

# Announcing Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Recipients

2025 Inductees honored Saturday, September 20, 2025 at the University of Dayton Kennedy Union Ballroom

## Sr. Maryann Bremke, C.PP.S., Honorary Patriot



Sr. Maryann is a woman of faith, an educator of the highest standards, and a humble visionary leader who lives the mission of the Sisters of the Precious Blood to 'proclaim God's love by being a life-giving, reconciling presence in our fractured world.' She served at Carroll High School for 20 years from 1979 until 1999. She taught Hebrew & Christian Scriptures, chaired the Theology Department, and from 1982-1999, she was the Dean of Academics. Sister spearheaded the renovation of the chapel in 1995 to make it a more sacred space. She modeled more meaningful liturgies for the celebration of Mass, encouraged the establishment of the yearly service outreach program to Appalachia, and revamped the Carroll retreat program to the 4-year program that still exists today. After she retired from Carroll, Sr. Maryann was elected and served as President of the Sisters of the Precious Blood for eight years. She then co-founded the Brunner Literacy Center on Salem Avenue in 2010 where she co-directs and continues to give of herself to help the less fortunate in the Dayton community. She has helped thousands of people with adult basic education, prepare for the GED, learn English, or pursue continuing education.



## Susan (Fish) Ayers, Class of 1971



Susan is a celebrated Visual Arts teacher with decades of teaching experience in Dayton Public Schools. She graduated with a BS in Art Education from Wright State University and, mid-career while raising a young family, went to The University of Dayton and received her Master's Degree in Art Criticism, History and Aesthetics in 1992. Early in her teaching she was chosen for the team that wrote Dayton's first Art Curriculum guide which became a prototype for the Ohio Art Education Standards. Sue was named Dayton Public Schools Elementary Teacher of the Year and Ohio Art Educator of the Year by the Ohio Art Education Association, both in 2004. She is a Life Member and Distinguished Fellow of OAEA and served on its board for over 25 years. Since retirement, she has served on The Ohio Art Education Foundation Board which provides scholarships to college students and art teachers to further enhance and secure the visual arts experience in Ohio's classrooms. Sue has also taught art at Hillel Academy, taught as an adjunct at UD, and supervised student teachers for WSU. She is a longtime member of DKG International, serving as PI chapter president for several terms, supporting women in education. She trained as a docent for the Dayton Art Institute and continues to make art.



## Nicholas De Monico, Class of 1972



Nick is recognized for his extraordinary philanthropy to Carroll High School, especially his major support towards tuition assistance, as well as his work with educational endowments and charitable foundations. Nick received his MBA in Finance from the Columbia University Graduate School of Business. He has over 35 years of investment experience in finance careers, first in banking, then in fixed income trading, and finally in asset management. During the final 13 years of his career, Nick was the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Hedge Fund Investments, as well as the Chief Investment Officer for the Commonfund, whose mission was to help nonprofit organizations improve their investment practices by both advising them on investment choices as well as educating their investment teams. He has written numerous papers, appeared in several television interviews, spoken at numerous industry conferences, and encouraged students at the Columbia University Graduate School of Business to seek careers with philanthropic or public service groups. Nick also regularly supports and volunteers for various charitable causes, including driving for Meals on Wheels and raising assets as a volunteer independent director for Nemucore Medical Innovations, a firm focused on the development of treatments for abandoned cancers.



## Steve Popp, Class of 1974



Steve is a local soccer coaching legend. He won the large school national coach of the year from the United Soccer Coaches Association in 2018, and is number 3 on Ohio's all-time wins list with a record of 483-145-64. He coached the High School All American game in Orlando in 2019. Steve started his coaching career at Carroll in 1979 where he was the assistant coach on the 1980 Carroll Boys State Championship Team. He coached the girls' teams at Bellbrook, Wayne and Beavercreek where he still coaches. Steve led Beavercreek to the 2018 Division I state title with a 24-0-0 record, a state record of 19 shutouts, and a No. 2 National Ranking in USA Today. In 2019, the team set a Division 1 record with 43 consecutive wins. In the last 20 years, his teams have won numerous national academic honors, with over 100 All Ohio Academic players, 18 All State players and three All Americans. Steve volunteers at the Goodwill Easter Seals Radio Reading Service where he reads to the blind and disabled. He also supports the TOPS Special Needs soccer camp. He is a member of the Beavercreek Athletic Hall of Fame and the Carroll Athletic Hall of Fame with the 1980 state championship team. Additionally, Steve overcame multiple serious health challenges while continuing to coach.



## Jeffrey Abell, Ph.D., Class of 1980



Dr. Abell earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1985, and a MS/PhD in Systems Engineering in 1987 and 1992. He has worked at General Motors for over 32 years and is currently the Director of Manufacturing Research & Chief Scientist for Global Manufacturing. In this role, he is responsible for GM's global manufacturing research strategies and activities, including vehicle electrification, advanced quality systems, lightweight materials systems, automation, and manufacturing systems & controls. Jeff has developed several industry-first technologies, 23 granted patents, seven patents in production, and eight tool-method-secret inventions. He has published over 40 technical papers, given numerous technical presentations and invited talks, and has won three Boss Kettering Awards, General Motors' highest technical award for innovation. He is a member of the Manufacturing Technical Leadership Council at USCAR, a member of the Smart Manufacturing Executive Council at CESMIL, and is currently Vice-President of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. He was elected to the College of Fellows for the Society of Manufacturing Engineers in 2015 and elected Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 2024. Jeff is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Michigan.



## Melissa (Balsom) Fisher, Class of 1983



Melissa has taught religion at Carroll High School for 31 years, since 1994, and at Bishop Leibold for 7 years, from 1987-1994. She has also served as a Campus Minister, Trinity House Dean, Revolution Moderator, Service Coordinator, Mission Dayton Leader, House Academic Committee Advisor, Key Club Advisor, one of Carroll's Archdiocesan LPDC (Local Professional Development Committee) Representatives, and the Religion Department Chairperson. She was the past Proficiency Test Coordinator, and for more than 20 years, Co-Director of the Drama Freedom Players. She was named a finalist for the Lumen Fidei (Light of Faith) Ohio Catholic School Teacher of the Year Award in spring of 2024. She is a person that lives her faith through her words, actions and through her devotion to God. She models a commitment to serve daily in her life. Melissa works tirelessly showing how much she cares for the students and for helping others. She is a master teacher who shows her students how much she cares for them through her teaching, positivity and interactions in the classroom. Melissa spends countless hours leading and volunteering in service projects at Carroll and throughout the Dayton community that model her faith and beliefs.



## Jasmine Gonzalvo, PharmD, MPH, CDCES, Class of 1999



Dr. Gonzalvo is a nationally recognized diabetes expert. She is the Chris and Theresa Dimos Director of the Center for Health Excellence, Quality, and Innovation at Purdue University. She is also a Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice in the College of Pharmacy at Purdue. Jasmine earned her PharmD from Butler University in 2005. She obtained her MPH from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in May 2025. Her practice for Eskenazi Health involves the provision of innovative Cardiovascular Risk Reduction services at a Federally Qualified Health Center in a population who primarily speaks Spanish. Her research interests relate to community health workers, cardiovascular risk reduction in populations that are underserved, integration of the Spanish language into practice and academic settings, and diabetes self-management education and support. She has served on multiple boards for national diabetes organizations. She is active in advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels. In 2018, she was appointed to the National Clinical Care Commission charged with evaluating and making recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding federal activities related to diabetes. In 2019, she received the Indianapolis Business Journal Top 40 under 40 award.

