawa Hills,” he said. “That’s a great memory.”

After OH graduation, he and his father made tapes of his golf and football plays and circulated them to college coaches. His intent was to play two sports if he could. To further develop his son’s skills, his father that summer arranged a private coaching session with a sorority brother. That person kicker: Lou “The Toe” Groza, the Hall of Fame kicker of the great Cleveland Brown teams of the 1950s.

Mr. Spengler continued to kick (and play golf) in college, becoming the first Bowling Green State University athlete to be named All-Mid-American Conference in football and golf in the same year. He was named the All-MAC kicker in both his junior and senior years, kicking a then school-record 13 straight field goals as a junior. He also completed his collegiate career by kicking 71 consecutive extra points.

In golf, Mr. Spengler lettered as a freshman on BGSU’s 1978 MAC Championship team. As a junior, he earned First-Team MAC honors by finishing seventh at the MAC Championship. In his senior year, he was the team’s captain and scoring leader.

After college, he had a summer tryout with the Detroit Lions in 1981. After hiring an agent in 1982, he was signed by the Kansas City Chiefs. In a preseason game against the New Orleans Saints in the Superdome, Mr. Spengler came in to try a 39-yard field goal as the first half ended.

The kick went wide right, just brushing the goal post.

“In the locker room at halftime, (Coach) Marv Levy came up to me and said, ‘Sorry, son. I just got the call from Lamar Hunt. You’re out,’” Mr. Spengler said. Mr. Hunt owned the team. “I was married at the time and I said, ‘I can’t keep messing around with this.’ Life is beginning. Go get a real job.”

Today, he is a partner with Venture Visionary Partners where he develops wealth management strategies to assist clients in pursuing their financial goals. He now has earned entry into three athletic hall of fames: The Bowling Green Athletic Hall of Fame, the Toledo Golf Hall of Fame, and the Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame.



About the Foundation

The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation was created in 2013 to serve the district as a long-term, sustainable funding source. Its purpose is to raise and distribute private dollars to support important programs and offerings for students.

The seed for the formation of a school foundation was planted in 2010. Like all school districts across Ohio and the country, the economic downturn had negatively impacted district finances. While the Board of Education and district personnel worked together to identify more than \$1 million in cuts and savings, more needed to be done.

After a year-long investigation, members of a philanthropy advisory committee, comprised of community members, overwhelmingly supported the creation of a foundation. In May 2013, the community's vision became a reality when the Ottawa Hills Local Schools Board of Education approved the first Board of Trustees and a code of regulations for the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

Executive Board

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('74)



Dee Talmage



Mark Wagoner
('90)

Foundation Mission

To permanently enhance and extend the unique experience of excellence that defines Ottawa Hills Local Schools

Donor & Foundation Funds

Donor Funds

The Talmage Family Fund

Supporting emerging needs and initiatives through unrestricted gifts to Ottawa Hills Local Schools.

The Eleanor Seifried Fund for the Performing Arts

Support the enhancement of the performing arts, including theatre, choir, and dance.

The STEM Fund

Increase and enhance student opportunities in STEM-based learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

The Mindel Family Athletic Fund

Ongoing support for athletic programs at Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School.

The Irene A. Aubin Student Assistance Fund

Financial assistance for students to participate in curricular, extra-curricular, and super-curricular programs regardless of financial ability.

The Billy Ciralsky Entrepreneurial Endowment Fund

Enhance student entrepreneurial initiatives and projects.

Nanci Kay Effler Fund for Visual Arts

Support to OH faculty and students and the district's art programs and initiatives.

Heldreth Family Student Services and Support Fund

Support current and future district efforts to meet the academic needs of individual students, their educators, and district interventionists.

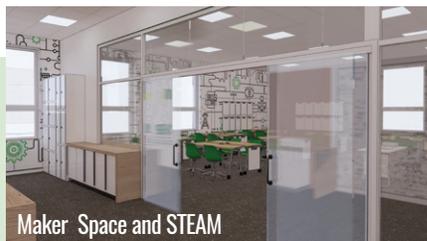
Foundation Funds

Annual Unrestricted Impact Fund

As-needed support to faculty and students in the pursuit of excellence.

Cornerstone Planned Giving Society

Support for Ottawa Hills Local Schools in estate planning.



Our Current Campaign: Full STEAM Ahead

The Full STEAM Ahead Capital Campaign continues to create excitement while enhancing new and renovated spaces at the Elementary School and Junior/Senior High School. The campaign recently surpassed \$2.2 million in support for OH courses, facilities, and programs that advance the subjects of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Approximately 120 individuals, families, and businesses have joined the campaign since the June 2021 launch. The campaign is building on commitments made by Village voters in November 2020, when they passed a bond levy to raise \$8.5 million to build The Foundry at the Junior/Senior High school and renovate STEAM classrooms. (The money also will finance HVAC improvements at the building.)

**FULL
STEAM
AHEAD**

For more information, contact Erica Silk at esilk@ohschools.org or visit ohschools.org/fullsteam

MISSION

In partnership with our community, Ottawa Hills Local Schools will inspire, challenge, and support each student to realize their unique and full potential; to embrace the joy of learning as a lifelong process; and to become an empathetic, responsible citizen.



Ottawa Hills
Local Schools



ohschoolsfoundation.org/