



ADRIAN SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Lisa Neuman 263-2911

ASEF ANNOUNCES 2018 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI, TEACHER/MENTORS

ADRIAN – The 2018 Outstanding AHS Alumni and APS Outstanding Teacher/Mentor Award recipients have been chosen and will be recognized by the Adrian Schools Educational Foundation in October.

Outstanding Alumni include: Robert Freligh '39; Douglas Nelson '64; Sharon Davis '66; Mark Summers '73 and Jere Righter '87.

Outstanding Teacher/Mentors include Thomas Allor, AHS Math and Science Teacher; Marie Lucius, AHS English Teacher and Doug Ruesink, Adult Education Instructor at the Adrian Community Education Center.

The honorees will be awarded Oct. 4th beginning with a 6:30 p.m. reception in the Julianne & George Argyros Performing Arts Center at AHS. The awards will be given at 7:30 p.m. in the Theater.

Allor began teaching 5/6 math and science in 2016 and then moved to the high school that year. He has also been an assistant football coach, freshman basketball coach and junior varsity soccer coach. He has a bachelor of science in mathematics from Eastern Michigan University and is working toward a master degree in education from Eastern.

He was nominated by students who cited his willingness to help with studies at any time during the school day. He was also greatly appreciated by students for his help with college entrance exams and investigating different colleges and universities that would be a good fit for individual students.

Allor's background includes being an exchange student in the Netherlands where he became fluent in Dutch, opening a charter school in Dearborn Heights and beginning and expanding a tutoring company to help more than 3,000 students in 24 states.

Lucius started her teaching career at Adrian in 2008 as an English teacher which is where she remains. She is the National Honor Society advisor and has a bachelor degree in social studies from Central Michigan and master's degree in education from Michigan State.

She was also nominated by students who said she has a knack for getting subject matter across. As an instructor of International Baccalaureate history, she is always available to help students with understanding of topics. Students also appreciate her willingness to push them toward excellence and help with difficult concepts.

Ruesink has a bachelor of science in Social Science and a minor in English Language from Eastern Michigan University. He has done graduate work at Eastern and Siena Heights University. He began teaching in the APS Adult Ed and Alternative Ed program in 2012. His teaching career began at Boyssville as a social studies teacher, and he taught in the Upward Bound program at AHS for two years. He has dedicated his career to the at-risk student.

Letters of support of Ruesink's nomination came from staff and students at the Community Education Center. Not only did students feel that he gave them a reason to persevere with their studies, they admire his lightheartedness but ever-presence when help and guidance is needed. He is also known for cooking meals for students. He commits to meeting one-on-one with students weekly if not more. This is where he helps them realize that they can set and reach goals.

Robert Freligh '39, has been a life-long resident of Adrian and has served on many community boards including the Adrian Schools Board of Education in the 1950's, the board responsible for building the current high school. He served the Adrian Symphony Orchestra, the Bank of Lenawee, Bixby Hospital and the Croswell Opera House as a board member.

Freligh was an early proponent for the initiative that became Lenawee Lifelong Learning that gives adults outlets for continued education. He served as a torpedo bomber pilot in WWII and was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism in 1945. He was named a distinguished alum from Albion College where he graduated with an economics degree. He also earned an MBA from the University of Toledo. He was financial officer for both Brazeway and Kewaunee Scientific in Adrian. He received the Adrian Morning Rotary Club "Service Above Self" award and the Everyday Hero Award from Family Counseling and Children Services of Lenawee County.

Bob has travelled to all seven continents including Antarctica and competed several long-distance running races including the Boston Marathon and the Detroit Marathon. Bob continues to keep his classmates up to date and has acted as the coordinator for his class reunions for 80 years. He and his late wife Jean celebrated 53 years of marriage, and are the parents of five children who also graduated AHS.

He is being honored for his service to community.

Doug Nelson '64, is being honored for his athletic accomplishments. He earned nine varsity letters during his high school career. Those came in football, basketball and baseball. He was a member of the AHS team that was the runner up for a state title. As an American Legion baseball player, he was a state champion. He was an all-state player in football and basketball and baseball. He was named Most Valuable Player in the state when his team won the state championship.

After receiving literally hundreds of college recruitment letters, he settled on the University of Michigan where he lettered in two sports, football and baseball, and was a starter for both. After college he returned to AHS where he taught social studies and physical education from 1970-2003. He served as assistant football coach and head coach of the baseball team. He served 15 years as the Maple Fans Club president where he began the golf outing fundraiser that continues today and produced the fall-winter-spring sports programs that also continue to be published.

He and wife LuAnn are the parents of two children, also AHS alumni.

He is being honored for athletic achievement.

Sharon Davis '66, is a successful businesswoman who has made her life's work the understanding of cultural diversity. Her firm, SeDA Consulting has impacted cities, countries and even space!

She is one of nine founders of the Institute for the Healing of Racism, established in 1987 in Texas, and co-founder of Healing Humankind. She is host of "A Safe Place to Talk About Race," a radio show on VoiceAmerica Network.

Davis has led countless international dialogues on racism, including sessions in South Africa and Gabaronne Botswana. She facilitated talks on conflict resolution in China. She served as executive director for the National Resource Center for Racial Healing where she was Project Advisor for Diversity with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory Saturn Titan Mission.

She was a speaker for the International Institute and U.S Immigration Services and was mistress of ceremonies at swearing in ceremonies for new Americans. She has appeared numerous times on McNeil/Lehrer Newshour for the "Healing Racism in America" segment.

Davis' guiding principles and spiritual beliefs called her to form a group, "From the Same Dust," within the Baha'i Faith in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with a purpose to stimulate a welcoming faith community.

A graduate of Michigan State University, Davis lives in Spring, Texas, has one daughter, and is being honored for her business achievements.

Mark Summers '73, is also being honored for his achievements in business and industry as well as his service to country.

Summers is founder, chief executive officer and board chairman of ThreeWire, Inc., an international provider of clinical trial patient recruitment for the pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device industries. His credits include the invention of a business model for patient trial enrollment and various other patents.

Prior to founding ThreeWire, Summers worked for Alcon Laboratories where he led the acquisition of two companies resulting in over \$30 million of added sales. At Spine-Tech, Inc. he served as vice president of global marketing.

His business acumen is large, but it occurred after serving his country as a U.S. Navy flight officer from 1977-1983. Summers flew the F-14 (Tomcat) and he achieved over 2000 flight hours with more than 500 aircraft carrier landings. He was an F-14 instructor and was ranked number 1 of 26 lieutenants in his final squadron officer evaluation.

Summers has an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and has served on many for-profit and nonprofit boards. He and his wife, Laurie, are very active in their church and faith community. Together they have raised five children. They live in Minnetrista, Minnesota.

Righter '87, is the artistic director at the Croswell Opera House, where she successfully led the organization in an \$8.2 million campaign for renovation. She joined the Croswell staff in 2009 and took the helm at a time when the organization was questioning its future solvency.

Her affinity for the arts – she was a part of APS and Croswell productions in her youth and young adulthood, and knowing the importance of the arts to the community- gave her the wherewithal and passion to lead the turnaround.

Under her artistic leadership the Croswell has developed partnerships that incorporate youth into performance with an annual production featuring Lenawee youth. There is also a summer camp where young people finish their time with a public production. She has also made accommodations so that special needs children can enjoy youth-oriented performances.

A Siena Heights College graduate, Righter held several non-profit positions before coming to the Croswell including serving as vice president for advancement at Siena Heights University from where she has an undergraduate degree, and as director of development at Notre Dame Academy in Toledo.

She has been honored with the Athena Award and Zonta's Amelia Earhart Award, both recognizing her pioneer spirit in her vocation. She is being honored for her accomplishments in the arts.

The Adrian Schools Educational Foundation supports the educational excellence of Adrian Public Schools through a classroom grant program and with support for other district projects. The ASEF awarded \$89,300 in classroom grants this school year.

Tickets are available at \$10 a piece in the Foundation Office, located in the district administration wing in the high school.

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