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**Burnsville High School Hall of Fame**

The BHS Hall of Fame was created in honor of the school’s 50th anniversary in 2006 to recognize individuals or organizations that have made exceptional achievements in their field, significant contributions to BHS and/or unique contributions to their community on a local, state, national or international level. The selection of honorees is intended to recognize and encourage a tradition of excellence, achievement, hard work commitment and dedication at Burnsville High School.

Since the first 20 honorees were inducted, an additional 69 graduates, former staff, community members and teams have joined them. Honorees serve as an example of the quality education that BHS provides and has fostered over the years and as role models for current students and staff to achieve their own success.

**Burnsville High School Hall of Fame Inductees, 2006-2018**

**Anne Abicht (’77)**

Abicht participated in Girls Tennis and the first BHS Girls Golf team as well as the Girls Basketball team that won the 1977 Class AA State Championship. She lettered in all three sports and was awarded a “reverse letter” for lettering at least six times during her high school career. She received her B.A. in Mass Communications with a minor in Journalism from the University of Minnesota and her Master of Science in Sports Management from St. Cloud State University. Abicht was the first, and so far only, female to be named the Director of Athletic Media Relations at St. Cloud State University, serving in that position for 30 years. She has received numerous awards including being inducted into the 2015 St. Cloud University Athletic Hall of Fame and the 2016 College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame. Abicht served as the U.S. Olympic Committee Press Officer for the 1992 U.S. Olympic Men’s Hockey team in Albertville, France.

**Mary (Ryan) Ajax (’70)**

Ajax is the President and Chief Executive Officer of 360 Communities. After graduating from Mankato State University with a BA in psychology in 1974, she began working for 360 (formerly Community Action Council) where she oversaw the expansion of the agency’s work in violence prevention including the first safe home in Dakota County built specifically to meet the needs of domestic violence victims. Under Ajax’s leadership, 360 Communities has become a significant presence in the county engaged in changing lives and strengthening communities through school success programs, violence prevention, services to those new to the county and the country and through numerous community building initiatives. Ajax, who was recognized with the Minnesota Medical Associations “Stop the Violence” award in 2005 and with the MSU Distinguished Alumni Humanitarian Award in 2007, serves on the Board of Trustees for the Fairview Minnesota Valley Care System, chaired the Burnsville Noon Rotary and served as chair of the United Way Council of Agency Executives.

**Anthony Ashworth (’88)**

Ashworth played football for BHS for three years and attended Evangel College in Springfield, Mo. He started a real estate career in 1997 and became RHS Realty president in 2000. Since then, the company has grown from one branch and 10 agents to five branches and 300 agents. He is director of the Southern Twin Cities Association of Realtors and is involved in many community-service activities. He co-sponsored the BHS 50th anniversary celebration, is on the HIKE foundation board of directors and is a People Serving People volunteer. He also encourages his employees to serve the community.

**Adam Bailey (’94)**

Bailey was active in football and golf during his attendance at BHS. Graduating in 1994, he was named all-conference honorable mention in football in 1993 and 1994. He went on to play football at the University of Minnesota where he earned a degree in Law Enforcement. Bailey works as a police officer in the St. Paul Police Department. He has twice been honored with the rare Medal of Valor during his service there. Recently, he transferred departments and is now working in narcotics. Bailey continues to support Burnsville football by returning to talk with the team about his experiences and about how important it is to have strong values and good morals for success in life.

**Jim Banke (’80)**

During his school career, Banke was selected to participate in the Hugh O’Brien Youth Foundation state convention, was named Minnesota’s outstanding sophomore leader for 1978 and represented the state at the International Leadership Seminar in New York City. He worked closely with Supt. Bob Tschirki during the time when student representation on the School Board had just started. He served on the Student Council from 1977-1979 and was elected student body president for 1979-80. He was a member of Chamber Chorale and produced and co-hosted the annual pop concert during his junior and senior years, working with music teacher, Loren Squires. Banke attended Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, graduating in 1987 with a B.S. in Aviation Business Administration. There he served as president of the school’s student chapter of the L5 Aerospace Society, a national space advocacy organization now known as the National Space Society. As the organization’s president, he was asked to represent the student body in testifying before members of the National Space Commission, which included Neil Armstrong, about the future of the space program. He also served as Space Technology editor for the student newspaper, The Avion. In that capacity, Banke was present at Kennedy Space Center’s press site in 1986 during the Challenger disaster. After college, Banke worked for 16 years as an aerospace journalist and early pioneer in online journalism, initially for Florida Today/USA Today. He was hired by Lou Dobbs and Sally Ride to work for space.com. For the past decade he has worked more directly on behalf of the space program, establishing himself as a major voice and leader within the space community, both locally along Florida’s Space Coast and nationally. In 2006, he was selected by then Gov. Jeb Bush to serve on the Governor’s Commission on the Future of Space and Aeronautics in Florida. Since 2007, Banke has worked as an independent consultant and owner/president of MILA Solutions, LLC with customers including NASA, the Space Foundation, the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex and the Astronauts Memorial Foundation. He serves on several Boards of Directors including the U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Museum Foundation, and the National Space Club Florida Committee. He provides live coverage for all rocket launches from Cape Canaveral on WMMB-AM radio and hosts a weekly hour-long show called “Space Talk.” He has received many awards including the 2013 NASA Group Achievement Award-Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, the 2007 NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal (the government’s highest award for a non-government employee) and the 2003 Online News Association Award for Breaking News (coverage of the Columbia disaster). As a member of the Governor’s Commission on the Future of Space and Aeronautics in Florida, he originated the idea and wrote the report that led to the creation of Space Florida, the state’s current space agency. Banke also produced, directed and emceed numerous space-related community events including Kennedy Space Center’s 50th Anniversary Gala.

**Gary Barta (’82)**

Barta played on BHS’s state championship football team in 1981 and was a member of the Minnesota state high school all-star football team in 1982. He graduated from North Dakota State University in 1987 and was quarterback on its Division II NCAA national championship football teams in 1983, 1985 and 1986. He’s been a successful fund-raiser and/or athletic director at various colleges, including North Dakota State, the University of Northern Iowa, the University of Washington in Seattle and the University of Wyoming. He is athletic director at the University of Iowa.

**Cameron Beckman (’88)**

Beckman specialized in two sports at BHS. He was captain of the golf team and named All-Conference in 1987 and 1988, and was also captain of the boys hockey team, where he was All-Conference in 1988 and played in the Minnesota State Hockey tournament in 1987. He earned a golf scholarship to Texas Lutheran University, where he was named a two-time All-American in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). He was elected to the NAIA Hall of Fame and the Texas Lutheran Athletic Hall of Fame. He qualified for his first PGA tour in 1999 and won his first tournament in 2001.

**John W. Bergman (’65)**

Bergman played varsity football, basketball and baseball during his high school career. He was also a member of the National Honor Society, the Student Council, wrote for the school newspaper, was the Drum Major and was a member of the Homecoming Royalty. He received his undergraduate degree from Gustavus Adolphus College and an MBA from the University of West Florida. Bergman was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve where he served until his retirement in 2009 as Lieutenant General. He flew helicopters and was a flight instructor until he left active duty in 1975. He continued in the Reserve and held posts in Rhode Island, Illinois, New York, Kansas, California, Louisiana and Germany. He was recalled to active duty from April to July, 1999 and served in North Carolina and again in Louisiana. He served as Chairman, Secretary of the Navy Marine Corps Reserve Policy Board from 2001-2003. He again returned to active duty in October, 2003 and served as Director, Reserve Affairs in Quantico, VA. In 2005 he assumed command of Marine Forces Reserve/Marine Forces North headquartered in New Orleans where he was responsible for the training and readiness of approximately 100,000 Marine Corps Reserves and for representing the entire Marine Corps to the US Northern Command. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Single Mission Air Medal with Combat ‘V’ and numerous unit awards.

**Vic Berra (Retired Staff)**

Berra had an amazing career at BHS that spanned 30 years from 1964-1994. He was a teacher, coach and athletic director. He coached B-squad baseball and was an assistant football coach. He received the Butch Nash Assistant Coach of the Year Award from the University of Minnesota in 1987 and the Lake Conference Distinguished Service Award in 1998 for his role as athletic director. Berra was a three-sport athlete in high school and college and was drafted by pro teams in football, basketball and baseball. He was active in the Burnsville Lions Club and his church.

**Katie (Snyder) Bolling (’94)**

Bolling excelled in athletics at BHS, lettering in swimming as a freshman and sophomore, qualifying for state and earning All-Conference status her sophomore year. She lettered in track for three years and also lettered in soccer for two years, playing on the State Championship teams in 1992 and 1993 and earning All-Conference Honorable Mention in 1993. She also lettered in girls’ hockey playing on the 1993 inaugural team. Bolling was also a member of the Burnsville Giants U16 soccer team which won the 1992 National Championship. She continued playing soccer at the College of St. Benedict, receiving All-MIAC honors in 1996, and All-NCAA honors in 1997. She was also voted Most Valuable Player in 1997. She graduated from St. Ben’s in 1998 with degrees in Accounting and Business Management. Bolling became a marathon runner and competed in Grandma’s Marathon, the Chicago Marathon, the Colorado Marathon and the Boston Marathon. She also became a triathlete earning USAT All American Triathlete recognition from 2004-2007. She competed in Ironman competitions qualifying for the Ironman World Championship in Hawaii in 2007. She was recognized at the Championship for her volunteer humanitarian fundraising efforts on behalf of World Bicycle Relief. In 2008, Bolling became the fourth employee of World Bicycle Relief, an organization that distributes bicycles and provides mechanic training in 10 African countries. The organization, whose vision is to assure that the world is a place where transportation is not a barrier to basic healthcare and education, has distributed over 127,000 bicycles to date and is expanding programming this year to the Philippines and Peru. Bolling was featured in the 30 year Anniversary Book of Ironman World Championships. She participated as a Scholar at the Aspen Ideas Festival in 2013.

**Todd Boonstra (’80)**

While at BHS, Boonstra participated in cross country running, cross country skiing and track and field. He participated and placed in all three sports at the state meets and was a champion in cross country skiing in 1980. His athletic success in high school allowed him to receive a scholarship from the University of Vermont. While at Vermont, he participated in Cross Country Running, Skiing and Track. He was an All American in cross country skiing and was part of two National Championship relay teams. Todd received a bachelor’s degree from Vermont and a Masters Degree from the University of Alaska. After college, Todd was a top U.S. cross country ski team member. He participated in three Olympics – 1984, 1988 and 1994. He is mentioned as one of the top 10 skiers in North America for all time. In 1996, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the University of Vermont. Todd currently lives in Galena, Alaska, where he teaches Physical Education.

**Melissa (Peterman) Brady (’89)**

Brady, who now resides in Los Angeles, CA, was very active in the performing arts program at BHS and was a member of the SHOWTIME cast. She moved west to pursue a career in acting. She had a role in the movie “Fargo” and currently appears as a regular on the Reba McEntire syndicated television show. Brady is the opening act for the Reba McEntire/Kelly Clarkson concert tour slated for this fall.

**Michelle P. Brown, MD (’72)**

Shelley was an involved student at BHS participating in GAA activities like basketball, flag football, track and softball. She also participated in Girls Choir and Choraliers and was published in the BHS student poetry journal. She was admitted to the National Honor Society as a sophomore, graduated with honors in 1972 and was recognized in the 1972 version of Who’s Who Among American High School Students. She received her BA degree in psychology with minors in fine arts, philosophy and political science from Boston University in 1976. She participated in varsity basketball, softball and rowing there. She received her MD degree from Tufts University cum laude in 1984. After several years as a practicing surgeon, Shelley began to study complementary and alternative medicine. She currently serves as the President and Medical Director of the Lemuria Health Institute in Monterey, CA, an integrative medical model and educational media institution specializing in wellness, pain and stress management. She was recognized in Who’s Who in Executives and Professionals in 2003-2004. She completed her certification in Environmental Medicine in 2005 and now plans to implement treatments targeting a growing population of people exposed to toxic loads of environmental contaminants.

**Jason Bruce (’84)**

Bruce lettered seven times in football, basketball and track while at BHS. He was the state track champion in 200 and 400 meters in 1983 and in 100 and 200 meters in 1984. A 1984 football captain, Jason was named all-conference and all-state. He attended the University of Minnesota on a full football scholarship, where he was a three-year starter as a wide receiver. He was selected captain of the Gophers team his senior year and participated in both the Independence and Liberty Bowls. He received his B.A. with majors in economics and psychology, and went on to work for several Fortune 500 companies. He is currently employed as a Category Manager for Callaway Golf. He recently received his Master of Business Administration from St. Thomas University. Jason is also an involved community member, participating in his church choir and coaching his daughters’ basketball teams.

**The Honorable Joe Bueltel (‘79)**

Bueltel lettered in football and played intramural sports while at BHS. He was an honors graduate from Normandale Community College and went on to get his B.A. in psychology at the University of Minnesota. He received his JD degree Cum Laude from William Mitchell College of Law where he wrote for the Law Review and was a semi-finalist in the Chief Justice Douglas K. Amdahl Trial Advocacy Competition in 1986-1987. Bueltel won the Don’t Tread on Me Award in 1993 and the Clarence Earl Gideon Outstanding Service Award in 1996. He served as an Assistant Public Defender from 1994-1999, Chair of a DWI Task Force in 1995, Co-Chair for a Criminal Law Task Force from 1996-1997, served on the Freeborn County Justice Project from 1999-2002 and was the Chief Public Defender for the third Judicial District from 1999-2002. Bueltel was appointed Minnesota State District Court Judge for the 3rd Judicial District in 2002 and elected to that position in 2004, 2010 and 2016. He currently serves as Assistant Chief Judge. He also serves as Steele Waseca Drug Court Lead Judge and Steele County Truancy Court Lead Judge. He serves on the Steele County Habitat for Humanity Board.

**Bonnie (Berning) Burak (’75)**

Burak was captain of the BHS gymnastics team and the school’s 1975 Athena Award winner. She was the first female Minneapolis Star Prep Player of the Week. In 1975, she competed in the first Minnesota state high school gymnastics championship, placing first in every event (vault, bars, beam, floor exercise, all-around and team). In 1976, she was featured on the back of a Wheaties box for gymnastics, fitness and workout routine. She was also in track and field and cheerleading. She competed for three years on the University of Minnesota gymnastics team, was involved in Campus Crusade for Christ and led Bible study groups. After graduating with a degree in physical education and coaching, she continued her involvement in sports as a coach for the Christian sports ministry Athletes in Action.

**Burnsville Lions Club**

The Lions Club has been a strong supporter of Burnsville High School and the entire school district for many years. They have presented at least five scholarships yearly, at least one of which goes to a student who is either sight or hearing impaired. In 2013 they gave more than $19,500 in scholarships and help to 191 elementary schools. They have supported athletics at the school and have helped students to attend national contests for which they have been selected. They provide funding for youth eye exams and provide eyeglasses to students who need them and cannot afford them. Lions volunteer their time at many school events. They have also distributed dictionaries to every ISD 191 third grader for more than ten years. The Club was recognized with District 191’s John Coskran Volunteer Award in 2004-2005 for these activities.

**The Honorable Janet L. Barke Cain (’82)**

Barke Cain was an honor roll student and band participant during her time at BHS. She graduated from the U of M’s Carlson School of Management and went on to Hamline Law School where she graduated Cum Laude in 1989. She was appointed to Minnesota’s First Judicial Court Bench by Gov. Tim Pawlenty in 2007. She serves as a Minnesota Judicial Branch Faculty Trainer for all Minnesota State Court Judges. She is the lead judge for the Children’s Justice Initiative and Children’s Justice Initiative Mediation Project in Carver County and is a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court and Juvenile Protection Rules Committee. She is a a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court Juvenile Delinquency Rules Committee. She is also the founder and presiding judge of the First Veteran’s Court in the First Judicial District in Carver County.

**James Campbell (’63)**

Campbell was a four year class officer at Burnsville High School. He was an honor graduate, a charter member of the National Honor Society at BHS and Student Council President. He played in the band for four years. He also was a multiple letter winner with three football letters, three baseball letters and two basketball letters. He served as co-captain of each of those teams his senior year and quarterbacked the 1960 Missota Conference Championship football team (the first year of Missota Conference play). He was the 1962 homecoming king, was recognized with a citizenship award and was the recipient of a PTA scholarship. Campbell received his BS degree in Mathematics from the University of Saint Thomas in 1967. While attending college, he taught physical education and coached basketball at St. John the Baptist School in Savage. He attended the University of Minnesota from 1967-68 working on a Master’s of Science in Mathematics degree, but enlisted in the U.S. Army prior to completing that degree. He served as an officer on active duty from 1968-1971 and then served in the Reserves until 2000 when he retired as a Colonel. He received three Meritorious Service Medals and a Legion of Merit during his service. Campbell earned his Masters of Science in 1972 from the University of Oregon. He then taught mathematics and coached football, baseball and basketball first at Mechanic Arts High School in St. Paul and finally at Hastings High School from 1972-1981. During this time he served on the mathematics education advisory board at the University of Minnesota. Campbell left academia for a computer programmer analyst position at Smead Manufacturing in 1981. There he introduced personal computer technology and conducted staff training. He developed the Information Center concept and expanded technology capabilities nationally to branch locations. From 1986-1996, Campbell worked for Washington County, Minnesota as the Manager of the Information Technology Department. During his tenure there, the Washington County Information Center User Specialist Program, land management Tract Index and criminal justice (ALERTS) development teams won national awards from the National Association of Counties. Campbell moved to the job of Director of the Public Services and Revenue Division for Dakota County in 1996, a position he held through 2000, when he became Director of Information Technology there. He led the county wide Y2K project and annually developed a County Strategic Plan to define the mission, vision and technology goals, a document that served as a model for other governmental agencies nationwide. The Center for Digital Government recognized Dakota County in six of his seven years as IT Director ranking it in the top ten nationally of 3,068 counties for the quality, efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of its technology services to its citizens. He retired in 2007. Campbell was an active volunteer throughout his career, serving on the Hastings Youth Athletic Association providing administrative help and coaching youth baseball, football and soccer. He also taught 4th grade Junior Achievement and served on the Saint Elizabeth Seton Parochial School Board. He currently volunteers at Lake Region Hospital in Fergus Falls.

**John H. Campbell (’62)**

Campbell, who now lives in Rochester, has more than 35 years of experience with the FBI. He began his career in 1980 as a profiler in the Behavioral Science Unit and served in various investigative and administrative areas up until 1995 when he became the academic dean at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. He recently co-authored two books, “Inside the Criminal Mind” and “Profilers.” He is a professor in the criminal justice department at St. Cloud State University.

**Katy (Christoferson) Carlson (’97)**

As a member of the Girls Swimming Team at BHS, Katy lit up the pool. She never lost an individual dual meet race in her events in four years of swimming. She held six of eight individual pool records and nine of eleven school records. As an eight-time individual section champion (the maximum possible), she went on to three state championships and three state records. Her 2:02.85 minute finish in the 200 Individual Medley, set in 1996, is the oldest record in girls swimming. Katy was team captain her senior year, a four time all-conference and all-state award winner, an academic all-American, a two time high school All-American, the BHS Athena Award winner and the 1996 Minnesota Female Swimmer of the Year. She attended the University of Minnesota on a swimming scholarship and continued to excel there. She was a four year letter winner, team captain, received All-American honors in 1999, 2000 and 2001, was a 1999 and 2000 Academic All Big 10 honoree and Big 10 champion in the 400 Individual Medley in 1998 and 2000 and the 200 Individual Medley in 2001. She held nine University of Minnesota school records.

**Michael Corcoran (Retired Staff)**

Corcoran taught in Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Schools for 30 years (1971-2001). He taught the popular and path-breaking course, *Majority at 18,* which provided students an insight of what it meant to be a citizen of the United States and how they could be involved in a democratic government. He also taught Current Events, American History, U.S. Government and World Cultures. He served as Senior Class Advisor and Graduation Coordinator from 1980-1995. Corcoran also served as President of the Burnsville Education Association from 1991-1995. In 1993, he was recognized as the 191 Teacher of the Year and went on to become a finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. He served as a Staff Development Specialist and Graduation Standards Coordinator for the district from 1995-2001. After his retirement, Corcoran worked at Edina Community Lutheran Church until 2005, when he was diagnosed with lung cancer. He then focused his energies on teaching and learning about this disease. He served as a board member of the American Lung Association, served as a spokesperson for OSI Pharmaceuticals, Genentech and Fairview Hospitals. He was the co-founder of the Twin Cities Lung Run/Walk and A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation for which The Angel Foundation awarded him the “Angel Award” in 2009. Corcoran succumbed to lung cancer in March, 2009.

**Joshua Daniel Dahl (’03)**

Dahl was part of the 2001 Minnesota State High School League State Champion Dakota United Adapted Soccer Team in the fall of 2001. He lettered five times with the soccer team and was names to the State All Tournament Adapted Soccer Team in the fall of 2002. He also received six letters for Dakota United Adapted Hockey. Dahl loved baseball and served as student manager for the BHS varsity baseball team from 2000-2003. He received the Metcalf award for Outstanding Character in 2000 and was a member of the BHS Homecoming Court in 2001. Dahl also participated in other sporting events as Blaze mascot “Sparky.” Dahl participated in Young Life and training to be a junior leader, was active in his church’s youth groups and served as an usher. He was a dedicated helper with physically handicapped classmates in his special education classes. He also volunteered at Twins Fest for three years prior to his January, 2004 death.

**Dennis Dale (Former Staff)**

Dale, a 1967 University of Minnesota swimming All American, coached swimming at BHS from 1972-1985. During that time, three girls and 1 boys team won High School State Swimming titles. They won seventeen individual and relay state championships, won fifteen swimming events and set seven state swimming records. He was named Minnesota State High School Coach of the Year four times during his tenure at BHS. Dale went on to coach at the University of Minnesota in 1985. There his teams finished in the top 15 of the NCAA for seventeen consecutive years (the top 10 for six years). During his tenure, 89 different athletes received 457 All American Certificates, 85 were Big 10 champions and 198 were academic All Big 10 selections. He had 7 Big 10 championship teams and was named Big 10 Coach of the Year six times. His dual meet record from 1985 to 2009 was 168-28. In 1995, he coached the West team to victory at the Olympic Festival. Dale was the 1998 Assistant Coach for the United States Good Will Games, the 2000 Assistant Coach for the Brazilian Olympic Team, the 2003 Assistant Coach for the World University Games and the 2007 Head Coach for Team USA World University Games.

**Peter Daly, MD (’78)**

Daly was a football captain, hockey captain and homecoming king during his senior year at BHS. He attended the University of Notre Dame and Mayo Medical School and is an orthopedic surgeon who is routinely named as one of “Minnesota’s 100 Top Doctors” in Mpls. – St. Paul Magazine. Daly received the Joseph M. James Award as outstanding senior orthopedic resident at Mayo Clinic and was awarded a fellowship to Harvard University. He has served as chief of staff at St. Joseph’s Hospital and as president of the Ramsey County Medical Society. He has participated in several medical mission trips.

**Kirby “Bo” Dennis (’96)**

Dennis participated in BHS baseball and wrote for the school newspaper during his time at BHS. He was a member of the National Honor Society. He graduated from West Point in 2000 and went on to get his Masters in Policy Management in 2005 from Georgetown University. Dennis served 31 months in combat service in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School, Pathfinder School and Jumpmaster School. He served in the Offices of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he commands an Infantry battalion of approximately 700 soldiers in Colorado. He volunteers with Sharing and Caring Hands, Special Olympics, the YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region, Pikes Peak Chapter of the Boy Scouts and the Ronald McDonald House of Colorado Springs.

**Kirk Detlefsen (’70)**

Detlefsen was a three-sport letter winner in football, basketball and golf and served as captain of the football team. He graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and returned to Burnsville to establish Detlefsen Insurance. In addition to owning a thriving business for which he has been named Burnsville Business Person of the Year, Detlefsen has made community service his passion. He has been chairman of the Burnsville Fire Muster Committee, President of the Burnsville Jaycees, chairman of the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce and a charter member and key organizer of the Burnsville Breakfast Rotary Club.

**Mike Dreier (’69)**

Dreier played football, basketball and baseball during his time at BHS. He was named All-Conference in basketball his senior year. He was also the 1969 Snow King at the high school. He helped to organize the girls’ basketball program in the Burnsville Athletic Association and served as commissioner of that program. He coached BAC basketball and softball. He was recognized by the Burnsville Jaycees with the Burnsville Physical Fitness Leadership Award in the mid 1970’s. He attended Hamline University, graduating in 1976 with a degree in Social Studies/Physical Education/Health. He coached girls’ basketball at New London/Spicer High School for 37 years, recording a career record of 840-154, the most wins in Minnesota high school girls’ basketball history. During that time, his teams won 26 conference championships and 8 conference runners-up in a row. The team won the State AA Championship in 1997 and 2002, were 5 time state runners up and 2 time 3rd place winners. He has been inducted into the West Central Tribune (Willmar) Hall of Fame, the MSHSCA Hall of Fame and the MGBBCA Hall of Fame.

**Craig Foster, MD, DDS (’66)**

Foster played baseball and was on the swim team in high school. He attended Gustavus Adolphus College where he earned his BA degree in 1970. He went on to study at the University of Minnesota receiving his MD degree in 1974 and his DDS degree in 1975. He completed his General Surgery Residency and an Otolaryngology Residency at the University of Minnesota. He completed his reconstructive plastic surgery residency at New York University and was admitted as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He has co-authored surgical textbooks and many publications on aesthetic and reconstructive surgical procedures. He volunteers to help children born with deformities by repairing cleft palates and creating ears for children born without them. He performed facial reconstruction surgery for the “Central Park Jogger,” a woman beaten and disfigured while jogging in New York’s Central Park. That story appeared in national newspapers and network news shows, and a book was published about the incident. He has been named to New York Magazine’s “The Best Doctors in New York” and “Best Doctors in America- Northeast Region,” New York Times’ “New York Super Doctors” and Strathmore’s Who’s Who in Medicine and Health Care. He was named to the “Best Doctors in America” list and has been featured on TV shows including “The View” and “The Discovery Health Network.”

**Kevin Gorg (’85)**

Gorg graduated from BHS in 1985 after helping lead the Burnsville boys’ hockey team to its first ever state championship as the starting goalie. After graduation, he played in the USHL for the Des Moines Bucs, where he was voted MVP of the team and Most Popular Player by the fans. After playing in Des Moines, he played for the University of St. Thomas for four years, winning 3 MIAC Championships and qualifying for the NCAA tournament his senior year. Gorg was named All-Conference twice during his collegiate career. He began coaching boys’ hockey upon graduation, and served as the Burnsville High School head coach for one year and head coach at Mounds View High School from 1993-98. He then became the first ever women’s coach at St. Thomas, where he coached from 1998-2007. During this time, the team won three MIAC Championships, and he was named the MIAC Coach of the Year in 2003. Gorg has been in broadcasting since 1998 for both Canterbury Park and Fox Sports North. He has also worked for two years for Fox 9, covering the Boys’ State Hockey Tournament. He often can be found on television covering all Minnesota Wild games, along with a number of Timberwolves games, Twins games, and Minnesota Golden Gopher athletic events. Additionally, Gorg can be heard on the radio on KFAN FM 100.3 talking hockey and horse racing for Canterbury Park.

**Suzanne (Roell) Grimm (’83)**

While at Burnsville, Grimm participated in Swimming, Cross Country Skiing and Softball. She participated in two State Championships in Swimming and Diving. She broke state records in the 200 Medley and 100 Breaststroke, in which she was state champion in both events in 1980, 1981 and 1982. She was a three-time High School All American. As a softball player at BHS, she was an all-state performer. She attended the University of Minnesota on a Swimming scholarship. While swimming there, she was a Collegiate All-American, won 10 Big Ten championships and set or holds numerous Big 10 and University of Minnesota Records. In 1987, Sue was a captain and Most Valuable Swimmer at the U. In 1994, she was elected to the U of M Athletics Hall of Fame. She was a member of the U.S. National Swim Team and was also a U.S. Swimming All American. She was involved in several National Slow Pitch Championships. Sue presently lives in Farmington with her husband and daughter, and is employed by CRESA Partners of Minneapolis.

**Troy Gronseth (’92)**

Gronseth played hockey and baseball at BHS. He earned a baseball scholarship to South Dakota State and went on to graduate from the University of Minnesota in 1996 with a degree in English. In his senior year of college, he chaperoned a group of ninth grade boys to camp. That experience prompted him to begin his career as a Young Life leader and he has been the Executive Director of Minnesota Valley Young Life for more than 10 years.

**Howard Hall (Retired Staff)**

Hall, a resident of Burnsville, was the principal of BHS from 1972 to 1996. He then served as District 191 Curriculum Director until his retirement in 2000. Hall provided confident, steadfast leadership, particularly in 1978 when the roof over the media center collapsed and, again, in 1994 when a major fire forced the closure of Burnsville high School for the remainder of the year. He was instrumental in coordinating efforts to get staff and students back in class at Nicollet Junior High School and Sky Oaks Elementary in order to finish out the school year successfully. He has been active in many community organizations and activities.

**Jennifer Hall (’86)**

Hall graduated 9th in her class. She was an outstanding athlete recognized as the 1986 Athena Award Winner as Captain in 3 sports and winner of 8 letters. She was a 2-time All-Conference and All-Region winner in soccer and basketball. She was named the 1986 Gatorade Minnesota Player of the Year and the 1986 Metro Player of the Year in basketball. She also garnered All-State honors 2 times and was the Conference leading scorer twice. Hall was the leading scorer at the 1986 Girls State Basketball Tournament and the first 1000 point scorer for Burnsville. She earned her BA at the University of Minnesota where she excelled on the Women’s Basketball Team, playing in every game her freshman and sophomore years and starting every game her junior and senior years. She captained the team in 1990, was twice named Team MVP and twice recognized as All Big 10. In 1994, Hall was recognized with the South Suburban Conference Achievement Award in Athletics for outstanding accomplishments in High School and beyond in one or more athletic programs. She teaches Social Studies at Armstrong High School and earned her MA from St. Thomas University in 1999.

**Dick Hanson (Retired Staff)**

Hanson was an award-winning, inspirational math teacher and coach at BHS from 1960 until his retirement in 1993. He was named Teacher of the Year in 1965 and was runner-up as National Teacher of the Year in 1984. He received the Presidential Award for Education in Mathematics Teaching. Hanson also served as head football coach at BHs from 1969-1993 and coached the team to 10 Lake Conference championships. After his retirement, a scholarship was created in his name to be awarded to students who have a desire and a passion to enter the teaching profession. The football field at Pates Stadium was named after Hanson during the school’s 50th anniversary celebration in 2006.

**George Harris (’73)**

Harris lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track while attending BHS. He was named all-state in football and all-conference in basketball and track. During his senior year, the football team went undefeated and won the Minnesota State Championship while he was voted most valuable player. Harris graduated from Brigham Young University in 1978 with a BA degree in economics. On a full football scholarship, he played wide receiver and, his junior year averaged 27.3 yards a catch, setting a record for BYU receivers for a single season. That record still stands today. His senior year, BYU led the nation in passing and scoring and Harris was named to the Western Athletic Academic All-Conference Team. He obtained a JD degree in 1981 from Washington University and was admitted to the Missouri State Bar and the Federal District Court. He was also admitted to the Utah State Bar and is currently operating Harris Law Office in Highland, Utah. He has coached a local group of home schooled students who participated in a statewide Utah Mock Trial program. He has also participated in various activities for the young people in his church and helped create a support group for single adults in the Salt Lake Valley.

**Nancy (Swanum) Hart (’84)**

Hart was a state champion swimmier at BHS and holds numerous school records. She was awarded high school All American status from 1981 to 1984 and was recognized as the 1984 girls high school swimmer of the year. She continued on as a scholarship athlete at the University of Minnesota where she was a 4-year letter winner, Big 10 Champion and NCAA All-American. In addition, she was a Patty Berg Award winner and an M Club member.

**Bob Hawkins (’78)**

Hawkins, who received his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Metropolitan State University and his Master’s degree in Law Enforcement Administration from the University of St. Thomas, lettered in baseball while at BHS. He was also a member of the National Honor Society. He served in the United States Army from 1978-1981 and was a military police canine handler. He began his civilian career as a police canine officer in Eagan. He has served the Burnsville Police Department rising from the rank of Sergeant to becoming Police Chief in 2004. Hawkins was a D.A.R.E. instructor in the schools and also served as s Youth Relations Officer at BHS. As Chief, Hawkins began the B.L.U.E. (Building, Learning, Understanding, and Encouraging) in the School program at BHS. The goal of this program is to make connections with staff and students, to become a resource for the school and to build relationships with students through positive interaction and role modeling. He was recognized with the BES Community Partner Award for this program. Hawkins has also received the Burnsville Police Department’s Distinguished Service Award twice, the Meritorious Service Award three times and been nominated for Officer of the Year twice. He served as the Burnsville Rotary president in 2008-2009 and serves as president of the Dakota County Chiefs of Police Association.

**Denise (Johnson) Hennen (’82)**

Hennen was the BHS 1982 Athena Award Winner as Outstanding Female Athlete. She was a 3 year letter winner in swimming, who, at one time, held every individual swimming event record (except diving). She was named an All-Conference, All-State and All-American swimmer and was a six-time runner up in four different individual swim events at State Meets She was also a member of the 1981 Girls Swimming and Diving State championship team. She also won three letters in Cross Country Skiing and was a three-time state qualifier. She was named All-Conference in Track and Field where she was a three year letter winner. A National Honor Society member, she attended the University of Minnesota on a Swimming Scholarship where she was the first female swimmer to be recognized as an NCAA All American..

**Greg Holker (’96)**

Holker was a BHS Boys Soccer Team member from 1993-1995. He received 1995 All-State Honorable Mention honors, and was named to the 1995 Star Tribune All-Metro Team and the 1995 All-Conference Team. He was a member of National Honor Society and Vice President of the BHS Student Council. He graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2000. There he was a 4-year starter on the Men’s soccer Team, serving as Captain in 1999 and earning NSCAA All-Region and All-MIAC honors. Holker has served as Head Men’s Soccer Coach at Augsburg College since 2004. He is the winningest coach in program history and is a 2-time MIAC Coach of the Year. In 2008, the team made it to the NCAA Sweet 16. Holker holds a United States Soccer Federation “A” License, a USSF National Youth License and a NSCAA Premier Diploma. He has been an MYSA Coaching School Instructor /Clinician since 2004. He was a Burnsville Soccer Club Coach from1994-2002 and in 2012 and has served as the Club’s Director of Coaching since 2013. He has also served on the Board of the West Bank Athletic Club since 2015.

**Paul W. Jensen (’85)**

Jensen lettered in swimming for four years and was a member of the 1985 State Champion 200 medley relay team. He also captained the swim team in 1985. Jensen served as manager of the girls swim team and lettered once for that. He performed in the stage band and was a member of the National Honor Society. Jensen attended Northwestern University on a Navy ROTC scholarship graduating in 1989 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was commissioned as a Naval officer, serving on active duty until 1998. He continues to serve in the Naval Reserve and has risen to the rank of Captain. He currently serves as the commander of an underwater demolition team based in Coronado. He has received many awards for his military service including the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award. After leaving active duty, Jensen began his business career as owner of Jensales Inc. The company encompasses Jensales Restoration and Repair Parts (tractor and industrial parts), JensPrint (commercial printing and custom T-shirt/clothing production), JenSpeed Racing and Development Fabrication, Tryg Document Management Services and the Alden Advance Weekly newspaper. Jensen also is the lead firefighter and lead first responder in the Manchester Fire Department. He is on the Riverland Community College Advisory Board and Business Curriculum Committee, is a volunteer with the Alden-Conger 4-H club, is a member of the Freeborn County Youth Mentoring Program and serves on the Central Road Racing Association Board and the Carlston Township Road Maintenance Advisory Board.

**Neal Jeppson (Retired Staff)**

BHS Physical Education and Health Teacher from 1973-2003, Jeppson served as the head baseball coach for 29 years and assistant coach for two years. He also spent 31 years as an assistant football coach. He was a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddle Leader from 1988-1996. Jeppson was the Section 6AA Coaches Representative from 1998-2003. He was named Region 1 Coach of the Year in 1981, 1983 and 1989 and Minnesota High School All-Star Baseball coach in 1989 and 1998. He was named Amateur Sportsman of the Year by Northwest Umpires in 1989. Jeppson was awarded the Minnesota High School Baseball Coaches Association Past President's Award 1996-1998 and received the Minnesota Baseball Coaches Association Dick Siebert Award in 1999. He was named Burnsville High School Teacher of the Year in 2002. He was inducted into the Minnesota Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2005. Jeppson has also served on the Board of Baseball Association 191 from 1988 until today.

**Bob Keeney (’92)**

Keeney was captain and most valuable player for football, basketball and baseball before graduating in 1992. He was among a small number of Minnesota athletes to be named All-Conference in three sports and to participate in three Minnesota All-Star games. Keeney had offers from the Air Force and Nebraska to play football, but chose a baseball scholarship to the University of Minnesota where he played for four years. He currently is the assistant baseball coach at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**The Honorable David Knutson (’78)**

Knutson practiced law for several years until he was appointed as a judge in Dakota County in 2004. He was first elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 1992 and served 11 years. He is a charter member of the Burnsville Breakfast Rotary Club and was active in the Burnsville Jaycees, Minnesota Valley YMCA, Valley Athletic Association and a member of several Chambers of Commerce. He is a recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans Award, Lake Conference Distinguished Alumni Award, the YMCA Distinguished Volunteer Award and the BSHS Distinguished Alumni Award.

**Kerry Kraemer (’07)**

Kraemer was a member of the National Honor Society and a 5 year member of the Girls Varsity Swim Team, serving as Captain her senior year. She was the first swimmer in Minnesota history to win 5 consecutive individual state tiles (100 breaststroke). She was the Minnesota 2A swimmer of the year in 2005 and 2006 and won 10 state titles during her high school career. She broke the all-time Minnesota 2A record in the 100 breaststroke and was a 16 time All American. Kraemer attended Stanford University as the winner of the Kim Payton McDonald Memorial Scholarship, earning a BA in International Relations with a 3.7 GPA. She was Captain of the Women’s Swim Team, a 2-time NCAA Division 1 All American and 3-time Pac-12 All Academic First Team honoree. She finished in the top 8 at U.S. Nationals in the 100 breaststroke in 2009. Kraemer is co-founder and President of Friends of TASAAGA, an organization supporting vulnerable women and children in rural Uganda. She also volunteered with World Relief Minnesota, assisting refugees as they resettled in Minnesota. She was selected as a Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellow in 2013 and a Security Fellow with the Truman National Security Project in 2017.

**Annette B. Kuz (’80)**

Kuz was a member of the National Honor Society and graduated third in her class. She participated in symphonic band, speech original oratory, soccer, and cross country skiing at BHS. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of St. Thomas in only 2 ½ years. There she was a member of the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Honor Society and the Omicron Delta Epsilon Economics Honor Society. She received her law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1986. She is also a graduate of the Army Management Staff College and the Federal Executive Institute’s Leadership for Democratic Society program. A member of the Minnesota and California Bars, she currently serves as Regional Counsel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division. She received awards for Excellence in Client Care and Legal Services for 2007-2009.

**Mitchell Aaron Larson (’95)**

Larson was a member of L.I.F.E., a peer helper group at BHS. He participated in Youth in Government and was a member of the National Honor Society. He received a National Merit Letter of Commendation, the President’s Educational Excellence Award, the Lake Conference Academic Interscholastic Award and was a Senior Achiever in Curricular Excellence. He was awarded a Kopp Foundation scholarship. He also wrote for the school newspaper, and was a member of the Investment Club. He played football and tennis. He attended the University of Miami and the University of Minnesota, graduating with a degree in filmmaking. He moved to New York where he worked as an assistant to film director Mike Nichols. In 2005, he moved to Los Angeles where he has written for shows on the Cartoon Network, Disney Channel, Disney XD, Disney UK, Discovery Kids Channel, The Hub and Nickelodeon. He has also been a contributor for all five seasons of Hasbro Studio’s “My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic,” becoming the head writer for the show’s fifth season. He has published his first novel, “Pennyroyal Academy,” which received rave reviews from the New York Times and Publishers Weekly. He has sold the film rights to Lionsgate Films and has been hired to write the screenplay. Reese Witherspoon is producing it. The novel was chosen for the 2014 Book Expo America “Middle Grade Buzz Panel.”

**Bob Lattery (’59)**

Lattery began high school in Shakopee and transferred to BHS in the fall of 1957. He was a nine time letter winner in football, basketball and baseball from 1957 to 1959 and was captain of the football, basketball and baseball teams in 1958 and 1959. He was all conference in baseball in 1959 and was voted Most Outstanding Senior Athlete in 1959. He’s a retired member of Bricklayers Local 1 (39 years) and a lifelong resident and volunteer in the Burnsville-Savage area. He has served as assistant scoutmaster of Savage Boy Scout Troop 338, player/manager of the Savage Pacer amateur baseball team, a Burnsville Athletic Club coach, assistant coach of the first Burnsville American Legion baseball team and president of the BHS Wrestling Booster Club. He was the first 30-year member of the Savage Volunteer Fire Department.

**Dean LeBlanc (’88)**

– LeBlanc was a member of the BHS Concert Band and the Jazz Ensemble. He was also a member of the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony and a two-time winner of the Schubert Club Solo Competition. He attended the Eastman School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music where he completed his graduate studies. LeBlanc is now a clarinetist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra where he has played over 2000 performances, including numerous “Live from Lincoln Center” recordings and telecasts. He can be heard on two Grammy Award-winning Met recordings of “The Tempest” and “Der Ring des Nibelungen”. He was the solo clarinetist for the Oscar-winning movie “True Grit” and for the Emmy-winning HBO miniseries “Mildred Pierce”. He has also appeared as a guest musician with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Bavarian State Opera, Mostly Mozart Festival and Lincoln Center Festival. LeBlanc has performed in Carnegie Hall over 100 times and in many other major concert halls around the world.

**Stanley F. Lo, PhD (’81)**

Lo was active in soccer and hockey, participated in Choraliers and Chamber Chorale, was an honored academic and worked on several school committees. He was a varsity soccer player, captain of the state championship team his senior year and was also recognized as an All-State player that year. Lo also participated in Young Life during his high school career, was the National Honor Society Vice President his senior year, a member of the Student Council and part of the Homecoming Royalty in 1980. Lo attended St. Olaf College where he received his B.A. cum laude in Chemistry. He also played soccer there and was named MIAC all conference 1982-84 and MIAC Most Valuable Player in 1984. He was part of the first St. Olaf team to capture the MIAC Men’s soccer championship in 1984. He was the first soccer player inducted into the St. Olaf Hall of Fame in 1999. He went on to receive his PhD in Bioorganic Chemistry from the University of Minnesota and did a Clinical Chemistry Fellowship Training Program at the University Medical School in St. Louis. Internationally recognized as an expert in the diagnosis and management of hyperbilirubinemia, Lo is the Associate Director of Clinical Laboratories at the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin and an Associate Professor of Pathology. He serves on the Board of Directors for the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry.

**Mike Luckraft (’85)**

Luckraft won seven varsity letters during his tenure at the high school. He won three letters in hockey, playing on the 1983 State Runner Up team, the 1984 State Tournament 6th place team and the 1985 State Championship team. He also garnered several individual honors in 1985 when he was a Captain. He was named to the All-Conference Team, the All-Metro Team, the All-Tournament Team and the All-State Team. He was also selected for the Team Minnesota vs. Team Massachusetts team and the Maroon Gold All Star Team. He holds the BHS record for playing in the most career games – 27 each year for a total of 81 games. Luckraft also excelled in golf at BHS, earning three letters during his high school career and serving as team Captain in 1984 and 1985. He was named to the All-Conference team all three years and holds the school record for earning the Individual Championship in the Lake Conference Tournament in 1983, 1984 and 1985. He also qualified for the Minnesota State High School Golf Tournament in 1984. Luckraft also lettered in soccer, playing on the Lake Conference Championship Team in 1985. He was drafted by the Detroit Red Wings of the National Hockey League in 1985. Luckraft attended the University of Minnesota on a hockey scholarship and played on the Men’s Varsity Hockey Team there from 1985-1987. The team qualified for the final four in 1985-86 and 1986-87. In 1987, he transferred to the University of South Carolina, Coastal where he received a golf scholarship. He played on the varsity golf team there until his graduation with a Physical Education major in 1989. Luckraft, who became a member of the PGA of America in 1995, has served as a golf professional, General Manager and Director of Golf at several golf clubs since his graduation. He is currently the General Manager/Director of Golf at Willingers Golf Club in Northfield, MN. He also served as an assistant varsity hockey coach at BHS from 1993-1995 and 2006-2010.

**Ron and Joyce Lund, Cornerstone Copy Center**

The Lunds owned Cornerstone Copy Center for more than 20 years and provided unsurpassed service to meet the printing and copying needs of BHS. In addition, they donated services on a regular basis to support the booster clubs and athletic teams and to provide invaluable assistance to the school following the fire of 1994. The Lunds have two children, both of whom graduated from BHS.

**Bradley Keith MacDonald (’89)**

MacDonald lettered in theater and band, served as Vice President of the BHS chapter of the International Thespian Society and participated in SHOWTIME, travelling to entertain inmates at Indiana State Prison with that group He received a BA in Theater and Drama, Acting Specialist degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1994. There he acted in plays and musicals, wrote for the student newspapers, DJ’ed on the student radio station and performed improvisational comedy at Comedy Sportz. After graduation he returned to the Twin Cities where he wrote and performed at Dudley Riggs Brave New Workshop and performed in television and radio commercials. Since moving to Los Angeles in 1998, he has appeared in independent films, television pilots, theater, improv and print ads. He has also appeared in comedy bits on CONAN and has been featured as “Rival Insurance Agent, Tom” with “Flo” in Progressive Insurance ads.

**Heather Manley (’95)**

Manley played volleyball at BHS, lettering as a sophomore. She graduated from the College of Visual Arts in St. Paul in 2000 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She received her MBA from the University of Phoenix in 2009. She is a successful serial entrepreneur, now operating four different businesses, two based on her IT expertise and two based on her passion for food and spirits. She joined her father’s business, On Demand Group (ODG) in 2006, and purchased majority control in 2008. The company has expanded into Latin America and Southeast Asia. In 2011, she opened Heather’s Dirty Goodness, a line of dry rubs sold in 75 stores. This led her to compete in the 2013 World Food Championships where she won 9th place. In 2014, she moved up to 7th place. In 2012, she established DiversifyIT, a gate opener for small diverse or disadvantaged businesses trying to do business with Fortune 500 companies. In 2014 she established Crooked Water Spirits. She plans to open a distillery in 2015. She served as president of the National Association of Women Business Owners – MN in 2014, where she worked to establish the Minnesota Women Business Owner Hall of Fame. In 2014, she was named the Minnesota SBA Women in Business Champion. ODG was recognized by the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City and Fortune Magazine as one of the Top 100 Fastest Growing Inner City Companies in America in 2012, 2013 and 2014. She received the 2014 Women’s Business Enterprise of the Year Award from the Women’s Business Development Center in Minnesota and the 2014 Enterprising Women of the Year Award from Enterprising Women magazine in 2014. She was also recognized with a Paul Harris Community Service Award from the Burnsville Rotary in 2015.

**Holly Manthei (’94)**

Manthei was a member of three state championship teams: basketball in 1992, and soccer in 1992 and 1993, and also won the 300-meter hurdles in state track in 1993. She was the BHS Athena Award winner and earned numerous all-conference, all-metro and all-state awards. Manthei attended the University of Notre Dame on a soccer scholarship, where she was a four-time All-American. In 1995 and 1996, she played on the U.S. Women’s National Team and played in the World Cup in Sweden.

**Renata (Heupel) Mayrhofer (’77)**

Mayrhofer was on the BHS Yearbook staff and was a member of the National Honor Society. She graduated for the University of Minnesota in 1982 and earned an MSBA degree from Boston University in 1985. Commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army in 1980, she served with the 66th MI in Germany from 1983-1988. Mayrhofer was the chief negotiator for international loans for Commerzbank Germany from1985-1991. She was a Professor of Business Management at the University of Phoenix from 2001-2006, earning the honor of Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year, 2003-2004. She has served as the Department Chair and Professor of Business Management at Concordia University since 2006. Mayrhofer was a founding member of Saving Grace Village and serves as a volunteer and board member there. She coordinates the Angel Tree Christmas initiative for children of incarcerated adults. She is currently the President of the Urban Cross-Cultural College Consortium, having served as a Board member there since 2013.

**Carlene (Widmer) McDowell (’62 and Retired Staff)**

McDowell, who now resides in Bloomington, was exceptionally involved in several extracurricular and academic activities during her years at BHS. She was a language arts teacher at the school until her retirement in 2002. McDowell was District 191 Teacher of the Year in 1981 and was one of 10 finalists for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year in 1982. She continues as an intake volunteer for Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People.

**Tom Melchior (Retired Staff)**

Melchior was a member of the 191 faculty from 1962-1993, teaching at the senior high level for the last 16 of those years. He was named Minnesota Teacher of the Year (1971). He taught a BHS class called Mythic Patterns – one of the most popular courses ever offered at BHS. He is an accomplished writer, who is best known for “They Call Me Teacher” and “The Other Side of the Desk.” His writing has been recognized with the 1997 Merit Award, which is given out by the Midwest Independent Publishers Association.

**Loren Miller (’82)**

Miller was a member of the National Honor Society at BHS. He played on the Soccer team and the Cross Country Skiing team. He was also a member of the Orienteering Team (a DNR/School sport) where he earned State Championships in 1977 and 1978. He served as Dakota County President and State Secretary and Ambassador for the 4-H Youth Program. He earned his Bachelors in Biology and his Masters and Ph.D. in Fisheries at the University of Minnesota. Miller is the first, and only, Fish Geneticist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He developed the first of a highly informative type of genetic marker for four fish species, has authored or coauthored many journal articles and made presentations at more than 60 scientific meetings and universities in 15 states and 4 other countries. Miller has received a U of M Star Professional Academic Award and a DNR Fisheries Award for Overall Excellence. He served as President and Division and National Committee member for the American Fisheries Society. Miller also developed an after school orienteering program for a Minneapolis school and has coached soccer, baseball, basketball and lacrosse.

**Thomas Mraz (Retired Staff)**

Mraz embodied the theater program at BHS for many years. He is widely known for SHOWTIME, a high school touring theater program started in 1963, which performed at state and federal penal institutions in the Midwest. He was honored in segments of WCCO’s “Good Neighbor” and KARE 11’s “Stories of Inspiration.” He taught high school language arts and acting classes for 30 years, chaired the BHS fine arts department and managed the school’s performing arts center. He directed more than 100 plays, was the voice of the Burnsville Braves, started the BHS scholarship program and raised more than $10,000 annually for scholarships. Upon his retirement in 1991, School District 191 honored him by naming the school theater the Thomas B. Mraz Center for Performing Arts.

**Tim Nichols (’84)**

Upon graduating from BHS, Nichols attended Arizona State University. He graduated with a degree in Commercial Real Estate, Finance and Development. He is currently president and CEO of Nichols Development, LLC. He is a recognized leader in development and marketing of cooperative housing for active, independent adults in the Twin Cities. Nichols is also president and owner of Burnsville-based Nichols Financial Services Company, a leading multifamily housing financier providing construction and permanent financing for apartments, cooperatives and health care facilities nationwide. He also has a strong commitment to the community as demonstrated by his support and participation in the Apollo Club of Minnesota, Burnsville Holiday Lighting program, the St. Paul Winter Carnival and the fund to build a new Minnesota Planetarium. In 2004, he was named one of Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal’s “40 Under 40” business leaders in the Twin Cities.

**Todd Okerlund (’83)**

As a student at BHS, Okerlund was an 8 time letter winner in football, hockey and golf. He was a member of the 1980 State Champion football team as a linebacker. He was captain of both the football and hockey teams his senior year. As a senior, he led the BHS hockey team to its first State Tournament. He went to the University of Minnesota on a full hockey scholarship where he was a four year letter winner. He majored in Business Administration. He was a member of the 1988 Olympic Hockey Team and, after the Olympics, had a brief career in the NHL before an injury forced him to retire. A successful businessman and entrepreneur, his is currently a partner with the Fuzion food group based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**Greg Orson, MD (’74)**

Orson graduated from BHS ranked third in the class of 1974. He served as the student commencement speaker that year. He enjoyed success academically, athletically and musically. He was a National Merit and Minnesota State Scholarship winner and was named to the National Honor Society both his junior and senior years. He earned 2 varsity athletic letters each in football and basketball and 3 letters in track. He served as co-captain in all three sports for the 1973-74 year. He led the football team in rushing for the 1972 and 1973 seasons. He led the team to its first state championship in 1972 finishing the state championship game with 160 yards rushing and two touchdowns. He set the school record for touchdowns in a season with 18 during the 1973 season. Orson was voted All-Conference. All-State and Prep All American in 1973. He was a 2-year starter at forward-guard in basketball. The team won the conference championship in 1974 and was named All-State Team of the Week twice during that season. He participated in the 1973 State Track meet at ½ mile and earned All-Conference designation for individual events and relays in both 1973 and 1974. Orson was voted the Athlete of the 1970’s Decade at BHS by the Burnsville Sun newspaper. He received a State Star rating for his trombone quartet and band in both 1973 and 1974. Orson was the lead trombone in the Wind Ensemble band, the lead trombone for summer musicals in 1972 and 1973 and the lead trombone on the first Burnsville High School European Tour in 1974. He also earned his Eagle Scout Award in 1973, and refereed youth football, basketball and baseball games. Orson was awarded a National Merit Scholarship and attended Gustavus Adolphus College where he received his undergraduate degree Magna Cum Laude with a major in mathematics and minor in chemistry. He attended the Mayo Medical School from 1979-1983 and was in the Orthopedic Residency Program at Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Medicine from1983-1988. He has been an orthopedic surgeon at Meritcare Medical Group of Sanford Health in Fargo, ND for 25 years, specializing in hip and knee replacements. Orson, chair of the Orthopedic Department for 12 years, received five “Guardian Angel” awards. He developed and continued to lead the Quality Improvement Program for the Orthopedic Department. He was also an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and was recognized as the Department of Surgery Teacher of the Year twice.

**Mark Osiecki (’86)**

At Burnsville, Osiecki participated in football, hockey, baseball and golf. He played on 3 State Championship teams – Football in 1985 and Hockey in 1985 and 1986. He was a captain and All-State player in hockey. He attended the University of Wisconsin on a hockey scholarship and was captain of the 1990 team that won the NCAA hockey championship. He played on the U.S. National hockey team, in the NHL with the Calgary Flames, Ottawa Senators, Winnipeg Jets and Minnesota North Stars. After retiring from playing hockey, he went on to become an assistant coach for the 1997 NCAA champions, the University of North Dakota.

**Tom Osiecki (Retired Staff)**

Osiecki started the Burnsville boy’s hockey program in 1966 and coached at BHS for 24 years.   
During that time, the team was section champion six times, state runners-up twice and state champions twice. He was named Minnesota Hockey Coach of the Year in 1985 and 1986, and was inducted into the Minnesota High School Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame in 1995.. He took a break from coaching high school hockey from 1990-1995 while he worked as a National Hockey League scout for the Minnesota North Stars/Dallas Stars. He returned to coaching at BHS in 1996 when he coached the girl’s hockey team for two years. He then started the St. Olaf women’s hockey program and coached there from 2000-2004. He was recognized as MIAC Coach of the Year in 2002. He returned to BHS and coached the girls team again from 2004-2006. During his tenure as girls’ coach the Blaze were the state runners up in 1996. He earned the Cliff Thompson Award, given to members of the hockey community who make outstanding contributions to the sport in Minnesota. In addition to coaching hockey, Osiecki also coached football and baseball in the 1960’s He also served as head coach of the BHS badminton team and won four state championships in that capacity.

**Robert “Bob” Pates (Retired Staff)**

Pates was a teacher and coach at BHS from 1958 to 1973. He died unexpectedly in 1973. His enthusiasm and commitment to Burnsville high School athletics deemed him the “Spirit of Athletics” and he was a role model for students and staff alike. Pate s was inducted into the Minnesota Athletic Directors Hall of Fame the spring of 1998.

**Tammy (Baldwin) Perez (’99)**

Perez lettered fourteen times while at BHS. In addition to lettering four times, she was recognized with three all-state and three all-conference designations during her four years of swimming where she served as captain her senior year. She holds four letters in softball and was recognized as a State All Star Team member her senior year. She also lettered in cross country skiing, hockey, choir and National Honor Society. She was the 1999 BHS AAA Award and Athena Award winner. She earned a softball scholarship to Central Arizona College where she played on the Silver Medal National Championship team in 2000. She was ranked sixth nationally in stolen bases that year and was named to the All-American Softball Team in 2001. She enlisted in the Army after the September 11 attacks. She was first in her class of 236 in the Warrior Leadership Course in 2004. Perez was named the Army female athlete of the year in 2005. She was selected four times to the Army and All Armed Forces Softball teams and earned All Star Team membership twice. She was voted the U.S. Specialty Sports Association Women’s A World Tournament MVP in 2009. Tammy, who spent a year in Kabul, Afghanistan, was promoted to Sergeant First Class in 2010 after just seven years of military service. She is currently pursuing a Master in Physician Assistant Studies at the University of North Dakota.

**Amy Nelson Plumb (’80)**

While at BHS, Nelson earned 4 letters in swimming and played the flute in the band. She was a member of the National Honor Society and received the Faculty Scholarship upon graduation. She attended St. Olaf College where she earned her BS in chemistry (Magna Cum Laude). She was Phi Beta Kappa, a member of the Chemistry Honor Society and Senior Women’s Honor Society. Nelson went on to the Mayo Medical School where she received her MD in 1988 and was named the Outstanding Female Medial Student. She then proceeded to the University of Wisconsin, School of Medicine and Public Health where she was a pediatric resident and Chief Resident becoming a Board Certified Pediatrician in 1992. She has received the Outstanding General Pediatrician Award and the Charles E. Lobeck Medical Education Award. Nelson has also been an active volunteer with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, receiving the Order of the Arrow Service Award.

**Aparna and Ashwini Ramaswamy (’93 and ’99)**

The Ramaswamy sisters were both members of the BHS National Honor Society. Ashwini served as a Peer Tutor, was on the Student Advisory Council and participated in theater during her tenure at BHS. Both women attended Carleton College, Aparna graduating in 1997 with a degree in Political Science and International Relations and Ashwini graduating in 2003 with a degree in English Literature. Aparna was recognized in 2010 as one of Dance Magazine’s 25 to Watch. She was named the Minneapolis Star Tribune 2011 Artist of the Year and received an Arts and Religion grant from the Rockefeller Foundation as well as three McKnight Artist Fellowships for Dance and Choreography. Ashwini received a Jerome Foundation Travel Study Grant. She also received two Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiatives Grants and a Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Next Step Fund Grant. She also received a McKnight Fellowship for Dancers. Both women’s dancing has been featured at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Lincoln Center in New York and the American Dance Festival in Durham, N.C.

**Joel Ronning (’74)**

Ronning attended the University of Minnesota. He successfully launched two Minnesota companies where he held executive positions and is now at the helm of Digital River, a company that uses the Internet instead of mail to deliver software to its customers. A decade after starting Digital River, he turned his company into a global leader in e-commerce. During his career he has produced seven patents in encryption technology and digital delivery.

**Karen (Schaefer) Ruth (’79)**

Ruth participated in soccer, basketball and softball at BHS. She was captain of both the soccer and softball teams. Her batting average of .600 set a school record in 1979 when the team was the state runner up. She began flying at the age of 15. She attend the University of North Dakota and graduated in 3 ½ years with majors in Aeronautical Studies and Geography and a minor in Meteorology. She was also a member of the UND softball team. She was one of the first 50 female pilots hired in the United States. At the age of 23, she became the eighth female pilot hired by Republic Airlines. She received both Northwest Airline’s President’s Club Award and Delta Airline’s Chairman’s Club awards, the highest honor at both airlines. She was chosen to fly the first wide body Airbus 330 to the United States from France with the top 100 airline employees on board. She is a volunteer for a Women in Aviation Chapter and is an Ambassador for Delta Airlines.

**Ted Seidel (Retired Staff)**

Seidel is best known for his role in starting Burnsville’s soccer program. He was a member of the BHS faculty for 30 years, from 1965-1995, and started the high school’s soccer program in 1970. He guided the boys team to state championships in 1980, 1982, 1990 and 1993. Seidel was inducted into the Minnesota Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame in 1991. He received a “Father of Burnsville Soccer” award in 1995 and again in 1999. And, in 2005 he was inducted into the Burnsville Soccer Hall of Fame.

**Laura Slominski (’98)**

Slominski was an academic letter winner, a member of the L.I.F.E. Leadership Group and a National Honor Society member. She also excelled in athletics, being honored as the 1998 BHS Athena Award winner and Ms. Hockey, 1998. She was on the second place Girls State Hockey Tournament team in 1996, earning a spot on the State Tournament All-Tournament Team. She was named All-Metro and A.P. All-State Honorable Mention in 1997 and was All Conference 1996-1998. As captain of the 1997-98 Girls Varsity Hockey Team, Slominski was named an All-Metro player. She was also named to the Star Tribune All-State Second Team, to the St. Paul Pioneer Press All-State First Team and to the Coaches All-State Team. Slominski also participated in soccer at BHS playing on state tournament qualifying teams in 1995 and 1996 and captaining the 1997 team. She garnered an All-Conference Honorable Mention in 1995, an All-Metro Honorable Mention in 1996 and All Conference designations in 1996 and 1997. She was also selected to the St. Paul Pioneer Press All State Teams in 1996 and 1997, to the Coaches All-State Teams in 1996 and 1997 and to the Lake Conference All –Academic Team in 1997. Slominski attended the University of Minnesota where she played hockey as she studied psychology and management. She was honored with the U of M Women’s Hockey Highest G.P.A. Awards in 2000 and 2001, the U of M’s women’s Hockey Unsung Hero Awards in 1999 and 2002 and the U of M’s Hockey Team Ridder Award for Volunteer Work in 2002. She was also recognized with the WCHA All-Academic Team, Big Ten Academic Awards in 2000, 2001 and 2002. She captained the U of M Women’s Hockey Team in 2001-2002 and was a member of the team that placed third in 1998-99 AWCHA , were 1999-2000 AWCHA National Champions, 2000-2001 WCHA League Champions and 2001- 2002 WCHA League and Conference Champions and NCAA third place winners. She was a WCHA All Star Team participant and Assistant Captain in 2001 and a Patty Kazmier Top Ten College Hockey Player of the Year candidate in 2002.Slominski played with U.S. Under 22 Women’s Hockey Team in 1999-2000 and participated in the USA Hockey National Women’s Festival in 2005. She graduated from the U of M with a Master’s of Education in 2006. She played for the Minnesota Whitecaps Hockey Team from 2004-2006. She has been teaching mathematics and coaching Girls’ Varsity Hockey at Edina High School since 2008 where her teams were Co-Conference Classic Lake Champions in 2010, finished third at state in 2009 and 2012 and second at state in 2010 and 2011. With an overall record at Edina of 104-30-18, Slominski has been recognized as Section 2AA Coach of the year in 2009, 2010, and 2011. She was also given the 2009, 2010 and 2012 MN Wild 3M Excellence in Coaching Award for Section 2AA.

**Jason Wellington Sticht (’90)**

While at BHS, Sticht played trumpet for the Concert Band and served as the President of the Church Youth Group Association for two years. He earned his Bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota and his Masters with Distinction from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Sticht joined the Marines in 1991. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1999 and has piloted six different military aircraft over the years. He was selected for Command in 2012, for Bonus Command in 2013 and completed Command Assignments in 2014 and 2017. Sticht was appointed Chief of Staff for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense in 2017. He was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal in 2003, the Air Force Commendation Medal in 2006, the Navy Commendation Medals in 2007 and 2010 and Meritorious Service Medals in 2013, 2014 and 2017. In addition to his 27 years of military service, Sticht has been an active volunteer in the communities in which he and his family have lived.

**Alyse (Solberg) Stofer (’93)**

Stofer graduated with highest distinction from Burnsville High School in 1993. While at BHS she served as President of her class. She was also a Cheerleading captain cheering for boys’ soccer and football. She participated on the Cheerleading Competition squad which earned the Cheerleading Excellence Award and was named a Gold Star Squad. Stofer also earned the Presidential Academic Fitness Award and was a member of the National Honor Society. She received the Academic Excellence Award and was recognized as a Senior Achiever in Leadership. She received scholarships from the Burnsville Jaycees and the Lions Club and was also awarded the Tandy Technology Scholarship. She attended the University of Iowa where she majored in Biomedical Engineering graduating in 1997. She continued her education at the University of Minnesota where she received her Master of Biological Science, Biomaterials degree in 2003. In 2003, she was featured in U.S.A. Today as a New Face of Engineering. Stofer was recognized by the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science and Technology Societies as a Young Engineer of the year in 2006. She also received the Distinguished New Engineer Award from the Society of Women Engineers in 2006. In 2011, the Society of Women Engineers recognized her as an Emerging Leader in Product Research, Design and Engineering. Stofer is President of the Society of Women Engineers having been an active member since 1998. She is also a member of the Biomedical Engineering Society and serves on the board of the American Association of Engineering Societies. Stofer holds a patent for barriers and methods for pressure measurement catheters and has four other patents pending. She serves as a judge at the Southwest Regional Science Fair and is a Best Prep eMentor for local students interested in engineering. She has been a keynote speaker at STEM events for the South Washington County Schools. She also attended a Think Tank and STEM Conference in Nashville this year.

**Kenneth R. Storm (’70)**

While at BHS, Storm received nine letters in hockey, cross country and baseball. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1975 with majors in journalism and anthropology. For the past 30 years, he has combined interest in wilderness travel, literature and photography by documenting the historic tours of explorers in many parts of the world. In 1998, he discovered a thundering 100 foot waterfall that was unknown to the outside world with help from Tibetan hunters and following Buddhist guidebooks. His discovery was featured in a 1999 National Geographic Society documentary film, “Secrets of the Tsangpo.”

**Amy Stromwall, MD (’89)**

Captain of the girls swimming team, Stromwall was a state qualifier in the 200 freestyle and 400 free relay. She received all-conference, all-state and Academic All-American recognition during her BHS swimming career. She attended Hamline University where she was a Presidential Scholar from 1989-1993 and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1993. While there she was named a Division III All American swimmer in 1992 and 1993 and the NCAA Female Athlete of the Year in 1993. Stromwall holds school records in two events and was inducted into the school’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006. She was also recognized as the Walter Kenyon Biology Award winner in 1993. Stromwall graduated from the University of Minnesota’s School of Medicine in 1999. She works in the area of sports medicine and was recognized as one of the area’s ‘Top Doctors” by Mpls/St. Paul Magazine in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. She also received the “Gold Standard Award” from USA Swimming in 2008 and 2009. She serves as a team physician for the Minnesota Twins, a network and meet physician for USA Swimming, a traveling and race day event physician for the Indy Racing League and the Indy 500, race day event physician for the Brickyard 400 and Formula One. Stromwall was also a member of the U.S. National Amateur Triathlon Team from 1994-1996,. She is a product tester for the Nike running department and served as a tester for the Speedo triathlon department.

**John “Sully” Sullivan Jr. (’82)**

Sully, as he was known was the team manager for football, wrestling and track and field. He continued working with the teams for more than 20 years, even after he moved to a group home in West St. Paul. He was described as “the spirit of the Braves/Blaze.” Sully’s presence at practices and games was an inspiration to team members. He cheered the team on with lines like “State line road” and “Love you guys.” His enthusiasm for the teams was contagious and team members rewarded him for his dedication with a letter jacket and cowboy hat that he wore to all the games. Sully, who is deceased, was the consummate fan to many BHS sports followers.

**Jeffrey P. Swanum (’76)**

Swanum was the first swimmer at BHS to receive a Division 1 Swimming Scholarship. He was also the first BHS swimmer to be named an all-state swimmer in 1975. He was named to the All American team in 1976..He never lost a 200 yard Individual Medley in high school dual meets, with a record time that held for 23 years, and finished high school with seven school records. He had very successful sophomore and junior years. His senior year he set school and pool records in the 200 yard medley relay, 200 yard individual medley, the 100 and 200 yard freestyle events and the 100 yard butterfly. He set school records in the 100 yard breaststroke and the 400 yard freestyle relay and pool records in the 50 yard freestyle and 400 yard breaststroke. He was conference champion and record holder in the 200 yard individual medley and 100 yard breaststroke, section champion and record holder in the 200 yard individual medley and 100 yard freestyle and state meet champion in the 200 yard individual medley.

**Deanna A. Thompson (’85)**

A member of the National Honor Society, Thompson was on the school’s Student Council and participated in band and Choraliers. She also was a member of First Light Choir and taught Sunday school at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. In 1989, she earned her BA in Religion and American Studies from St. Olaf College where she was a member of the Blue Key National Honorary Fraternity. She went on to earn her Master of Arts and Religion from Yale University, summa cum laude in 1992 and her Ph.D. in theology from Vanderbilt University in 1998. She works at Hamline University where she was named Faculty of the Year by both students and faculty in 2009. She received the Conger Prize for Scholarship in the Humanities in 2004 and has authored four books including The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World. She has received a sabbatical grant for 2016-17 for “Glimpsing Resurrection: A Post Traumatic Theology of Cancer.”

**Muriel Thompson (Retired Staff)**

Thompson retired from teaching at BHS in 2000 after, 32 years at the school. She taught Basic American Literature, American Literature 1600, American Literature 1900, Honors American Novelists and Advanced Placement Literature/Composition (College in the Schools) and served as the Language Arts Area Leader from 1988-1999. She also served as a Staff Development Adjunct Instructor in 191 from 1988-2000. Thompson was BHS Yearbook Advisor and Student Council Advisor. She co-founded the Minnesota Writing Project and served as co-director from its inception in 1990-2003. She now serves as director of the group which facilitates summer institutes at the University of Minnesota for teachers to improve literacy instruction and foster professional inquiry, collaboration and writing in and out of the classroom kindergarten through college. Thompson also served as the University of Minnesota co-coordinator for College in the Schools composition. She has served on many task forces and committees for the Minnesota Department of Education. Currently, she is on a team of kindergarten through grade 16 experienced educators serving on the Language Arts Quality Teaching Network. She also serves on the Consortium for Post-Secondary Success: PreK-12 Collaboration Group. Thompson has been a prolific presenter and member of professional panels over the years presenting locally, throughout the state, the nation and internationally. She was recognized with an honorable mention for the University of Minnesota’s Outstanding Community Service Award in 2009.

**Donald Brian Timm (’67)**

Timm was an individual Missota Conference champion in cross country and member of the first team championship in BHS history. He also won letters in basketball and track and field. He was the Missota conference champion in the mile in 1967 when the team also won the state championship. He attended the University of Minnesota where he was awarded the Henry L. Williams Scholarship for Athletic and Scholastic Proficiency in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. He set a record for the 3,000 meter steeplechase in 1971 that still stands today (8:39.0) and is the only Gopher to win NCAA All American honors in the steeplechase. He was an alternate for steeplechase to the 1976 U.S. Olympic Team. He won first place in the U.S. Track and Field Federation National meet and All American honors in the 3,000 meter Steeplechase in 1976 and 1977. He was elected to the Minnesota Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2001 and the “M” Club Gopher Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

**Rich VanderLaan**

VanderLaan was an active booster of Burnsville Baseball from the late 1980s and served as the voice of Burnsville Baseball. He was one of the founders and CEO of Baseball Association 191, a sponsor of American Legion Baseball. BA 191 formed a partnership with the city of Burnsville for the development of one of the finest baseball complexes in the State of Minnesota. VanderLaan was also active with several organizations in the city including the Burnsville Community Foundation, Art and All That Jazz, the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Committee of the City of Burnsville.

**Jeffrey K. Van Nest (’86)**

Van Nest was his senior class Vice President. He played on the 1984 State Runners Up and 1985 State Champion Football teams, serving as co-captain his senior year. Van Nest received his BA degree from the University of Minnesota and his JD degree with Honors from the University of Wisconsin School of Law. He earned his Master of Laws degree from Georgetown University Law Center. Van Nest served in the US Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps as a Trial Defense Counsel in the Naval Legal Services Office West in San Francisco, CA, as Appellate Defense Counsel for the Navy-Marine Corps Appellate Review in Washington, D.C. and Operations Attorney for the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, MD. He served as Unit Chief of the Counterterrorism Division and as Chief of the Genocide War Crimes Unit at the FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He currently serves as the FBI Chief Division Counsel in the Minneapolis Division. Van Nest volunteers as the coordinator for the FBI Chasing the Dragon opioid awareness program and as a Ski Jammers youth ski coach.

**David Voracek (’82)**

Voracek won the Bob Pates Memorial Award for football his senior year at BHS. He attended college at Iowa State where he obtained an engineering degree. He also holds Masters Degrees in Aerospace Engineering and Systems Engineering. He is an engineer at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center where he is Deputy Director of Research and Engineering. He has authored or coauthored over 20 NASA technical reports, technical journal articles and conference papers. He is a member of the AIAA Adaptive Structures Technical committee and actively participates in the committee activities. He is currently working on development of three new research aircraft with DARPA and the Air Force Research Labs. In 2006, he returned to BHS to talk to students about his NASA career and inspire them to go into the science and engineering fields. He has coached his son’s youth football teams and mentored the local high school Robotics Team (he encouraged BHS to start a Robotics Team here). Voracek has also officiated high school football games and was president of the officials association.

**Douglas Wendland (’69)**

Wendland was a member of the National Honor Society and received the Barry Mott Memorial Scholarship. He received his BA in Medical Science and his MD from the University of Wisconsin. He also received his MPH from the Medical College of Wisconsin and is Board Certified in Occupational and Environmental Medicine. From 1981-2004 Wendland provided medical services in Family and Occupational Medicine in an underserved community in Milwaukee. He started the Family Medicine Department at Mt. Sinai Medical Center and served as its Chief from 1988-2000. In 1992, he also started the Occupational Medical Program there. He served as Medical Director of Occupational and Employee Health for St. Luke’s Health System, serving Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin where he helped design and implement a response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009. During the 2014-2015 ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, Wendland served as the World Health Organization National Coordinator for Occupational Health and Safety making decisions related to disease triage, health care worker protection and medical evacuation to improve health care security for Ebola response workers and reduce barriers to recruitment. In 2016, he was awarded the 50 Over 50 award from Minnesota AARP for his Ebola response work.

**Lance Werness (’87)**

Werness graduated from Burnsville High School in 1987. He was a gifted athlete winning varsity letters in football in 1985 and 1986. He played on the 1985 state champion team and was named to the All-Conference and All-State teams in 1986. Werness was a three year letter winner in baseball serving as captain of the team in 1987. He was named All-Conference in 1987 and played in the Minnesota Metro All-Star game in 1987. He lettered in hockey in 1985, 1986 and 1987 and was a member of the 1985 and 1986 State Champion teams and the 1987 State Champion Runner-Up team. He captained the 1987 team and played on the All-Conference Team, All-Metro Team and the Team Minnesota All-Star Team that year. Werness was awarded a University of Minnesota athletic scholarship, playing hockey for the Gophers from 1988 through 1991. He received his Bachelor's degree in 1992. Werness played hockey for the St. Paul Fighting Saints from 1992-1993.

**Janet (Bohn) Williams (’58)**

Janet Williams was one of 14 members of the second graduating class of BSHS and, as a student, helped produce the yearbook, pick out the school colors and write the school song. She went on to graduate from St. Theresa’s college with a major in library studies. Williams began working at the Savage-Glendale Library in 1969, became director of the Scott County Library system and, during her 32 year career, oversaw much of the development and building of the county’s library system. She is now retired, but was elected to the Savage City Council in 1993. Williams also is active in many community organizations, most notably the Dan Patch Historical Society.

**Wilfred Williams (’58)**

Williams was BHS’s first Homecoming King and Outstanding Senior Athlete Award winner. He was a member of the football, basketball and baseball teams from 1956 to 1958. He taught high school math for 35 years, 32 of them in St. Paul. He coached Burnsville Athletic Club soccer and baseball and was a volunteer teacher for the Family to Family class of the Alliance on Mental Illness. He’s a founding member and serves on the board of Foundation 191. The lifelong Savage resident served on the Planning Commission and City Council during the 1970s. He’s on boards of the Dan Patch Historical Society and St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable. As a local historian, he gives talks about Dan Patch, M. W. Savage, Camp Savage and Port Cargill to local elementary schools, Scout groups, service clubs and senior citizens. He’s the cluemaster for the Dan Patch Days “Find the Horseshoe” contest.

**Thomas Wise (’89)**

Wise, who resides in Lakeville, was active in athletics at BHS. He is a diplomat for the U.S. State Department and serves as diplomatic liaison to foreign governments and directs diverse teams of experts in international affairs. He volunteered to serve in northern Iraq as a spokesman for a political and government team, which was formed to help local Iraqi leaders in good governance, reconstruction and economic development.

**Clubs/Organizations/Teams**

**1972 Football Team, Class A State Champion**

Coached by long-time coach and Hall of Fame member Dick Hanson, the 1972 football team won the state championship that year, the first football championship for Burnsville High School in the Missota Valley Conference.

**1975 Girls Gymnastics Team State Champion**

The team tied with Richfield for the first ever state championship in girls gymnastics. This was the first year that female sports were recognized by the Minnesota State high School League due to Title IX. Members of the team were Sandi Adam Koppen, Bonnie Berning Burak, Connie Crowl Erickson, Cheryl Nimsger Connelly, Lesley Pederson Ernst, Robin Pederson Ruegg, Maureen Potasek Simpson, Kathy Shogren and Cindy Ritchhart Hoyer. Team manager was Linda Gaudette Sigel, head coach was Peggy McDonald and assistant coaches were Nancy Stewart and Jim McDonald. Bonnie Berning Burak, a member of the team and current Hall of Fame member, won every event and the all-around championship at the tournament giving her a combined six gold medals as the meet, which is still a state record.

**1985 Boys Swimming and Diving Team State Champion**

This team was the first to bring home the Boys' State Swimming and Diving Championship to Burnsville High. Predicted in 1985 to finish behind teams like Edina, Park Center, and Lakeville, the 1985 boys' team stunningly upset all challengers at the state meet March 8-9, 1985.

**1985 Boys Hockey Team State Champion**

Hours after the Boys' Swimming Team won the state championship, 20 Braves hockey players finished their season 25-1-1, capturing the school’s first Boys’ Hockey State Championship. The winning goal against Hill Murray was scored with only 27 seconds remaining on the clock.

**2001-2002 Chess Team**

The BHS Chess Team was the 2001 National K-12 Champions, Grade 12, with 4 individuals placing in the top 25. They won the 2002 Minnesota State High School Championship with 7 team members placing in the top 21 and placed 11th in the 2002 National High School Championship with 4 players placing in the top 200. Grady Cantrell and Brett Larsen were crowned the 2002 National Double Bughouse Champions. Members of the team, coached by Eduard Zelkind, were Caleb Bousu, Grady Cantrell, Jesse Fredeen, Kyle Geiken, Matthew Kleman, Phil Koistra, Landon Larch, Brett Larsen, Rachel Larsen, Nick Naegeli, Garrick Nelsen, Nick Pechman, Mark Rupp, Bobby Steffen and Chi Tran.