



*Presented by the  
Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation*

# Induction Ceremony

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018  
OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL



## Ottawa Hills High School DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD 2018

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes Ottawa Hills 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 was comprised of Ottawa Hills alumni, faculty, and district officials.

We would like to thank the committee members for their service:

Kate Backoff ('77), Jackie Berenzweig ('93), Betsy Brady ('64), Chris Hardman, Ben McMurray, Kevin Miller, Erica Silk ('89), and Judd Silverman ('74).

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## 2018 Distinguished Alumni Inductees

*James Geiger ('79)*

*Roa Lynn ('55)*

*Larry Mindel ('55)*

*M. Scott Peeler ('89)*

*Frederic Roberts ('79)*

## Schedule of Events

**5:00 P.M.**

*Cocktail Reception*

**5:30 P.M.**

*Dinner*

**6:30 P.M.**

*Induction Ceremony*

**7:15 P.M.**

*OHHS Football Game and Halftime Recognition*

*Distinguished Alumni inductees will be recognized on the field at halftime. A tent is provided for inductees and their guests.*

I AM PART OF A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



*I am*  
INVOLVED

"I'm thankful to be able to participate in a wide array of extracurricular activities at Ottawa Hills that support and reinforce my academic and creative interests, such as speech and debate, theater, cheer and more."

Sarah Boice '20

I AM PART OF A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



*I am*  
A LEADER

"As students at Ottawa Hills, we are fortunate to have so much support – from teachers, fellow students, the community and the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. It's this commitment to excellence that helps us be successful, reach our goals and achieve our dreams."

Matt Sherman '18



*I am*  
INSPIRED

"I am so thankful for what the Ottawa Hills Theater Department has done for me. Every production I've been in has taught me the true importance of collaboration and expression through the arts. I am grateful for the memories made, friendships formed, and the exceptional show of support for the students by every person involved – from fellow students to parents, teachers, and the community."

Henry Seifried '19



*I am*  
CONFIDENT

"Being a student athlete at Ottawa Hills helps me develop and refine important skills, such as effective communication, that I can use not only with my teammates and coaches, but also for the rest of my life. I feel participating in athletics empowers me and has opened the door to many new opportunities for which I am extremely grateful."

Tysen Chappell '19



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD INDUCTEE



### James Geiger ('79)

A mentor, teacher, researcher, and inventor, James Geiger, MD, has distinguished himself as a top professional in the field of medicine.

Jim graduated from the University of Michigan in 1983 and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

in 1987. He completed his surgical internship and residency as well as a fellowship in surgical critical care at the University of Michigan. He currently serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Surgery, at the University of Toledo School of Medicine and as a Professor of Surgery, Section of Pediatric Surgery, at the University of Michigan.

Known as one of the top pediatric surgeons in the country, Jim has also dedicated himself to developing medical programs and surgical devices. He holds five patents, has several patents pending, and has invented two surgical devices.

Jim's impact on the medical field has reached far beyond the University of Michigan. He has served as an investigator in many grant-supported programs and participated as a research fellow and ad hoc reviewer for a variety of publications, including *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* and the *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. He has served on committees and advisory boards for organizations such as the American Pediatric Surgical Association and Children's Oncology Group. He has also presented all over the world on innovations in pediatric surgery.

Jim has received numerous honors and awards for his work in medicine, including being inducted into The League of Research Excellence and being awarded Outstanding Clinician at University of Michigan Medical School.

During his time at OHHS, Jim was an outstanding student, athlete, and leader. He was respected by the faculty as well as his peers. He married fellow 1979 graduate Mary Lewis Geiger, and they raised their children, Jenny, Catherine and Michael, in Ottawa Hills.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD INDUCTEE



### Roa Lynn ('55)

Roa credits Ottawa Hills for encouraging her to strive for excellence, be creative, and learn new things. She carried that philosophy with her as she had several careers and lived in many cities in the United States as well as South America and Germany.

A 1961 graduate of New York University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, Roa furthered her education with graduate work in International Economics. Her work as a print journalist appeared in publications such as *Time* and *Newsweek*. She has also worked in television and as a senior government administrator for the state of Utah. Roa has written about the history, economics, and culture of Brazil for the Brazilian embassy in Washington, D.C. In honor of her work, she was decorated with the Order of Rio Branco by the Brazilian government in 1997.

Over the years, Roa studied architecture at Catholic University of America and at the Rhode Island School of Design in Rome. She has participated in numerous creative writing workshops. In addition, Roa has published a variety of written works, including poems, novels, non-fiction books, and newspaper articles. *The Blade* featured an article written by Roa describing the connections of Toledo to the world.

When living in Arlington, Virginia, Roa graduated from the Citizen's Police Academy just before 9/11, and her class was sent as first responders to the Pentagon. At 80, Roa continues to develop her sense of adventure by moving to New York City where she is attending the New York City Citizen's Police Academy.

Roa recently celebrated her 63rd high school reunion and considers her classmates some of her best and most loyal friends.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD INDUCTEE



### Larry Mindel ('55)

Larry, an entrepreneur and pioneer in the restaurant industry for more than 40 years, has opened ground-breaking Italian restaurants in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas. He was the first American outside of Italy to win the prestigious Caterina de Medici medal for preservation of Italian Heritage.

Larry's first major restaurant success story was Chianti, in Los Angeles. He went on to launch several restaurants in the Bay Area such as Ciao and MacArthur Park, along with Prego, one of the first restaurants in the United States to feature exhibition pizza ovens. He is also the founder of Il Fornaio, a chain of west-coast restaurants that celebrate the culinary traditions of Italy.

After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1959, Larry moved to New York to work for his father at an instant coffee manufacturing company. At age 21, Larry's father sent him to California and entrusted him with managing a difficult business situation, finding a solution, and proving himself. Strategies of hard work, perseverance, and exceptional customer service, along with the business influence of his father, led to Larry's success as a young manager and entrepreneur and have carried him through his career.

A basketball and football player while at OHHS, Larry notes "I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for athletics. It was my lifesaver. I learned about having confidence and the importance of team from being an athlete." Larry and his wife, Debby, recently established The Mindel Family Athletic Fund at OHHS, which provides resources to enrich the lives of student-athletes as they strive to be champions in the classroom and on the field.

Larry and Debby live in Sausalito, California, and enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD INDUCTEE



### M. Scott Peeler ('89)

Scott attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he graduated in 1993 with distinction and high honors with a bachelor's degree in political science and history. While at UNC, Scott was one of 20 students invited into the prestigious North Carolina Fellows Program, a

four-year leadership development program. During his junior year, Scott was chosen for a highly selective internship program with Proctor & Gamble and secured a job with the company before the start of his senior year. He worked in sales and marketing for P&G for two years, but his desire to attend law school never left him.

His path to becoming a lawyer and prosecutor led him to UNC School of Law. Upon graduation, Scott accepted his dream job as assistant district attorney in New York County. There he served the people of the state of New York prosecuting a variety of major felonies. Following his public service, Scott began his work in the private sector as an associate in Arent Fox. He became a partner eight years out of law school, and he currently serves as head of the firm's White Collar and Government Enforcement Departments and the Complex Litigation Department in New York.

While in private practice, Scott was named by the government as the integrity monitor for one of the world's largest financial institutions. He designed and created "Navigator," a compliance application for smart phones and tablets, which he sold to Stroz Friedberg. He has appeared as a commentator on national news programs and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*.

Scott serves as the Warden of the Vestry of the Episcopal Parish of Calvary – St. George's and has served on the Boards of Trustees for the Acorn School and the Jack and Jill Schools in Manhattan. He and his wife, Diana, have been married for 20 years. They have a daughter, Alexandra, and son, Matthew.



## Frederic Roberts ('79)

Fred, a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University with a double major of Geography and Zoology, received his master's degree in Education with an Experiential Education focus from Prescott College in Arizona. He has 35 years of experience in various capacities in the education

field ranging from teacher and dean of students to director of an outdoor leadership school.

Fred started his career with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) where he was a field instructor in Kenya and in the U.S. He returned to Kenya in 1986 and was named Director of the NOLS program. When he learned the NOLS program in Kenya was closing down in 2003, Fred and his wife, Elizabeth, were committed to keeping it an environmental resource, which led to their idea for Batian's View.

Each summer, a group of Ottawa Hills students joins Fred at his Batian's View Experiential Education Center in Naro Moru, Kenya as part of the Summer Learning in Kenya (SLIK) program. Students take part in a three-week service learning program, teaching at local Kenyan schools – a life-changing experience.

Since establishing Batian's View, Fred, Elizabeth, along with son Jake and daughters Makena and Brewer have split the year between the U.S. and Kenya. Fred notes, "One of the goals I have is to push the students out of their comfort zones in safe ways. Being the only white person in a school of 300 Kenyans is different, and I want them to feel that. But by the end of their time there, they break down the barriers."

Through his leadership and example, Fred Roberts is making an indelible impact on students from Ottawa Hills and beyond. The opportunity to pursue this dream is an outcome of his own experiences while a student at OH: "I learned from a lot of caring teachers in a safe community. At Ottawa Hills, I found a lot of freedom to be who I was."



## 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.

Thanks to Ottawa Hills alumni, community, and friends, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is making a real and significant impact on our students. To date, the Foundation has raised over \$1 million in gifts and pledges.

Gifts to the Foundation support many endeavors that enhance and extend the Ottawa Hills experience: Agora workshops; Choraliers performances in New York and Chicago; Acting Out productions; robotics camp; Science Olympiad camp; Women in STEM Day; overnight football camp, Anatomy clay models, and student led OHBreathe leadership training. Recently, the Foundation partnered with ProMedica to bring a new Honors Scientific Research course to our senior students to provide innovative research opportunities. These projects were made possible through donor funds like The Talmage Family Fund, The Eleanor Seifried Fund for the Performing Arts, The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation STEM Fund, and The Mindel Family Athletic Fund.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## Foundation Mission

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



# Donor Funds

## **The Talmage Family Fund**

The general fund for all unrestricted gifts to support emerging needs and initiatives at Ottawa Hills Local Schools.

## **The Eleanor Seifried Fund for the Performing Arts**

To support the enhancement of the performing arts – theatre, choir, and dance.

## **The Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation STEM Fund**

To increase and enhance student opportunities in STEM-based learning: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

## **The Mindel Family Athletic Fund**

To provide ongoing support for athletic programs at Ottawa Hills.

## **The Irene A. Aubin Student Assistance Fund**

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

## **Cornerstone Planned Giving Society**

Donors who plan for a bequest in their will.



**Ottawa Hills**  
**Local Schools**

Ottawa Hills Local School District  
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Ottawa Hills, OH 43606