

VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



VCS Alumni Serves as Official Grill Master for the Buffalo Bills

Jack Mancuso likes to master things. In high school, he took as many AP classes as he could. In college, he successfully secured a degree in a challenging engineering program. These days, he has taken his mission for mastery to a whole new playing field as the official Grill Master for the Buffalo Bills! Read his full story inside on page 5.

You are cordially invited

127th ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Ravenwood Golf Club
929 Lynaugh Road, Victor

Please join fellow alumni for an evening of cherished memories. Enjoy a PowerPoint of yearbook pictures and help us recognize the Classes of 1974 & 1964 for their 50th and 60th reunions. We also introduce our two scholarship recipients from the Class of 2024.

5:00 PM - Cash Bar

6:00 PM - Buffet Dinner

Cost \$30 Per Person

RSVP by May 28th to Jean Bandemer Rioch ('83)
(585) 705 – 5091 or JBRioch@aol.com. Please provide graduation year, maiden, and married name as appropriate.

To expedite check-in, you may send your check payable to "VCS Alumni Association" to: Jean Rioch, 123 County Road 28, Palmyra, NY 14522.

Questions – please contact Jim Exton, Alumni President, at jexton@rochester.rr.com



GRADUATE OF DISTINCTION

David Wadhwani

Class of 1989

Congratulations to the 2023 Graduate of Distinction, David Wadhwani '89. David was recognized at a Board of Education meeting last May. Read his story on page 3.

#OnceABlueDevilAlwaysABlueDevil

ALUMNI UPDATE

Emily Herrmann - Class of 2016



What did you do after graduating from VCS?

After graduating from Victor, I attended Case Western Reserve University where I double majored in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and ran the 400m hurdles for the track and field team. I graduated from CWRU in May 2020, and moved to Ogden, Utah to work as a Systems Engineer on the Sentinel ICBM for Northrop Grumman that summer. I worked there for a year before moving to Atlanta to earn my Master's in Aerospace Engineering. I'm currently a Graduate Research Associate for the Aerospace Systems Design Laboratory at the Georgia Institute of Technology. I completed my Master's in December 2022 and am staying on for my PhD, also in Aerospace Engineering. My research focuses on systems-level design of hypersonic vehicles.



Emily Herrmann

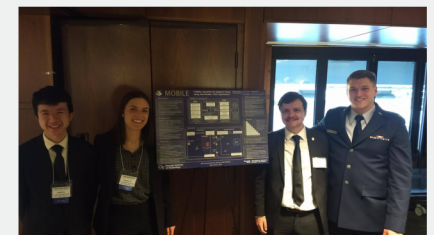
"The mystery of life isn't a problem to solve, but a reality to experience."
-Frank Herbert

You were selected for the Aviation Week 20 Twenties Award Program. What was this all about?

The 20 Twenties program was established by Aviation Week Network in 2013 to "recognize talented individuals who are on course to change the face of the aerospace and defense industry." My advisor at Georgia Tech, Dr. Dimitri Mavris, nominated me for the award. I was surprised and honored to be recognized as one of the 20 awardees! As a result, the other awardees and I were recognized at a luncheon and were invited to attend the Aviation Week Laureate Awards in Washington, DC in November 2022. The Laureate Awards recognize extraordinary achievements of individuals and teams in the aerospace and defense industry. It was great meeting the rest of my cohort at the luncheon, as they already have some incredible accomplishments. Attending the Laureate Awards was a highlight, as I got to meet many people leading groundbreaking projects, such as the James Webb Space Telescope.



Emily received the 20 Twenties Award



Emily is currently working on her PhD



Victor Central Schools

<https://www.victorschools.org>



The VCS Alumni Association

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/812853279306280>



Victor Central School Alumni and Staff

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8828159/>

STAY CONNECTED

Our VCS Alumni Association has active FB and LinkedIn groups. Join them to share memories, participate in discussions, and share life updates!

GRADUATE OF DISTINCTION

David Wadhwani - Class of 1989



Last spring, David Wadhwani, VCS Class of 1989, was honored as the 2023 VCS Graduate of Distinction during a special ceremony at the May 11 Board of Education meeting in the Early Childhood School Boardroom.

Wadhwani, the President of Digital Media for the world-renowned tech company, Adobe, used his time back at Victor to not only receive the Graduate of Distinction award, but to also give back to the community. On Wednesday, May 10, Wadhwani shared his thoughts on the role of tech companies, the rise of artificial intelligence and the importance of socially responsible computing at a special talk hosted by The Victor Central Schools Educational Foundation. "An Evening With David Wadhwani" was held in the VJH/SH Auditorium. All proceeds from this special speaking engagement benefited The Victor Central Schools Educational Foundation.

On Thursday, May 11, Wadhwani spent the school day speaking with students in the Senior High School about business, technology, and leadership.

The Graduate of Distinction program was initiated in 2001 to recognize VCS alumnus who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and made significant contributions to society. These Victor Central School District alumni have achieved distinction through outstanding accomplishment or significant contribution within their school, family, career, community, or personal life.



GRADUATE OF DISTINCTION
David Wadhwani
Class of 1989

Education

- Victor Central Schools
Class of 1989
- Brown University, 1993
B.S. Computer Science

Career

- President, Digital Media, Adobe
2002-2015, 2021 – Present
- Venture Partner, Greylock Partners
2019 – Present
- CEO Council, Lightspeed Venture
Partners, 2019 – Present
- President & CEO, AppDynamics
2015 – 2019
- Co-founder & Vice President,
Product Development, iHarvest
1998 – 2001
- Business Intelligence, Oracle
1993 – 1997





CLASS OF 1964

The Class of 1964 will hold a casual get together for their 60th Reunion on June 8, 2024 at the home of a classmate. Details will be posted on the following Facebook pages: VCS1964Reunion or the Victor Central School Alumni Association, Victor, NY page.

The Class of 1964 is also encouraged to attend the VCS Alumni Banquet on June 9, 2024 at the Ravenwood Golf Club in Victor.

CLASS OF 1974

The Class of 1974 will hold their 50th Reunion the weekend of June 8-9, 2024. The festivities will begin on Friday evening, June 7 at the Victor Village Inn. On Saturday, there will be a golf outing for those who may be interested, followed that evening by a buffet dinner at Flaherty's in Macedon. On Sunday, June 9, the classmates will attend the Annual VSC Alumni Banquet at Ravenwood.

Reservations are required. Please be sure to send your correct information to Norma Weissend via email: nweissend@me.com so that reservation forms and more information can be sent out.

CLASS OF 1984

The Class of 1984 will hold a 40th Reunion Celebration at the Village of Victor Inn on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

For more information, please contact Greg "Doc" Lefebvre: greg@rochesterleasing.com

VCS SEEKS DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES

Do you know a VCS alumnus who has made a significant contribution to society?

The Graduates of Distinction program honors such individuals. Please visit our website for more information and to fill out the nomination form. Alumni selected for this honor will be recognized at a special Graduate of Distinction Day next fall.





What did you do after graduating from VCS?

I went to California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo where I studied Bioresource and Agricultural Engineering. After graduating in 2017, I moved up to the San Francisco Bay area and worked as an Outside Sales Engineer doing mechanical engineering work and selling massive HVAC systems to companies like Apple, Google, Tesla, and Kaiser.

How did you get involved in grilling?

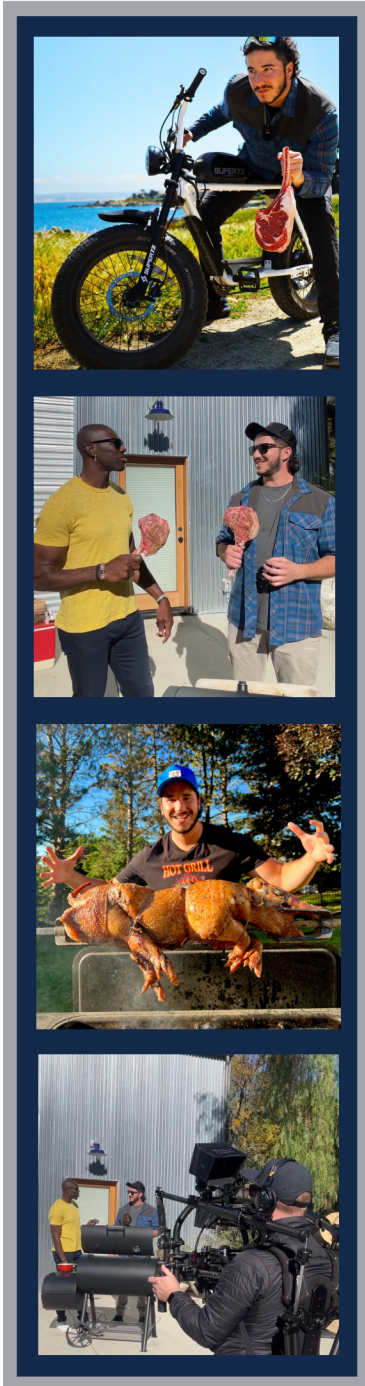
In college I grilled up with a house of my buddies since none of them knew how to cook. We had great weather, so I always cooked outside on the grill. After graduating I just started posting videos for them to see. One day a video started going viral and I realized that this could become something serious! From there, I started working on editing and filming better and getting overall better at grilling.

The rest is history. My pages took off, I quit my engineering job, stayed consistent, and now I have more than 6.5 M subscribers across multiple platforms. Today, I average about 200-250 M views per month and have over 1 Billion views.

How did you become the Buffalo Bills Grill Master?

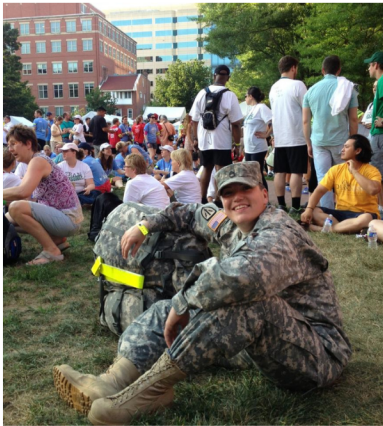
In 2021, I was signed by the Buffalo Bills to be their official Grill Master! As a lifelong member of the Bills Mafia, this was an incredible honor! To date, I have worked with the NFL, NBA, MLB, Chevy, Pepsi, Buffalo Bills, Buffalo Sabres, Moet and Chandon, Cartoon Network, Reynolds Wrap, Bounty, etc. Last year, I traveled all season long taste testing different MLB ballpark food for Major League Baseball.

My newest venture is my company, CUSO CUTS (shop.cusocuts.com). I sell high end all-natural BBQ rubs and seasonings and kitchen cutlery. We are growing very fast, getting a large online presence, and selling in a bunch of retailers!



ALUMNI UPDATE

Jennifer Powers - Class of 2000



Leadership has always been a prominent thread in the fabric of Jennifer Powers' life. Whether she was leading her high school lacrosse team, heading up an important military operation, or influencing hearts and minds on difficult topics like suicide, Jennifer's ability to take charge and make a positive impact is not only impressive, but also inspiring.

What did you do after you graduated from VCS in 2000?

I attended Keuka College, and after one year I decided to join the Army as an Active Duty Soldier. In the summer of 2001, I attended basic training for the Army in North Carolina and then went on to intelligence training in

Arizona. In 2004, I deployed to Iraq and as a freshly promoted Sergeant, I was assigned the role of the Weapons Desk NCOIC (non-commissioned officer in charge).

I left Active Duty in 2005 and returned to the Finger Lakes area. Soon after, I accepted a job in Virginia and was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq for a second time. During this tour I worked as a contractor supporting the Army within the intelligence field. After returning from this deployment in 2006, I left my job to go back to college, this time to Nazareth College.

During my first semester at Nazareth, I received orders from the Army, involuntarily, calling me back to Active Duty in January of 2007, to eventually deploy to Baghdad again. However, during deployment training I significantly hurt my back and was never able to deploy, and was released from the Army.

After returning from New York, yet again, I decided to accept a contractor position in California. That position was short lived as I was quite bored. I was recruited back into the Army by a Lieutenant Colonel who created a new unit within the cyber intelligence realm. Although I knew nothing about cyber, I decided to accept. At the beginning there were four of us, 3 officers (all male) and me, an enlisted female. When I left in 2012, I was the senior enlisted leader and the unit was at 40. In 2010, was recognized as part of US Cyber Command.

After I realized that I was going to stay in the Army, because it would be wasteful to throw away a retirement after putting in almost 10 years. I was accepted in the Army's Active Guard Reserve program. I joined my new unit in 2012 in Virginia, and quickly set in and was promoted. In less than a year I was asked to be the First Sergeant (1SG) but as a Sergeant First Class, which is rare, and to boot, I was selected over my peers and seniors in the unit for the position, and responsible for over 135 Soldiers.

In 2014, my mom's health took a turn, and she was likely going to need assistance. Therefore, I left Active duty and returned as a Reservist and accepted a contracting position as a cyber intelligence analyst; which offered a great deal of flexibility. I also returned to school and completed my Bachelors in Sports and Health Sciences at American Military University (while in the Army, I was consistently putting in work to complete my degree). In 2017, I completed my Master's in Sports Management, also at American Military University.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Jennifer Powers - Class of 2000



I also retired from the Army after 16 years, in 2017. My back injury (from 2007) finally caught up with me and the Army requested that I retire, specifically a disability retirement. This worked out very well for me, even though at the time I was very upset to leave something I so truly loved - I truly loved leading soldiers.

In 2017 I also transitioned to a new contracting company and quickly moved up the ladder and became a Team Leader and eventually the Senior Principal Analyst for the program. In this position I was responsible for all intelligence production that our analysts produced and ensured that it met the government's standards and expectations. I departed this position in 2022.

Everything happens for a reason. I was accepted to James Madison University's Strategic Leadership PhD program early in 2022, and began as a full-time student in August of 2022; something I would not have been able to do full time, had I been working full time.

Your civic/community involvement is impressive, especially your work around suicide prevention. How did you get involved in this work?

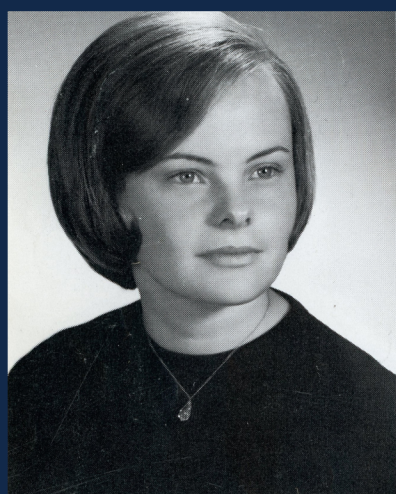
A friend of mine was very passionate about suicide prevention, she unfortunately lost her brother to suicide. For years she supported the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and mentioned it to me. My initial engagement was fundraising and participating in one of Out of the Darkness overnight walks through Washington D.C. (16 miles). For the event, I decided to wear my uniform and ruck sack (backpack), filled with 55lbs. Symbolically, the intent was to portray that I was carrying all the trials and tribulations of those who suffer from suicide ideations and the weight of those who carry around the heartache of loved ones they have lost.

In addition to that walk, I also continued to support AFSP in shorter walks and community events. In 2014, they reached out to me and asked if I would speak at the ceremony before a short 3 mile walk around DC. It was the first time I had truly openly discussed my suicidal ideations, and to boot, in front of hundreds of strangers. I also invited soldiers from my unit to join in support of the cause. This moment was by far the most moving for me, especially to communicate with soldiers that we all have struggles and it is important to discuss them and not feel ashamed to get help.

Due to my speech at the AFSP walk in 2014, I was asked to speak at a Veterans Affairs event about suicide and the role that healthcare workers had in path.

My suicidal ideations started in high school and frankly, whether she knows or knew it at the time, Coach Collins was a savior. I never verbally told her, but she made me feel seen, heard, and valued through Girls Leaders.

In 2022 I started volunteering at Habitat for Humanity. Their mission is quite honorable and there is a lot that I can offer to the community. Within the doctoral program, we are required to take nonprofit classes and I am learning a lot about that sector and plan on eventually starting a nonprofit business in something that I am passionate about. I am in the early stages of this venture, but one that I am very interested in is childhood trauma - root cause analysis to determine where I can stop the cycle; a tall order that I can at least attempt to make a dent in.



SUSAN WHITNEY
"All the good maxims have been written—It only remains to practice them."



Susan Masseth takes the word alumna to a whole new level! This 1966 VCS graduate was not only in the first graduating class with more than 100 students, but she also spent 40 years as a dedicated VCS employee. Today, this proud mother of two VCS graduates (Cory '91 and Erin '93) and grandmother of Elizabeth '22 (fourth generation) and Lauren and Emily (fourth generation slated to graduate in '25) reminisces on her life and times at VCS with great pride.

What did you do after you graduated from VCS in 1966?

I worked at Kodak from 1966 to 1972. From 1982 to 2015 I worked at VCS in the Primary Building, Intermediate Building and District Office. I was in the District Office from 1987, Business Office, Tax Collector, Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Office from 1990-1997, Human Resources secretary, back into PPS in 2015 until retirement! That gives me 40 years total.

After retirement, I continued to substitute in the PPS office. I was also an active member of the VCS Graduates of Distinction Committee for two terms and have been on the Alumni Banquet Committee pretty much since graduation. I've also been on the Class of 1966 Reunion Committee since I graduated!

What VCS teachers inspired you the most?

The first teachers that come to mind: Helen Schantz my high school English teacher as well as Donald Averill my high school Social Studies teacher. Both were extremely dedicated to their students and set a wonderful example. I often think of them. Also, David Hurlbutt my English teacher in eighth and ninth grade who taught us to diagram a sentence! Something that might make students today be better writers. I had the pleasure of working with Dave in later years in the District Office when he was the Personnel Director.



Pictured from L-R: Zach Rivers '08, Matthew Portland '12, Kacie Strong '10, David Ahonen '07, inset - Liz Hogan '07

On Thursday, September 28th, five VCS alumni were inducted into the prestigious **Athletic Hall of Fame** during a special ceremony held at the Victor Junior/Senior High School Arts Center.

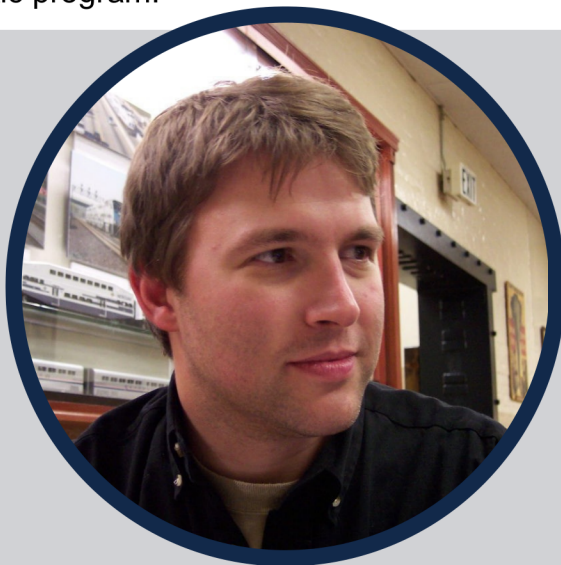
David Ahonen '07 - Football, Basketball, and Baseball; **Matthew Portland '12** - Ice Hockey and Baseball; **Zachary Rivers '08** - Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track; and **Kacie Strong '10** - Tennis, Basketball, and Softball were honored at the special induction ceremony. **Liz Hogan '07** - Lacrosse - was unable to attend the ceremony in person but through the power of modern technology managed to zoom into the event, live from California. You can find more information about each of the inductees on our website.

The Victor Athletic Hall of Fame was created to honor athletes, coaches and honorary community members who have made a significant impact on the Victor Athletic program.

The Victor Arts Hall of Fame committee honored its 2023 inductee, **Benjamin Alexander Barbash (Class of 1991)**, posthumously, at a special recognition ceremony during the October 12th Board of Education meeting. Barbash was a highly respected visionary, artist, businessman and a friend to all. After graduating from VCS, he attended the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. His career spanned from the east to the west coast. He worked for the Manhattan Theatre Club in New York City. After, he returned to Victor where he established a fiber art center and served as the executive director of Valentown Hall. Later, Barbash returned to NYC for a job with Actor's Equity and relocated to Los Angeles where he became

the manager of a landmark motion picture theatre, the Fairfax. Barbash wanted to tie his passion to theater to some kind of legacy and heritage. He dreamed of implementing theater programs in shopping malls regionwide and developing a cultural corridor along Route 96 from Rochester to Oswego. According to Barbash's father, "He could go out and bring people together in ways no one could think of."

The Victor Arts Hall of Fame was established in 2018 to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of outstanding alumni, staff and community members who have excelled in the Arts. It is also meant to inspire current students to make contributions to the arts by reconnecting those selected for the Hall of Fame with our students, staff and community.



Free and open
to ALL VCS
Senior Citizens!
(55 and Older)

Senior Citizens Ball

Saturday, May 4, 2024

5:00-7:00 PM

Victor Early Childhood School Gymnasium

Dinner & Dancing
Music of the
60's, 70' & 80's
Provided by
Student DJ's



Are you ready to Rock 'n Roll?! Let us know if you're coming!

RSVP by email: seniorcitizensball@victorschools.org

or

call: (585) 924-3252 ext. 1407 and leave a message.

Visual & Performing Arts HALL OF FAME

***Do you know a VCS alumnus who has made
a significant contribution to the arts?***

The Visual and Performing Arts Hall of
Fame honors such individuals.



Please visit our website for
more information and to fill
out the nomination form.

VCS Seeks Distinguished Graduates



***Do you know a VCS alumnus who has
made a significant contribution to society?***

The Graduates of Distinction program honors
such individuals. Please visit our website for
more information and to fill out the
nomination form.



Athletic Hall of Fame

Victor Central School District is seeking nominations
for the Athletic Hall of Fame Program. Any individual
can nominate a potential candidate by completing a
Hall of Fame nomination application.

