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Fourth Annual Laurel Highlands

Life Achievement

HALL
of
FAME

Awards Program

Induction Ceremony Breakfast

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Park Inn by Radisson

- 8:30 am -

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Jes Hutson

Retired Faculty, Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus

Jesse Wallace

Superintendent, Laurel Highlands School District

INVOCATION

Mark Skoric

Life Achievement Hall of Fame Committee Member

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Skoric

BREAKFAST

COMMENTS

Vincent Soom

Vice President, Laurel Highlands Academic Foundation

Introduction of the Class of 2015

Mr. Hutson

Graduates of Laurel Highlands High School

Ben Moyer, *Class of 1970*

Gary L. Carter, *Class of 1972*

Robin D. Weaver, *Class of 1972*

Thomas W. McClain, *Class of 1974*

Mark G. Matuschak, *Class of 1977*

Dr. Elizabeth Wiltrout, *Class of 2003*

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Hutson

Winter Sports Accomplishments

- **Boys' Basketball** team defeated Montour in first round playoff game
- **Wrestling** Individual Accomplishments:
 - WPIAL Qualifiers - Justin Mansberry, Jimmy Pierce, and Zeke Beatty
 - PIAA Qualifier and Participant - Zeke Beatty
 - NHSCA duals at Virginia Beach - Zeke Beatty finished with 7 wins and 0 losses and was voted Outstanding Team Wrestler
- **Co-Ed Swimming**
 - WPIAL Qualifiers - Devon James, Jamey Siebart, Logan Knoyer, Daniel Keith, Theo Skoric, Cameron Lizza, Brandon Thomas, Jonathan Arnold, Kristin Bane, Emily Yarish, Mackenzie Robatin, Rachel Roscoe, Lexi Kostelnik, and Dylan Rice
 - Swimmers at PIAA state meet at Bucknell University:
 - Individuals - Lexi Kostelnik and Theo Skoric
 - Relay Team-Logan Knoyer, Brandon Thomas, Theo Skoric, and Daniel Keith
 - WPIAL Medalists:
 - Lexi Kostelnik - 4th place in the 500 Freestyle
 - Theo Skoric - 4th place in Diving Competition
 - Theo Skoric, Logan Knoyer, Daniel Keith, Brandon Thomas - 200 Medley Relay Team and 200 Freestyle Relay Team
 - Logan Knoyer - 2nd place in 50 Freestyle and 6th place in 100 Freestyle
 - Brandon Thomas – 5th place in 200 Freestyle and 3rd place in 100 Butterfly

Spring Sports Accomplishments

- **Baseball** team made it to the first round playoff game
- **Co-Ed Track** team
 - Boys' track team won their 10th section championship with 6 wins and 0 losses.
 - 20 boys and girls qualified for WPIAL finals.
 - Shelby Burns finished 2nd in WPIAL for high jump and qualified for the state PIAA tournament.
 - Hannah Basinger finished 7th in WPIAL for javelin.
 - Cassandra Phelan finished 7th in WPIAL for pole vault.
 - Dontay Jacobs was the WPIAL Champion for 400 meters. He also qualified for the state PIAA state tournament and was MVP in the annual Fayette County Coaches' Meet.
 - Chad Livingston was named MVP in field events at the County Coaches' Meet. He also finished 2nd in WPIAL high jump and 3rd in the PIAA state tournament.
 - Ryan Gesso finished 6th in WPIAL for javelin.
 - Colby Tarr finished 7th in WPIAL for 300 intermediate hurdles.

Laurel Highlands School District Accomplishments

2014-15

- Elementary students in grades 3-5 produced some of the highest gains ever on their local assessment (PA 4Sight Benchmark.)
- The middle school was recognized as a Title I Distinguished School serving as the top 15% of middle schools in the state for the amount of growth in math and reading on the PSSA.
- The senior class earned the highest SAT scores achieved in the past 7 years by scoring an average score of 1473.
- Students assisted in opening a credit union in the high school.
- The district completed its Comprehensive Strategic Plan, including the following goals:
 1. Demonstrate increased academic achievement and growth district-wide
 2. Develop a district system to collect and evaluate student, staff, parent, and community feedback annually
 3. Establish a system that ensures the district's resources effectively addressing instructional priorities aligned with the district's vision and mission
 4. Prepare all students with essential skills to be successful in their future
- **Technology Updates** – High School classrooms implemented interactive Mimio boards (similar to college classrooms) with projectors, white boards, student clicker systems, and document cameras. The middle school has interactive SMART boards with a projector in every classroom with a new cart of Google Chromebooks. Elementary classrooms received interactive SMART boards, projectors, and document cameras for every classroom, and each elementary received two new carts of Google Chromebooks.
- **High School Renovation Completed**

Fall Sports Notable Accomplishments

- **Football** team made it to the first round playoff game
- **Boys' Soccer** team won the first round playoff game
- **Girls' Soccer** milestone - Kaylee Rabatin become the all-time leading scorer with 40 single season goals and 95 career goals
- **Girls' Cross Country** - Section and County Champions finishing with 8 wins and 0 losses. Marisa Deichert participated in the state meet in Hershey.
- **Golf** - Harrison Laskey finished 3rd in WPIAL Tournament and 6th in state PIAA Tournament



Ben Moyer is a 1970 graduate of Laurel Highlands High School, and his parents are Fran Moyer of Lemont Furnace and the late William E. “Bud” Moyer. Ben earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Resource Management from Penn State University and began his professional career working as a teacher/counselor near Ohiopyle at the Pressley Ridge Wilderness School for emotionally troubled boys. Later, he worked as an interpretive naturalist for the Pennsylvania

Bureau of State Parks at Kettle Creek and Shikellamy State Parks, and also as a field representative for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation and the State Conservation Commission. Ben also served in Harrisburg as a staff advisor to the Pennsylvania General Assembly's Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. Continuing his education as a working adult, Ben earned a Master of Science Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries from West Virginia University. Throughout his adult life, Ben has expressed his interest and commitment to nature and the outdoors through writing. He is an award-winning author, editor and columnist. His writings about nature, the outdoors and conservation issues have appeared regularly in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette since 1998, and he also writes weekly and monthly columns in numerous other regional and statewide publications. He also writes frequently for national publications such as Gray's Sporting Journal, Fly Fisherman, and Outdoor America, as well as regional publications such as Pittsburgh Quarterly and Westsylvania magazine. Many of his reflective columns and essays were published in book form under the title: “Out Back; Reflections From the Appalachian Outdoors.” Such prestigious conservation organizations, agencies and institutions, such as The Nature Conservancy, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, The Ruffed Grouse Society, The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pennsylvania State University and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, have engaged Ben to perform writing and editing work on a consulting basis. His work has won several first place awards in the Outdoor Writers Association of America and Excellence in Craft Awards Competition, which recognizes outstanding work among the membership of the world's largest organization of professional outdoor journalists. As an active volunteer working to improve his home region's environment and image, Ben serves on the board of directors of the Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the National Road Heritage Corridor. Since returning to his home Fayette County, Ben has also served proudly as president of A.C. Moyer Co., a family business that serves the road maintenance and repair needs of municipalities throughout southwestern Pennsylvania.



Mr. Gary Carter is a 1972 graduate and is President of Vern Allen Tire in Oliver. He is a charter member of the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce where he serves on their board of trustees and educational council. Mr. Carter was on Laurel Highlands' original Strategic Planning Committee in 1982, served two terms as a member of the Laurel Highlands School Board, and continues to be an active member of the Laurel Highlands Academic

Foundation where he served as vice-president and president for 12 years. Gary is currently the president of Junior Achievement of Southwest Pennsylvania and has had the opportunity to teach the real-world basics of finance in almost all of Fayette County's school districts within the last 28 years. Because of his unrelenting enthusiasm and dedication to helping the younger generation understand these basics of economics, he has been awarded the National Silver Medal Award, Bronze Leadership Award, Chairman's Award, Impact Award, Leadership Circle Award, and a Five-Star Award for his outstanding work within Junior Achievement. Additionally, Mr. Carter always makes the time to sponsor and donate to numerous community events and serve as a keynote speaker at various ceremonies and local clubs. He was named Fayette County's "Citizen of the Year" and received the Herman Buck Award in 2007; receiving both in the same year is an honor that only he has accomplished. In 1998, he has also received a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Community Service, and he also received the Presidents' Quality Award given by the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce. In 2011, he was listed on the Presidential Who's Who Among Business and Professional Achievers. Gary and his wife, Kathy, reside in Uniontown, and they have two daughters, Lindsey Mikeo ('96) and Tara Takoch ('99), and four grandchildren, Carter, Maddie, Olivia, and Lindon.

2012 HONOREES

Mr. Robert Eberly (deceased)	North Union 1935
Mr. Harry Brownfield (deceased)	South Union 1946
Dr. Randolph Nudo	Laurel Highlands 1971
Dr. Peter Rhee	Laurel Highlands 1979
Ms. Nina Pineda	Laurel Highlands 1986
Dr. Lance Brunton	Laurel Highlands 1994
Dr. Courtney Cuppett	Laurel Highlands 1996
Dr. Mary Ellen Wiltout	Laurel Highlands 2000

2013 HONOREES

Mr. Joseph DiNunno (deceased)	South Union 1938
Dr. George Garrow	Laurel Highlands 1977
Dr. Mark Esper	Laurel Highlands 1982
Mr. Douglas Matthews	Laurel Highlands 1983
Dr. David Sheba	Laurel Highlands 1990

2014 HONOREES

Richard A. Miller	Laurel Highlands 1969
Dr. Garret Breakiron	Laurel Highlands 1970
Dr. Chuck Mihaliak	Laurel Highlands 1978
Major General Jeffrey A. Rockwell	Laurel Highlands 1980
Dr. Bruce King	Laurel Highlands 1981
Janet L. Deal	Laurel Highlands 1982
Joan Kois Woodward	Laurel Highlands 1983
Dr. John Pensock	Laurel Highlands 1984
Dr. Rani Dixit Schuchert, MD	Laurel Highlands 1986
Tonya Hurley	Laurel Highlands 1988



Dr. Elizabeth Wiltrout graduated as the valedictorian in 2003. Dr. Wiltrout earned her BS Degree in Chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University and earned MS and PhD Degrees in Bioorganic Chemistry from the University of Chicago, by completing her doctoral thesis entitled “Adaptive Translation in Yeast, Bacteria, and Archaea,” through the support of a National Institutes of Health Chemistry and Biology Interface pre-doctoral fellowship. Throughout her

academic and professional career, Dr. Wiltrout has been recognized for her dedication to science education. During graduate school, she received Teaching Awards in Organic Chemistry and for Excellence in Research, Teaching, & Departmental Citizenship. While living in Chicago, she worked as an editor for scientific journal articles, an author for several educational publishing companies, and a volunteer for the Genetics exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry. After graduate school, Dr. Wiltrout taught undergraduate basic and organic chemistry courses as an adjunct Assistant Professor of Chemistry in Boston, MA. She also has worked with multiple publishing companies as a content developer for science textbooks and online learning platforms, most recently developing content for online MCAT study guides. Currently, she is the Manager of the Clinical and Translational Science Graduate Program at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. In this role, she supports instructional development, manages the overall graduate program, and assists with training grants and early career awards. Dr. Wiltrout is the younger sister of Dr. Mary Ellen Wiltrout, who was a Hall of Fame inductee in the first class of 2012. Dr. Wiltrout currently resides in Somerville, MA.

**LAUREL HIGHLANDS
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Superintendent
Jesse Wallace

School Board Chair
Angelo Giachetti

Academic Foundation Chair
James Tobal

**LIFE ACHIEVEMENT
HALL OF FAME
COMMITTEE**

Beth Hanzes
Joe Price
Bill Simpson
Mark Skoric
James Tobal
Jes Hutson



Robin Weaver is the daughter of Jane Maher Weaver and the late Orin Weaver of Uniontown. Robin is a 1972 graduate of Laurel Highlands and a 1976 graduate of Wilson College, where she received a B.A. in political science and a minor in economics, while graduating magna cum laude. Robin spent a guest year at Franklin and Marshall College, taking courses in its Government Department. She received a J.D. in 1979 from Emory University School of Law where she was a

member of the Moot Court Society. She is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New York, as well as before the U.S. Supreme Court. After graduation from Emory, Robin clerked for Fayette County Common Pleas Court Judge, Conrad B. Capuzzi. Robin has spent most of her career as a lawyer in the financial services industry in New York, working for Fiduciary Trust Company, New York Life Insurance Company and MetLife. At MetLife, she served as Chief of Staff to the president of MetLife’s international division. The international division manages MetLife’s operations in over 50 countries. She is a consultant in the financial services sector and adjunct professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology (part of the State University of New York) where she teaches business writing. Robin is a Vice President of the New York Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society and was recently elected president of the Women’s National Republican Club in New York. Robin enjoys writing, reading, travel, and the arts, and lives in New York City.

The Laurel Highlands Life Achievement Hall of Fame is sponsored by the
Laurel Highlands Academic Foundation.

Its purpose is to honor past students from Laurel Highlands, along with the North and South Union High Schools, who have made an impact by distinguishing themselves in their careers, community, or society, and/or brought recognition to the district.

There is also a provision for non-graduates/students who have made great contributions to any of these three schools to be included for nomination.

Nominations for the class of 2016 are currently being accepted. Please visit www.lhsd.org for a nomination form.



Tom McClain attended Penn State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mining Engineering in May 1979. While attending Penn State, Tom worked during the summer for Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation in its Vesta-Shannopin Coal Division in Washington and Greene Counties. Upon graduation, he accepted an engineering position with Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation and worked at its Emerald Mine in Waynesburg in various engineering and mine supervisory positions. In 1984, Tom was an instructor in the Mining Engineering

Technology program at Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus. In 1986, Tom accepted an engineering position with Arch Mineral Corporation at its Arch of Kentucky division in Lynch, KY. He held various engineering positions at Arch of Kentucky until being transferred in 1989 to the Arch Mineral head office in St. Louis, MO, where he worked on their acquisition team through early 1992. In 1992, Tom accepted the position of mine manager at a Big River Minerals underground coal mine near Uneeda, WV. He managed that operation through 1993, and then began working as an international underground coal mining consultant. Since 1993, Tom has been the President of Colliers and Associates, Inc., and Liberty Mining Consultants, Inc., consulting with underground coal mining operations in Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Czech Republic, China, India, Mexico, Poland, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, as well as the United States. Tom's mining consulting work has assisted coal mines in these countries to safely improve productivity while reducing operating costs. His work mainly deals with underground coal mining supervisors and equipment operators in the safe and efficient operating methods of American manufactured underground coal mining equipment. Along with training supervisors and equipment operators, Tom's work has also focused on planning and assisting mines with preparing for the introduction of new American equipment, while also improving productivity and operating efficiencies with existing equipment. In 2001, Sasol Mining in South Africa received the worldwide Coal Company of the Year award from The Financial Times largely as a result of improvements achieved through his company's work. Most recently, his work continues to be mostly in South Africa and Russia, in addition to the United States. Tom also served as Boyle County (Kentucky) Republican Party Chairman from 2001 - 2009, and he and his wife Susan attended the 2001 Presidential Inauguration of George W. Bush. Someday when Tom retires, he plans to write a book capturing his experiences in the coal mining industry and working in foreign countries. Tom and Susan, his wife of 33 years, reside in Danville, KY, and they are the parents of 3 children: Erin (30), Ben (28), and Katie (27), all of whom are graduates of the University of Kentucky.



Mark Matuschak graduated as valedictorian from Laurel Highlands High School in 1977, where he was the starting fullback on the Mustangs football team. Mark is the son of the late Hon. Joseph P. Matuschak, Esq. and Irene M. Matuschak. He attended Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, where he played on the freshman football team and graduated cum laude in 1981, receiving the highest distinction in his major, as well as receiving the Bennett Prize for his senior honors thesis on Russian military intervention in neighboring countries. He spent a semester studying the Russian language at Leningrad State University in what is now St. Petersburg, Russia. Mark also graduated from Columbia University School of Law in 1984. He was Managing Editor of the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law and was named a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. Mark clerked for the late Honorable Neil L. Lynch of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, and thereafter began practicing law in Boston, Massachusetts. Mark is currently a partner at WilmerHale, a 1,000-lawyer law firm with offices around the world, and works from its New York and Boston offices. Mark is a trial lawyer, specializing in complex patent and trademark trials and appeals in courts across the country. His clients include companies such as Intel, Procter & Gamble, Honda and Nike. Mark's pro bono clients include the Malawi Death Penalty Project, the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts in both Boston and New York City, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), and the Falmouth Road Race. Mark has completed the Boston Marathon six times, and is close to finishing his ascent of all 48 New Hampshire mountains over 4,000 feet. He lives in New York City and Marblehead, Massachusetts. Mark is married to Kate Matuschak, an Assistant Attorney General for the State of New York. He has three children: Nick, a lawyer at Cahill Gordon & Reindel in New York City; Alex, a fund administration associate at State Street Bank in Boston; and Jennie, a freshman at Bucknell University.