

*Sweet Home  
Alumni Association  
Distinguished Alumni  
Wall of Fame*

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2014-15**

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20  14

*Induction Ceremonies  
Friday, November 7, 2014*

The Distinguished Wall of Fame exists in some form in other school districts and colleges around the nation. What sets ours apart are the Sweet Home alumni who were selected for this evening's momentous occasion in our school's history. Whether it be as a cancer researcher, military doctor, businessman, or psychiatrist, all of tonight's recipients are more than worthy of our honor. Our Alumni Board is proud to state that their beginnings are rooted in our very own Sweet Home High School.



The nomination and selection process was an exciting time. A nomination form was devised and nominations were collected in the spring of 2014. Through the assistance of a small committee comprised of veteran and retired teachers, administrators, alumni board members, alumni, and community members, these four inductees were selected.

As Alumni Coordinator, I am proud of those who will be inducted tonight. Thank you to their friends and family members who will be accompanying them tonight to see them receive their special award. I look forward to congratulating them and to seeing their plaques adorn our main hall so that all of our past and current students, staff, and community members can recognize their achievements.

Lisa LaBrake  
Sweet Home Alumni Coordinator

# PROGRAM



## Sweet Home Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame Induction Ceremonies

*Friday, November 7, 2014*

6:30pm .... Food & Refreshments Served

7:00pm ..... Welcome & Introductions, Don Feldmann, Membership Chair

- ◆ Dr. Paul Bluestein, '72 presents  
*Dr. Mark S. Borer, Class of 1972*
- ◆ Dr. Paul Bluestein & Dr. Mark Borer, '72 present  
*Dr. Keith C. Cheng, Ph.D., Class of 1972*
- ◆ Lisa LaBrake, Alumni Coordinator, presents  
*Dr. Karen A. Daly, Captain US Navy Medial Corps, Class of 1975*
- ◆ Michael Morrow, Sweet Home Board of Education, presents  
*Todd Helming, Class of 1975*

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  
Gary Bainbridge  
Dave Barbalato  
Mike Baumann  
Kelli Bogacz  
Sandy Cocca  
Debra Coniglio  
Bruce Corris  
Anthony Day  
Don Feldmann  
David Harrison  
Hermann Studios  
High School Custodial Staff  
Gary Klenk  
Lisa LaBrake  
Keith Langlotz  
Mike Lopardi  
Trey Measer & Bee Group Newspapers  
Pat Mergenhagen  
Mike Morrow  
Dan Murphy  
Heidi Mussachio  
Kristina Pinkowski  
Joleen Reinholz  
Dave Sherman  
Darcy Spengler  
Roey Tacca  
Steve Weingarten

### Emcees for the evening:

Don Feldmann & Lisa LaBrake

## Keith C. Cheng, M.D., Ph.D. Class of 1972

Keith C. Cheng was the valedictorian of the Class of 1972 at Sweet Home High School. His high school peers voted him *The Most Likely to Succeed*. Those two predictors provided a springboard for a monumental career in medicine for Keith.



Following graduation from Sweet Home, Keith studied at Harvard University earning a B.A. in biochemical sciences in 1976. Keith went on to earn his Doctor of Medicine degree from the New York University School of Medicine in 1980. He conducted two separate anatomic pathology residencies at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts and the University of Washington Hospitals in Seattle, Washington from 1980-1987. While in Washington, Keith furthered his education, earning his Ph.D. in molecular genetics in 1987 from the University at Washington. Keith was also a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University at Washington for five years, beginning in 1987.

In 1992, Keith went from student to teacher as he accepted a position of Assistant Professor of Pathology as well as Biochemistry and Pathology at Penn State College of Medicine. Keith earned the title of Associate Professor in these areas in 1998 and still teaches them today. In 2005, Penn State College of Medicine welcomed Keith to the ranks of pharmacology, making him an Associate Professor. In 2007, Keith was named a Professor of Pathology by the college. In 2008, Keith was named Director of Experimental Pathology at Penn State College of Medicine. He is currently the Chief of the Division of Experimental Pathology at Penn State. In 2012, Keith was recognized as a Distinguished Professor by Penn State and, in 2008, was presented the Penn State Faculty Scholar Medal for Outstanding Achievement in the Life and Health Sciences.

Outside of the classroom, Keith has spent countless hours in the study of cancer. The Cheng lab is interested in fundamental genetic and molecular mechanisms that cause cancer, basic mechanisms underlying the relationship between human skin pigmentation and cancer, and contributing to web-based infrastructures for science, education, and public service. His laboratory pioneered genetic screens in zebrafish to find new genes related to cancer. His screens targeted two processes affected in cancer: mutation and cell differentiation. His lab producing an on-line, high-resolution, full-lifespan atlas of the zebrafish that will be integrated with other anatomical web sites of zebrafish, other model organisms, and other disciplines. Keith has received numerous honors in studying the intricate complexities of genomics in something as common as the zebrafish. He has authored and been awarded numerous research grants to further these important studies in the battle against cancer.

His studies led to he and a colleague co-founding the Penn State IBIOS Bioinformatics Genomics Graduate Program, where he currently serves as co-director. Dr. Cheng has also found many unique ways to bring music into his work, teaching and family life. As an accomplished pianist, Keith has played the piano in a number of on-campus combined lecture and musical performances. He has also been an accompanist in a number of Cultural Series events on the Penn State campus.

His studies continue and Keith believes that even though he just turned 60 his biggest accomplishments lie ahead.

## Karen A. Daly, M.D., R.Ph. Class of 1975

Karen A. Daly, Class of 1975, received her B.S. degree in Pharmacy from SUNY Buffalo in 1980. While employed as a registered pharmacist, she attended the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine on a Navy Professions Scholarship. During her summers at medical school, she completed Officer Indoctrination School in Newport, Rhode Island, was stationed aboard the USS Samuel Gompers (AD-37) in San Diego, California and worked at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute in Pensacola, Florida as an Ensign in the Naval Reserves. She earned a Doctor of Medicine degree in June 1984, was commissioned as an active duty Lieutenant and reported to the Naval Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina for her Family Medicine Internship Training.



During the next 9 years, Daly became board-certified in Family Medicine and served at a number of Naval Hospitals across the country and became the first female General Medical Officer aboard the destroyer tender USS Cape Cod (AD-43). It was during this time that Daly became an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS).

In July 1993, Karen returned to training in Psychiatry at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, completed her second residency and became board-certified in Psychiatry in 1999. Since 1996, Karen has spent time as a staff Psychiatrist at Navy Medical Centers in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Bremerton, Washington; and the Naval Branch Health Clinic in Groton, Connecticut where she currently practices. In that time, she became an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at USUHS and the University of Washington.

Since September 11, 2001, Karen has been deployed four times to provide psychiatric care: March 2002 to Guantanamo Bay Cuba; March 2003 to Kuwait for the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom; May 2006 to Camp Taji Iraq; and March 2009 to the Caribbean and Central and South America as part of Continuing Promise 2009.

Karen attained the rank of Captain, Medical Corps, United States Navy in 2002. Captain Daly's decorations include: the Meritorious Service Medal (2), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), the National Defense Service Medal, the GWOT Expeditionary Medal, the GWOT Service Medal and the Navy Pistol Marksmanship Medal.

Karen retired from active duty in June of this year.

## Todd Helming Class of 1975



Todd Helming, Class of 1975, was a student that was always involved in some sort of school activity. He was an excellent student athlete starring in basketball and outdoor track for the Panthers. Todd earned several Sweet Home and Western New York records in track including the 120 and 330-yard high hurdles. He was also a Sectional Champion in the 55-yard high hurdles. In the State finals, Todd placed eighth in the 120-yard high hurdles and fourth in the 330 yard intermediate hurdles. He set an ECIC record for the half mile and was part of a relay team that set a school record. Outside of athletics, Todd worked on the school newspaper and the alumni relations magazine as their photographer.

Following graduation, Todd attended Valparaiso University in Indiana and ran track for four years and was a conference champion in high and intermediate hurdles.

After returning home from Valparaiso, Todd began working for Herrmann Studios as a photographer and eventually purchased the business in 2007. Since then, Todd and Herrmann Studios has been a staunch supporter of the Sweet Home School District, its students and community. Todd has donated his time and much of the cost to fill our halls with numerous athletic action shots. Herrmann Studios contributes two scholarships each year to Sweet Home Dollars for Scholars to the senior class. It is those same seniors that receive free publicity shots for scholar recognition and college application requests, all thanks to Todd.

As you can see, Todd has taken great interest in Sweet Home. Outside of his photography work for the District, Todd has also served as a member of the Sweet Home Board of Education for 17 years where he donated countless hours of time for school activities and community events. He also served on the Maplemere Community Playground Committee and Sweet Home's Technology Committee.

Todd has also been an active coach in area youth soccer leagues including serving as a coach in the Amherst Soccer Association Travel League for 10 years. Herrmann Studios has also been a strong supporter of these youth programs donating over \$49,000 to area leagues over the past seven years. In his limited free time, Todd has also served as a lector for St. Leo the Great Parish.

## Mark S. Borer, M.D. Class of 1972



Dr. Mark S. Borer, Class of 1972, is a board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist, as well as a general psychiatrist, specializing in psychopharmacology, family therapy and collaborative care. He obtained his undergraduate and medical degrees at SUNY Buffalo and did his medical internship, psychiatric residency, and child and adolescent fellowship at West Virginia University, Charleston Division.

Dr. Borer's private practice - Psychiatric Access for Central Delaware, P.A. - serves children in all three counties in the state of Delaware. He also serves as a consultant to several school districts and mental health programs, both public and private. In addition, Dr. Borer is Delaware's Delegate to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), serves on the Leadership Council of the AACAP in Washington, DC, and is past president of the Psychiatric Society of Delaware. Dr. Borer has helped to edit the AACAP national policy statement on bullying. He currently serves on the Council of Medical Society of Delaware, provides input to the Delaware Health Care Commission and is vice chair of the Drug Utilization Board of Delaware Medicaid. It is in this role that he developed guidelines for prescribing psychiatric medications in youth, especially those in foster care.

Dr. Borer is involved in several initiatives to increase access to psychiatric care. He has developed and implemented a statewide program for primary care consultation, including a detailed toolkit to assist primary care professionals. He donated this toolkit to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and to a national consortium of collaborative professionals. As a result of his work, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Delaware became the first private insurer to reimburse claims for primary care consultation. The American Academy of Pediatrics has requested the toolkit for its national database of collaborative projects and it is being adapted for use in the Delaware youth and adult correctional systems as a means to get fine-tuned psychiatric recommendations to medical teams to facilitate access to care for those incarcerated.

Dr. Borer was a finalist for the 2013 Catcher in the Rye Award given by the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and named Medical Professional of the Year 2013 by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill - Delaware. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Psychiatric Association.