

# LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL WALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## **Burton Smith – 1985**

February, 1889 – November, 1975

Burton Smith was a Logan High School Industrial Arts teacher from 1921 to 1960. His life-long interest in students inspired him to start the Sea Scouts, a group which remained active from 1928 to 1949. A scholarship fund in his name was established for Logan students entering the field of Industrial Arts.

## **John “Boots” Halseth – 1985**

May 10, 1929 – June 16, 1984

Although he was never a student at Logan High School, John “Boots” Halseth will be remembered as one of Logan’s most devoted fans. He represented the true spirit of Logan, and his dedication and enthusiasm for the school and its young people were an inspiration to everyone who knew him. “Boots” is still showing his Logan spirit through the Halseth Scholarship, which was established by his estate.

## **Russell G. Cleary – 1985**

After graduating in 1951, Russell Cleary attended UW-La Crosse as a pre-law student and received his Doctor of Law degree from UW-Madison in 1957. In 1969, he was named as one of the 100 outstanding young men in America. Cleary, a director of several corporations, has served La Crosse as President and Campaign Chairman of many associations.

## **Major Chester L. Britt – 1985**

June 13, 1915 – July 6, 1953

Chester Britt graduated from Logan High School in 1933. He attended West Point Military Academy from 1936 to 1940 and was commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Regular Army on June 11, 1940. He was captured by the Japanese when Corregidor Island fell, incarcerated in Japan as a Prisoner of War for 3 ½ years, and then retired from the Army in 1950.

## **Ray Nibbe – 1986**

Ray Nibbe came to Logan in 1930 and retired as a successful coach and teacher in 1966. Ray was supervisor of the 9<sup>th</sup> ward for 30 years and was Parade Marshal for the Oktoberfest Torchlight Parade in 1973. Even after his retirement, Ray could be seen at Logan activities—he believed in education, school spirit, and kids.

## **Patrick T. Zielke – 1986**

A graduate of Logan High School, Patrick Zielke began his public service career serving as alderman of the 19<sup>th</sup> ward from 1966 to 1975. He was elected Common Council President in 1973 and served in that capacity until his election as Mayor in 1975. Pat has had the foresight and leadership to stimulate the growth of the city, which includes Valley View Mall, Harborview, and the La Crosse Center.

## **Roland Solberg – 1986**

Before becoming Director of the Cooperative Educational Service Agency No. 4, Roland taught in Holmen and Onalaska schools and in Nigeria, Africa, under a Ford Foundation grant. His community service includes serving as Chairman and Director of many boards and councils. He has served on numerous city, state, and regional committees dealing with governmental and educational issues.

## **Donald E. Field – 1986**

Donald Field served as principal of Logan High School from 1929 until his retirement in 1966. Logan was his life for 38 years, even during his three-year Naval service during World War II. He was also active in the community, serving as Past President of the Y.M.C.A., La Crosse Businessmen’s Club, and Kiwanis Club.

## **Rodney B. Martin – 1987**

Rodney Martin was a professional educator for 42 years and retired from Logan High School in 1973. In addition to teaching chemistry, science, and physical education, he coached three major sports. He served as hot lunch director, athletic director, guidance director, and assistant principal. In addition, he was Vice-President of the Wisconsin State Coaches Association, and he was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Madison by the WSCA.



### **Mark W. Smith – 1987**

Mark Smith graduated from Logan High School in June, 1953 as an honor student. He earned his B.S.E.E. and M.S.E.E. from the University of Minnesota and his Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. While employed by Texas Instruments, Mark published numerous papers and held several patents, including some dealing with missile guidance systems.

### **Al Hilde, Jr. – 1988**

Al Hilde, Jr. graduated from Logan High School in 1951. He is the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and founder of Satellite Industries. In addition, he is a Veteran of the U.S. Army and a graduate of the University of Minnesota. He served five terms as Mayor of Plymouth, Minnesota and received the Governor's Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Community and Economic Development." He received the Certificate of Achievement from the Bicentennial Salute to Small Business and Entrepreneur of the Year award from the Twin West Chamber of Commerce.

### **Wayne Bohrnstedt – 1988**

Wayne Bohrnstedt graduated from Logan High School in January, 1940. Following three years of military service, he received his bachelor's degree, and in 1947, earned his master's degree from Northwestern University in Illinois. Since 1954, he has served on the staff of the University of Redlands, California where he teaches music theory and composition. He is an active composer and has works published for virtually all musical forms. His music has been performed by major orchestras in Europe, as well as, in the United States.

### **Juel Ranum – 1989**

One of Logan's most distinguished graduates, Juel Ranum became an elected Officer and Corporate Vice President of Whirlpool Corporation and Director of Whirlpool International. His interest in and value of education has led to the founding of Benton Harbor Business and Technical College, and through his further efforts, the school was converted to Lake Michigan College. Created by Ranum, High House in Benton Harbor helps with the needs of minority students. He also became President of a small industrial company created to provide jobs and training for minorities.

### **Raymond C. Bice – 1990**

Raymond Bice served his country during World War I, co-founded the Bice-Olsen Lumber and Millwork Company, and while still raising his family, studied at night school to earn his diploma in 1942. In 1946, he was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly, and he served as Chairman of the transportation, public welfare, and education committees. Locally, he has served on many Commissions, Boards, and Funds. His honors include the 1957 La Crosse Annual Civic Duty Award, the 1966 Governor Knowles Special Award for dedicated service to the State of Wisconsin, the 1977 La Crosse County Republican Party Annual Memorial Award, the 1986 Viterbo College Pope John XXIII Distinguished Service Award, and the 1988 Coles Bashford Award for Achievement.

### **Florence "Dolly" Miller – 1990**

An outstanding teacher throughout her 34-year career at Logan High School, Florence Miller is remembered as being devoted both to her profession and her students. Her career began when she graduated from La Crosse Normal School (now UW-La Crosse) in 1916. She earned a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison in 1918, and she did her graduate work at the University of Minnesota. From 1926 to 1960, Dolly Miller taught a variety of classes, including American problems, world history, geography, and social studies.

### **Stuart K. Randa – 1991**

Before graduating from Logan High School in 1951, Stuart Randa achieved the highest ranking in scouting, the Eagle Badge. During the summers, he worked so that he could pursue his education at UW-Madison. In February 1956, he was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering. He has been with the E.I. duPont de Nemours Company, Inc. since 1956. Now a technical consultant, he has held positions in research, technical sales, field sales, and plant engineering. In addition, he is a principle speaker at symposiums held by the U.S. Army Communications Electronics Command.



### **Ralph Twite – 1991**

*From his high school days, Ralph Twite showed leadership in basketball, football, and baseball. He is described as one of Logan's finest athletes. In addition to lettering in college baseball, he signed a professional contract to play with the Boston Braves. Although his professional athletic career was interrupted by the Korean War, his love for the game was not. He continued to be a major contributor to Logan athletics by his active participation in the Logan Booster Club. His leadership in the community continued, and he became known as a take-charge umpire for the La Crosse Park and Recreation Department. Both his selfless devotion to recreation programs and his integrity made him one of the most respected umpires for 17 years at Copeland Park.*

### **Harold E. Rude – 1992**

*Since his graduation from Logan in 1963, Harold Rude has been a man of achievement. He continued his education first at UW-La Crosse, later transferring to St. Olaf College. In January 1967, Rude graduated with majors in chemistry and math. In February 1967, he joined 3M Company where he first worked as a chemist in the Organic Synthesis group of Central Research Laboratories. Rude has authored or co-authored about 15 patents proposals; he is the recipient of 5 patents (4 U.S. and 1 European). He rose to the position of technical manager for the Automotive Trades Division in Europe; based near Birmingham, England, his lab supported business in 17 European countries.*

### **Frances Hayden Grimstad, M.D. – 1992**

*Frances graduated from Logan High School as Valedictorian of her class in 1930. She earned a Bachelor of Arts with honors from UW-Madison, and she was one of only four women in her class in medical school. Frances earned her medical degree with high honors from UW-Madison in 1937. She undertook post-graduate training at Wisconsin General Hospital and became a partner in the practice of medicine from 1939 to 1947. From 1952 to 1980, she was a health service staff member of UW-Madison. Frances was an affiliate member of the American Academy of Dermatology. At the same time, Frances and her husband, Paul, were raising two sons who have both achieved distinction. Clearly, Dr. Grimstad took stock in her parents' deep value of education, in which these qualities are hardly a surprise, since her father was principal of Logan and her mother was a Latin teacher.*

### **Orby Moss – 1993**

*A 1959 graduate of Logan High School, Orby Moss was determined to achieve. After graduation from UW-La Crosse in 1963, Moss spent ten years in the Racine, WI public school system as coach, teacher, and administrator. He received his master's degree at Winona State University in 1971 and did post-graduate work at UW-Milwaukee. Moss worked four years as assistant athletics director at WI-Parkside and one year as athletic director at Siena Heights College. Moss continued to achieve success as an athletic director at the University of District of Columbia and then headed the athletics program for eight years at North Carolina A & T, including seven straight, in which the Aggie basketball team appeared in the NCAA tournaments. He was appointed in 1990 as athletics director at Georgia State University.*

### **Bert Phillips – 1993**

*Bert Phillips graduated from Logan High School in 1952. After high school, he earned his Bachelor of Music degrees from Northwestern University. Phillips first taught at Iowa Northern University as an instructor of cello and chamber music and then at Kent State University as professor of cello and chamber music. At Temple University, Phillips was conductor and music director of the Temple Youth Chamber Orchestra, and he established and administered Temple University Chamber Music Institute. Bert Phillips and his wife, concert pianist, Toby Blumenthal, are especially involved with the music camp that he developed, the Luzerne Music Center, Lake Luzerne, New York. Phillips, a member of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra since 1959 and current first cello, has shared his talent through performances not only in the United States, but in tours of Latin America, Europe, and Asia.*

### **Tom Scarseth – 1993**

*No many people would admit to being a two-year dropout from high school, but Tom Scarseth did not drop out for any other reason than he was not challenged. With the help of some wonderful teachers, he resumed his education, became the 1956 Valedictorian, president of the student council, editor of the yearbook, head of the stage crew, a Boys' State delegate, and Logan's first merit scholar. Scarseth completed three years of schoolwork in only two years, and he became a pilot in the U.S. Navy and the Marines. He attended college and became an English teacher with a master's degree, teaching two years at Lincoln Junior High School. Scarseth then began his career at UW-La Crosse where he has taught for 25 years.*



### **Sharon Rude Robinson – 1994**

A member of the Class of 1965, she is remembered for her active participation in 14 different organizations, holding office in 7 activities, and her ability as a student. In 1968, Robinson completed her bachelor's degree from UW-La Crosse. She continued her education earning her master's in 1972. By 1978, Robinson had completed her doctorate with majors in counseling psychology and educational inquiry methodology from Indiana University, Bloomington. Sharon is especially proud of being a 1993 finalist for the Arizona State University Faculty Mentoring Award—an award which states that she has positively influenced the lives of her students. She was elected President of the Consulting Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association, she was awarded Fellow status in two divisions, she helped to improve the quality of work life for hospital nurses, she developed an undergraduate course on youths' at-risk behaviors, and she directs students working toward their doctorates in psychology. Dr. Robinson, whose advice is valued by several professional publications, is published in over 50 separate journals and books.

### **Jack Reihl – 1995**

A native of La Crosse, WI and a member of Logan Class of 1948, Jack Reihl was a leader in both labor and local government who had something to contribute. He was elected an alderman and served as President of the La Crosse City Council. Jack joined the staff of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO in 1969, and he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the State AFL-CIO in 1970. He was sought out by President Carter and appointed to represent labor on the National Advisory Council for Vocational Education from 1979 to 1982. At the 1986 Convention, Jack Reihl was elected President of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO by acclamation. He presently serves on numerous organizations, including four State Councils.

### **Harvey Mahlman – 1995**

Harvey graduated as Salutatorian from Logan in June 1941, and he then attended UW-La Crosse from 1941 to 1943 and was awarded a scholarship. He was called to active duty in 1943, and in January 1944, he transferred to the Corps of Engineers and was assigned to the Special Engineering Detachment of the Manhattan Project at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. In 1949, he graduated from the University of Minnesota with degrees in chemistry and business administration. Mahlman developed a training program for and trained technical supervisors for the DuPont Savannah River Plutonium Separation Plant. He has authored or co-authored 35 technical publications and was granted two patents for processing primary sewage into drinking-quality water. In 1973, he accepted a position with Florida Power and Light Company where he was responsible for the company's nuclear chemistry program and radioactive waste processing. In addition, he was the lead engineer in the radiation chemistry and rad-waste for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

### **Glen Selbo – 1995**

A 1943 graduate of Logan High School, Glen Selbo was an outstanding team member on Logan's basketball squad. He attended UW-Madison and participated on the UW team for four years, culminating in being named MVP in the Big Ten Conference following the 1946-1947 season. Selbo served two years in the U.S. Navy, and after college, he played professional basketball for four years, ending his career with the Denver Nuggets. He attended college for a total of six years, earning a BA in math and MA in educational administration. His career in education spans 31 years—10 in Texas, 21 in Colorado—serving as teacher, coach and administrator.

### **Jeff Towner – 1996**

Jeff Towner graduated from Logan High School in 1968. In 1972, Jeff graduated from UW-Stout earning a B.S. in Industrial Management with a concentration in Building Construction. At Stout, he also earned outstanding football player honors. Drafted by the Chicago Bears, Jeff chose instead to marry Cheryl Thiede (Logan Class of 1969) and to go to work as a Project Engineer in Florida. Jeff then returned to La Crosse in 1976 to accept a position with HSR Associates. Towner then met up with long-time friend and classmate, Chris Weiss. Jeff and Chris formed their own company, TCI General Contractors. He is a member of the Onalaska Businessmen's Association, the Lutheran Hospital Foundation, the Gateway Area Council, and the La Crosse Area Bow Hunter's Association. Jeff has also served as past president of the First Lutheran Church Council, Divisional Chairman of the La Crosse Area United Way Campaign, and board president and member of the Onalaska Booster Club.

### **Chris Weiss – 1996**

Chris Weiss graduated from Logan High School in 1968. After graduating from UW-La Crosse in 1972 with a degree in Business Administration, Chris began his first career as an engineer with Burlington Northern Railroad (1971-1979). In 1977, he and his long-time friend, Chris Towner, each invested \$100 to form their own company, TCI Designers, Builders & Developers. At TCI, Weiss is responsible for overall management of financial, marketing and real estate development, strategies, and operations. He has served as president of the La Crosse Boys' and Girls' Club Executive Board, vice president of the UW-La Crosse Foundation Board of Directors, secretary of the Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Board, was a county supervisor from 1976-1978, and serves on the Logan Opportunity Scholarship Committee





### **David Larson – 1996**

David Larson graduated from Logan High School in 1959. After graduating in the top 10% of his class, Larson earned a degree in Business Administration from UW-Madison in 1964, before serving his country in the Vietnam War as an Air Traffic Coordinating Officer. A graduate of the U.S. Army Special Forces Free Fall Jumpmaster School and the U.S. Army Air Assault School, Col. Larson has been awarded his Master Parachutist's Wings. He also holds and FAA rating as an Air Traffic Controller. Some of his awards and decorations include: The Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 5 oak leaf clusters, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, AF Training Ribbon, AF Longevity Service Award with 7 oak leaf clusters, and AF Outstanding Unit Award. Col. Larson is now retired after 30 years of outstanding military service.

### **Joe Thienes – 1996**

For almost 40 years, Joe Thienes was "The Chemistry Department" at Logan (1955-1994). After graduating from high school in 1944, Joe served in the Army Field Artillery and then used his GI Bill to graduate from UW-La Crosse in 1951 with degrees in science, math, and physical education. Joe later earned a Master's Degree in Science Education from UW-Madison in 1958 and entered the post-graduate program at Winona State College. At Logan, Joe gave 100% to his teaching and expected and got 100% from his students. He also coached debate, football, basketball, track and golf. Joe's excellence in the classroom justly earned him recognition. He was named Outstanding Educator in 1979 and was twice selected as the Teacher of the Year by the La Crosse Board of Education. For so many years and to so many people, Joe Thienes was Logan High School.

### **Rachel Gutzke Gundersen – 1997**

Rachel graduated from Logan High School with highest honors and Valedictorian of her class in 1948. After high school, Rachel earned her bachelor's degree in 1953 from UW-Madison, married, raised her family of five sons, and served as a community volunteer. Rachel then returned to school to earn a Master's Degree in School Psychology from UW-La Crosse, served the La Crosse High Schools as a school psychologist (1978-1993), and became an active participant in local and state service organizations. Some of the organizations include: Wisconsin Federation of Pupil Services, Riverfront Activities Center Board, La Crosse County AIDS Advisory Committee, Family & Children's Center Board, Wisconsin School Psychologists Association, La Crosse Education Foundation, and the La Crosse Community Theater. She has prepared and conducted workshops for Crisis Intervention and At Risk Children and has also published articles in state and national journals for her profession. Finally, there is the golden apple she received in 1988 for being chosen Specialist of the Year in the School District of La Crosse.

### **Ardy Aarstad – 1998**

Ardy Aarstad was a Physical Education instructor for 16 years at Logan High School and Associate Registrar at UW-La Crosse for 22 years. After graduating from Viroqua High School, he interrupted his education at UW-La Crosse to serve in the United States Air Corps. He then returned to earn his bachelor's degree at UW-La Crosse and later his master's at Northern University (Greely, CO). Ardy's innovative approach led to his initiating athletic teams in cross country, gymnastics, and wrestling. He coached track teams which won all dual meets for ten consecutive years, and he began an intramural program which included speed ball, soccer, and flag football. He became instrumental in forming the Boys' Club, and primarily through his direction, the La Crosse club was one of the nation's first to designate the name change to Boys' and Girls' Club. Throughout his 34 years with the club, Aarstad served as president, secretary, and committee member. In 1985, he was elected to the Boys' and Girls' Club Wall of Fame. In "retirement," Aarstad has been active through his continued commitment with Norskedalen--an involvement in which he has literally invested thousands of hours to promote an awareness of Norwegian heritage and culture.

### **Carol Dobrunz – 1998**

Carol Dobrunz graduated from Logan High School in 1953. She earned a Bachelor of Science, UW-La Crosse, 1957; a Master of Science, University of Michigan, 1964; and a Doctor of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 1973. In 1965, she began at the University of WI-Stout in Menomonie. Beginning as an instructor, she eventually became professor of Physical Education, chairperson of Health & Physical Education, Associate Dean of the School of Liberal Studies, and eventually Assistant Vice-Chancellor. Besides her local, state, and national activities, she is particularly known for her tireless efforts to seek additional indoor physical education facilities and to further the women's athletic program at Stout. She has also worked so that the Wisconsin Association of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation and Dance is on a sound, permanent financial basis to work for the good health of children and adults.



### **Charles H. Horton – 1998**

After graduating from Fennimore High School in 1922, Charles Horton attended UW-Platteville, graduating in 1926 with majors in math and science. Along with receiving his degree, he was also honored with the outstanding individual award at UW-Platteville in 1926 for his accomplishments as a student, an athlete, and a citizen. In 1992, he was nominated for the UW-Platteville Hall of Fame. From 1943 to 1958, Horton served Logan High School as assistant athletic director and also as a mathematics teacher. Horton continued his career at Logan Junior High School from 1958 to his retirement in 1968. In addition, he coached basketball for 14 years from 1928-1942, track for 13 years from 1928-1941, baseball for 13 years, and golf. Horton served as President of the Western Wisconsin Education Association in 1957, and he also worked for CESA for ten years after retiring from teaching.

### **Terrence “Terry” Erickson – 1999**

Terry Erickson graduated from Logan High School in 1967. Terry graduated from UW-La Crosse in 1972 and has earned credits toward a master's degree. He is the Executive Director of the La Crosse Boys' and Girls' Club since 1972. He has been instrumental in the continued growth of the club, including expansion of programs and the building. Terry has served as a United Way volunteer, Director of the UW-La Crosse Alumni Board of Directors, FCA National Organization, Badger State Games, Coulee Region Officials Association, Mississippi Valley Conference Commissioner, La Crosse Jaycees, and both Logan and Central Booster Clubs. In fact, Erickson was selected for Who's Who in America in 1991. Terry and his wife, Sue, live in La Crosse and have five children.

### **Douglas M. “Bud” Miyamoto – 1999**

Bud Miyamoto graduated from Logan High School in 1964. He was the Executive Director of the Downtown La Crosse “City Vision 2000-Master Plan” (15-year plan for Downtown Re-development), Vice President of the La Crosse Area Synod of ELCA, Governor-appointed to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board, and Director of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He also has 27 years in the restaurant industry in both La Crosse and the Twin Cities. Bud's wife, Mitzi, is the pastor of Our Saviors Church in West Salem. They have two sons, Chad and Kenny.

### **Roscoe Short – 1999**

Roscoe Short graduated from Logan High School in 1941. Roscoe was a World War II Veteran, Torchlight Parade Marshal in 1975, Logan PTA and Booster Club President in the 1960's, and a member of the City Plan Commission for over ten years. Roscoe took over the family business, “Vogue Bar” in 1946, which remained his livelihood until he retired in 1987. Now a radio personality with Mike Kearns on WKTY's “Lead Balloon Show,” Roscoe Short is enjoying the opportunity to use his quick and positive outlook. Roscoe and his wife, Wanda, are long-time Northside residents, and their son, Michael, is a 1965 Logan graduate. A husband, parent, grandparent, and community leader—Roscoe Short has made a definite contribution to the well being of La Crosse residents.

### **Dr. John D. Folts – 2000**

John Folts graduated from Logan High School in 1957. His degrees, all from UW-Madison, include a bachelor's in electrical engineering, a master's in medical physiology, and Ph.D. in cardiovascular physiology and pathology. At UW-Madison, John Folts began his career as a lecturer and then continuing as an assistant professor, an associate professor, and a professor of medicine. Since 1994, he has functioned as the Director of the Coronary Thrombosis Research Laboratory in the Department of Medicine at UW-Madison. He has published over 150 professional papers and lectured widely both in the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Folts also holds several patents on the use of nitric oxide and nitrated proteins, materials used as coatings on devices such as catheters and stents which come in contact with blood. John Folts's contributions to his field have positively affected the lives and the health of millions.

### **Wesley “Wes” M. Denny – 2000**

Wes Denny graduated from Logan High School in 1943. He served in the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division in Italy during World War II, joined the National Guard in 1957, and later the Army Reserve. Mr. Denny retired with a rank of Major after 30 years of service. In 1954, he married Norma Simonsen, also a Logan graduate, and together they raised five children, all of whom graduated from Logan. After working for the Burlington Railroad between 1946 and 1957, he was elected La Crosse City Treasurer, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. He has been a lifelong member of Bethel Lutheran Church and the American Legion, serving in leadership positions in both organizations. For more than 50 years, he has belonged to both the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Masonic Lodge, and in 1970, he was honored with the rarely-awarded 33<sup>rd</sup> degree in Freemasonry. His influence on the community extends further yet, as he has also participated in the La Crosse Businessmen's Club and the La Crosse Optimist Club; he also functioned as the Parade Marshal of the Oktoberfest Torchlight Parade.



### **Gregory Allen MacGregor – 2000**

Greg MacGregor graduated from Logan High School in 1959. Greg's long list of degrees begins with a 1963 bachelor's degree in physics from Eau Claire State University and then a master's degree in physics from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. His life took yet another turn in 1970 when he earned another master's degree--this one in art photography at San Francisco State University. Greg returned to education, teaching astronomy at Lone Mountain College in San Francisco, and since 1980, he has been an art professor at California State University at Hayward. He created the photography programs at both of these institutions. His work has been featured in over 100 exhibits in museums and art galleries throughout the U.S. and abroad, and his photographs are in the permanent collections of over 20 museums. Since 1990, he has been photo-documenting historic western emigration trails, culminating in his 1996 book, Overland: The California Emigration Trails of 1841-1870.

### **Ron Johnson – 2001**

Ron Johnson graduated from Logan High School in 1956. Ron was instrumental in developing the Logan Wrestling Invitational, the Logan Track Invitational, the Logan Ranger Emblem, and promoting girls' athletics. Ron Johnson retired from teaching in 1995 to become a full-time farmer, one of his lifelong ambitions. Ron taught Social Studies and coached at Logan High School from 1962-1995; he was the Athletic Director from 1969-1976 and retired from coaching in 1973. He started the Retired Teachers and Friends of Logan Breakfast Club in 1999 and helped start the La Crosse Logan Alumni Association. He is a lifetime charter member of the La Crosse Logan Alumni Association, along with being on the Board of Directors, and a Logan Wall of Fame committee member. Ron and his wife, Pat, reside in Galesville, Wisconsin. They have four children and two grandchildren.

### **Ron Kind – 2001**

Ron Kind graduated from Logan High School in 1981. Ron is a native and resident of La Crosse, Wisconsin and a former La Crosse County prosecutor; he was first elected to represent Western Wisconsin's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District in November, 1996. He is a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, Resources Committee, and Agriculture Committee in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. As a leader in the Boys' and Girls' Club, an avid supporter of Logan academics and athletics, a leader in the La Crosse YMCA, a spokesman for the Board of Directors for Coulee Council on Alcohol or Other Drug Abuse, and an organizer of the Congressional Art Competition for high school students in Western Wisconsin, Ron has kept pace with the people he represents. Since being elected to Congress, Ron has focused his attention on issues of fiscal responsibility, agriculture, trade, education, campaign finance reform, and protection of the Mississippi River. Ron and his wife, Tawni, have two sons, Johnny and Matthew.

### **Captain Gregory Allen Bushnell – 2002**

Greg Bushnell graduated from Logan High School in 1964. Greg entered the Aviation Officer Candidate School program in 1968 after graduation from California State University at Fullerton with a BA in Business Administration. As a naval aviator, Captain Bushnell served in numerous capacities; among those, he flew P-3 Orion aircraft in a Patrol Squadron, instructed in the Advanced Naval Air Training Command, and held several positions on the USS Ranger (CV-61). Before retiring from the Navy, Captain Bushnell served as the Dean of Students and Director of Programs in the Naval Postgraduate School, where he supervised over 1,900 student officers; his emphasis was to continue improving the quality of family life. Greg's wife, Linda "Kishie," was also a 1964 graduate, and she, along with their daughter, Stacy, were truly the focus of his life.

### **David Loomis – 2002**

David Loomis graduated from Logan High School in 1957. A 1957 Coulee Region Athlete of the Year, David Loomis has made a lifetime commitment to athletics, playing organized basketball and softball, coaching young boys and girls, and referring football, basketball, softball, and baseball. Dave personally started the Logan Ranger Booster Club in 1962; he served ten years as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. He was the President of the Logan Alumni Association and is a lifetime member of both the Alumni Association and the Booster Club. In 1984, 25 years after high school graduation, David Loomis completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Human Resources at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa. Currently, he is working with the Children's Miracle Network, the Planning Commission for the City of La Crosse, and the Coulee Region Business Center. He was married in 1967 to Mary Anderson of La Crosse, who, sadly, passed away in 1974; Dave is the proud father of two sons, Paul and Dave.

### **Don Brenengen - 2003**

After graduating from Logan High School in 1970, Don Brenengen went on to earn a Finance Degree from UW-La Crosse in 1974. He worked for JC Penney Catalog Division and Dahl Ford before starting his own automobile business. He is now the owner of three dealerships, a state-of-the-art body shop, and a car wash in the La Crosse area. Don's family consists of his wife, Cheryl Hastings (class of 1970), and their three sons, Matthew, Scott, and Nick.





### **Donald Field - 2003**

*Donald Field graduated from Logan High School in 1958 and completed his B.S. and M.S. at UW-Madison. He went on to receive his Ph.D. in rural sociology from Pennsylvania State University. He is currently a professor in both the Department of Forest Ecology and Management and the Department of Rural Sociology at UW-Madison. Donald and his wife, Nancy, have three children. Donald Field was principal of Logan High School from 1928-1966.*

### **George Field - 2003**

*George Field graduated from Logan High School in 1946 and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota in 1950; his Masters of Arts from the University of Colorado-Boulder in 1953; and his Ph.D. from UW-Madison in 1963. George followed in the footsteps of his father, former Logan principal, Don Field, and became an administrator at UW-Madison and then UW-River Falls. He was inducted into the UW-River Falls Athletic Hall of Fame for contributions made during his tenure as President and Chancellor. George is married to Marcella and has five children.*

### **Dan Luedke - 2003**

*Dr. Dan Luedke studied at UW-Madison after graduating from Logan High School in 1963. He attended Baylor University where he earned his medical doctorate. He has spent much of his medical career devoted to cancer care and research. Dr. Luedke is married to Dr. Susan Luedke with whom he has two children, Dana and Matthew.*

### **Reverend Thomas A. Nibbe - 2004**

*After graduating from Logan High School in 1961, Thomas Nibbe attended Saint Olaf College and received his Bachelor of Arts in 1965. After teaching at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama, Thomas Nibbe continued his education in California, completing his Master of Divinity in 1969 at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. In 1970, Nibbe received his certification as a Marriage, Family, and Child Counselor. Currently, Reverend Nibbe resides over the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Pacifica, California, and teaches at the post-graduate level as a Professor of Pastoral Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary in California. In addition, Thomas Nibbe is a respected expert on the subject of international adoption—he has worked with the high-profile crusade of Billy Graham, and he is the Director of Chaplaincy Services for Spiritcare Ministries in San Mateo County, California. Reverend Nibbe has been blessed with the love and support of his family throughout his successful career. Tom Nibbe's wife, Priscilla, is originally from Pakistan; the Nibbes have three daughters.*

### **Suzan J. (Sobkowiak) Harkness, Ph.D. - 2004**

*After her graduation from Logan in 1979, Suzan Harkness received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology (1988) from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and then completed her Master of Arts in International Relations-Intercultural Studies (1991) at the United States International University in San Diego, California. Upon the completion of a Master of Arts certificate in Leadership & Intercultural Education (1996) at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, Harkness tackled her Ph.D. in Political Science (2000) at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu. Dr. Harkness is currently an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of the District of Columbia, and along with teaching courses, Dr. Harkness directs the Capitol Hill internship program and serves as the faculty advisor for the political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha. Suzan Harkness has an impressive and extensive list of publications, conference proceedings, research projects, professional activities, university service, scholar grants, and awards, including the 2004 UDC Junior Faculty Award. Suzan Harkness enjoys spending time with her husband, who is originally from Belfast, Northern Ireland, and her son, who is currently in Pre-School.*

### **Jane C. (Coley) Molstad - 2005**

*A graduate of Mukwonago High School in 1965, Jane Molstad first came to Logan as a student teacher during the 1968-1969 school year. After a brief two-year hiatus teaching at Wayland Academy, where she coached track, field hockey, volleyball, and basketball, Jane returned to Logan High School and began a 31-year career of inciting positive change. A talented athlete and teacher, Jane Molstad was the first girls' athletics coach at Logan. She started the girls' gymnastics team—the first girls' sports team at Logan—in the fall of 1971. Inside the Physical Education classroom and as a long-time Physical Education chairperson, Jane Molstad was an early supporter of coed physical education, and she was active in promoting lifelong sports as a goal in curricular development. The founding advisor for Ranger Renaissance, she has helped to encourage academic excellence and student recognition. For 20 years Jane Molstad headed up the Sunshine Fund, planning social events for staff and providing support and encouragement for life's milestones. She was an original member of the Logan Wall of Fame Committee and is presently a member of the Logan Alumni Association Board of Directors. Logan High School has truly been an extension of Jane Molstad's family. Her husband, Jim, was a 1961 Logan graduate, and their three sons—Eric, Jon, and Jay—all graduated from Logan as well. Although Jane Molstad retired in the spring of 2002 and is now enjoying her hobbies and the occasional day of substitute teaching, her positive presence can still be felt at Logan High School.*





## **Donald D. Jobe - 2005**

A 1961 graduate of Logan High School, Donald Jobe is certainly a man whose business acumen and altruism have merged, making for a remarkable story of success. Donald Jobe earned degrees both in Accounting and Electronics from Western Wisconsin Technical Institute before embarking on what would become a truly notable career in the laminate products industry. Jobe retired in 2002 as President and CEO of Isola Laminate Systems. Throughout his career, Jobe served in a variety of international senior management positions, including Vice President and General Manager of Laminate Systems' Asia-Pacific operations and Managing Director of European Operations. In the 1990's, he was responsible for the construction of major manufacturing facilities in China and Thailand. In 2000, Jobe was voted one of the 50 most influential people in the Electronics industry in the world. Don, his wife Donna, and their three sons share a deep commitment to their communities on both sides of the world. A true humanitarian and generous philanthropist, the Jobe family became involved with the plight of homeless Chinese children. While residing in Hong Kong, they formed the "Sunbeam Children's Foundation" which provides shelter and education for homeless children. Locally, Donald Jobe has served on the boards of the Lutheran Hospital Foundation and Riverfront, and he has given back to WWTC by serving on the advisory committee for the Accounting program and lecturing to many Accounting classes.

## **James A. Brush - 2006**

A 1958 graduate of Logan High School, James A. Brush started Empire Screen Printing, Inc. in 1960, working out of a leaky garage with one employee. One of the largest screen printing companies in the country, Empire Screen Printing, Inc. now occupies a 100,000 sq. ft. facility in Onalaska and employs close to 300 people. Brush's financial success has allowed him to support his community with generous altruism--the Holmen High School Empire Track and Field was built with his donation. Furthermore, Empire Screen Printing, Inc. has donated all labor, materials, and printing of holiday cards for the Children's Miracle Network since 1987. As a tribute to his sport of bow hunting, Brush owns and operates a 2000-acre whitetail deer ranch, a 4-man taxidermy studio, and The Brush Museum. His wife, Cindy L. Brush, joins him in his quest to educate people about animals, their habitats, and the importance of hunting. James Brush has 5 children, 5 stepchildren, 17 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

## **Thomas J. Knutson, Ph.D. - 2006**

A 1960 Logan graduate, Dr. Knutson has devoted years of dedicated service to others in teaching conflict resolution and organizational communication, and he has taught at universities in Connecticut, California, Illinois, West Virginia, and in the state of Washington. He is currently a Professor of Communication Studies at California State University in Sacramento and is an Adjunct Professor of Graduate Studies at Bangkok University. He is a founding professor of the First Global Community College in Nongkhai, Thailand, and a visiting professor at a number of Thai universities. Dr. Knutson's numerous honors include being selected for prestigious Fulbright Scholarships, to Korea, Russia, and Thailand. Knutson was elected President of Phi Beta Delta, the Honor Society for International Scholars, and he is listed in Who's Who in the World and Who's Who in America. Dr. Knutson is widely published, with over 100 academic books, papers, and conference presentations to his credit.

## **Wallace E. Olson - 2006**

A 1939 graduate of Logan High School, Wallace Olson graduated as salutatorian of his class and was awarded a prized high school honor scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He married Kathryn L. Olson in 1942, and he graduated from Madison in 1943 with a major in accounting and a minor in philosophy. After completing his military service, Wallace Olson was able to focus on his professional career as an accountant. He began his employment at the La Crosse branch of Alexander Grant & Company in 1946, auditing such companies as Trane Company, Northern Engraving, and La Crosse Rubber Mills. In 1972, Wallace Olson's purpose reached beyond his individual firm to influence the accounting profession as a whole; he became the full-time President and CEO of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) based in New York City and Washington, D.C., a position he held until his retirement in 1980. Wallace Olson was instrumental in setting the standards by which the accounting profession operates today, and he authored a book: The Accounting Profession--Years of Trial 1969-1980.

## **Robert J. Hembd - 2007**

A 1982 graduate of Logan High School, Bob Hembd was a three-sport athlete and was named the 1982 Athlete of the Year. After high school, Bob Hembd attended UW-Whitewater, where he was a 1987 Cum Laude Honors graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Finance. He has been a Financial Representative with Northwestern Mutual since 1989; he is a Life Member of the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT)--the insurance industry's highest honor--which is achieved by fewer than 1% of all financial representatives. Since 1990, Hembd has consistently been a member of the company's Star Club and Lives Club, as well as a member of the industry's National Quality Awards (NQA) and National Sales Achievement Awards (NSAA). Bob Hembd is one of the charter board members of the Logan Alumni Association, and he originated the "Ranger Reunion" Alumni Newsletter. His frequent and often anonymous financial support has benefited countless activities at Logan High School. Hembd, along with matching funds from Northwestern Mutual, recently established the fund to purchase the digital message board and school sign located on Gillette Street. Hembd recently founded the North La Crosse Assistance Program, a coordinated effort among several business owners to help local residents with various needs--from clothing to home repair--on an anonymous basis. Bob Hembd and his wife, Ellyn, reside on French Island with their daughters, Allison and Macy.

## **Evelyn M. (Slaback) Pertzsch - 2007**

A member of the class of 1950, Evelyn Pertzsch has worked as the Coordinator for the Right-to-Read program for the Onalaska School System, she was a charter member of the Onalaska Education Foundation, and she served several years on the Onalaska School Board. Currently, Pertzsch is active with the Learning In Retirement Program through the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, serving as Past President. In 1989, Evelyn Pertzsch received the Literacy Award from the Midwest Reading Council. She has volunteered extensively with the Riverland Girl Scout Council and the American Cancer Society, where she was president of the La Crosse chapter; she is a charter member of Operation Homefront, providing assistance to deployed servicemen and women and their families. She was Chairman of the La Crosse County Housing Authority, and in 1994 Pertzsch Manor was dedicated in her honor. A past president of the Friends of the Library committee, Pertzsch is chairman of a charitable trust that has provided funds for books and materials for the Onalaska Public Library since 1985, and she is currently working with fundraising projects for the Onalaska Library remodeling project. One of Evelyn Pertzsch's proudest moments at Logan High School occurred not in 1950, but in May of 2002, when she worked with the President's advance team and served as the local media coordinator for President George W. Bush's historic visit to Logan. Married to Dave Pertzsch in 1952, Evelyn's dedication to community involvement inspired her own children; she and Dave raised four successful, civic-minded daughters.

## **Brian W. Lathrop - 2008**

An academic and athletic contender during high school, Brian Lathrop graduated third in his class, was a member of the National Honor Society, and was awarded seven letters in three sports. In 1988 Brian Lathrop received a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Lathrop's quest for knowledge continued as he attended Penn State University, where he received an M.S. in Aerospace Engineering. Brian began his career in 1990 as an engineer and scientist at McConnell Douglas Aerospace in Huntington Beach, CA. In 1993 Lathrop moved on to become a Guidance and Performance Engineer for Hughes Missile Systems Company in Tucson, AZ. In 1996 he became a Senior Engineer in Flight Design for Lockheed Martin Astronautics in Denver, CO. There Brian performed mission design, optimization, and integration for the Atlas launch vehicle and was the lead flight design engineer for all Atlas launched NASA payloads. His work with the launch vehicle trajectory for the Pluto New Horizons mission led to the successful January 2006 launch of the spacecraft that will spend nearly ten years before arriving on NASA's first mission to the ninth planet. Since 2006 Lathrop has served as a Systems Engineer for United Launch Alliance in Denver, CO, where he is currently working with LRO and LCROSS spacecraft which are planned to go to the moon in 2008. Brian Lathrop is married to another member of the Logan family, Shelly Bjorge-Lathrop, class of 1983. Logan High School is certainly proud of its very own rocket scientist.

## **Joseph W. Maier, Jr. - 2008**

After graduating in 1966, Joe Maier served in the Army from 1967-1969. A squad leader with the First Division 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Vietnam, Maier obtained the rank of E-5 and received the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts, along with other decorations. Upon returning to the United States, Maier attended Dunwoody Industrial Institute in Minneapolis, MN, studying Architectural Drafting and Estimating, and he completed a Wisconsin State Apprenticeship with the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local #316. After gaining experience in the Sheet Metal Fabrication business, Joe Maier formed All Facets Sheet Metal, Inc. as a partnership; he has been president since its inception and sole owner since 2005. Joe has served on the board of directors for the La Crosse Builders Exchange, acting as president for three years. Joe Maier is a member of the American Legion Post 336 in Onalaska, Wings Over Wisconsin, Whitetails Unlimited, and Ducks Unlimited. Maier's visibility and altruism led to his being named the Oktoberfest Torchlight Parade Marshall in 2004. Joe Maier definitely has an important place within the Logan family. He has served nine years on the Alumni Association, three years as president and six as chairman of the Ranger Rally. Under Joe's leadership, the Alumni Association and the Ranger Rally have accumulated \$250,000 which has been placed into a perpetual scholarship fund for Logan graduates. Joe Maier has enjoyed the natural beauty of the La Crosse area with friends and family, children and grandchildren. He continues to give back to the community where his name has become synonymous with generosity and forward thinking. Joe Maier has, literally, rallied for Logan High School.

## **David Berger - 2009**

Dave Berger attended north side elementary schools Franklin and Jefferson and graduated from Logan High School in 1966. Upon graduation, Dave attended and graduated from Gale Institute of Technology with a degree in Computer Programming. He also attended La Crosse State College and Coleman Technical School. Dave worked for La Crosse Rubber Mills, Machine Products, Trane Company, and G. Heileman's Brewery for years. Early experience in local businesses gave Dave Berger the confidence to start his own business, Sloopy's Alma Mater. Dave and his wife, Cindy, are some of the longest continuous business operators in La Crosse--they have owned and operated Sloopy's for forty years. A member of numerous committees and boards for the city of La Crosse, Dave was active for 18 years in the La Crosse area Crimestoppers, and he served as president of the group for one year. Dave was also chosen to be the Torchlight Parade Marshall for Oktoberfest 1997, and he remains an avid supporter of Oktoberfest, featuring a collection of Oktoberfest photos and memorabilia in a special room at Sloopy's Alma Mater. Locally, Dave's leadership has translated into financial support for many area organizations. He was a major proponent of the Old Timers 16"

Softball Tournament that raised over \$200,000 for the Children's Miracle Network. A charter and lifetime member of the Logan Alumni Association, Dave Berger has served on the board of directors and has been extremely instrumental in the success of the Ranger Rally and in raising money for the Perpetual Scholarship Fund for Logan graduates. He has worked with the Booster Club and has always been willing to lend both time and money to numerous Logan and community events. Dave's most special moments are shared with his wife, his daughter, and his grandchildren. A pillar of strength and support to his family, to Logan, and to La Crosse, Dave Berger is certainly deserving of a place of honor on Logan High School's Wall of Fame.

### **James R. Conway - 2010**

At Logan High School, James Conway will best be remembered for a humble and generous act. After visiting his alma mater in 2008 and enjoying the festivities of the "Ranger Rally," James Conway decided his wealth could be put to good use in scholarships for graduating students. His donation, according to Principal Scott Mihalovic, was one of the largest in school history and will provide thousands of dollars in support for years to come. Likewise, in his home in Ohio, a million dollar donation to the Family Business Center of Central Ohio will ensure that family-owned businesses will find the support they need for generations. The charitable endeavors made possible by James Conway could not have happened without a lifetime of hard work. As a student at Logan, James was characterized as focused on his studies. In the business world, his focus translated into an ascent to the top of the steel industry. After graduating from UW-La Crosse, James and his family moved to Ohio where he eventually became the President and controlling owner of the Marion Steel Company. Marion Steel was the last family-owned steel mill in the United States when James sold the company to Nucor Steel in a deal valued at over 110 million dollars. James R. Conway's business achievements alone would be enough to garner consideration for the Logan High School Wall of Fame. James is more deserving of the honor because his success never clouded the memories of his roots. James R. Conway is one of Logan's biggest business moguls, but also one of its biggest benefactors.

### **George A. Nelson - 2010**

At Logan High School, George Nelson was a key playmaker on the football, basketball, and baseball teams. He quarterbacked the Rangers during his sophomore year, a season in which Logan's football team was only defeated once. Off the field, George's sharp mind and leadership ability earned him a scholarship that helped pay for college. Upon graduation from UW-La Crosse in 1962, George was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps and was soon off to serve his country in the Vietnam War. After the war, George took his leadership skills used on the battlefield and applied them to the business world. With his wife, Barbara Allen, Logan class of 1960, and three children, George moved to Chicago and began to climb the corporate ladder at International Business Machines (IBM). All in all, George was responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars worth of business deals and was an integral part of IBM's victory in a 1973 anti-trust lawsuit brought about by the Federal Government—the largest such lawsuit in history. George Nelson's considerable charitable activities have included memorializing fellow Vietnam veterans, working to provide low-income housing, coaching, and donating money for numerous scholarships. George Washington once said, "I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain the character of an honest man." It is one of George A. Nelson's favorite quotes and the mantra by which he leads his life—he is an honest, honorable man of character and one of Logan's finest.

### **Elwood Harebo - 2011**

Elwood Harebo graduated from Logan High School in 1950. The passion he developed for athletics left an indelible mark on Elwood, and even sixty-one years later, you can still find him on the football gridiron or softball field officiating sporting matches. His financial support and leadership skills have also been put to use representing Logan High School on the Booster Club and Alumni Association. After high school, Elwood received a degree in Accounting from Western Wisconsin Technical Institute, served honorably in the United States Army, and married Mary Johnson. Mary and Elwood had two daughters, Lori and Tami, who both graduated from Logan; his family now includes two grandchildren, Jennifer and Bennett, and one great-grandchild, Maya. In 1979, Elwood was named the "Outstanding Businessman of the Year" by the Wisconsin Association of Vocational and Adult Education. His honor was for a career that included twenty years of teaching night classes in business at Western Technical College and a day job that saw him rise from a union floor position with Trane Company to a management career at Trane and Chart Heat Exchangers. In 2004, Elwood retired after fifty years of service to his employers. Elwood has donated his time, talents, and money to many organizations, such as the Cavalets Baton and Drum Corps, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the WIAA. At Logan High School, he served as an advisor for the new building. It was his recommendations and donations through Trane Company which helped create the printing program in Technical Education. Elwood Harebo's family, career, and philanthropy are evidence of a life well lived. His work for the students of Logan High School continues to this day. Elwood may have graduated in 1950, but his life is proof that one never ceases being a "Ranger."





## **Rev. Dr. Fungchatou Lo - 2011**

*Fungchatou (Tou) Lo, Logan class of 1985, has chosen to take a path less travelled, spreading the word of his savior, Jesus Christ, in a journey of faith that has taken him half way around the world and back again. Fungchatou Lo was born in Laos and entered the United States as a political refugee. It was at Logan that a girl he fell in love with would forever change his life and start him down the path toward becoming a Lutheran Minister. Fungchatou earned degrees from the UW-La Crosse, the UW-Madison, and ultimately a Doctoral Degree in Urban Studies from the UW-Milwaukee. He worked as a School Social Worker for Logan High School for two years, was the President of Lo-Pha Society, Inc. for three years, and spent ten years as a Professor of Social Work at the UW-Oshkosh and St. John's University before he began studying in the seminary at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. In 2007, Fungchatou became an ordained minister in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) and answered a call to be a missionary to Indonesia and eventually to Cambodia through LCMS World Mission. Along with his wife, Kalia, their children, Gaozong Faith and Xozong Mercy, he is now serving the Lord in Cambodia helping people meet their basic needs here on Earth, including housing and food, while nourishing their souls in the message of the Church. As a fluent speaker of five languages, Fungchatou helped local schools in Indonesia train teachers in English and develop school curriculum, and he is also now a teacher of theology in Cambodia. He is a professional Gospel singer, a researcher, an author of two books on Hmong history and economics, and a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Fungchatou Lo's journey of faith has taken him from poverty to the heights of the academic world and back again. It has also taken him to a most deserved honor—the Logan High School Wall of Fame.*

## **William Paul Luedke - 2012**

*William Paul Luedke, or Bill, as his friends called him, struggled mightily to achieve what he did. Born on April 23, 1914, he was the oldest of seven children from a poor north side family. As a child, Bill worked at home to help his mother while he attended Franklin Elementary School. Bill excelled academically at Logan but took particular interest in science class. During high school, Bill worked at Gundersen Clinic to help make ends meet for his family. After graduating from Logan High School in 1932, Bill attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received a degree in Pharmacology in 1936. In 1938, Bill married Virginia Willard. Together they had two children, five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Professionally, Bill found great success in his career as the Chief Pharmacist for Gundersen Clinic—a job he held for over 30 years. Along the way, Bill collected numerous accolades, including the Bowl of Hygieia award for his outstanding community service in pharmacy in 1977. Bill was a mentor to many pharmacy student interns. It was a source of great pride to him that all of his students passed their pharmacy boards on their first try. Bill was the President of the La Crosse Board of Education where he was instrumental in the planning of the “new” Central High School. He was also part of the first CESA Board. Bill's commitment to education is summed up in his words: “I am particularly interested in teaching the youth. For they shall be the leaders of tomorrow—teach them the right way to go.” Bill lived that ideal through tireless work as a scout leader in the Boy Scouts, serving as a role model for hundreds of young boys during countless weekend camping trips. Bill was also a longtime member of the Kiwanis Club, worked with the United Way, and was an important member of the congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church, where the pastor always requested that Bill be the head usher at important church functions. In his late 60's, Bill retired to care for his wife. On June 23, 2002, he died at the age of 88. Over the course of his life, Bill loved fishing, cracking jokes, and telling stories. More importantly, though, he left his mark in the world by leaving his community a nicer place than he found it.*

## **Kathryn “Kappy” (Miller) Swanson - 2012**

*Kathryn Swanson and her family were always building something bigger and better, both figuratively and literally. Kathryn, or Kappy, as her friends and family affectionately call her, was born in La Crosse at Grandview Hospital; she was the third girl of four children. Kathryn lived her early childhood years in Big Spring, Texas. She returned to La Crosse in time to start kindergarten at Franklin Elementary School. In 1952, Kappy graduated from Logan High School. Five years later, she married, Eugene (“Buz”), who would later become her business partner. Kathryn's career included time working at the State Bank, Exchange Bank, and La Crosse Trust Company. It was in 1972 that their business began with Buz buying a crane. Kathryn worked diligently in the office for the Modern Crane Service until her retirement in 1988, transforming a small one-crane business into a major crane and rigging operation. Material success did not go to Kathryn's head, however. Rather than retiring comfortably, Kappy got busy spending her time giving back to the community. Her work delivering meals on wheels, helping Trinity Lutheran Church with their Children's Clothes Closet, and knitting prayer shawls and afghans have enriched countless lives. Through it all, Kappy has remained an integral part of the Logan Family. She is one of Logan's biggest sport fans and has donated her time, labor, and plenty of homemade treats for Logan activities. Kappy is a cornerstone of the annual Ranger Rally, and her name adorns the Swanson athletic field donated to the school by her family. Throughout all of her business and personal success, Kappy has remained loyal to both her community and her Alma Mater of Logan High School, and she truly is the embodiment of what it means to be a Logan Ranger.*





## **Dr. Charles H. Miller III—2013**

*Dr. Charles H. Miller III was many things during his life--a dedicated family man, a veteran, a surgeon, and an advocate for public education; however, unlike many Wall of Fame inductees, Dr. Miller was not a Logan alumnus. He graduated instead from Washington High School in Milwaukee (class of '48). Charles was a Ranger at heart, though. His son, Charles IV, and two daughters, Jeanette and Heather, all went to Logan. Dr. Miller was a frequent attendee of school events and Logan graduation ceremonies. His work that touched the lives of thousands of Logan students alone qualifies him for a spot on the Logan High Wall of Fame.*

*Charles "Charlie" Miller was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1931, but spent much of his childhood in Illinois and Milwaukee. In 1948, at the age of 16, he graduated from high school. In 1950, he was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated with the Class of '54. Charles worked at the Pentagon for two years as well as with the American Naval Intelligence Service in Japan. Following his service in Japan, Charles attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School and was the senior class president. Several years later, in 1971, he moved to La Crosse where he joined the Surgery Department at Gundersen Lutheran. From 1971 to 1997, Dr. Miller was a top surgeon and a fixture in training resident doctors.*

*Dr. Miller's other passions in life were music, church, and his family. Charles sang in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, he sang in the UW-La Crosse Choral Union, and he even guest conducted the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra. As a member of Christ Episcopal Church, Charles was a fixture of the congregation. After he retired from his practice, Dr. Miller found joy by chasing after his grandchildren, playing golf with friends, and being in nature at his lake cottage with his wife Susan and family. Both family members and friends would agree if there was one word that symbolized how Charles led his life and how others saw him it would be "nice." That fits with Charles' personal motto: "If you can't say something nice about someone, then don't say anything at all."*

*Charles believed in the value of public education and worked tirelessly to support students in the School District of La Crosse. He served on the School Board for 15 years, many as president. While on the Board, Charles was an advocate for boundary changes to assist students of lower socio-economic backgrounds. Dr. Miller also worked with the Cooperative Education School Association as well as the Wisconsin Association of School Boards. From 1992-2006, Charles was president of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. In 1990, the Wisconsin State Medical Society recognized Dr. Miller's service by naming him the "Physician Citizen of the Year." His work on behalf of young people left our area a much better place, and his impact on La Crosse schools, in particular, will be felt for generations, making Dr. Miller a Ranger through and through.*

## **Gerald J. Knutson—2013**

*At the annual Academy Awards ceremony, the votes are tabulated and certified by the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse, for whom Gerald (Jerry) Knutson, class of 1983, worked. Jerry's induction into the Logan Wall of Fame is the Ranger version of an Oscar and should come as no surprise, as his hard work has earned him accolades his entire life.*

*At Logan High, Jerry Knutson was the rare student who excelled at both athletics and academics at the highest levels. By the time he graduated, he had six varsity letters for football, basketball, and baseball and was the salutatorian of his class. In college, Jerry was named the Accounting Student of the Year for 1987 at Marquette University. Jerry's long pedigree includes being a Certified Public Accountant ('87), a Certified Management Accountant ('94), and receiving an MBA from the University of Minnesota ('00).*

*Jerry's drive, intelligence, and sense of teamwork have led him, his wife, and two sons all over the world. In Cairo, Egypt, and Jakarta, Indonesia, Jerry worked as an advisor to some of the largest Fortune 500 companies in the world, such as Coca-Cola, Exxon, and Disney. More recently, Jerry worked for UnitedHealth Group in London, England, where he served as the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer for their 13 clinical research businesses. After spending 14 years helping UnitedHealth grow into a leading health insurer, he is currently (2013) the Chief Financial Officer for Amplifon USA, the maker of Miracle Ear hearing aids.*

*Although his work in corporate America has taken him to the top rungs of success, Jerry's advice to "go anywhere to chase your dream, but don't forget where you came from when you get there" fits with his commitment of giving back to the community. Jerry is the current president of the Wayzata (Minnesota) Athletic Boosters, has been on the board for the Center for Victims of Torture, has volunteered for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Boys and Girls Club, and coaches future leaders, including sons Eric and Adam, in youth lacrosse, baseball, football, and basketball. Moreover, Jerry's yearly "adventure trips" with friends and fellow Logan alumni are an annual reminder of his Ranger roots.*

*Though Jerry Knutson's induction in the Logan Wall of Fame does not come with a golden statue or a glamorous walk down the red carpet, it is a permanent recognition of a life lived as a successful teammate, businessman, and humanitarian. Jerry is the embodiment of what one can achieve by always looking to the future but never forgetting the past.*



## **Reginald “Reggie” L. Bicha—2013**

Reggie Bicha (class of 1987) is all about firsts. He was the first student Board of Education representative from Logan and one of the founders of the Logan Parent Show Choir Organization. In his career as a social worker, Reggie's firsts include being the inaugural Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Bicha's trailblazing work has improved the lives and safety of young children across the states of Wisconsin and Colorado.

After leaving Logan High, Reggie Bicha has been a man on the move. He enrolled in the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, earning a bachelor's degree in Social Work in 1992. Reggie then moved to Monroe County, Wisconsin, where he served as a social worker and child abuse investigator. While juggling his professional life, Reggie started a family and worked on a Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota. In 2000, Reggie was selected as a "Title IV-E Child Welfare Scholar" by the University.

The peripatetic Bicha was next off to Pierce County, Wisconsin, to serve as the Director of Human Services. Bicha's professionalism and aptitude for helping people in need prompted a call from Governor Jim Doyle, who tapped Bicha to become the Cabinet Secretary of the State of Wisconsin's Department of Children and Families. In his capacity as a major departmental head, Bicha consolidated more than 30 statewide programs from two agencies into a single organization. He created the “Kidstat” performance management system to measure and improve child and family outcomes. Reggie was also instrumental in improving the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare. His reforms of Wisconsin child care programs resulted in a net savings of more than \$100 million in subsidies.

Bicha's service to Wisconsin earned notice across the country. In 2011, the Governor of Colorado offered Reggie a position to become the Executive Director of their Department of Human Services. While Wisconsin's loss has been Colorado's gain, Reggie continues to help children and families in need. Both the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire have honored him for being a distinguished alumnus. Reggie continues to be a pioneer, an innovator, and a humanitarian. The firsts keep coming, but to Reggie Bicha, the most important first has always been his commitment to healthy children and families.

## **Ronald Cotton—2014**

*Ronald Cotton, Logan Class of 1951*

In 21<sup>st</sup> century America, the phrase “moonshot,” which refers to John F. Kennedy's audacious goal to send a man to the moon by the end of the 1960s, has become a catchall. It is a handy way to describe any important project whose implementation and success seems far-fetched at best. Ronald Kenneth Cotton, a 1951 Logan graduate and pioneer in the field of engineering, was part of the original moonshot. Without Ron's knowhow, it is entirely plausible that Neil Armstrong may not have made his “giant leap for mankind” during the 1960s.

For Ron, the journey from Logan to the Apollo program and beyond began with a tight-knit family who resided on Copeland Avenue, where his father, Burr, and mother, Pearl, owned and operated “Cotton's Cozy Corner.” There on the North Side of La Crosse, Ron and his brothers, Chuck, Sid, and Gale, found success in athletics and academics. At Logan, Ron was a football and track star. Ron was more than a great athlete, though; he was also active in drama, choir, and was a finalist in the Junior X competition.

After his graduation from Logan, Ron served his country in the Navy as an Electrician's Mate. He worked on three destroyers and ended his Naval career in 1956, enrolling the same year in the Milwaukee School of Engineering under the G.I. Bill. Ron graduated from MSOE in 1959 as the salutatorian of his class and as a forceful advocate for the treatment of veterans as adults rather than kids on campus.

In 1959, Ron was hired by Cutler Hammer, which is now known as Honeywell Industry. There, Ron designed a crane system mounted on a barge to help build a tunnel and bridge to span the Southern tip of Chesapeake Bay. Seeing his leadership and knowledge, NASA called on Ron for their Apollo Launch Control team in 1965, where he worked on cranes vital in the construction of the Saturn rockets and Apollo vehicles. In 1972, astronaut Owen Garriot awarded Ron the “Silver Snoopy” for “Outstanding Launch Support.” The pins, which were actually flown in space, are meant to recognize outstanding effort by NASA employees without whom space missions could not succeed.

After the conclusion of the Apollo program in 1977, Ron started to work full-time for Bendix Guidance Systems in Huntsville, Alabama. While in Huntsville, Ron also had stints as an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama and as a Payload Mission Project Manager at Teledyne Brown. From 1983 to 1996, Ron returned to NASA, working at the Kennedy Space Center as a division manager.



While Ron was there for many of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's biggest moments, he was also there for his friends, family, and community. Throughout all those years of hard work and toil, Ron remained a committed father and husband. When his two children, John and Susan, became active in competitive swimming, so did Ron. When his church needed a voice for the choir, he joined. With so much going on, Ron found refuge at sea, sailing on his boat and mentally unwinding.

Ronald Kenneth Cotton's life is proof that there are no limits to human achievement. From a humble North Side upbringing to helping slip the surly bonds of outer space, Ron's work is the epitome of mankind's ingenuity. Just as Neil Armstrong's footprint will forever be on the moon, Ron Cotton, class of 1951, will now forever be enshrined on the Logan High School Wall of Fame.

## **Harold "Deak" Swanson—2015**

### ***Logan Class of 1959***

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill once remarked that "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us." By that definition, builder and humanitarian Harold E. "Deak" Swanson, class of 1959, has been shaping Logan, the North Side, and the Coulee Region his entire life. From literally erecting what would become the new Logan High School in 1979 to untold hours volunteering for those in need, Deak Swanson has earned his place on the Ranger Wall of Fame by being an integral part of constructing our community physically and socially.

Deak Swanson was born on July 19, 1941. Growing up with two brothers and two sisters, Deak's childhood home was crowded, but happy. His parents instilled in their children a strong work ethic and sense of values. While Deak attended Logan, he helped at his family business, Swanson Heavy Moving, which was founded by his grandfather, Elmer Swanson. Upon graduating high school, Deak served his country in the Marines and National Guard. After his active duty was over, Deak returned to La Crosse and essentially never quit working.

In 1970, Deak left Swanson Heavy Moving to form his own company, Swanson (Steel) Erecting, with his brothers Bob and Gary. Deak served as president of the company from 1990 to 2004. The two businesses, which merged in 1970, have left an indelible imprint on the La Crosse area. Deak and the Swanson family were involved with building the Valley View Mall, the U.S. Bank Tower, and the modernization of the G. Heileman Brewery. When the current Logan High School building was constructed, his company excavated the site and built the frame. Taken together with the site of the football field, which was donated by his grandfather, Deak and his family "made" Logan High School.

Despite the tireless effort required to run a business, Deak balanced his professional life with his family and charitable endeavors. Deak has been a model for his two sons, Derek (LHS class of 1985) and Josh (LHS class of 1989), inspiring them to follow in their father's footsteps as a successful accountant and construction lawyer, respectively. Deak has also taught his children to give back. Since high school, Deak has served on the La Crosse City Council, the Logan Booster Club, the board of the Boys and Girls Club, and on the board of La Crosse County Human Services. Furthermore, he has worked with LARC, the United Way, the Coulee Council on Addictions, Riverfront, Bethany Lutheran Homes, and Lutheran Health System. Together with his wife Cindi, the Swansons have been local fixtures for years.

While Deak has never sought recognition for his community activism, he could fill a room with his awards and accolades. Only 20 people a year are given the President's Award for the Boys and Girls Club. Deak won it, in part for his leadership in raising the money required to build the current club. Deak was named the Mississippi Valley Chapter of Professional Fundraisers Volunteer of the Year. He was proclaimed a Paul Harris Fellow, the highest honor given by Rotary International. In 2006, Viterbo University gave Deak emeritus status for being a "trustee for life."

A successful school like Logan High is built on a strong foundation that includes community support. Deak Swanson has been part of building that foundation with both steel and a never-ending commitment to the greater La Crosse area community. In echoing Winston Churchill, what Deak has built over the course of his life has shaped us all.



## **Richard “Dick” Swantz—2015**

While there are thousands of people who can claim the honor of being a Logan Ranger, Richard “Dick” Swantz is one of the few people who can say that he helped define what being a Ranger means. Logan High School’s staff, students, and alumni are indebted to the tireless work, vision, and leadership of Dick Swantz, 2015 Logan Wall of Fame Inductee.

Dick was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on June 2, 1935. After graduating from Fond du Lac Senior High in 1953, Dick served in the U.S. Army as a military police officer and then matriculated at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, earning a degree in History Education in 1958. Dick and his wife, Judith, spent the next 19 years in McHenry, Illinois, where Dick was a history teacher, then an elementary school principal, a high school principal, and finally the superintendent of schools.

In 1977, Dick, along with his wife and three sons, made a major career and life decision and moved to La Crosse, where Dick became the longest serving superintendent in School District of La Crosse history (1977 to 1998). During his tenure as superintendent, Dick presided over the construction of new Logan High School, which was finished in 1979. In a time when there was a perception of “two” La Crosse—the “poor” North Side and the “rich” South Side—the new school and Dick’s leadership were transformational events in city and educational history. With Mr. Swantz at the helm, Logan and the North Side were no longer second-class citizens. Instead of looking to avoid Logan, people were purposefully choosing to move into homes in the Logan boundary. In Dick’s own words, the construction of Logan became “a springboard for equality.”

It is no accident that Dick is still a beloved figure among veteran teachers in the School District of La Crosse, often greeted in appearances at district functions with a standing ovation. His tenure as superintendent is fondly remembered as a time of high student achievement and strong support for public education. In recognition of his service, Dick was named the 1995 Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year. In 1998, Viterbo University awarded Dick an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters—a plaudit that is especially cherished by him.

Upon his retirement from the School District of La Crosse, Dick reinvented himself by diving into local activism and then into local politics. From the Rotary Club to the La Crosse Community Foundation and numerous other organizations in between, Dick spent countless hours focused on making La Crosse a better place to live. In 2007, Dick ran for La Crosse City Council and became an elected public servant for the first time in his life. As a Councilmember and later Council President, Dick has been a key figure in reinvigorating the economy and neighborhoods of La Crosse.

In La Crosse history, figures such as Mayor Frank Powell may have been more colorful, but Richard “Dick” Swantz is arguably among the most influential people to ever live in the city. Dick Swantz has been a leader in La Crosse for nearly 30 years, first in education and then in politics. His contributions to Logan High School and civic life in the 7 Rivers Region will be felt for generations to come.

## **Dr. Robin Heslip - 2016**

Trendsetters usually come from hip neighborhoods in big cities or occupy places in elite social circles. Dr. Robin Heslip grew up in La Crosse and was raised by a family that was solidly middle class. Yet, she definitely qualifies as a trendsetter. Dr. Heslip was a global citizen before being a global citizen was cool. From the Logan High School class of 1974 to a career that has literally spanned the earth, Robin has profoundly influenced students and fellow educators around the world.

Robin Heslip was born on the north side of La Crosse in 1956. Dr. Heslip’s mother, Maryalyce (Logan class of 1942), and father, Earl, owned and operated a local grocery store, Heslip’s Market, until the late 1960’s. As a child, Robin’s mother and father instilled in her the values of integrity, curiosity, courage, and compassion. By the time Robin entered Logan High, she was already a confident young woman who was ready to pursue her passions and dreams. For Robin, that included a wide and diverse range of activities, such as choir, band, yearbook, National Honor Society, class treasurer, and Pep Club President. Dr. Heslip was also a two-sport athlete, competing in track and intramural basketball. In 1974, Dr. Robin Heslip graduated from Logan High as the valedictorian of her class and never slowed down.





## **Dr. Robin Heslip - 2016 (cont.)**

From 1974 to 1978, Dr. Heslip attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where she earned a degree in Education and graduated with highest honors. Dr. Heslip's first job out of college was at Sparta High School where she taught social studies. While imparting the value of education to her students, Robin continued to work on her own. In 1984, Robin received her Master's Degree in Education from UW-La Crosse. Not one to give herself a break, Robin Heslip became Dr. Robin Heslip in 1991, earning a PhD from the University of Oregon, where she was awarded a full fellowship. While obtaining her PhD, Dr. Heslip taught social studies and English methods courses in the division of Teacher Education. She was also an Administrative Assistant and Supervisor for the University, where she coordinated over 100 student teacher placements.

In 1987, Dr. Heslip started a peripatetic journey that would take her across the globe multiple times and onto the Logan High School Wall of Fame. Dr. Heslip held her first position overseas as a social studies teacher at the American School of Kinshasa in Zaire, Africa. Robin returned to the United States for two years to complete her PhD, after which, she moved to Morocco, where she taught International Baccalaureate history and social studies courses, as well as coordinated the curriculum development at Rabat American School from 1991 to 1995. Dr. Heslip's next stop was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Nearly ten thousand miles away from her hometown, Dr. Heslip served as the Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Development at the International School of Kuala Lumpur. In essence, Robin was tasked with helping teachers realize their full potential as educators. Her success in that endeavor led Dr. Heslip to her next adventure in South America.

In 2001, Dr. Heslip journeyed halfway around the world again, this time to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she accepted a job at Lincoln, The American International School, as its High School Principal. Supervising a staff of 40, Robin's leadership resulted in a stronger curriculum, higher expectations for students, and rising test scores. Dr. Heslip served for six years as the High School Principal before accepting her next position as the Director of The American International School in Zagreb, Croatia. At the AISZ, Dr. Heslip brought all her leadership skills to bear. Her support, vision, and people skills resulted in the development of plans for a new school building and the foundation and hope for a renaissance inside of it. Dr. Heslip is currently serving as the Superintendent of the American Community School of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. Working with a staff of over 200 people, Dr. Heslip is ensuring that the children of U.S. Embassy personnel are receiving a world-class education thousands of miles from the United States.

For many people global citizenship falls short of its true meaning. What is intended as participation in a global community is in practice not much more than paying attention to the foreign news section of the daily paper. Dr. Robin Heslip, Logan High School class of 1974, is a living embodiment of what true global citizenship is all about. Her tireless devotion to spreading and instilling the love of education in young people has taken her all over the planet and changed lives for the better wherever she has traveled. Everyone wants to change the world. Dr. Robin Heslip

## **Larry Myhra—2017**

*A bridge often serves as a convenient metaphor linking disparate eras together. In his career at Logan, the work and legacy of Larry Myhra is that of a bridge from the past Logan to the present Logan, from the old building to the new, from a school considered "second best" to one of excellence. Larry Myhra's leadership as a teacher, coach, administrator, and visionary will be felt for generations to come on the Northside of La Crosse as new Rangers benefit from the bridges built during his tenure.*

*Born on an Iowa, Wisconsin dairy farm in 1951, Larry and his three siblings learned the value of hard work and perseverance. Eventually moving to Menomonee Falls, he graduated in 1969 as a four-sport athlete who was inspired by teachers and coaches to pursue a degree in education at UW-La Crosse. Larry became the first in his family to attend college, earning degrees in Biology and Physical Education while a member of several championship football and track teams.*



## **Larry Myhra—2017 (cont.)**

*In 1973, Larry Myhra made two pivotal life decisions. The first (and best) was getting engaged to his wife Kerry, with whom he has three children, all Logan graduates, Katie (1997), Joe (1999), and Zach (2001), as well as 7 grandchildren. Kerry taught 34 years at Longfellow Middle as a PE/Health teacher and coach. His second best decision was accepting a Biology teaching and coaching position at Logan. It would be the start of a 31-year long career at Logan teaching Biology, Advanced Biology, Environmental Science, Anatomy/Physiology, and Biology Seminar as well as serving as Science Department Chair. From 1982-1995 he was the Athletic Director (eventually Activities Director), Dean of Students from 1990-1995, and Associate Principal from 1995-2004. Until his selection as Associate Principal, Larry often served in multiple roles--as teacher, coach, and Athletic Director in one period and for several other years as Dean of Students, Activities Director, and teacher.*

*Coaching and eventually leading the athletic staff at Logan was an integral part of Larry Myhra's career. Upon his hiring, he served as head track coach and the assistant coach in football and basketball. From 1978-1985, Larry was the head football coach. These were the days of the Big Rivers Conference where Logan held the distinction of the smallest enrollment school. His teams reflected his determination and doggedness. As head track coach, Larry combined the boys and girls program under one head coach. In the basketball program, Larry worked with the legendary Tom Manchester in developing Logan as a basketball power reaching the state tournament.*

*It is undeniable that Larry Myhra was instrumental in making Logan what it is today. As well as serving on the planning committee for the new building, he worked the summer of 1979 with fellow teacher Pat Mulrooney in moving all furniture and school materials from the old to the new building. During his tenure, he transformed the Athletic Director to Activities Director, overseeing all clubs and organizations. In that capacity, he assisted in moving from the Big Rivers to the present Mississippi Valley Conference and added the sports of soccer, skiing, and hockey for Logan students. His passion for student advocacy was evident in his working with Karen Wrolson in developing the LaCrossroads Charter School. He expanded course offerings at Logan, had a hand in hiring much of the current staff, and even established and chaired the Wall of Fame Committee in 1985.*

*In 2004, Larry was asked to serve as Principal at Lincoln Middle and District Science Supervisor. Logan's loss was Lincoln and the District's gain as he served there until retirement in 2013. Under his lead, Lincoln added the SOTA II and Montessori Charter Schools and was named as a state "Promise School" five times. He is currently an adjunct instructor in the Educational Leadership graduate school at Viterbo University. After 45 years in La Crosse, Larry and Kerry moved to Hayward, Wisconsin.*

*Larry Myhra's time at Logan (1973-2004) were years characterized by immense change. Old buildings were replaced, old ways of teaching were modernized, and old stereotypes of what it means to be a Logan Ranger were revolutionized. As a change agent, Larry Myhra was critical in the bridge to a better Logan High School and is a rightful member of the Wall of Fame.*

## **Yer L. Vang—2017**

*Yer L. Vang (class of 1994) is a living example of the American Dream in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A political refugee from the Vietnam War who came to the United States in 1979 at the age of four, Yer was born into poverty and chaos, yet transformed her station in life through intelligence, education, family support, and sheer force of will. From the humblest of beginnings to law school graduate and advocate for immigrants and the poor, Yer Vang is one of Logan High School's most inspiring stories about the latent potential in all young people to live the Logan motto of dream, believe, and achieve. In the process, Yer's work is improving the lives and safety of those less fortunate across the Midwest.*

*Yer was born in 1975 in the Nongkhai Refugee Camp in Thailand. Her mother, Lia Vue, immigrated to Decatur, Iowa in 1979 with Yer and 6 older siblings. Yer's mother sacrificed throughout her life to support her children. For Yer, her mother served as an inspiration for the value of education and perseverance in the face of adversity. After attending grade school at Hamilton, Yer moved to the Northside for middle and high school. At Logan, Yer played volleyball, wrote for the school newspaper, joined the National Honor Society, and was a leader on the Multicultural Committee. At the end of her junior year, Yer's mom passed away tragically. Through the support of favorite teachers, such as Lori Kaminski, Yer was able to maintain her grades and make it successfully through her senior year, despite the incredibly difficult circumstances. Yer's most important decision as a student was made when she joined the Upward Bound Program at UW-La Crosse. Upward Bound proved to be a turning point for Yer in seeing broader possibilities for herself beyond high school. The Upward Bound project at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse serves low-income students and students whose parents do not hold bachelor's degrees. Yer used the support of the program as a springboard to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she was a member of the Iron Cross Honor Society for her service work on campus. Yer graduated with a major in English Literature and a minor in Asian American Studies in 1998.*

## **Yer L. Vang—2017**

*Following her undergraduate work, Yer enrolled at the UW-Madison School of Law, graduating and joining the Wisconsin Bar in 2001. Yer quickly started to use her law degree as an advocate for those less fortunate, taking a job from 2001-2006 with the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence and co-founding the Wisconsin Asian Bar Association. Yer's legal work combatting domestic violence involved consulting for national, state, and local groups involved with the issue and providing legal services to immigrant survivors of abuse.*

*From 2006-2011, Yer was appointed to former Governor Jim Doyle's cabinet within the Office of the Director of State Employment Relations in Madison as the Deputy Director/Executive Assistant. Yer supervised the agency's \$5 million budget, managed its training program, and oversaw a staff of 50 people. From 2011-2016, Yer served as a partner in the Apeiron Law Group, where she represented clients with immigration law needs. During that time, Yer also taught as an adjunct lecturer at UW-Madison in the Asian American Studies Program. Yer is currently employed by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque where she is an immigration attorney representing immigrant children and families. Additionally, over the course of her professional life, Yer has presented as an expert in her field at numerous conferences across the country regarding the rights of immigrants. That work was recognized in 2006 by the American Bar Association, who named Yer a "Minorities in the Profession Scholar" in the young lawyers division.*

*As she enters her early forties and the prime of her career, Yer Vang continues to be a ground breaker and a humanitarian. Her work is bettering the lives of people in the Midwest and giving voice to marginalized groups who feel at risk in a political climate that is increasingly hostile to immigrants and refugees. Moreover, Yer serves as a role model for what is possible. Her induction onto the Wall of Fame will serve forevermore as unambiguous proof to future Logan students that there is nothing one cannot overcome with a tenacious spirit and a drive to leave the world a better place.*

## **Dr. David R. Osborne—2018**

*In 1951, the same year that professor of Zoology Dr. David R. Osborne graduated from Logan High, Patti Page had a hit with "Mockin' Bird Hill." She sang, "Tra-la-la, tweedlee dee dee, it gives me a thrill to wake up in the morning to the mockin' bird's trill." The life work of Dr. Osborne has given avian lovers all over the world a thrill as his insights have helped human understanding of bird behavior, anatomy, and population structure. As an Eagle Scout and a scholar, Dr. Osborne's life has been defined both literally and metaphorically by birds. It is appropriate then, that he takes flight onto the Logan High School Wall of Fame.*

*Upon graduation from Logan in 1951, David enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse where he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1956. David was then drafted into the Army, where he spent four years stationed in France.*

*In 1967, Dr. Osborne was hired at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, as an associate professor. David quickly earned tenure and worked for Miami University as a full professor for the next 31 years, until his retirement in 1998*

*In 1985, the city of Oxford recognized Dr. Osborne's contributions to his field and community by naming him its "Citizen of the Year." Professional organizations also took note of David's work. In 1986, he was elected as a Fellow to the Ohio Academy of Science.*

*In his career and personal life, David Osborne has inspired, and continues to inspire students in the field of ornithology. From humble roots as a Northside kid growing up during the Great Depression, Dr. Osborne's career has soared with the help of caring parents, excellent teachers, and a passion for his vocation. Dr. Osborne, one of the world's foremost experts in birds, is proof that for a Logan Ranger the sky is the limit.*



