

BOARD OF EDUCATION
2016-17

Douglas J. Galli, President
Michael F. Morrow, Vice President
Marianne Jasen
Scott M. Johnson
Carol A. Nowak
Nadine Ocasio
Dirk D. Rabenold

Mackenzie Bluman, ex-officio student member



Anthony J. Day, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Andrés R. Arroyo, Sweet Home High School Principal

*Sweet Home
Alumni Association*



*Distinguished Alumni
Wall of Fame*

2016

*Induction Ceremonies
Friday, November 4, 2016*

Our Distinguished Wall of Fame is in its sixth year, and is clearly embedded into Sweet Home tradition. Tonight's recipients are successful in their own fields - whether it is in sports, law, the mental health field, or communications. One common area links all four recipients: volunteering for their communities. Each one of the recipients selected an organization to dedicate time to in order to help others less fortunate. To think that their beginnings derived from Sweet Home High School is inspirational to all who celebrate with us tonight.



Nominations for these impressive inductees were collected in the spring of 2016. Through the aid of a small committee comprised of veteran and retired teachers, administrators, alumni board members, alumni, and community members, tonight's nominees will be inducted.

Behind every great person, a number of people have helped him/her achieve success. Thank you to friends and family members of the inductees for accompanying them tonight and in supporting them in their passion to make a difference in their respective fields. The inductees have left an indelible mark on our school and community - one that will be commemorated for years to come.

Lisa LaBrake
Sweet Home Alumni Coordinator

PROGRAM



Sweet Home Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame Induction Ceremonies

Friday, November 4, 2016

6:30pm Music and Check-In

7:00pm Welcome & Introductions, Melissa Holmes

- ◆ Dan Herbeck, Class of 1972, presents
Richard G. Abbott, Class of 1972
- ◆ Lee Jones, Class of 1974, presents
Bruce Corris, Class of 1974
- ◆ Brian Koziol, High School math teacher & tennis coach, presents
Todd Miller, Class of 1977
- ◆ Ken Tirohn, Class of 1980, presents
Karl Shallowhorn, Class of 1980

8:00pm Closing Remarks, Lisa LaBrake, Alumni Coordinator
Cake & Coffee Served

Special thanks to the following people for their tireless efforts in ensuring that tonight was successful:

Craig Allwes
Roz Annunziato
Andrés Arroyo
Gary Bainbridge
Dave Barbalato
Kelli Bogacz
Debra Coniglio
Bruce Corris
Anthony Day
Don Feldmann
David Harrison
Hermann Studios
High School Custodial Staff
Gary Klenk
Lisa LaBrake
Mike Lopardi
Trey Measer & Bee Group Newspapers
Pat Mergenhagen
Mike Morrow
Dan Murphy
Heidi Mussachio
Kristina Pinkowski
Tom Rackl
Dave Sherman
Darcy Spengler
Roey Tacca
Steve Weingarten

Emcees for the evening:

Melissa Holmes, WGRZ-TV 2
Class of 2000

Karl Shallowhorn Class of 1980



Karl Shallowhorn, Class of 1980, has spent his entire career advocating for others.

Today, Karl can be found working for two organizations that are at the forefront of helping others in the Buffalo area: the Mental Health Association of Erie County and Compeer Buffalo. In his current positions, Karl is responsible for developing workplace health initiatives focusing on mental health and well-being. Earlier in his career, Karl served as a counselor and addiction specialist, psychiatric consultant, volunteer group facilitator and graduate admissions coordinator for two local colleges - Daemen and Genesee Community College.

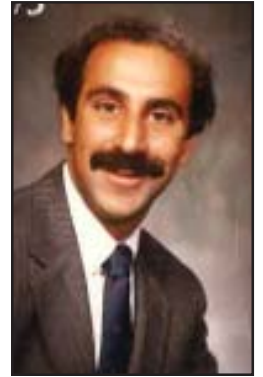
Karl is a published writer including his most recent book *Working on Wellness: A Practical Guide to Mental Health*. He is currently working on another book and has been a repeat contributor to nearly 20 articles published in the Buffalo News regarding community services and mental health wellness in Western New York.

Karl's story of success is remarkable in that he has suffered from bipolar disorder. He has often provided help to others with the same struggles. He is also celebrating over 20 years of sobriety after battling addiction early in his adult life. Recently, the Mental Health Association of Western New York recognized Karl with the Courage to Come Back Award.

Karl sits on the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association of New York State and is a member of the Erie County Mental Hygiene Community Services Board. As a member of the state committee, Karl has brought the international program Mental Health First Aid to New York and the program has benefitted thousands. He has also been the lead organizer of the Buffalo Superhero 5K Race and Wellness Walk.

He and his wife Suzy still reside in the Sweet Home School District.

Richard G. Abbott Class of 1972



Richard G. Abbott, Class of 1972, is a highly-regarded attorney who has been active for decades in charitable and community service organizations in the Buffalo area. He is currently a partner at Pusatier, Sherman, Abbott & Sugarman law firm in Kenmore.

Abbott graduated with honors from Sweet Home in 1972. He graduated from the University of Buffalo with Magna Cum Laude honors in 1975. He then attended UB Law School, where he represented the school in a national Moot Court Competition. He graduated from UB Law School in 1980 and began working at Pusatier, Sherman and Stapell Law Firm in Kenmore. Richard became a partner in the firm five years later. Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Abbott and two law partners handled the case of J.L. Ivey, a Buffalo man who was wrongly convicted of murder in 1976 and spent five years in prison. Abbott and the late Kenneth Sherman helped Ivey to get his conviction reversed and won him a retrial, at which Ivey was acquitted. The Ivey case was upheld by the state's highest court and is considered a landmark in this area of law. Throughout his career, Richard has represented clients against General Motors, Ford, Harvestore Solos, Black & Decker and many other major corporations. More notably, Richard has successfully represented victims of drunk drivers and helped hundreds of disabled individuals obtain social security benefits.

Richard has also been very active in raising funds for local charities including Camp Good Days, Brighton Place Library and Hunter's Hope. For many years, he was a member of the North Buffalo Kiwanis Club, which named him its President and Man of the Year in 1986.

Tennis has been an important part of Richard's life since he was young. He starred on tennis teams at Sweet Home and the University at Buffalo and became only the second tennis player to be inducted to the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997. He and his law firm also served as sponsors of the Buffalo MUNY tournament. Richard also served as chairman of the tournament for 8 years and helped raise over \$40,000 for Camp Good Days & Special Times.

Richard is the devoted father of two daughters, Lauren and Renee, and a son, James; and has spent a number of years coaching youth teams in softball, baseball, soccer, tennis and basketball.

Bruce Corris Class of 1974



Bruce Corris, Class of 1974, always knew that he wanted to be in the field of communications. Following graduation from Sweet Home, Bruce went on to the State University of New York College at Buffalo where he graduated from in 1978. While at Buffalo State, Bruce served as an adjunct professor in the Communications Department.

Early in his career, Bruce quickly gained invaluable experience as an assistant news director and executive producer in New Orleans, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Miami and Providence, Rhode Island. Bruce produced some of the highest-rated newscasts in the country and arranged features on Presidential and Papal visits, national political conventions, elections, natural disasters and other spot news coverage. He received two regional Emmy Awards for News Excellence and Spot News Coverage and a United Press International Award for the same.

Bruce returned to his hometown in 2000 as Executive Producer at WGRZ Channel 2. While at Channel 2, Bruce supervised daily news department operations and directed the launch and re-design of the station's website. After leaving Channel 2, Bruce worked to build the news department at WNYO Channel 49. He currently works at Market Domination as the Chief Operating Officer.

Outside of work, Bruce has been outstanding in his service to the Buffalo community. He is an active board member at his temple, Shir Shalom serving on the finance, communications and annual giving committees. He was actively involved in beginning the Food Bank's 'Walk Off Hunger' walk-a-thon. He was the walk's first coordinator in 2008. Since its inception, the walk has raised enough money for over two million meals for Western New Yorkers in need. Bruce has also worked to help, WNY Alzheimers Association, Hospice and Wounded Warrior Project. He also serves on the board of the Sweet Home Alumni Association, and was a big part in bringing the Military Wall of Honor to the High School. He and his family also sponsor a military scholarship given annually through the Alumni Association.

Earlier this year, Bruce was honored with the prestigious Rabbi Daniel E. Kerman Memorial Award in recognition for his outstanding contributions to the Western New York Jewish Community.

Todd Miller Class of 1977



Todd Miller, Class of 1977, is a pioneer in the Western New York tennis world and his accomplishments within the game are unprecedented.

Following his graduation from Sweet Home, Todd quickly became the top tennis player at the University of Buffalo. He is still the school record holder for highest winning percentage for a singles player. Additionally, he has captured numerous titles in City of Buffalo's Muni circuit.

Todd's accomplishments as a player pale in comparison to his achievements as a teaching professional. For 27 years, he served as executive director and head professional at the Amherst Hills Tennis Club. In 2007, he established the Miller Tennis Center serving as its owner, executive director and head professional.

For 36 years, Todd has directed Western New York's largest junior tennis program, which has produced a number of players who have received college scholarships and national rankings. He has personally coached four national champions as well as numerous Division I All-Americans. Additionally, 20 of his staff assistants have become collegiate coaches or head professionals in tennis centers across the country. He has also brought men's and women's professional tennis events to Buffalo, serving as host and tournament director for two annual USTA pro circuit events.

At various points of his career, Miller has been named Eastern Coach of the Year, New York State professional of the Year and International Teacher of the Year. He is a member of the Sweet Home Athletic Hall of Fame, Greater Buffalo Athletic Hall of Fame, University of Buffalo Hall of Fame, Buffalo Tennis Hall of Fame and the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.

Todd has given back to the Sweet Home community by providing an annual scholarship to a current tennis player that allows the player to train at the Miller Tennis Center. He has also provided the use of indoor court spaces to our high school teams. He has organized the 'Ace for Life' event benefitting Roswell Park. Several other organizations have benefitted from Todd's generosity over the years including Cradle Beach, Camp Good Days, Red Cross and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

In 2013, Todd became only the thirty-third person in the world to receive the career lifetime achievement designation of the International Master Professional, joining a list of professionals that include Arthur Ashe and Billie Jean King.