

2009 Inductee Bios

Contributed by Contributed Material
Tuesday, 06 October 2009

Miriam Sayre

Class of 1926

It has been said that Miss Sayre was Galion's grand lady of education. For those that were in her class room, the experience was unforgettable.

Miriam Sayre was the daughter of Ralph B. and Alma (Klopp) Sayre. She attended Galion Senior High School, graduating in 1926. Following her graduation, she attended The Ohio State University, where she earned both her bachelor and master degrees in education. She returned to Galion where she taught for over 49 years. She became a legendary teacher, dramatist and historian. It is estimated that she directed more than 120 plays in her career at Galion.

Her impact on her students to strive for excellence is still being felt. Her former students such as Peter Lawrence and A. Elaine Hottenroth have gone on to notable careers in theater and education.

Along with her teaching career, she was the organist at the First United Church of Christ, (Reformed Church) for more than 60 years. She was Active in the church all of her life.

She was a member of the Galion Historical Society, the Sorosis Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution, The Crawford County Humane Society, American Legion Scarborough Post 243 Auxiliary, The Ohio State University Alumni Association and the Galion Community Theater.

Her ties to Galion include involvement in the Galion retail market with Klopp's and the Clothes Horse and working with famed Bishop William Montgomery Brown as his reader when his eyesight began to fail. According To Craig Clinger, President of the Galion Historical Society, "She knew far more about Galion than what could be found in books. She knew the people and their personalities".

Miss Sayre died Tuesday, September 23 , 2003.

Mr. Ralph Cobey

Class of 1928

Ralph Cobey made his mark in business, support for the State of Ohio, supporting education and scouting. His many activities have left their mark on Galion, throughout Ohio, and the nation.

Mr. Cobey graduated from Galion Senior High School in 1928. While in school he was in many activities and was proudest of his football achievements. His yearbook identified him as one of the best lineman Galion ever had.

Following graduation, he attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie-Mellon University) pursuing a mechanical engineering degree. The Great Depression and family illness led to his returning home in 1930 to join his father in the family manufacturing business, Perfection Steel Body Company. In 1940, prior to the United States entry into WWII, he became a Dollar-a-Year Man appointed by President Roosevelt to serve in the Office of Production Management in charge of Army Tank Production and Facilities. He entered active military service in 1942, achieving the rank of Captain by his discharge in 1945. He was recalled to military service for the Korean War in 1951.

Ralph's interests include the Boy Scouts of America, agriculture, conservation, politics, and philanthropy. His efforts to save his friend Louis Bromfield's Malabar Farm culminated with the property being gifted to the State of Ohio to become a state park and demonstration farm.

He was a lifelong Scout receiving his Eagle badge in 1926 from scouting founder Lord Baden-Powell. Sixty-six years later Sweden's King Carl Gustav XVI presented him with the Baden-Powell World Fellowship Award. More recently he received the Silver Beaver Award and the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouting Award.

In his decades of public and private service he worked for five Presidents on various taxation and industrial committees from 1939 to 1966, and served as a Morrow County mounted deputy sheriff from 1974-1984. He was a 32nd Degree Mason. His many contributions included the pool at the Center-Y, the gazebo in Public Square, the addition to the Galion Public Library, Cobey Park and much more. He served on many boards throughout his long life.

He and his wife, Hortense, were married in 1944 and lived in Galion. He loved family and friends at his home and relating the endless stories of his childhood years, his near drowning at the age of six, and his fascinating encounters with Presidents and notables of the 20th century.

Mr. Cobey died peacefully on January 16, 2009.

Dr. Bernard M. Mansfield

Class of 1940

Dr. Bernard M. Mansfield has served Galion in a wide range of capacities and means and worked to improve our community.

Bernard M. Mansfield is a member of the Class of 1940. While in school, Dr. Mansfield played guard on the 1938 championship football team and was in dramatics. He has described himself as "an undeserving student".

World War II called him to service. His service was deferred in order to attend medical school. He completed his undergraduate degree at Miami University. He earned his MD at the University of Louisville, KY.

Dr. Mansfield began his medical practice in Galion in 1949, following one year in Cleveland. His practice grew and he built a new facility on Bucyrus Road in 1962. He retired from active practice in 1999.

He married Helen Taylor in 1943. They raised five children. Mrs. Mansfield died in 2001. Dr. Mansfield still resides in Galion.

In 1955 with several other community members, Dr. Mansfield organized the Galion Historical Society. This organization continues to today and is housed in Brownella Cottage.

Dr. Mansfield has traveled extensively, visiting all the continents in his travels. He continues to travel and to be active in Galion, providing photographs to the Galion Inquirer regarding historic Galion.

He has earned many awards for his service to our community and his work with the historical society. He was named Citizen of the Year by the Galion Betterment Commission. When interviewed for this award, Dr. Mansfield admitted that "I love Galion, I really do."

Dr. David R. Curfman

Class of 1960

An active figure in the fields of medicine, music, and heraldry, David R. Curfman always maintained ties to Galion.

While in high school, David was active in a wide range of student activities. He was a noted pipe organ recitalist, often playing at Peace Lutheran Church.

Following his graduation from Galion High School in 1960, David attended Capital University and Columbia Union College earning his AB. He then earned his MS from George Washington University. He continued extended graduate studies in Neuroanatomy at Georgetown University. He earned his MD in 1973 from the George Washington University School of Medicine.

He maintained a private practice in Neurological Surgery in Washington, D.C. as well serving as Clinical Professor and Instructor in Neurosurgery at the George Washington University Medical Center, and was Chief of the Division of Neurological Surgery at Providence Hospital at his death.

Dr. Curfman's list of memberships and awards is extensive. He was a proud member of the Sons of the American Revolution, a charter member of the Galion Historical Society, a charter member of the Galion Alumni Association, Founding Member and Board Member of the United States Capital Historical Society, President and Historian for the National Christmas Tree Lighting Pageant of Peace, Dean of the American Guild of Organist. He received many awards from the American Association of Neurosurgeons and the American Medical Association. He was particularly honored to

be invited back to Galion to lecture chemistry classes for special occasion.

He was a devoted and loving husband and a genuine caring man for all people. He cared for Galion all of his life.

Mr. Peter Lawrence

Class of 1962

Peter Lawrence left Galion to pursue a career in the theater and has made his mark working with major Broadway productions.

Peter graduated from Galion Senior High School in 1962. He was active in dramatics at Galion, under the direction of fellow Hall of Fame member, Miss Miriam Sayre. He credits Miss Sayre for his interest in theater.

He began his college work at the College of Wooster, intending to become a lawyer, but soon left to enter the theater, his interest since kindergarten. He soon transferred colleges, and earned his BA in Theatre from The Ohio State University. He began teaching theater history, stagecraft and lighting at Transylvania College in Lexington, KY. He worked one summer in summer stock with professional actors and claimed that "nothing was ever the same for me. He determined to move to New York and begin an active theatre career, first earning his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Hawaii.

He began his career on Broadway in 1977. He has held many titles and roles, all backstage: associate director, production stage manager, production supervisor, associate producer, production manager, stage manager, and director of national tours. His credits include "Miss Saigon", "Sunset Boulevard", "Hurlyburly", revivals of "Annie Get Your Gun" and "Gypsy", Neil Simon's "Broadway Bound", "Lost in Yonkers", and "Jake's Women". He was part of the Tony Award winning production team for "Spamalot". He is currently working on the revival of "Ragtime".

He holds memberships in Actor's Equity Association, the Society of Stage Directors & Choreographers, and the Stager Manager's Association.

In a published interview, Peter has said, "I'm the luckiest guy in the world to have been tapped by the theater. I have had a much more interesting life than a kid from a farm town in Ohio should have ever had."

Colleen A. Conry

Class of 1980

Colleen Conry graduated from Galion High School in 1980. While at Galion, she was very active in school, participating in volleyball, softball, basketball and much more.

Following her active high school career, she attended The Ohio State University, earning her BS/BA in Accounting, graduating cum laude. She then earned her JD at Boston College in 1990. While at Boston College she served as supervising editor and staff writer for Uniform Commercial Code Reporter Digest. She has bar admissions in Ohio and Washington, D.C.

She joined the Department of Justice where for seven years she served in the Commercial Litigation Branch of the Civil Division where she tried multiple cases involving claims against the Federal Government in excess of \$3 billion.

Colleen then served as a federal prosecutor in the Fraud Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. In this role, she prosecuted several high-profile, white-collar cases. Among these cases were United States v. Nacchio where she was co-lead counsel in an insider trading case, United States v. Gagalis, et al, United States v. Scrusby, and United States v. Ferguson, et al.

Colleen is currently a partner in Ropes & Gray's Government Enforcement Group, focusing her practice on white-collar criminal defense in the areas of securities fraud, health care fraud, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations, as well as complex commercial litigation matters. She joined Ropes & Gray in April 2008.

She has earned the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in 2007, the Director's Annual Award for Outstanding Criminal Investigations, Federal Bureau of Investigation also in 2007, the Chief Inspector Award, United States Postal Inspection Service in 2007 and many other citations.

Carl Johnson

Class of 1986

Carl Johnson is a 1986 graduate of Galion High School, where he was a member of the 1985 State Championship football team of which he was quarterback. Yet it is not because of football heroics that he has been named to the Galion Alumni Hall of Fame.

Following his graduation from Galion, Carl attended Regents College of New York, majoring in history. He earned his MBA from the University of Houston.

His career with Honeywell Analytics has been marked by success. He is noted for his honesty and sincerity and called a visionary leader.

His efforts to aid Galion began with the 2007 "Golf for Education" Tournament. This successful golf fund raiser was one

of the seeds of this years Connections Weekend.

Carl is active with the American Cancer Society and with Child Advocates, donating many hours and aid to abused and neglected children in his community.

Brent Gledhill

Class of 1987

An internet search for Brent Gledhill finds three men of that name living in the United States, But only one - Brent W. Gladhill - has direct connections to Galion, Ohio.

A Certified Public Account, Brent is a graduate of Galion Senior High School (1987), Miami University (Bachelor of Science, 1991), and Harvard University (Master of Business Administration, 1997).

He has had a distinguished career. He joined William Blair & Company in 1997 where is currently a principal, serving as the Global Head of Investment Banking and sitting on the Executive Committee. Before assuming his current position, he was Head of European and Asian Banking for Blair & Company. His company biography notes that " He has successfully served more than 100 clients in both growth financing and merger-and-acquisitions advisory projects."

Brent has also served in various capacities with Price-Waterhouse, the United States Congress where he worked with Congressman Michael Oxley, and as the vice president of business development at Broadhead Sports.

Brent lived in London, England, from 2000 to 2009 and recently relocated to Chicago, Illinois with his wife and two children. When asked for his favorite Galion memory, he indicated the "football and basketball games."

Robert Phillion

Class of 1989

Robert Philion is a 1989 graduate of Galion High School where he was active in a wide range of activities. A member of the golf and basketball team as well as the Ohio Mathematics League, Bob was recognized for his abilities by selection to the National Honor Society and the Zeisler Scholarship Award of Distinction. In athletics, Bob was a member of the district golf championship team that competed at the state tournament.

Following his high school graduation, Bob continued his education at Xavier University, earning a BS in Business Administration, marketing emphasis. He continued his athletic career by earning a golf and academic scholarship at Xavier. He finished his undergraduate degree as one of the top 12 Marketing students. He has continued his education with studies at the Insead Business School in Paris, France.

After earning his undergraduate degree, he joined Reebok and began a rapid climb up the corporate ladder. His final position with Reebok was as the Vice President of Footwear for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, living with his family in Den Hague, Netherlands.

In 2005 Bob was recruited by PUMA to start their new golf division, taking the position as Global Business Unit Manager, PUMA Golf. In 2006 he oversaw the launch of PUMA globally. He has continued to grow the PUMA Golf business and serves as brand spokesman.

Bob has helped the Galion Education Foundation with their golf tournaments and firmly believes in "giving back". With his

business career he is committed to his family.

He has been received many citations and awards for his contributions to both Reebok and PUMA and the golf field.

Nicole Paluga

Class of 1998

Nicole Paluga, a 1998 graduate of Galion High School, has pursued her career in film with intensity. While she wishes she could go back in time and tell her 18 year old self to pay attention in English, her career using the written word has been a success. Following her graduation, Nicki attended Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio where she concentrated in theatre and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication in 2002. During her undergraduate studies, she twice traveled abroad, including an actor's conservatory program in Edinburgh, Scotland and a unique shipboard education called "Semester at Sea". During her semester at sea, she traveled the world visiting a dozen foreign lands.

Nicki then attended Columbia University's MFA Film Program in New York City, graduating in 2005. During her time at Columbia, she was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Zaki Gordon Award for Excellence in Screenwriting, the Kathryn Parlan Hearst Screenwriting Award, the ScriptConnect Fellowship, and the Columbia Casting Fellowship. While pursuing her master's degree, she also penned a feature-length horror script, The Swiss Village, which was selected for the Film Independent's Director Lab and the 2007 Nantucket Screenwriters Colony.

Currently Nicki is living in Los Angeles, California where she writes for the fantasy based television series Legend of the Seeker. This program is syndicated and in its second season

