

## Michael Ott, Polysciences, Inc., FCHS '69



Mike entered Floyd Central as a junior when the doors were first opened, graduating in 1969. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Purdue in 1974. For two years, the school's co-op program brought him back home to Georgetown, working at Rohm & Haas, a chemical manufacturer with operations in Louisville. His on-site experience, alternating with semesters of coursework in West Lafayette, led him to join the company right after graduation. While working at Rohm & Haas in Maryland, Mike earned a degree in accounting, from the University of Baltimore and he completed his certification as a CPA. After four years with the company, Mike planned to quit his job and pursue an MBA at the University of Chicago. Instead, his employers proposed relocating him to Chicago in a different position, and offered to pay his graduate school tuition. He finished his MBA in 1980.

With his MBA completed, Mike was sent to New Zealand, as a Sales Manager for Rohm & Haas and later to Mexico, as a Division Manager. The earthquake of 1993 led Mike and his family to the decision that it was time to return to the US. He was hired as general manager for Polysciences, a chemical company near Philadelphia, and eventually purchased the company from its founder in 1993. Polysciences has a niche market, making "very pure, very expensive materials for custom specialty applications". The company employs 140 people and has operations in the US, Europe and Asia, with a wholly owned subsidiary in Indiana. Sales have more than doubled in the past decade and currently exceed \$25 million annually.

Mike is currently on the Board of Directors at the Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates and on the Board of Overseers at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. In 2002, Purdue bestowed upon him the Outstanding Chemical Engineering Award, and in 2007, the Distinguished Engineering Alumnus Award.

Mike and his wife Ginger have two sons. Like his father, Ryan earned a degree in chemical engineering from Purdue. He is currently in his fourth year at TEVA Pharmaceuticals in Horsham, PA. Andrew earned a business degree from Penn State, and he is currently studying chemistry at Villanova University. At 6' 10" he played Division I basketball at both schools, as an undergraduate.

## Susan Day Parr, Brandon's House, FCHS '70

Susan is the first Hall of Fame inductee who went to Lafayette Elementary School (now renamed Floyds Knobs Elementary School). Like two of her fellow inductees (Mark Deuser in 2010 and Michael Ott, this year), she started at Floyd Central when it was first opened, at the beginning of her sophomore year. She was a valedictorian of her graduating class in 1970. She was in National Honor Society, and she was named a Commended Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Program. In theater, Susan had two leading roles her senior year and received a Best Actress award. She was a co-editor of *The Hemlock*, an all-student-run political newspaper. After high school, it took Susan only three years to obtain her bachelor's degree in secondary education from IU Southeast, with a major in English and a minor in social studies.

Like many new college graduates, Susan found her first professional job opportunities to be both challenging and rewarding. She expected to become a high school teacher; she did not anticipate that instead, she would feel at home teaching young adults. One such job was in a program called "Even Start", created for parents of pre-schoolers in Head Start. It was one of several experiences, together with marriage and raising three children that eventually led her back to graduate school, for a degree in counseling. When she finished her master's degree in 1993, she already had Brandon's House in her head. As part of her graduate school work, she envisioned a free program of counseling services that could serve teens throughout Floyd County. Gathering support from church leaders at Depauw United Methodist, she crafted a plan to turn her idea into a reality. Later that same year, Brandon's House opened its doors; it is located less than two hundred yards from New Albany High School. Integral to the success of Brandon's House has been the Board of Directors that Susan has worked hard to assemble. She is quick to credit board members for their never-ending support. Far more important are the tireless efforts that Susan and her staff have continually committed to the original vision. In eighteen years, they have served more than 3,000 teens and families with free counseling services worth more than \$1.7 million. No student has ever received a bill, and no one has ever been turned away.

In 1995 and again in 1996, Susan received the Rotary Club "Outstanding Service to Families and Community" Award. In 1997, she was honored as the New Albany Harvest Homecoming "Person of the Year", and in 1999, she was recognized by IU Southeast with its "Alumni Award of Excellence". Susan is a member of the Indiana Counseling Association, and in 2002, Susan was honored as "Counselor of the Year" for the state of Indiana.

She and her husband Rolf have three grown children, all Floyd Central graduates: Kimberly Parr Edlin, '93; Kevin, '95 and Kyle, '98. Nowadays, they count their twelve grandchildren among the greatest joys that life can bring to any family.

