



# The RED & BLACK



CAROLYN PRESUTTI, CLASS OF 1978

## 2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT AT VOICE OF AMERICA TV

**S**HE'S COVERED US PRESIDENTS, Syrian rebels, survivors of sex trafficking, virtual reality brain surgeons, hurricanes, and death row inmates. Her reports have won her an Emmy, a New York Festival Silver World Medal, a Clarion, numerous AP Broadcast Outstanding Awards, and an Associated Press "Best of Show." Becoming a TV reporter was Carolyn Presutti's (BHS '78) dream ever since her she gave her first speeches at Rose Hill grade school and in 4-H. Now Presutti is an international correspondent at Voice of America TV in Washington, DC. Join us on May 19 as she shares some anecdotes (and

secrets) from the media world. She also promises to answer any questions about current national and international politicians, fake news, or even about her appearances on the Netflix show "House of Cards" or HBO's "Veep."

Presutti is the daughter of Dom and Clara Presutti who spent decades as a teacher and school nurse within the Bellaire School System. Their love of teaching has trickled down to her family. She has two teen daughters and a loving husband – they volunteer annually in a destitute barrio of Nicaragua, teaching English to children. Carolyn and her family live in the Washington, DC area. See below for more information about her career.

Presutti began presenting speeches through the Rock Hill 4-H club. Safety speaking contests were her forte, winning trophies at the Belmont County Fair and "Outstandings of the Day" at the Ohio State Fair. Those performance traits were cemented with various BHS drama roles from Linus (You're a Good Man Charlie Brown) to Chastity (Anything Goes) to Tzeitel

(Fiddler on the Roof) to Ado Annie (Oklahoma!) Whenever BHS teachers gave students the option of speaking or writing assignments, Presutti chose speeches. Senior year, she was elected to the school's morning announcement team. Her love of speaking continued at Akron University, where she participated on the forensics (competitive speech) team and majored in Mass Media/Communications with a minor in Ballet Performance.

WHBC-Radio in Canton hired her out of college as a part time anchor/reporter. She fondly remembers "the quaint format" that included reading local obituaries on Sunday mornings and covering local politics on weeknights. From there, she left for WKBN radio in Youngstown where she co-anchored afternoon drive time newscasts. Her goal of television motivated her to take a second job as weekend weather anchor at WTRF-TV in Wheeling. Every Friday night, Presutti would leave her Youngstown job at 7pm and drive to the Ohio Valley, where she would appear as the Channel 7 weathercaster at 6 and 11

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## Spring BANQUET 2018

The Annual Bellaire High School Alumni Association Spring Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2018, at Undo's West in St. Clairsville, Ohio. We will be celebrating 113 years of Pride, Spirit & Tradition.

In addition to honoring the 2018 Outstanding Alumnus Carolyn Presutti Davidson, alumni, Steve '74 & Cathy '73 Chirpas, Lou Mokros '76, Amy Busic '89, Shelbie Smith '87 and Kevin Blacker '75 will be honored for their achievements in the fields of Business, Civic, Law, Government and Medical.

The Alumni Association will welcome new members of the Class of 2018 and will honor two of those members with Senior Service Awards. The BHS Endowment Board will also present various scholarships during the dinner ceremony. The Class of 1953 will be honored.

Social and cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 per person and must be purchased in advance either by mail or on our website at [www.bellairebigredsalumni.com](http://www.bellairebigredsalumni.com).

# Message from the President

Hello Fellow Alumni,

Now that the winter blues are behind us and we are into the spring season, it is time for the board to roll up their sleeves and dig into the busiest time of year.

We started out the year with the February Lottery Fundraiser, plans are coming together for the Night at the Races in March, and planning for the annual Spring Banquet coming up in May.

This also means we are beginning to spring clean the Archives Room and Alumni Way. We would love for any BHS

graduate that may be coming back for the banquet or is going to attend a class reunion this year to take a tour of the school and Archives Room. You can do this by calling Bob Koteles at 740-676-5490 to set up a date and time. Remember, lots of memories were made inside the walls and halls of BHS!!!

This year we will be celebrating the 113th annual Spring Banquet at

Undo's West in St. Clairsville on May 19, 2018. The social hour is from 5:30-6:30 with dinner to follow. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Reservations can be made by filling out the enclosed insert in this newsletter along with your check. Mail to Bellaire Alumni Association P.O. Box 307 Bellaire, OH 43906. You can also make your reservation through our website at [www.bellairebigredsalumni.com](http://www.bellairebigredsalumni.com).

We will honor the BHS graduating class of 2018, the 50 year class of 1968, the 2018 Outstanding Alumnus, Carolyn Presutti Davidson, along with Achievements winners and Senior Service winners. Also the Endowment Board will announce the winners of several scholarships.

Keeping with tradition, we will end the banquet by strolling down memory lane with all BHS graduates attending and by singing the fight song and alma mater. It is a great time to reminisce with someone you haven't seen for years. If you have never attended a banquet, I would encourage you to do so. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

As you can see, the association works very hard to keep the Spirit, Pride & Tradition going at BHS. Thanks to everyone who continues to support BHS by paying dues, making donations to the Special Gift Fund, Bell Tower Fund and the Education Assistance Fund.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Spring and Summer.

**GO BIG REDS!!!!**



Your President,

*Arleen (Brunori) Sabatino*  
Class of 1976

## IMPORTANT!



## THE RED & BLACK SPRING NEWSLETTER ONLY MAILING IS BACK

**IT HAS COME TO THE BOARD'S** attention that it really wasn't beneficial **not** to mail out the Spring Newsletter. For years, members who have paid membership dues, make contributions to our different funds and to make reservations for our Spring Banquet were able to fill out a separate insert in the newsletter and then mailed

back to the P.O. box. We found that many people were used to that way so we decided to go back to it.

**Keep in mind** the Fall Newsletter will **not** be mailed. We will only mail the Spring Newsletter. The Fall Newsletter will be available on our

website to print out or just to read. If you do not have availability to a computer or printer and wish to have it mailed just send us your name and address and we will gladly mail it.

## Give Back to BHS... SUPPORT YOUR ALMA MATER

# CLASS REUNIONS

**T**HE BELLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL Class of 1953 will be joining the BHS Alumni Association at their Spring Banquet in May. Spend the evening renewing friendships at Undo's in St. Clairsville on May 19th, 2018. Social hour is from 5:30 - 6:30 with dinner to follow. The cost is \$30.00 per person. ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION by going to their website at [www.bellairebigredsalumni.com](http://www.bellairebigredsalumni.com). Hope to see all you faithful BHS alumni there!

The Class of 1963 will be celebrating their 55th class reunion on Friday, May 18th, 2018. The event will be held at the Bellaire Sons of Italy. Registration for the dinner/dance begins

at 4:00 p.m. The price is 35.00 a person. Class picture \$12.00. The 40+ band will provide the entertainment. For more information or to make a reservation contact Jim Mowery at [mrjemjem@att.net](mailto:mrjemjem@att.net) or by calling 740-676-7745.

The Class of 1968 will celebrate their 50th class reunion the weekend of September 7th & 8th. The activities planned are:

**FRIDAY NIGHT** starting with a tour of the school at 5:30 pm, we will then head to the Sons of Italy 3348 Belmont St. from 7:00 until 11:00 pm where we will socialize, enjoy finger foods, snacks and other fun.

**SATURDAY NIGHT** at Undo's Restaurant atop the Hampton Inn, 51130 National Rd. East, St. Clairsville. Social Hour with cash bar from 5:00 - 6:00 pm, followed by Class Photos. Dinner Buffet starting at 7:00 pm.

## ROOMS AVAILABLE...

We are working on a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn, Microtel or Hawthorn Suites. Total cost for both nights expected to be \$40 - \$50 per person. Menu, rooms and exact cost based on RSVP, so PLEASE let us know your intent by contacting Bob Scott at [zip064@comcast.net](mailto:zip064@comcast.net), or calling 724-229-9692.

## Class REUNION Booklets

Class reunion committees are reminded to submit their class reunion books/ mailing list to the alumni association so we can keep our mailing list up-to-date!

Send to: Shauna Walker



BHS Alumni Association  
PO Box 307  
Bellaire, OH 43906

Visit Us

# ONLINE

[bellairebigredsalumni.com](http://bellairebigredsalumni.com)



**BELLAIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL** teacher Ellen Johnson and Derrick McAfee stand with members of the class of 1965, who presented McAfee with a check to help some students go on an upcoming class trip to Washington, D.C. From left are Johnson, McAfee, Anita Smigill, Helen Fodor, Annette Ice, Bert Snedeker and Linda Sidon.

## Bellaire Middle School receives support

By DYLAN MCKENZIE  
Times Leader Staff Writer

**BELLAIRE** — Students from Bellaire Middle School are looking forward to an upcoming trip to the nation's capital, helped in part by generous donations from a group of alumni.

Eighth-grade teacher Ellen Johnson is planning to take a class to Washington, D.C., at the end of March, but the trip is somewhat expensive. Johnson said it costs \$460 per student; the money helps to pay for food, housing and transportation costs while the students are in the capital city. When eight students ran into financial issues that could have prevented them from visiting D.C. with their classmates, the Bellaire High School Class of 1965 stepped in to help.

"I was determined to help send these kids to Washington," said Anita Smigill,

an alumna of the Class of '65.

Smigill said that every five years, her graduating class holds a reunion and party where they raise money to give back to the school district. Smigill said even though the class is in between celebrations at the moment, when she heard that some of the children might not be able to go on the trip she quickly moved to help. The \$1,000 the Class of '65 had ready to donate would only have paid for two students to go, so Smigill reached out to classmates on Facebook in an effort to raise funds for the students. She said her classmates were swift to respond.

"Within two days I had started to get donations in the mail," she said. "People were very generous."

The Class of '65 managed to collect \$3,195 to help send all eight of the students to Washington with the rest of the class. In addition, she said American

Legion Post 77 in Neffs donated \$200 to the cause, so that each of the students will have some spending money to get a souvenir to help them remember their time in the capital.

"It makes us feel so good," Smigill said of donating to the cause. "I know there are a lot of kids who can't afford to go, so we wanted to make sure those kids had the chance to take a trip for a little education and enjoyment."

Johnson said she is incredibly grateful for the generosity of the Class of '65, adding that she was "overjoyed" at the news. Principal Derrick McAfee agreed, saying the former students had given the current ones "the trip of a lifetime."

"We're so flattered and honored having the support of the Class of 1965," McAfee said. "It speaks volumes about this town to have people like that care about these schools and these kids."

# HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP - HOBY 2018



**H**OBY IS A PRESTIGIOUS leadership award given to 2 students who are chosen based on their leadership roles in the school and community. Bellaire High School's recipients are Tenley Hughes and Tanner Schmidli. They will travel to HOBY camp in Dennison, Ohio to network with sophomores across the state of Ohio June 7-10, 2018.

The female participant, Tenley Hughes, explained her definition of leadership is to lead by example and be the person others can come to for help, advice, or encouraging words. Hughes believes she is nonjudgmental of others and circumstances. Also, she always offers a hand to someone in need and recognizes times when she needs to assist. She shows leadership

in school by maintaining good grades and positive relationships in the classroom, and on the court and field through sports. In the community, Hughes is an officer of her 4-H Club. Also, she volunteers at the middle school After Hours Academy. She tracks stats at the OVAC Tournaments. In her spare time, Hughes plays on competition based teams for volleyball and softball.

Tanner Schmidli, the male candidate, believes leadership means setting a good example for younger people who might look up to him as an influence. Schmidli knows when to take charge in a situation, and if it's time to settle down, he knows when to be serious. He is currently a section leader of the Drumline for the Bellaire High School Marching Band. Also, he is a lead actor in the Thespian Program, performing in many school plays and musicals.

Schmidli and Hughes feel honored to have been chosen for the HOBY Leadership Award.

*Pictured are Alumni Board Member, Ben Doyle, Hoby recipients, Tenley Hughes and Tanner Schmidli and Alumni Board Member, Kim Hart.*

*Story and Photo by Jordan Doughty*

## GIFT DONORS

Thank you to the following individuals for your gifts to the Alumni Association. Your continuing support is appreciated.

### The Special Gift Fund:

#### Burt Piatt

*(In memory of Archie Thomas, Charles Glatzer, Karen Sbrockey, Bertha Smith, Janis English, Linda Strussion)*

#### Great Stone Viaduct Society

*(In honor of Classes of 1945 and 1948)*

#### Albert Piatt

*(In memory of Chalmer G. "Butch" Hinds, Jane M. Nichols & Donna Zaccagnini Sechrest)*

#### Jacquie Jachumsen

#### Dan Velt

#### John & Beverly Ray

*(In memory of Nancy Frizzi)*

#### Sauna Walker

*(In memory of Nancy Frizzi)*

#### Linda Krieger Hall

*(In memory of Dorothy McCabe)*

### The Education Assistance Fund:

#### Bruce Goddard Trust

#### Frank "Chub", Arleen & Andrew Sabatino

*(In memory of Nancy Frizzi)*

#### Catherine Tuttle

#### Jacquie Jachumsen

#### Dan Velt

#### Tony and Gary Sechrest

*(In memory of Linda Strussion & Helen Camsky)*

#### Harold Brown

#### Connie Crozier Bobo

### The Bell Tower Fund:

#### John Pozzini

### Senior Service Award:

#### Melissa McCorkle Oakley

*(In memory of Meagan Toothman)*

## Seniors Nominated for SENIOR SERVICE AWARDS

The 6 nominees are asked to fill out a detailed activity sheet and a personal bio that includes community service and activities, awards and honors based on their 4 years at BHS. All 6 nominees will go through an interview process with the Senior Service Committee. The committee then votes on a male and female student. The two winners are announced at the spring banquet in May. Good luck to the following nominees:

### Female Nominees

Grace Patterson

Alexandria Street

Liliana Yocum

### Male Nominees

Scott Mehlman

Mason Ramsay

Chase Yoho

## 2018 Distinguished Alumnus continued from page 1

on Saturdays and Sundays. At 11:30pm Sunday night, she would drive back to Youngstown to anchor her radio job the following day.

This eventually led to a main weather anchor job at WFMJ-TV in Youngstown. But in between the 6 and 11 newscasts, Presutti would cover news stories. Her investigative report "Dirty Dumpster Syringes" was shown to the Ohio House of Representatives as it debated a bill on hazardous medical waste. Her documentary on a tornado disaster won her an Emmy nomination.

After several years, her love of news finally pulled her back. WTVR-TV in Richmond, Virginia, stole her away as their Virginia State House Reporter and 11pm live reporter. To this day, Presutti's favorite assignment is live reporting. Eventually Presutti was named weekend anchor/weekday live reporter. In Richmond, she broke a story on then-governor Doug Wilder who had organized an exploratory committee for a presidential run. She had just completed an investigative story on homosexuality in Catholic seminaries, when an even higher television market would call. Getting closer to her career goal of Washington, DC, she left Richmond for Baltimore. At WMAR-TV, she was known for breaking exclusive stories. Her reporting included prison riots, major company strikes and a convicted murderer who jumped out a courtroom window to escape sentencing.

In 1994, Presutti finally arrived in her careergoal city – Washington, DC—a top ten television market. WUSA hired her as morning anchor/reporter. She worked 11p-7a, chasing stories overnight – typically murders, prostitution, drug-related crimes – and finishing her shift by co-anchoring the 5-7am morning show.

Two years later, she joined Belo Broadcasting as a Washington reporter for its 21 US television stations. Presutti covered President Bill Clinton and the Lewinsky scandal, President George Bush's inauguration, the 1998 US Capitol shooting, the Jonesboro school massacre, and several hurricanes. She also anchored the weekly political talk show, "Capitol Conversation" for which she won a Texas Emmy. It was also during

this time that she met and married her husband, Rick Davison, who is a United Airlines Pilot.

Presutti stepped out of the business fulltime in 1999 to have her older daughter Theresa and then Natalie in 2001. But she continued to work as a freelancer for several outlets, including CNN, Tribute Broadcasting, WTTG Fox5, and AARP-TV. While at WTTG, she won an Associated Press award for her story on military body armor. While at AARP, she reported on a barnstorming air show and won an Emmy for "The Flying Circus."

In 2010, Presutti joined Voice of America TV as general assignment reporter, with an emphasis on aviation and high tech. VOA is a global multimedia broadcaster, financed by the US government, with its mission signed into law by President Gerald Ford. VOA is charged with presenting different sides of issues on TV, radio, and on the web, especially for areas that typically only have access to state-run biased media. VOA averages more than 237 million viewers/listeners per week and broadcasts in 47 languages.

On the ten-year anniversary of 9/11, Presutti aired an exclusive report identifying the man in the iconic photo, jumping from the World Trade Center. The story won a national Clarion award and an Associated Press Outstanding Enterprise report. Throughout her years at VOA, she's won awards for her stories on the Boston Marathon bombers, a Haitian amputee soccer team, and US Political Campaigns. Her story on US doctors virtually conducting surgeries of gunshot victims in war-torn Syrian won a NY Festival Silver World Medal. Her last year's web multimedia project entitled "American Muslim Portraits" won the highest award "Best of Show" by the Associated Press Broadcaster's Association.

As an anchor of VOA's Learning English segments, Presutti has taught English through slow reading of news stories and has received FB messages and letters from all over the world from viewers who want to learn more.

In 2013, Presutti applied for VOA to receive the beta version of Google Glass and then instructed other reporters on their usage. For one of her stories, the lead singer of the a cappella group "Pentatonix" wore VOA's Google Glass during a live concert, earning Presutti and a co-

worker a Wikipedia mention.

In 2015, VOA chose her to attend a nine-month government management training course "The Executive Leadership Program." In 2016, Presutti was chosen as VOA's delegate to the Aspen Institute's Socrates Program where her focus of study was Artificial Intelligence. This led to a week at VOA's Silicon Valley bureau last year, covering virtual reality brain surgery (where she reported from inside the operating room,) driverless shuttle buses, mental health apps, robotic clothing sorters, and more.

Television isn't Presutti's only media outlet. You can also see her "House of Cards" playing – what else? A television anchor! She and her daughter Natalie appeared as extras on the HBO show "Veep" and she was an extra in the 2010 movie, "How Do You Know?"

Presutti is a visiting professor at the FBI academy in Quantico. There she teaches agents how/what to say in a TV interview and how to avoid questions from reporters (!) But her favorite time instructing is in a destitute area outside of Grenada, Nicaragua, where she and her family have been teaching English annually for the past five years. They have also held special school events and field trips, purchased Bibles for weekend Bible study, and have sponsored several Nicaraguan children in their home. Her older daughter Theresa will spend her gap year volunteering there before college.

Presutti credits her parents for instilling in her a love of learning, a strong sense of empathy and a love of the Lord. And her siblings for enduring her natural curiosity, constantly badgering them with questions while growing up. She thanks her husband and two daughters for all their love and support and for tolerating long work hours and travels that take her away from home. Presutti knows that no matter where work takes you, home is still with God and family.

Presutti is an avid traveler, scuba diver, 5K runner, and she's passionate about Bikram hot yoga. Her goals include speaking fluent Spanish, presenting a Ted Talk, mastering a split like she could do as a BHS cheerleader (oh those old, tight muscles!) and sending her daughters off to college with enough money left for her and Rick to enjoy retirement!

# HOME COMING 2018



Friday, September 21st  
Alumni Social Sons of Italy Lodge

Saturday, September 22nd  
Parade, Football Game, Reverse Raffle

# SPOTLIGHT ON TWO BIG REDS!



**2018 OVAC Hall of Fame Inductees:**

**RON LEE - CLASS OF 1971**

**GEORGIA DAWSON – CLASS OF 1984**

**RON** was an outstanding running back who graced Nelson Field for the Big Reds. Ron played at the time under the helm of Coach Jake Olsavsky. Ron's senior year record was 8-1-1. Bellaire finished second in the OVAC 3A title chase. The Big Reds finished No. 19 in the UPI Class 3A poll, the largest classification in the state. Ron rushed for 989 yards and 16 TDs. He also caught 10 passes. Ron earned first-team All-Valley with those numbers and All-OVAC plaudits while being named second team All-Ohio by UPI. He also played in the Ohio North-South game. Ron was a standout three year letterman in basketball also and voted the Big Reds top athlete his senior year.

His prep honors earned him a football scholarship to WVU which he chose over many D-1 offers. Lee had an outstanding career at WVU. Back in those days freshman were not eligible to play so Ron played on the Mountaineers frosh squad leading the team with 372 yards on 97 carries in five games. Into his sophomore year Ron moved into the team's No. 2 fullback position, carrying the ball 76 times and rushing for 304 yards and three TDs. His toughness, matched by his versatility, resulted in him being utilized as fullback and tailback his final two seasons. He was the team's second leading rusher, gaining 543 yards as a junior and 623 yards as a senior and led his team with 10 TDs.

He was a member of two WVU Peach Bowl teams. Selected as No. 74 on the list of top 100 all-time WVU football players in the WVU Athletic Department Book, "Saturday Snapshots," published in 2015. Ron's success at WVU resulted in him being selected in the third round of the NFL. He was drafted by the Baltimore Colts. There he played in 42 games, starting eight. His career with the Colts ended with 940 yards on 206 carries.

**GEORGIA** was a tremendous three sport standout for the Big Reds, where she excelled in volleyball, basketball and track & field. She achieved a rarity in the realm of Bellaire athletics, becoming a four-year letter winner in basketball, surpassing the 1,000 point goal and also grabbing more than 1,000 rebounds. She served as captain for the Big Reds hoopsters her junior and senior year. She was a three-time all OVAC selection while making the All-Valley first team as a senior. Georgia was named a two-time All-District 12 basketball honoree and was a special mention All-Ohio as a senior. She was just as dominate in volleyball for the Big Reds. A three-year letter winner served as the team captain her junior and senior year, receiving first-team all OVAC honors.

Georgia was also a three-year standout for the Big Reds track team. In all, she finished her illustrious prep career with 10 letters. After graduating from BHS Georgia took her athletic talent to West Liberty State College, where she became a four-year letter winner in basketball and volleyball. She was the Hilltoppers' volleyball captain as a junior and senior, making the WVIAC All-Conference Team three seasons while being named Conference Volleyball Athlete of the Year her senior season.

Georgia still ranks in the top 20 in rebounds in Hilltopper history with 541 rebounds. She was inducted into the Bellaire High Hall of Fame and the West Liberty Hall of Fame, honored by the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan in 1988 and inducted into the Ohio District 12 BCA Hall of Fame last year.

## February LOTTERY FUNDRAISER WINNERS!

The Alumni Association for the past 3 years has raised money through a lottery fundraiser in the month of February. All proceeds from this fundraiser goes into the Education Assistance Fund. This year's winners were:

David Jerico	Brooke McVey	Ed Good
Penny Frizzi	David Ice	Lorrie Palmer
Catherine Tuttle	James Cochran	

\*\*Special thanks to Catherine Tuttle who donated her winnings to the Education Assistance Fund

## Do you have BHS memorabilia?

Do you have BHS memorabilia, like a game ball or band uniform? Or perhaps you have come across your high school graduation program? Don't throw it away! The Alumni Association maintains the Archives Room and displays BHS memorabilia on the third floor of the High School. Please contact Bob Koteles at 740-676-5490, if you have items you wish to donate.

Also, if you are having a Class Reunion and would like to tour the Archives Room and high school, please contact Bob in advance to make arrangements. The Alumni Association wants to keep you connected to BHS.