

MARGARETTA SCHOOLS | ACHIEVEMENT HALL OF FAME

Four receive induction honor

From staff reports

CASTALIA

Three Margaretta Schools alumni and a former Townsend Centralized School administrator were recently inducted into the district's Achievement Hall of Fame.

The hall of fame recognizes those making significant achievements in the academic field.

Holly Miller, Class of 1973

The year after she graduated from her alma mater, Miller began her career with Margaretta Schools in 1974 as a clerk in the general office.

In 1976, Miller became a cashier in the high school's lunch room and continued in that position for 30 years.

One of Miller's most treasured and notable contributions is the Margaretta Learn to Swim program, where she taught thousands of children to swim. The program has served local children for 43 years.

Miller was also an assistant varsity swimming coach for 14 years and facilitated a lifeguarding class that occurs each spring.

Dr. Peter Highlander, Class of 2003

Graduating in the top 10 percent of his class, Highlander participated in multiple activities during high school including basketball, football, track, wrestling, powerlifting, National Honor Society, Students Against Drunk Driving, International Club and Varsity M Club.

He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich. He attended medical school at Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla., graduating in 2011 with honors. From Barry, he received his master's degree in biomedical science and a doctorate in podiatric medicine.

In October 2016, Highlander joined the staff of The Bellevue Hospital and the Northern Ohio Medical Specialist Healthcare team. His specialties include cartilage replacement, total ankle replacements, deformity correction, diabetic limb reconstruction, nerve repair and more.

Highlander also has a passion for clinical research and has completed extensive research and has authored more than 12 publications in various medical journals.



Provided photos

Three Margaretta Schools alumni and a former Townsend Centralized School administrator were recognized at a recent ceremony for the district's Achievement Hall of Fame. From left, top row: Holly Miller and Dr. Peter Highlander.; from left, bottom row: Scott Gast and Henry Bos.

Scott Gast, Class of 2002 (deceased)

Gast, the lead singer of the popular local band CoCoBeanOs, was known for his infectious smile and will be remembered for his many talents.

At 13, he was a member of a Christian band called ShoeBox and participated in the concert, marching and jazz bands in high school. Other high school activities included National Honor Society, Academic Challenge and golf.

He received his business degree from Bowling Green State University and worked as the assistant manager at Charter One Bank in Cleveland, earning many awards in the financial field.

A highlight of Gast's music career came in September 2014 when he traveled to Honduras and fulfilled a dream by performing with Rolling Stones tribute band Start Me Up in front of 100,000 fans.

Gast earned his brokerage license two days before he died in a crash on Nov. 2, 2014.

Henry Bos (deceased)

During his 32 years at Townsend Centralized School, Bos was known for being a "one-man show," serving as a teacher and principal and was his own secretary and superintendent.

Though he was the only child in his family to graduate from high school, he earned a bachelor's degree from Hope College and a master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1932.

Bos is remembered for his kindness and positive influence to Townsend students and families. Specifically, he provided a free lunch to all Townsend students during the Great Depression with the help of the ice cream socials, local farm family donations and school fairs for funding. With enough money, students and PTA parents prepared and served meals to the school's classes.

To motivate his students, Bos would often quote from "The Little Engine That Could" story and encourage the students to be positive with "I think I can."