The children of educators and coaches are often overwhelmed by daunting expectations which they are unable to fulfill. In the case of Michael Higgins the story is much to the contrary. Michael has exceeded the expectations of a loving family and has achieved a lifetime of accomplishments from his humble origins at Warrior Run. Michael first made a name for himself on the football fields, baseball diamonds, and basketball courts at Warrior Run. He transferred the success and work ethic he learned through athletics to the academic world to the point where he is today in his professional life, proudly calling himself Dr. Michael Higgins.

Michael grew up in Watsontown along with a sister Kelly and a brother Chris. The son of two educators, Mr. and Mrs. William Higgins, Michael was held to high standards throughout the educational process and lived in a family which truly knew the value of where education, specifically a Warrior Run education, could take you in life.

Michael, a member of the Class of 1984, excelled academically and athletically during his four years at Warrior Run High School. A member of the National Honor Society during both his junior and senior years Michael ended up graduating 7th in a class of 170. He was also named the scholar athlete of the year for his graduating class. As a three sport athlete in high school, Michael earned a total of ten varsity letters, three in football, three in basketball, and four in baseball. After rushing for over 1,000 yards in both his junior and senior seasons, Michael was named to the All State Football Team as an honorable mention after his senior campaign. As a point guard for the Defender basketball team, Michael accumulated a total of 1,127 points over the course of his three year varsity career. Not only did Michael achieve success on an individual basis in the athletic realm, but the teams of which he was a member of competed at championship levels. In football, Michael was a member of West Branch League Division II Championship teams in 1981, 1982, and 1983. On the baseball diamond, Michael was a member of the 1984 Susquehanna Valley League Championship team.

Upon graduation from high school, Michael attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania from 1984 through 1988 graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree. The native of Watsontown continued his education at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry from 1988 through 1992 graduating Cum Laude with a Doctorate of Optometry.

As a professional, Michael has quickly established himself as a leader in the optometry field in western Pennsylvania, specifically in the Renfrew area. Michael was voted the “Young Optometrist of the Year in 1997.” He currently is a member of the following professional organizations; The American Optometric Association, The Pennsylvania Optometric Association, and The Western Pennsylvania Optometric Association. Michael has also previously served as a board member of The Western Pennsylvania Optometric Association.

Dr. Higgins is also highly involved in the community of the Butler County area. He is a member of the St. Fidelis Catholic Church where he serves as Vice-President of the Men’s Club. Michael is a member of the Butler County Chamber of Commerce along with being the Membership Director for the local Business Network International.

Today, Dr. Higgins lives in Renfrew, Pennsylvania, with his wife Claudia along with their six year old son, Justin, and five year old son, Nathan.
“You got to be careful if you don’t know where you’re going, because you might not get there.” Fortunately for many Warrior Run students, these immortal words of Yogi Berra, did not define the course that Harry Mathias, Sr. charted in defining his life’s work. Harry has served the Warrior Run School District and our communities for forty-seven years and fortunately always seemed to know where he was going.

Harry was born April 5, 1938, in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, the son of Calvin and Margaret Mathias. Harry Mathias first came to Warrior Run in 1953 when he enrolled as a sophomore at Turbotville High School. While in high school Harry participated in the football and baseball programs, served as class treasurer, sports editor of the yearbook, sports editor for the Blue and White, and as a performer in the school musical and chorus, an actor in the class play, and a member of a the rod & gun club, the projection club and chef club.

After graduating as a member of the Class of 56, Harry served in the United States Navy from August 1956 to June 1960. While serving in the Navy, Harry completed his basic training in Bainbridge, Maryland, moving to the U.S. Naval Communications Station in San Diego, California, in November of 1956, where he trained before moving on to March Air Force Base for training as a radio printer from May through July 1957. For the remainder of Harry’s service in the United States Navy, he was assigned to work with the National Security Agency around the world, being stationed in Washington, D.C.; Adak, Alaska; and Kami Seya, Japan.

After concluding his military duty, Harry enrolled in Bloomsburg State Teacher’s College in September of 1960, earning a Bachelor of Science in education and certification as a social studies teacher. Harry began his teaching career with the Warrior Run School District in August of 1963, retiring in June of 1996. As one might suspect, Harry served the students of the Warrior Run community, not only doing an outstanding job in the classroom, but by reaching beyond the classroom to touch the lives of many students. Harry served as an advisor to the Student Council and the Varsity Club for several years. During the 1985 and 1986 school year, Harry spearheaded campaign efforts to raise $15,000 for a weight room program that has been shared by our athletic programs and physical education programs for many years.

Harry has made a noticeable impact beyond the classroom in working with Warrior Run student athletes. Beginning in 1963, Harry served four years as an assistant wrestling coach. During his tenure at Warrior Run, he has also served as an assistant baseball coach for five years, taking over the reigns as the head coach from 1981 through 1984, winning our only Susquehanna Valley Baseball League Championship in his final year as head coach. For 22 years Harry served as an assistant football coach. In 1978, Harry took over a football program that had gone winless for three seasons. For the next eight years, Harry’s teams amassed a record of 56 wins against 40 losses and two ties and shared or won six West Branch League divisional or league titles, the first coming in the inaugural season. Under Harry’s tenure, Warrior Run football gained recognition as being a competitive program where teams had to come ready to play. Harry’s dedication to his program was recognized by his fellow coaches through his election as the West Branch Coach of the Year in 1980 and 1983. Harry’s interest in working with student athletes went beyond the sidelines coaching Warrior Run athletes. From 1982 through 1987, Harry served as the Assistant Athletic Director and then as Athletic Director until his retirement in 1996. However, Harry was not finished serving Warrior Run. In October of 2004, Harry continued his service to the district returning as Athletic Director until his retirement in June of 2007.

As busy as Harry’s career has been serving the Warrior Run School District, he also found time to be an active member of the community. Harry assumed the duties of the School to Work Coordinator for the Upper Northumberland County School to Work program. He then served as the Business and Education Coordinator for the Milton Chamber of Commerce. Harry is a past member of the Milton Rotary Club, the Watsontown Lions Club, and the Watsontown American Legion. He served on the committee to establish the Watsontown Community swimming pool and
again helped the fundraising efforts to establish this important community resource. Harry has also served on the Delaware Township Sewer Authority, the council of the United Church of Christ in Watsontown, and coached Watsontown Little League Baseball teams for seven years serving as president for four. Harry currently is a member of the Turbotville Lions Club and has served as president.

Now that Harry is retired, he and his wife of 46 years, the former Helen Balliet plan to spend more time visiting with their children, all graduates of the Warrior Run School District and Bucknell University. Harry, Jr., Superintendent of the Central Columbia School District, and his wife Bridgette are proud parents of Nathaniel and live in the Millville area. Holly, an elementary teacher, and her husband Mitchell Pennington live on Martha’s Vineyard with their three daughters, Bethany, Mattie, and Ellie. Heath, Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of the Supply Chain Operation for Wells Lamont lives in Chicago along with his wife Peggy and their son Garrett.

Harry Mathias, Sr., has dedicated his life to his family, to his school, and to his community. Harry’s life is better defined, not by the words of Yogi Berra, but rather those of Ralph Waldo Emerson who said “The world makes way for a man who knows where he is going.” Harry knew where he was going, and we are all better for it.
LORI A. YOST
1980

Lori Yost is a 1980 graduate of Warrior Run and currently lives in Sewickley, PA. While in high school, Lori was an accomplished athlete; she was a Varsity member of the track team all four years. Her track accomplishments included being District Champion in the 880-yard dash her freshman and sophomore year and runner-up her senior year. She was also District Champion in the 2-mile relay team her freshman and sophomore year and placed third in the Pennsylvania State meet her freshman year in the 880-yard dash and fifth place her senior year. Lori was captain of the team and voted Most Valuable Player her senior year.

Lori also was a member of the field hockey and basketball team lettering 3 years and captain of both teams her senior year. Not only was Lori an outstanding athlete for Warrior Run, but she could also be found singing in the Concert Band and "cutting and pasting" while on the Warrior yearbook staff.

Lori is a 1985 graduate of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. Majoring in Physical education with a minor in school health education and an emphasis area of athletic training, she graduated with honors. She participated in both field hockey and lacrosse and served as the captain of the varsity lacrosse team in both her junior and senior years. In 1985 Lori began her physical education and coaching career at Sewickley Academy. Here, she chaired the physical education department and taught pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade as well as coaching all levels of field hockey, basketball and lacrosse. She served as the interim athletic director in the 1994-95 school year and followed that position with a Fulbright teacher exchange to the Zuyderzee College in the Netherlands.

Along with her teaching career, Lori is a Commander in the United States Navy Reserve. She was commissioned as an Ensign in 1985. In 1990 she graduated from the U. S. Navy Deep Sea Driving and Salvage Officer School and was assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 (MDSU2) Detachment Cleveland where she served for 14 years and was the command officer from 1997-1999. Besides her duties with MDSU2 Detachment Cleveland, Lori has also served with Commander Naval Surface Group Mediterranean, Commander Atlantic Feet Joint Task Force, United States Joint Forces command where she qualified in only 6 days to stand watch as the command duty officer in the joint deployment center, and currently she is serving as the training officer for the United States Navy Central Command Detachment A. Highlights of her tour with MDSU2 included the Titan Space Rocket Recovery, the USS Monitor Expedition 2001 (engine recovery), the Ehime Maru Japanese Fishing Vessel Humanitarian Operation, and the USS Monitor Expedition 2002 (turret recovery).

Other military schools from which Lori has graduated include the following: U.S. Army Airborne School, U.S. Army Air Assault School, U.S. Marine Corps Combat Swimmer Course, Joint Forces Staff College Joint Operations, and Planning Course, and the Human Intelligence Training Course Sarajevo, Bosnia.

Lori was a member of the U.S. Military Pentathlon team from 1993 and 1995 competing in Italy, the United States, and Belgium. She was also a member of the U.S Military Triathlon Team in 1998 and 1999. The Reserve Officer Association selected Lori as the Junior Officer of the Year in 2001. In 2003, having advanced and enriched the field of diving by leadership, excellence, and outstanding contribution, she was inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame in the Meadowlands, New Jersey.

In October of 2003, Commander Yost was Presidential recalled for nine months to Bosnia as part of Operation Joint Forge. She was the Two Company Commander for the Allied Military Intelligence Battalion in Banja Luka which is located about 4 hours north of Sarajevo. A second Presidential Recall for Commander Yost was made in 2004 to the United States Central Command. She was the Team Chief in the Joint Intelligence Operations Center, both at the forward deployed headquarters in Doha, Qatar, and at MacDill Air Force Basin in Tampa, Florida.
During this two year PRC, she was also deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, and was an integral part of the Pakistan Earthquake Relief Operation.

Lori's community and life long achievements include the following:

- All Navy Women's Softball Team Coach - 1999
- Member of the United States Navy Triathlon Team - 1998-1999
- Member of the United States Military Triathlon Team - 1998
- Member of the United States Military Pentathlon Team - 1993 - 1995
- Military Pentathlon Champion - 1994 in Eupen Belgium
- United States Orienteering Team Member - 1994-1996
- Board of Directors Pittsburgh Chapter - Lacrosse Foundation - 1994
- Chairman USWLA All-American Selection Committee - 1992-1995
- Under 19 World Cup Lacrosse Team Selection Committee - 1995 & 1999
- Reserve Officer Association Junior Officer of the Year - 2002
- Women Divers Hall of Fame Inductee - 2003
Carl Beaver was born on April 1, 1959, the son of Mrs. Phyllis Beaver and the late Robert Beaver, who now live in Tallahassee, Florida. He was the second of four children including, older sister, Terry Beaver Greiner and younger brothers, Tom and Michael. Carl was an outgoing and lively young man who loved physical activity. Many in the Warrior Run community knew Carl more intimately as “Butch” or “Bubba.” Carl died in a motorcycle accident on his way to work at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary on December 18, 2006. In addition to his family mentioned above, his wife, Robinn Crawford Beaver, and a daughter, Jennifer Biddinger, survive him.

During his high school years at Warrior Run, Carl considered himself a “jock.” He played football, wearing jersey number 75, during the years when Warrior Run was not known for winning football games. Carl still enjoyed the physical, hard-hitting aspect of the game. However, his real love - and the sport that kept him working to achieve passing grades - was wrestling! Carl loved the sport and spent long hours on the mats honing his skills and working with Coach Smythe. His success on the mat reflected the hard work ethic that he displayed. His wife Robinn reported that at the age of 39 and at the urging of a friend, Carl entered a wrestling tournament at Texas A&M and took third place against students 15 to 20 years younger than he was.

After high school, Carl began working in the engineering department at Stroehman’s Bakery in Williamsport. When his boss moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, Carl accepted the invitation to join him there as assistant engineer in a similar bakery facility where he worked for 13 years. Carl began taking engineering classes at Corpus Christi State and luckily took a biology course as an elective. Carl fell in love with this new field, changed his major, and began the academic journey that occupied the remainder of his life. Carl graduated with a BS in biology from Corpus Christi State in 1991; an MS in biology from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 1994 and completed his PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M, College Station, in 2002. In addition, Carl was a post-doctoral research associate at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

To say that Carl loved diving and coral reef preservation is an understatement. We can only know how much he impacted this field from the numerous statements, which came from colleagues and friends after his death. It is obvious that Carl made a major impact on the study of coral reef ecosystems by the number of articles, publications, and books that he co-authored; the grant money that he secured for additional study of these fragile ecosystems; and the courses that he taught so that others would appreciate the importance of protecting this delicate part of our natural world.

A few colleagues sent these words expressing the legacy that Carl has left the world:

From Billy Causey: “Carl was a wealthy man . . . if you measure success by the number of true friends and colleagues that one nurtures during our brief time on this beautiful ocean planet.”

From Jefferson Childs: “Among the many endearing memories flooding my mind . . . is one symptomatic of Carl’s love of the ocean, its wonders, and how it touched him. It was a late summer night at the Flower Garden Banks . . . the corals were spawning en masse . . . the surface of the sea around the dive boat was blanketed with coral gametes rising to the surface where they floated off into the night. Carl came up from a dive, climbed up the dive ladder, took off his mask, and was weeping with joy. . . . He said he was so filled with joy of having seen such a marvelous natural phenomenon and he counted that as one of the greatest experiences of his life. . . ."

Finally, from Wes Tunnell, his undergraduate advisor at Corpus Christi State who wrote this: “His passion for life, education and the oceans, particularly coral reefs, was infectious, and he ‘infected’ many students. In memory of Carl we will be doing two things to carry on his legacy: 1) dedicating our new book to him on the “Coral Reefs of the Southern Gulf of Mexico”, and 2) establishing a memorial scholarship for coral reef studies in his name.”

Carl has left all of us a lasting legacy with his research on protecting the vulnerable coral reefs that inhabit the Gulf of Mexico. His love of these ocean ecosystems and his thirst for the knowledge to preserve them will continue through the work of colleagues and students long after his untimely death.
Stephen Renock was an outstanding leader, student, and athlete at Warrior Run. Being president of his junior class in 1969 and senior class in 1970 and president of the Varsity Club were just a few of his honors. He also was the co-captain of the football team and earned varsity letters in track, football and basketball.

Continuing his education, he earned a B.S. in business administration in 1974 from Bucknell University where he also earned two varsity letters in football. Later he attended Columbia University in their Executive Development Program receiving a certificate in 1985.

Steve’s career has included 28 years of mortgage backing experience. During this time he was Senior Vice President and National Production Manager of Shearson Lehman Mortgage Corporation located in Irvine, California. Prior to his production responsibilities, he was Shearson’s Senior Vice President and Controller. Steve previously served as Chief Financial Officer for Hinton Mortgage and Investment Company in Dallas, Texas, and as Controller for Mellon Mortgage in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Presently Steve is Executive Vice President of Financial Services of Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union. He joined OCTFCU in March 2003. He played a key role in creating OCTFCU’s wholly owned mortgage banking subsidiary, OCTFCU Mortgage Company, LLC and also serves as its President.

In addition Steve serves on the Residential Board of Governors of the Mortgage Bankers Association and is a member of the California Mortgage Bankers Association and has served on its Board of Directors and was the Chairman of its Legislative Committee. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Bucknell University and the Board of Directors of CU West Mortgage Company, Prime Alliance Services, Inc. and the Orange County Business Council.

Steve lives in Villa Park, California, with his wife Janice and son Stephen.