Delaware City Schools

Distinguished Alumni
Hall of Fame

September 26, 2014
Thank you for joining us to celebrate the accomplishments of six outstanding individuals who are being inducted into the Delaware City Schools Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. This joint event recognizes our alumni and friends of the district who have excelled in career achievement, athletics and the performing and visual arts.

Earlier today our students had the opportunity to meet our inductees. It is my hope that they will be similarly motivated to achieve in their respective fields of interest and will one day join this illustrious group. Please join me in thanking our inductees for making us so proud and for pointing our graduates toward excellence!
Dinner & Ceremony Agenda
Master of Ceremonies - Richard Stranges, Principal

Welcome Richard Stranges

Buffet Dinner

Adjourn to the Auditorium for Induction Ceremony

Singing of the Hayes Singers
National Anthem & Alma Mater
Posting of the Colors AFJROTC

Remarks Paul Craft
Superintendent of Schools

Presentation of Awards

Brent Carson
Clifford L. Dochterman
Larry Eberst
Charles “Tony” McCleery
Abigail Nims
Joseph DiGenova

Recognition of Former Richard Stranges
Inductees

Closing Remarks Richard Stranges

Guests are invited to attend the football game for an on-field introduction of honorees.
Brent Carson grew up on his parents’ dairy farm located just west of Delaware. He graduated from Hayes High School in 1966. He earned his bachelor of arts in political science from Heidelberg College in 1970 before turning his interests to education. He received his teaching credentials from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1974 and was hired by Delaware City Schools. He spent his entire thirty-one years at Willis School, teaching mostly in the 6th grade and mostly social studies.

Students often referred to him as Captain Carson, a name which came from a classroom activity called “Captain Carson’s No Good-Goody Game.” His teaching style was unique with activities such as: wearing a toga and leading his students through tubs of ice water to re-enact Caesar’s crossing of the Rubicon, writing and performing medieval plays, charging across the tops of students’ tables, and writing and performing the Marathon Runner’s Rap.

Brent had a long time interest in history - particularly local history. As a teacher he incorporated “Delaware Extras” as a weekly extra credit exercise for his classes. He formed an after school extra-curricular group called the Willis History Club. Its purpose was to promote and preserve the history of the school, community and county. The group sponsored contests, tours, programs, reunions and interview sessions.

In 1983, the History Club raised money to sponsor an all-class reunion to mark the 50th year of Willis. The event drew more than 800 people. In 2003, the History Club sponsored a second all-class reunion with more than 1200 people in attendance. It is believed to be the largest banquet ever held in Delaware.

In 2005, Brent retired from teaching in order to devote more time to promoting local history. He has served as the President of the Board of Trustees for the Delaware County Historical Center since 2007. He also served as the Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee for the City of Delaware. He has been involved with local scout groups, Delaware Teenage Republicans Group, and the Delaware Jaycees.

In addition to presenting thousands of talks on Delaware history, he has produced two DVDs on local history: “Beside our Springs and Streams” and “Friday Night in Downtown Delaware.”
Cliff Dochterman’s professional life included over 40 years in higher education administration – 20 years each at the University of California in Berkeley and at the University of Pacific in Stockton, California.

He is known worldwide for his volunteer work for Rotary International over the past 56 years. He first joined Rotary in Berkeley, CA in 1958. He has served in almost every Rotary assignment in the world, beginning as Berkeley Rotary Club president, to Rotary International Director, International Vice President, and Chairman of The Rotary Foundation Trustees. He was one of the pioneers of Rotary’s Polio Plus program, which is eradicating the disease of polio in the world. In 1992-93, he served as the 84th President of Rotary International, the most international service organization in the world. As worldwide President of Rotary International, he selected the theme, “Real Happiness Is Helping Others.”

It has been said that Cliff has spoken before more Rotary Clubs than anyone in the world. He is the author of the booklet, “The ABCs of Rotary” and his most recent publication is “As I Was Saying” – a collection of 23 of his favorite speeches.

He has had a lifetime association with the Boy Scouts of America after becoming an Eagle Scout in the Central Ohio Council in 1939; and has received three of the organization’s highest honors – the Distinguished Eagle, Silver Antelope, and Silver Beaver. He has also served as President of the Stockton, California Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Dr. Dochterman is the recipient of the George Washington Honor Medal of the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge for his contributions to the American way of life. He received the Nance-Millett Trophy of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity for outstanding contributions to American free enterprise. He has been honored by the heads of state of dozens of nations for spreading good will and world understanding. He has been selected Citizen of the Year in his local community in the San Francisco Bay Area and numerous other awards and recognitions.

He holds a bachelor of arts degree and honorary Doctor of Humanities from Ohio Wesleyan University. He attended law school and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and has a doctor of laws diploma from the College of Idaho and an honorary doctor of Humanities from Heidelberg University.
Larry was born on December 6, 1954 in Delaware to James and Lucille (Galluzzo) Eberst. He was a graduate of Delaware Hayes High School where he ran track, cross country, and played basketball earning him 10 Varsity Letters. To this day he still holds the school record in the mile relay. He then graduated from Miami University with a BS and received his Master’s Degree in Education from Ashland University. For 32 years he taught Physical Education in Delaware’s elementary schools, primarily Conger and Carlisle. From 1980 until 1992, he served as the assistant coach for the Ohio Wesleyan Men’s Varsity Basketball Team, winning a National Championship in 1988. In 1994, he became the head basketball coach for the Delaware Hayes Pacers and continued to coach until his death in 2009. During his coaching career, he received countless accolades, including 5 Coach of The Year awards. He was considered one of the “Deans” of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association, and compiled the winningest record at Hayes High School standing at 194 wins and 132 losses. In the mid 1990’s, he founded the Hayes Pacer Youth Basketball Camp, which continues to present day. He was well known for his integrity, passion, and fairness. His dedication to coaching was grounded not in winning, but in his love of the game and desire to teach his players life lessons through the sport.

Jordan Blackburn, Larry’s successor and person responsible for nominating him said this: “Larry’s legacy is one of character, leadership and compassion.” Larry instilled the values of teamwork, integrity, confidence, service and passion in his students.

Larry’s zest for life was exemplified not only in his personality and relationships, but also in his insatiable appetite for adventure. At a very early age, he gained a love for cars and owned and enjoyed driving several sports cars. Perhaps his greatest pursuit and passion was flying. As a pilot most of his adult life, Larry built two experimental aircraft from scratch, owned and maintained a 1942 vintage airplane along with two more experimental aircraft. He always enjoyed sharing that passion with everyone that expressed an interest.

Although Larry is gone, his memory lives on as well as his legacy. The Eberst Family has set up a College scholarship fund in his name, which is awarded each year to a Hayes High School senior who demonstrates the dedication, passion and selflessness with which Larry served the Delaware community for so many years. The Larry Eberst Memorial 5K fundraiser is held every Fall to raise money and awareness to this cause.

With his wit, genuine approach and dry sense of humor, he positively impacted the lives of so many, both in the classroom and throughout the community. He was a devoted, caring father to his two sons, Christopher and Kyle. He was also a loving husband to his wife Peggy, and always an amazing friend to everyone he came in contact with.
Tony McCleery was a remarkable athlete at Willis High School from 1941-1945. McCleery earned 12 varsity letters, playing on the varsity teams for football, baseball, track and basketball.

In 1943, Tony’s fullback play helped Delaware win the CBL Football Championship. McCleery was All Central Buckeye League (CBL) in football in 1943 and 1944; All CBL in baseball in 1944 and 1945; and All State in Track, winning the class A State shot put title in 1945.

In 1945, Tony joined the Navy and while at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, he played football for Coach Paul Brown. He then attended Ohio Wesleyan University for two years before transferring to The Ohio State University where he was a running back in 1949 and 1950.

After College, Tony became a Federal Milk Market Administrator for the Federal Agriculture Department and became the youngest regional administrator in the nation in 1955. He was the administrator for the second largest region in the country, which included Chicago and most of the midwest.

Tony and his wife Caroline reside in Houghton Lake, Michigan. They have three children: Karen, Tac and Fred. His interests include all things sports, especially football, golf and baseball. He is an avid reader and a life-long hunter and fisherman.
Abigail Nims, mezzo-soprano, has quickly established herself as a musician of integrity and versatility performing in opera, concert, and recital venues throughout the United States and abroad.

A native of Delaware, Ohio, Ms. Nims attended kindergarten through high school in the Delaware City School system. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree, summa cum laude, from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2001, a Master of Music from Westminster Choir College in 2005, and an Artist Diploma from the Yale School of Music in 2007, where she was the recipient of the YSM Dean’s Prize. After finishing her degree at Yale, Ms. Nims spent two summers as a singer apprentice at the Santa Fe Opera and one summer as a fellow with the Carmel Bach Festival.

A versatile performing artist, Ms. Nims has appeared as soloist with such renowned orchestras and opera companies as the San Francisco Symphony, New York City Opera, Wexford Festival Opera, the Baltimore Symphony, Santa Fe Opera, the Sao Paulo Symphony, Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México, and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Her recordings include Martin Bresnick’s song cycle “Falling” on the album Every Thing Must Go and Veruca Salt in the premier recording of Peter Ash’s The Golden Ticket, both with Albany Records. A Linn Records recording of Monteverdi’s Il Ritorno d’Ulisse in patria in which Ms. Nims performs the role of Melanto is slated to be released in early 2015.

Ms. Nims has received awards from prestigious organizations and institutions including the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Competition, Santa Fe Opera, the Biennial Bach Vocal Competition, the Carmel Bach Festival, and the Licia Albanese Competition.

Equally devoted to the education of aspiring musicians, Ms. Nims was appointed Assistant Professor of Voice at the University of Colorado, Boulder in 2013. She currently divides her time between Boulder and Berkeley, California, where her husband is completing a PhD in Statistics.
Joseph DiGenova
Friend of the District Award

Joe DiGenova has a long history of supporting the youth of Delaware. His volunteer work with the schools has spanned decades and included working with nearly every area of our schools. Joe served as Athletic Booster president and helped spearhead the effort to construct the first outdoor restroom facility at the stadium. He was also instrumental in starting the Youth In Government Program more than 22 years ago with former City Manager Frank Ciarochi and Bill Reitz, a program still operating today. More recently Joe has served as City liaison for the district’s facility committee and land and acquisition committee. Joe served on five school levy initiatives and was supportive in the district’s recent bond issue to make additions and renovations to all school buildings.

In 1986, The Hayes Talisman named Joe as one of the 15 most influential people in Delaware. One of the students was quoted as saying, “Mr. DiGenova is more concerned about the youth of Delaware [because they are] the future of Delaware.”

Joe’s service to Delaware goes beyond the schools. He is active with the historical society, local VFW, American Legion Post #115, Vietnam Veterans Association, Operation Never Forget, Delaware Touchstone Program, and the Del-Italia Club. He also served 10 years on the Little Brown Jug Festival and Mayor’s Breakfast Committee.

In his 23rd year of serving as an elected official on City Council, Joe serves on numerous committees including chairing The Revolving Loan Fund, Vice-Chair of the City Finance Committee, Shade Tree Commission, Dog Park Committee, Board of Zoning Appeals, Oak Grove Cemetery and the Veterans Memorial Committee.

Joe is an honored veteran of the Vietnam War and spent 42 years in Wholesale Management. He and his wife, Vonie, have three children who are all graduates of Delaware City Schools.
Hall of Fame Inductees

Delaware City Schools Hall of Fame

2013 - Combined Hall of Fame
Richard J. Blakeslee - Class of 1970
John C. “Jack” Hilborn - Class of 1967
Christian Howes - Class of 1989
Dan Morrison - Coach
Will Morrison - Class of 2003
Herbert H. Willisam - Class of 1954

Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor

2007 – Inaugural Class
William Hastings Eels – Class of 1942
Esther Jo King – Class of 1977
F. Sherwood Rowland – Class of 1943
John Michael “Mick” Seidl – Class of 1957
Henry Clay Thomson II – Class of 1926
James Tull – Class of 1980

2008
Jeffrey T. Benton – Class of 1971
Christopher “C.D.” Davies – Class of 1983
Douglas H. Dittrick – Class of 1951
Richard E. Lee, Jr. – Class of 1969

2009
Lorraine Bahrick – Class of 1971
Richard D. Gordin II – Class of 1969
Anthony M. Heald – Class of 1967

2010
Cheri Florance – Class of 1966
Douglas Gordin – Class of 1974
Tiffany Lefevre Lillie – Class of 1991
Nicholas Shaheen – Class of 1983

2011
David Fivecoat – Class of 1989
Chris Geesman – Class of 1957
Janet B. Hurst – Class of 1974
Walter D. “Tom” Thomson – Class of 1956

Athletic Hall of Fame

2000 – Inaugural Class
Jerry Cornell - Coach
Liana Coutts - Class of 1984
Roy Henderson - Coach
Julie Schupp Long - Class of 1981
Rick Middleton - Class of 1970
Robert Muirfield - Distinguished Service

2001
T.K. Cellar - Coach
Tiffany Feinberg - Class of 1984
Ray Middleton - Coach
Tom Reed - Class of 1963
Donald Shannon - Class of 1966
Jim Stimmel - Distinguished Service

2002
Gabe Banks - Class of 1991
Jay Coffman - Class of 1976
Jerry Fouts - Distinguished Service
Vance Herrell - Class of 1973
Sheila Martin - Class of 1983
Richard Snouffer - Administrator

2003
Jerome Bohanna - Class of 1972
Tony Heald - Class of 1967
Gary Henery - Distinguished Service
Carrie Houser - Class of 1986
Mike Kinnaird - Class of 1975
Tom Landsittel - Class of 1963

2004
Jim Burkhart - Class of 1962
Dr. Bob Kedar - Class of 1988
Gary Fivecoat - Coach
Joe Reed - Class of 1952
Dewey Warden, Jr. - Class of 1971
Dr. Tennyson Williams - Distinguished Service

Continued Next Page
Athletic Hall of Fame
Continued

2005
Jim Hoffman - Distinguished Service
Don Lockwood - Coach
Bill Middleton - Class of 1968
Frank Montgomery - Class of 1962
Marge Moses - Coach
Fred Terry - Class of 1955

2006
Frank Dalton - Coach
Travis Dalton - Class of 1989
Kris Leslie - Class of 1979
John Talley - Class of 1956
Ralph Young - Athletic Director
Terry Kramer - Distinguished Service

2007
Dave Echols - Coach
Jean O’Connor - Class of 1984
Stacey Reed - Class of 1989
Ed Starling - Coach
Len Visci - Coach
Tom Ackley - Distinguished Service
Al Wood - Distinguished Service

2008
Lou Carozza - Coach
John Dewey - Class of 1957
Jack McKennie - Class of 1950
Richard Payne - Class of 1955
Lynne Powers Weber - Class of 1978
Tim Burchfield - Distinguished Service

2009
Steve Aller - Class of 1963
Wilbur Bills - Class of 1944
Roy Clark - Class of 1960
Clifton Davis - Class of 1950
Krista Jacobs - Class of 1988
Tony Rieman - Distinguished Service

2010
Andy Hull - Class of 1954
Mike Milligan - Class of 1982
Dan Mohr - Class of 1992
Larry Seidl - Class of 1953
Matt Weller - Class of 1986
Mike Stimmel - Distinguished Service

2011
Tom Arnold - Class of 1969
Mike Cornell - Class of 1973
Todd Goebbel - Class of 1994
Bill Williams - Class of 1954
Nancy Young - Distinguished Service

2012
Carthel Ransaw - Class of 1955
Jason Stofel - Class of 1989
Scott Yant - Class of 1981
Dana Minot - Distinguished Service

Performing Arts Wall of Fame

2004
Jay R. Smith - Class of 1970

2006
Eugene Raymond Ross - Band Director 1938 - 1971
Brad Schroeder - Class of 1970

2007
Amy Eckert - Orchestra Director 1971 - 1997
Erika Eckert - Class of 1982
Special Thanks

Delaware City Schools would like to thank the following people for their contributions to today’s program.

Honorees and Guests
Hayes High School Music Program
All Occasions Catering
Hayes High School Athletic Staff

Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Committee
Brent Carson        Scott Cubberly
Julie Weller        Steve Glesenkamp
Richard Stranges    Jen Ruhe
Stacy Lemke         Dara Gillis
Connie Thomas       Jerry Fouts
Liz Bertsch

Delaware City Schools
248 N. Washington Street
Delaware, OH 43015
740-833-1100
www.dcs.k12.oh.us