

Carroll Career Discovery Program

PASSING THE TORCH ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES

Dr. Bryan Herdlick CHS Class of 1981

Systems Engineer & Program Manager: John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory



After graduating from Carroll and attending the University of Dayton, Dr. Bryan “Chum” Herdlick ’81 spent 18 months at Systems Research Laboratories (SRL) in Beavercreek developing advanced displays for the cold-war era “Star Wars” program. Finding desk-work a bit confining, and the original movie Top Gun extremely motivating, he left Ohio to chase his dream of flying military tactical aircraft - and that decision opened a whole new world of experiences and opportunity.

In addition to multiple tours flying from aircraft carriers, Bryan’s Navy career also involved 3 years as an F-14 flight instructor, where he helped new aircrew understand the complex weapons and systems in the airplane, and how to employ them in combat. He later attended the US Navy Test Pilot School and went on to test new systems in the F-14 Tomcat and F/A-18E/F Super Hornet.

After his Navy career, Bryan’s position as a Systems Engineer and Program Manager with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL) permitted him to continue to serve the nation and stay connected to his military and aviation roots. Throughout his career, he has found the greatest job satisfaction when he can combine his engineering background and operational flying experience to help teams of engineers and operators come together and solve complex problems – “blending the technical with the tactical.”

Bryan currently resides in southern Maryland, on an estuary of the Chesapeake Bay, with his wife Monika, their son Daniel (who is attending the University of Dayton) and Daniel’s twin sister, Caroline (who is attending Penn State University). His hobbies include weight-lifting, amateur radio, hiking, listening to 80’s rock music, playing guitar and reading. He also enjoys extended vacations where the whole family can do a little SCUBA diving or snow skiing. His enduring memory from his time as a Patriot is when the varsity soccer team won the Ohio State Championship; two of his best friends were on that team, and welcomed him to a sport and a community that he has enjoyed for decades!

Education

- Ph.D. in Systems Engineering: George Washington University
- Master of Science in Applied Physics: Naval Postgraduate School
- Bachelor’s Degree in Electrical Engineering: University of Dayton
- Graduate of the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School, the U.S. Marine Corps Weapons & Tactics Instructor Course, and a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War College

Are you interested
in a military career or
studying **electrical or
systems engineering?**
Get your questions
answered!

**When: Tuesday,
April 21, 2026**

**11:15 am-12:15 pm
(during 4th period)**

Where: Room 302

**Stop in at the CLC to
register or email
mleaman@carrollhs.org
or jweitz@carrollhs.org**

**Be sure to pack or buy
lunch and feel free to
bring it with you to eat
during the presentation!
This is considered an
excused absence
from class.**

Hope to see you there!