

## **MHS Hall of Fame 2018 Inductees**

### **Peyton Barber '13**

### **Student/Athletics**



Peyton Barber graduated from Milton in 2013. As a senior member of the football team, he rushed for 1700 yards and had 22 touchdowns. He was rated as a three-star recruit by Rivals.com. After graduating from MHS, Peyton attended Auburn University from 2013–2015, despite being diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD. After redshirting his first year, he appeared in six games with 10 carries for 54 yards. The next year, Peyton became Auburn's starting running back. In the first game of the season, he rushed for 115 yards on 24 carries. He finished the season with over 1000 yards and 13 touchdowns. Peyton was chosen as the 2015 Offensive Player of the Year. He finished his career at Auburn with 1,071 yards and 13 touchdowns before heading to the 2016 NFL Draft. Despite going undrafted, Peyton signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. He finished his rookie season with 223 rushing yards, 5 receptions for 28 yards, and one rushing touchdown. He finished the 2017 season with 423 rushing yards, 16 receptions for 114 yards, and 3 rushing touchdowns. For the 2018 season, Peyton is the starting running back for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

### **Karen Head '85**

### **Student/Fine Arts**



Karen graduated from Milton in 1985. She was heavily involved in chorus and theatre. She was editor of the literary magazine, co-president of the Gamma Club (library/audio-visual club), a member of the Spanish Club, the debate team, and in the TAG program. Karen went on to become the current Executive Director of the Communication Center and an Associate Professor and Associate Chair in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication at Georgia Tech. Since 2006, she has been a visiting scholar at Technische-Universität-Dortmund. She partners with other universities about designing, implementing, and sustaining communication-focused programs and facilities. She writes and speaks about higher education rhetoric, especially in the area of pedagogical technology, most recently in her book, *Disrupt This!: MOOCs and the Promises of Technology*. She is also a creative writer who has published four books of poetry, co-edited a poetry anthology about teaching, and exhibited several acclaimed digital poetry projects, including one featured as a *TIME* online mini documentary. In 2010 she won the *Oxford International Women's Festival Poetry Prize*. She is a passionate and award-winning teacher. She also serves as the editor of the international poetry journal, *Atlanta Review*. Karen holds a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

## **Van Keys '79**

## **Coach/Education**



Van graduated from Milton in 1979. He played on the Milton High School men's basketball team. He was also involved with Student Government, FCA, WMHS (TV production), and was chosen as a Senior Superlative. He earned a BA in HPER from LaGrange College. While at LaGrange, he served as the Vice President of Student Government and as Secretary of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. Van furthered his education by earning a M.Ed. in HPER and a Leadership Add-On from the State University of West Georgia. Van went on to a 32 year career with Fulton County Schools, working at Milton for 27 years. During his time at MHS, he served in numerous roles. In addition to teaching in the Physical Education

department, he served as Athletic Director, the Head Boys Varsity Basketball Coach for 10 years and the Head Girls Tennis Coach for 9 years. He was an assistant football, baseball, softball, and track coach. He also served as the Athletic Business Manager and an Administrative Assistant. Van continues to stay connected to Milton High School in retirement by substitute teaching. His wife, Lora, is a long time teacher at Alpharetta Elementary School.

## **Tina Blalock Smith '80**

## **Student/Athletics**



Tina graduated from Milton in 1980 and earned a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering from Georgia Tech in 1984. While at Milton, Tina was a standout in both athletics and academics. From 1976 – 1980, she was on the Girls Basketball team, serving as the co-captain from 1978 – 1980. During that time, the team won the Region 4-AAA Championship, the region 5-A championship, and the Fulton County Championship. Tina was named to the North Fulton All-Star team, the Fulton County All-Star team, the Atlanta Tip-Off club Team of the Year, All-State Honorable Mention, All-State Second Team, Region 5-A All-Star team, Region 4-AAA All-Star team, and Region 4-AAA North All-Tournament team. By the end of her Milton basketball career, Tina held these school records: most points in a game, season, and career; most points average per game; highest season and career field goal percentage; highest season free throw

percentage; most assists in a game, season, and career; and most steals in a game, season, and career. Tina was also a two year letter winner in volleyball and tennis. In addition to athletics, Tina was in the Beta Club and National Honor Society. She was on the Student Council for four years, serving as Co-President her senior year. She was also chosen by the faculty to receive the Journal Cup and was the Class Valedictorian. As a result of her high school career, in 1980, Tina signed with Georgia Tech as the first female to receive a full athletic scholarship. She has worked in the building industry and real estate, but her real passion was serving as a volunteer and lay coach with young kids. She retired from coaching after 15 years, combining her two loves: kids and basketball. At the age of 46, she earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Kennesaw State University and is now a math tutor. Tina has two daughters and two grandsons.

## **Phil Thomas**

## **Principal/Education**



Phil spent 31 years in public education. In 1971, he came to Milton HS where he spent 24 years as a Social Studies teacher, Social Studies Department Head, Assistant Principal, and was Principal of Milton from 1986 to 1998. While Phil was principal, Milton received numerous honors, including being named as one of the top 100 schools in America by *USA Today* in 1998, being selected as a Georgia School of Excellence in 1998 and being nominated for the national Blue-Ribbon Schools program. In 1996-1997, Milton was selected as a Georgia Pay for Performance School. In 1995, Phil received the first Governor's Innovation Award for promoting the use of technology in the classroom. Under Phil's direction, Milton established a partnership with

Falibroome School in Manchester, England involving students, parents, administrators, and board members. In 1998, Phil was asked to become the Director of Instructional Technology for the GA Department of Education. He served in that position for 3 years before returning to Fulton County Schools as the Director of Instructional Technology for 4 years. In 2004, Phil retired from Fulton County Schools and moved on to work for Promethean for 7 years as Vice President of Training and Professional Development. He retired in 2011. In his retirement, he is a consultant for the Georgia Accrediting Commission. He's been married for 49 years to Margaret. They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Phil enjoys playing guitar at local events and traveling with his wife.