

About The HERD Foundation

The HERD Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded through a joint effort by Elizabeth Haddle, a member of the Mathews Board of Education, and Heidi Brown of Small Business Management, Inc. in Vienna, Ohio. The foundation's main focus is on advancing education and developing infrastructure within the school district.

Under the leadership of Treasurer Heidi Brown, the HERD Foundation operates through three subcommittees: Facilities Improvement, Scholarship Fund, and Hall of Fame. The foundation's primary goals include fundraising for special projects that benefit the school district, providing scholarships for students attending trade schools, and recognizing outstanding alumni and individuals through the distinguished Hall of Fame.

While the pivotal roles of Beth and Heidi in establishing the foundation are recognized, it's important to note that the foundation is essentially a contribution to the Mathews Local School District and the neighboring community. For more information, please visit the HERD Foundation's Facebook page or contact Beth Haddle at beth.haddle@mathewslocal.org.

The HERD Foundation, is thrilled to introduce an exclusive personalized brick fundraiser, offering a unique chance to leave a legacy in support of the construction of a playground that will benefit future generations of little Mustangs.

All proceeds from the brick fundraiser will contribute to the development of a safe, all-inclusive, and age-appropriate playground fostering imaginative play, social interaction, creativity, improved concentration, and physical well-being. Playgrounds play a vital role in nurturing children's development, combining physical activity with social and emotional growth while promoting imaginative play and the development of essential life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and resilience.

This opportunity allows you to promote your business with your own logo and phone number, commemorate your experience at Mathews, pay tribute to a loved one, or leave a remembrance.

For more information, please visit <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/mes> if you don't have internet access printed forms are available.

This project ends September 30th 2025.

PLEASE NOTE: When personalizing bricks all blank spaces count as characters and carefully review your order before submitting payment. This campaign will run through September with the bricks being permanently placed at the Sheridan Drive location following construction of the new elementary gym.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Elizabeth Haddle - beth.haddle@mathewslocal.org
The HERD Foundation, PO Box 21, Vienna, Ohio 44473

MATHEWS

Hall of Fame



Salvatore's Italian Grille
Warren, Ohio

August 16, 2025 • 5:00 p.m.

Program

Welcome.....*Beth Haddle*
Invocation.....*Sunett Wise*
Master of Ceremonies.....*Steve Vesey*
Commendations.....*David Thomas*
Ohio State Representative 65th District
Introduction of Honorees.....*Steve Vesey*

Dinner with Cash Bar

Alma Mater

In the land of mighty Mustangs
Colors red and black we raise.
Proudly stands our alma mater.
Mathews High we shout your praise.
In the land of mighty Mustangs
Never yielding is our vow for
Mathews Alma Mater a victory is
ours now.

This program is dedicated to all Alumni, Staff, and Administration
of Mathews Local School District past and present.

Donors

The Cafaro Foundation
Gary Clower
The Leach Family
The James Family
Howland Giant Eagle

*Donations to the HERD Foundation
can be made by:*

Pay pal: [PayPal.ME/TheHerdFoundation](https://www.paypal.com/paytotheherdfoundation)

Checks payable to The Herd Foundation

Venmo: @TheHerdFoundation

P.O. Box 21, Vienna, Ohio 44473

Questions: Please contact Beth Haddle at 330-717-9148



Committee Members

- Terry Woodyard - Chair
- Mike Miller "Class of 1971"
- Junett Wise - Co-Chair "Class of 1982"
- Beth Haddle
- Mary Jefferson Gough "Class of 1984"
- Gary Clower "Class of 1971"
- Robin Clower Timko "Class of 1974"
- Heidi Brown, Herd Foundation Treasurer

Committees of the HERD Foundation

Hall of Fame, Facilities Improvement, Scholarship

Current Projects Include:

The Mathews Elementary Playground Project

Mathews Hall of Fame Class of 2025

*The Mathews Hall of Fame Committee
of the Herd Foundation
is proud to announce the 2025 class:*

List of Honorees

- Carol Peigowski PenningtonClass of 1969
- Honorable Mark S. Finamore.....Class of 1974
- Dr. Jeff HayesClass of 1979
- Sean LeachClass of 1979
- Bobbi McLain SimonsClass of 1989
- Ret. Air Force Captain, First Officer Mark Garnet.....Class of 1992
- Dr. Christine Novicky.....Class of 1996
- Tara Ford AdamsClass of 2005
- Dr. Andrew Morgan.....Class of 2013



Carol Peigowski Pennington

Carol Peigowski Pennington, a 1969 graduate of Mathews High School, has made an indelible mark on the sport of bowling both locally and regionally. While she showed athletic promise early as a member of the Mathews High track team—placing 3rd in the 50-yard dash and 4th in the 100-yard dash at the District Tournament—her true calling emerged in the bowling alley.

Her enshrinement in the Mathews Hall of Fame marks her fourth hall of fame honor, following inductions into the Warren Women's Bowling Association Hall of Fame (2000), the Curbstone Coaches Hall of Fame (2014), and the Youngstown Women's Bowling Association Hall of Fame (2017).

During her senior year at Mathews, Carol attempted to start her bowling career. Her unimpressive 93 average, with little improvement the next two years, discouraged her so she quit in 1978. Her competitive drive led her back to bowling in leagues and then to Ohio Ladies Bowling Tournaments to gain experience bowling in different houses. It paid off nicely.

In 1982, Carol won the Warren Women's City All Events B (149 and under average) and the following year won the All Events A (150 and up average), the only person to win those categories back-to-back. In total, she won All Events A an amazing 8 times, more than anyone else has won it.

In 1983, Carol became the first woman to average 200 in the Warren Women's Bowling Association. She carried a 200 average for every season after with a high of 213. Her highest 3-game set was 789, which was for many years the highest ever bowled by a woman in the Warren Association. Carol bowled every Matchplay Tournament in the WBA, making it to the finals 16 out of 17 events. Twice she won the tournament in consecutive years.

In 1993, Carol also began to bowl in the Youngstown Women's Bowling Association. She partnered with Jim Wolcott to win the Youngstown Mixed Doubles Tournament. In the Youngstown WBA City Tournament, she and her teammates won the Team Event in four different years. She and her partners won the Doubles Actual Event twice. She won the Singles Actual Event once.

In 1998, Carol began bowling against the best in the world as she competed on the National Women's Pro Bowlers Tour and the Professional Women's Bowling Association regional tournaments.

Carol has given back very graciously to the sport she loves. She with her husband, AJ, have taught "Learn to Bowl" classes. She has been instrumental in forming several bowling leagues. She has served as secretary and coach for junior leagues and at Echo Lanes. For 15 years, Carol was a director of the Warren Women's Bowling Association. She helped create and was the reporter for their monthly newsletter, "The Alley Chat," which local bowlers and fans continue to enjoy at our local bowling centers.

Carol Peigowski Pennington's legacy is one of passion, perseverance, and outstanding achievement in the sport of bowling.

Inaugural Class of 2024

Dan Kennedy-Class of 1953

Rex Leach-Class of 1955

Dr. Thomas James-Class of 1959

Cynthia Anderson-Class of 1968

David Washington, Honorable Service-1970 - 2012

Mike Miller-Class of 1971

Dan McMullen-Class of 1974

Craig Duff-Class of 1981

Carole McLain O'Dell-Class of 1986

Holly Bottar Cross-Class of 1988

Dianne Rappach Kosco-Class of 1988

Kevin J. Helmick-Class of 1990

Todd McLain-Class of 1991

Andy Rieger-Class of 1991

Courtney Collins-Class of 1994

Michael Davis-Class of 2009

Cheyenne Eggens Moran-Class of 2015

Kenny Wallace-Class of 2017



Andrew Morgan

Andrew Morgan is a research scientist at the (Boston Dynamics) Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He works on building some of the most highly performing robot systems in the world. He explores planning, control and design methods to enhance robot dexterity. His work envisions a future where robots seamlessly collaborate with humans in both home and workplace.

Andrew's journey began at Mathews High School, where he graduated in 2013 after spending his years balancing academics with athletics, playing both basketball and baseball. He served as Class President 3 times, as Class Vice-President once and as National Honor Society President. As a 3-year varsity letter winner in both sports that he played, Andrew received various levels of recognition at the conference, district and state levels. As a Senate Bill 140 participant, he left Mathews with 34 college credits, enough to be considered a sophomore when starting at Youngstown State University.

Andrew would graduate from YSU in 4 years with both a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering degrees. His grade point average was exceptional 3.98/4.00 (summa cum laude from the Honors College). He also logged over 110 community service hours annually from 2013 – 2017 during his undergraduate career at YSU.

Andrew pursued graduate studies at Yale University. In 2019, he earned a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. In 2020, he earned a Master of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering. In 2023, he became a Doctor of Philosophy in Robotics (Mechanical Engineering).

At Yale, Andrew's research efforts were recognized with prestigious rewards. These include the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow, the RSS Pioneers Award, in which he was 1 of 30 selected as "the world's top early career researchers in Robotics," and the Harding Bliss Graduate Prize as Andrew was selected as the graduating doctoral student who has "done the most to further intellectual life at Yale." Throughout his PhD, he also lived in Berlin, Germany working for Amazon Robotics Artificial Intelligence and collaborating with researchers from The Technical University of Darmstadt, which has consistently secured top global university rankings.

Beyond research, Andrew remains dedicated to STEM outreach and education. He travels around the world giving talks about robotics and his research. He has traveled to all 7 continents and 53 countries. Also as an avid runner, he has completed World Marathon Majors such as Athens, Berlin, London and Chicago. Whether exploring new places, pushing the limits of robotics or training for his next race, he thrives on the pursuit of discovery and innovation. Dr. Andrew Morgan's remarkable accomplishments and global leadership in robotics make him a truly deserving inductee to the Mathews Hall of Fame.



Mark Finamore

Few individuals embody the true spirit of a Renaissance man quite like Mark Finamore. With a career spanning law, public service, education, and the arts, Mark has distinguished himself as a scholar, leader, and servant to his community—devoting decades of his life to advancing justice, preserving local traditions, and mentoring others through both example and service.

A proud 1974 graduate of Mathews High School, Mark was deeply engaged during his school years, serving as sophomore class president, yearbook editor, audio-visual aide, and lead actor in the senior class play *Cheaper by the Dozen*. He was also a snare drummer in the Mathews marching band for four years and was selected as a Boys State alternate. Mark was the youngest school board member in Trumbull County history when he was elected to the Fowler-Vienna Local School Board.

Mark's academic journey reflects the depth and breadth of his interests. He studied Pre-Law and History at Miami University of Ohio before graduating magna cum laude in Political Science from Youngstown State University in 1978. He earned his MBA from YSU in 1979 and, in 1982, received his Juris Doctor degree—graduating in the top 10% of his class—from the University of Akron School of Law. In 1977, he was also commissioned as a law enforcement officer by the State of Ohio through the Attorney General's Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

Over the past 42 years, Attorney Mark Finamore has built a distinguished legal career, serving as special counsel to 52 township governments, boards, and public agencies throughout northeastern Ohio. His courtroom successes include litigation at the Ohio Supreme Court, multiple District Courts of Appeals, and the Trumbull County Court of Common Pleas. One of his most notable legal victories came in a high-profile zoning case involving boxing legend Mike Tyson, when the court ruled that Southington Township's zoning laws did not permit Tyson to house four pet tigers on his property.

Mark's service to his hometown is equally remarkable. He was elected five times as a Vienna Township Trustee, serving 20 years in that role—beginning at age 26, the youngest trustee in Trumbull County history. He was a highly respected leader within the Trumbull Township Association, serving as its president or vice-president for 24 of his 30 years of membership. For another 24 years, he presided as a Magistrate in Girard Municipal Court, known for both his legal expertise and compassionate approach to justice.

In addition to his legal and civic accomplishments, Mark is also an accomplished photographer. For over 30 years, he captured countless individual and team portraits, preserving memories for families and school yearbooks alike. He also served for eight years as the voice of Mathews High School football, announcing home games with pride and enthusiasm.

Mark Finamore's life reflects a unique blend of scholarship, service, and creativity. Whether serving in the courtroom, township hall, or behind the camera, he has left an indelible mark on the Mathews School District, Vienna Township, Trumbull County, and the wider region of northeast Ohio. His leadership, intellect, and tireless commitment to public service make him a truly deserving inductee into the Mathews Hall of Fame.



Jeffrey Hayes

Jeff and his family moved to Vienna from Wayne, Ohio, when he was 2 years old. He attended Baker Elementary, Neal Middle School, and Mathews High School. Thanks to the encouragement of his parents, he was actively involved in the Boy Scouts from a young age and eventually earned the prestigious Eagle Scout award, after leading a project to plant 1200 trees around the community including the playground at Baker Elementary. He also played Little League, Pony League, and Colt League baseball, (and was part of the famous 1977 Trumbull County championship team).

At MHS he participated in football and track for all four years, setting school records in shotput, discus, and the 4x110 relay (all since broken). He also played basketball as a freshman and sophomore. He was fortunate to have benefited from numerous great coaches who taught him many lessons beyond sports, such as Bob Webber, Richard Wear, Bob Terlecky, Rex Leach, and Norm Barron. At MHS he was a member of the Key Club, was named to the National Honor Society, and was a class VP. He was inspired by several incredible teachers at MHS, such as Bob Webber (math and calculus), Richard Wear and Norm Barron (science) and David Washington (history), who fueled his lifelong academic interests.

After graduating from MHS in 1979, he attended Bowling Green State University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, with a minor in Mathematics. He remained at BG for two more years, receiving a Master's Degree in Chemistry, based on studies of the anti-cancer drug cis-Platinol and its interactions with DNA. He then attended The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, where he studied DNA structure, receiving a PhD in Chemistry in 1990. He pursued his interests in chromosome structure during a postdoctoral at the National Institute of Health and in 1994, took a position as an assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of Rochester Medical Center, where he is now a professor and chair of the department.

At Rochester, Jeff runs a research lab where he continues to study the basic building blocks of chromosomes. He has graduated 20 PhD students and mentored dozens of undergraduate and senior trainees in his lab. He has served on numerous national and international grant review panels and given over 100 talks about his research at institutions in the US and around the world.

As chair, Jeff runs a department of 200, including professors, graduate students, research technicians and staff, that comprise twenty research labs, two graduate programs, and an undergraduate Biochemistry BS program.

Jeff has received 12 departmental and university-wide awards for teaching and numerous awards for research accomplishments, including being named as a distinguished alumnus of Bowling Green State University, Department of Chemistry, a National Research Council Fellow, and the Arthur Kornberg Award for Research. He has received funding for his research from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and the American Cancer Society.



Tara Ford Adams

Tara Ford Adams is talented, hard-working and obviously very good at time management. How else could she graduate as Salutatorian of the Mathews High School Class of 2005 while playing 3 varsity sports each year? Likewise, how could she excel academically at John Carroll University while playing 2 varsity sports?

Tara's 1,496 career points in Mathews Girls Basketball is the all-time school record. She was an excellent outside and free throw shooter. Her quickness and ability to anticipate led her to often be at the right spot for rebounds, steals and loose balls. In 2005, Tara was selected as 2nd Team Division IV All-Ohio. She also was 1st Team NEO District. Trumbull County honored her with a 2nd Team selection in 2003 and 1st Team selections in 2004 and 2005 including its Division IV Player of the Year designation her senior year. For league play, she was picked for the ICL, 2nd Team in 2003 and 1st Team in 2004. Mathews changed league affiliation and Tara was NAC 1st Team in 2005. She especially credits her middle school coach, Mark Mollahan, and her varsity coach, John Cicero, for aiding her development as a basketball player.

Tara's track and field career as a Mustang was also special as she qualified for State 3 times and Regionals 11 times. She was All-State in the 800 meter and high jump, as well as being a state qualifier in the 400-meter. She was All-Conference all 4 years in high school. She was District Champion in the 800 meter and long jump in 2005 as well as being the Trumbull County Champion in the 400 meter. She also was named Academic All-Ohio in both 2004 and 2005.

Tara also achieved success as a Mustang volleyball player. Like in basketball and track, she earned 4 varsity letters, served as team captain her senior year and was All-Conference.

Tara graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from John Carroll University in 2009. She was a member of the highly prestigious Alpha Epsilon Delta. She served as a resident assistant mentoring student groups. She was a 3-year letter winner in basketball and a 4-year letter winner in track and field. She was the Ohio Athletic Conference Champion in the high jump and set a school record in the 800-meter.

Tara earned a Master's Degree in Biomedical Ethics from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. She started her career in pediatric public health at UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland. She is now a Senior Program Director at the University of Chicago supervising students in STEM careers.

One of Tara's most unforgettable moments as a Mustang came on graduation night in 2005—when she competed at the Regional Track & Field Meet in Navarre, missing her ceremony. Thanks to the generosity of School Board Member David Wise, who made the trip to personally deliver her diploma, she was able to receive her academic honor and qualify for the state meet on the same night—a perfect symbol of her remarkable career balancing excellence in both academics and athletics.

Tara Ford Adams remains a shining example of what can be achieved through discipline, passion, and heart.



Christine Novicky

Affectionately known by many as “the mayor of Vienna,” Christine Novicky is a cornerstone of the Vienna community. Her dedication to preserving local history, educating youth, and enhancing civic life has earned her a reputation as one of the township’s most influential and selfless leaders.

A 1996 graduate of Mathews High School, Christine attended Mathews schools from kindergarten through graduation. She excelled academically, earning a spot in the National Honor Society, graduating with a Gold Chord and an Honors Diploma. A gifted musician, Christine was a versatile contributor to the school’s music program—playing flute in the concert band, piccolo in the marching band, and saxophone in the jazz band. She was also selected to the Inter County League Honors Band. In addition to her academic and musical pursuits, Christine volunteered at a local hospital and was a member of the Vienna Kiwanis Key Club, laying the groundwork for a lifetime of service.

Christine earned her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Youngstown State University in 2001, where she joined The Centurians, a community service-focused organization. She then moved to Erie, Pennsylvania, to attend the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy. There, she served as class president and graduated in 2005 with a Doctorate in Pharmacy. That same year, she began her career as a staff pharmacist at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Youngstown, where she continues to serve with distinction.

Christine has been the President of the Vienna Historical Society since 2012. She has helped the Society build its membership and attendance at meetings by increasing public awareness and engagement through social media. She has helped increase the Society’s visibility by participating in community events, such as Vienna Home Day, the Trumbull County Fair and endeavors by the Trumbull County Historical Society. Christine led the way to permanent exposure for the Society by coordinating the application for an Ohio Historical Marker. Once accepted, she spearheaded the planning of the dedication ceremony and determined the location of the marker, which sits in the heart of Vienna Center on the Township Green.

Christine has helped the Society to acquire a permanent home, the Copper Penny building. Through her grant writing, she has helped the Society obtain over \$140,000 in grants to fund extensive renovations, including waterproofing, new HVAC systems, siding, and windows.

Christine has led preservation and restoration efforts of the Vienna Township maintained cemeteries. She has GPS-mapped headstones to aid current and future generations to locate graves. Annually, she gives a slide show presentation to 3rd graders and conducts a cemetery walk for 6th graders pertaining to Vienna Township history.

Christine is constantly adding to Viennapedia, an online encyclopedia of everything historic about the township. She has launched a YouTube channel dedicated to Vienna’s video and audio archives for anyone to view.

For their unselfish, civic-minded actions, Christine Novicky and her husband Jeff Ford, were named Trumbull County Community Stars in 2023.

Through her tireless efforts, Christine Novicky has become not only a guardian of Vienna’s past but a guiding light for its future. Her deep roots, enduring service, and unwavering love for her hometown make her an inspiring inductee into the Mathews Hall of Fame.



Sean Leach

Sean’s induction into Mathews Hall of Fame for his basketball contributions is more than a collection of statistics, it is a living testament to a family legacy. There is no doubt that Sean is a product of true home-grown talent. No story about Sean Leach is complete without honoring his father, Rex Leach. Remembered as a legend not only in the community, but across Ohio and beyond, Rex’s basketball career was marked by many record-breaking accomplishments that showcased his exceptional talent and deep love for the game. But more than the stats and accolades, it was his humility that defined him and a trait that truly means the most to Sean. Rex was more than an icon to Sean – he was a mentor, a coach, an unwavering supporter and even a softball teammate! Sean’s other biggest supporters were his grandparents. He remembers them being at every game and still has the scrap book made by his grandmother. Sean treasures the memories of learning at Rex’s side, whether running never-ending drills or memorizing the plays from Rex’s coveted playbook. Rex was a hard-nosed, yet fair coach to both Sean and his brother Tod. Sean recalls him enforcing the importance of fundamentals, the value of teamwork, and setting high expectations. Sean was very proud to carry on a family tradition along with his brother nearly 20 years after Rex played on the same court surrounded by an incredibly supportive community.

Sean attributes his basketball achievements not just to his coaches and teammates, but to many individuals who believed in him, influenced his path, and guided him with encouragement throughout his Mathews High School days. He fondly appreciates everyone’s support, friendship and how they helped shape him as an athlete and as a person. Sean would like to recognize: Mike Miller, Joanne Karlovic, Sandra Webber, Robert Webber, Ed Rohm, Richard Wear, Louis A. DeMarco, Thomas Golan, Michael Zador, Bob Terlecky, Norman Barron, John Sofikitis, Bob Rozycki (1st Mathews Mustangs coach, 8th grade, 1975), and the many others who were a part of the Mathews community.

Believe it or not, Seans’s competitive spirit did not begin on the basketball court, it started on horseback. Sean was as competitive riding horses at an early age as he was shooting and rebounding. (Maybe it has something to do with being born in El Paso, Texas) Together he and his horse, Tonka, won several ribbons competing at the Canfield Fair. Sean then discovered his passion for basketball in the 5th grade where he played at South Range for his father until the 7th grade. While at South Range, he competed in the 1974 invitational basketball tournament. The following year he chose to follow his father to Mathews and played his 8th grade year under Coach Rozycki’s leadership.

Sean wore jersey number 23 throughout his HS basketball career as a guard. He played on the Freshman team under Coach Wear and went on to become a consistent presence on the varsity basketball team from 1977 to 1979 under Coach Leach. As a sophomore, he was honored by the Mathews Basketball Club for his outstanding contributions on the court. He scored 314 points over the season, achieving a single high game of 36 points, shooting an impressive 45 percent from the field, and maintaining an outstanding 81 percent accuracy at the foul line. Sean was repeatedly recognized for his efforts, earning honors such as Player of the Week and making headlines for standout games such as scoring 18 points with 16 rebounds against Bloomfield, 16 points and 7 rebounds against Jackson Milton, and astonishing 33 points with 19 rebounds against East Palestine.

Throughout his senior year, Sean led his team in scoring, foul shooting, field goal percentage, and rebounding. He averaged over 25 points per game, 14 rebounds, along with blocking shots and providing assists. Also, during the 1978-79 season he was an All-Ohio AA High School Basketball Special Mention Player, he was named to All-District, NEO Inland District All Star Team and to the Trumbull AA League First Team. As a first team player he earned Player of the Year. During the final season game against Badger, Sean had a single high game of 40 points.

Most notably, with 1,173 career points at Mathews, Sean is proud and grateful to have his name etched alongside his father’s as well as the other MHS basketball players who have attained 1000 points. To Sean, it is not just about numbers, it is about sharing the spotlight with those who have paved the way, honoring a legacy and future legacies within the MHS community.

In the spirit of family and tradition, Sean and his wife Maureen live in Vienna, in his grandparents’ home. The very house where Rex grew up and where Sean himself spent much of his childhood. Sean values the life lessons he gained from his grandfather, the strong work ethic he acquired from his father, and the leadership skills he developed as a dedicated team player. He has remarkably carried these qualities into his professional life, building a long and successful career with First Energy, while also following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather in the field of massotherapy.



Bobbi McLain Simons

If Bobbi McLain Simons is not the winningest athlete in Mathews High School history, she is certainly among the very best. A 1989 graduate, Bobbi was a dominant three-sport athlete, excelling in volleyball, basketball, and softball. Whether in a supporting role or leading the charge, her teams consistently found success - and Bobbi was a major contributor.

In volleyball, Bobbi stepped into the game without prior middle school experience since Neal did not have a team and she immediately made her mark. She was a freshman starter on the JV team that posted an incredible 21-1 record. By her sophomore year, she had earned a varsity starting role, contributing to a 19-6 season with a 77.1% serve rate. As a junior, she improved her serve to 86.2%, including serving all 15 points in a victory over Southington, earned team MVP, and led Mathews to a Sectional Title in a victory over Painesville Harvey, delivering match-winning serving streaks of 8 and 7 points. As a senior, she led the Mustangs to a 22 - 1 record and was named All-Conference.

Bobbi's basketball career is equally remarkable. Despite only starting organized play in 8th grade, she rose quickly. Astonishingly, by her junior year, she was the "sixth man" for the only state championship Girls Basketball Team in Trumbull County history. She played both JV and varsity as a freshman and sophomore. The JV's had back-to-back records of 18 - 2. Bobbi's senior season was also amazing. The graduation of exceptional players and the loss of knowledgeable coaches Dennis Holmes and Robert Terlecky lowered predictions for the team. Bobbi and her teammates exceeded all expectations by barely missing a return to the State Tournament, losing 46 - 42 in the Regional Finals. The Mustangs went 19 - 6. Bobbi averaged 13.2 points per game while compiling 96 defensive rebounds, 74 offensive rebounds, 120 steals, 71 assists, and 42 blocked shots. In her 4 years, the Mathews varsity put together a regular season record of 75 - 5 and an overall mark of 92 - 8.

Playing third base, Bobbi was the only freshman to start for the 21 - 7 Mustang Softball Team that was the first from Mathews in any sport to advance to Regionals. They lost in the Finals to the eventual state champion, Akron Hoban. As a sophomore, she hit .304 during a 14 - 5 season. As a junior, the Mustangs went 16 - 5. Bobbi was the team MVP as she led in batting average, runs, doubles, triples, sacrifice bunts and flies. She even pitched when needed. She moved to shortstop her senior season and repeated as team MVP. She led her team in most offensive categories including batting average (.491) and on-base percentage (.541). Honors included Tribune Player of the Week (for all divisions), All-County and All-Conference. Most importantly, Bobbi led the Mustangs back to the Regional Tournament. Although they lost to Canfield, it was an appropriate way to end her spectacular athletic career at Mathews as they went 15 - 3 and made an impressive playoff run.

Other activities Bobbi participated in at Mathews include 4 years of concert and marching band where she played cornet and baritone. Twice she was part of the Homecoming Court including Queen her senior year. She was also a majorette that year.

After high school graduation, Bobbi earned a Paralegal degree from ETI Technical College and a Radiologic Technologist certification from Sharon Regional. With her Paralegal degree, she worked at Manchester, Bennett, Powers and Ullman. Later, she was employed at Butler Wick. As a radiologic technologist, she worked in the CT department at the Cleveland Clinic. Then she did CT, MRI, and x-ray at Youngstown Neurologic Associates.

Currently, Bobbi is the attendance secretary at Austintown Middle School. She still plays volleyball and still travels to southern states like Florida, Georgia and Tennessee to play in slow pitch softball tournaments 36 years after graduating from Mathews High School! Her abilities continue to earn her all-star status. Her competitiveness continues to be contagious and inspires her teammates to be better.

For her extraordinary accomplishments and lasting impact on Mathews' athletics, Bobbi McLain Simons is rightfully inducted into the Mathews High School Hall of Fame.



Mark Garnet

At the age of 17 years old, Mark Garnet earned his pilot license. This was the first step in the worthy and patriotic career for the 1992 graduate of Mathews High School. Mark received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, where he graduated in 1996 with a Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Mark later earned a Master's Degree from the University of Dayton Aerospace Engineering.

While a student at Mathews, Mark served as Senior Class President, represented his school at Buckeye Boys State and was a member of the National Honor Society. He also was a member of the Civil Air Patrol. As captain of the Mustang football team, he represented Mathews as a nominee for both Trumbull County Football Player of the Year and All-State.

At the Air Force Academy, Mark was recognized as a Distinguished Graduate of the T-3 Initial Flight Training Program. He then received the prestigious assignment to attend Euro-Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training. He flew T-37/T-38 aircraft during a 13-month program.

Mark was assigned to be a fighter pilot flying the F-16 Falcon. After 8 months of F-16 training at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, he was a Suppression of Enemy Air Defense pilot with the 13th Fighter Squadron at Misawa Air Base in Japan. Mark would fly more than 25 combat missions over southern Iraq during Operation Southern Watch.

In 2002, Mark became an Air Liaison Officer with the U. S. Army 10th Mountain Division. He was in charge of 26 Joint Terminal Attack Controllers providing forward air control of fighter and bomber air strikes in support of the U. S. Army. Next, Mark was deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom on two 6-month tours to support the 82nd Airborne. For his accomplishments in Afghanistan, he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Mark left the U. S. Air Force in 2005 and worked as a pilot subject matter expert at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. He was published in the "American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics" for the development of an equation used to detect and identify turbulent signatures of aircraft wakes. Most impressively, it is named the Garnet-Altman Equation!

From 2007 - 2018, Mark worked for the Royal Air Force of Oman as a ground and simulator instructor. He also flew with the Omanis and instructed over 8 classes of new pilots. In 2018, he moved to Dubai, United Arab Emirates to provide flight instruction to its air force. He even rewrote the entire 1000-page training program for aircraft handling and tactical operations.

In 2020, Mark moved to Colorado. He has worked as a flight instructor for flying jets and has provided firebombing in support of forest fire operations, including during the record-breaking Grizzly Canyon and Pine Gulch fires in Colorado.

In December 2023, Mark was hired by United Airlines. He now flies as a First Officer on the Boeing 737 based out of Denver.

From the skies above Vienna, Ohio, to combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and now the cockpit of a commercial airliner, Mark Garnet has charted a career defined by excellence, patriotism, and a lifelong love of flight. He is a truly deserving inductee to the Mathews Hall of Fame.

