



# North Cedar Community School District ALUMNI AWARDS

*Alumni Awards honor graduates of North Cedar High School or one of the former districts that now make up North Cedar. Awards are given to alums in recognition of their professional achievements, service to non-profits, community impact, fine arts accomplishments and/or athletic excellence. Nominees are reviewed and recipients are selected by a committee made up of school and community representatives.*

## Alumni Achievement Award Colette Freeman



Colette Freeman, the daughter of Vern and Edna Freeman, is a 1952 graduate of Clarence High School where she was valedictorian of her class. She played basketball, oboe in the concert band and was a baton twirler in

the marching band. She is also an accomplished pianist and played for school events and was an organist at the Clarence United Methodist Church.

She earned a B.A. degree from Coe College, Cedar Rapids, in 1956 and trained as a medical technologist. She earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in biochemistry from Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

After graduation, she went to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, where she conducted research on the hormonal requirements for mammary gland growth and development in a mouse model. She then took an administrative position in the Division of Cancer Biology in the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of NIH. During her 25-year tenure as Chief of the Cancer Cell Biology Branch, she saw her grant portfolio increase seven-fold. During the period, these grants allowed researchers to make remarkable discoveries in cancer biology. As program director, she became skilled in guiding others in writing successful grant applications. She is credited by her colleagues as "an unsung hero" responsible for significant progress in cancer research in the United States.

In 1987, she was invited to join a NASA committee that was charged with creating a new grant program for the Office of Biological and Physical Research. The program hoped to identify research that would test the effect of zero gravity on biological systems in a contained environment. She helped develop the applica-

tion criteria and identified a panel of scientists for peer review.

When Congress mandated a breast cancer postage stamp in 1995, she and her staff developed a grant program to utilize the proceeds from the sale of the stamps. As of May 2017, the program had raised more than \$84 million for breast cancer research.

She received a Merit Award from the NIH for her leadership of the Cancer Cell Biology Branch in 1989. Back in Iowa, in 1998, she presented a lecture at Coe College titled "Our National Investment in Cancer Research," and in 2006, she was honored by Coe with an Alumni Award of Merit.

Following her retirement from NCI in 2004, she joined a Senior Scientists program in Maryland where she has volunteered with an eighth grade teacher to promote science literacy. In addition to volunteer work, Colette and her husband, Donald Short, have spent the past twelve years travelling the world in search of exotic animals and beautiful beaches. They make their home in Potomac, Maryland.

## Alumni Athletics Award Joel Holst



Joel Holst graduated from Clarence-Lowden High School in 1981. He was a four-year baseball, football and basketball athlete. He also played tennis for three years. His senior year he was named first team all-state football

and received first-team Mid East Conference honors in football and baseball his junior and senior years.

He earned a B.A. degree in biology and physical education from Coe College, Cedar Rapids, in 1985. A three-year starter and two-year captain for the Kohawks baseball team, he was a three-time all-Midwest Conference selection

and was team MVP his senior season. He was a career .403 hitter, the only player in school history to top .400. He was also a three-year starter for Kohawk football.

Joel's first teaching and baseball coaching job was at West Delaware High School, Manchester, from 1985 to 1989. He was nominated baseball District Coach of the Year three times and won a WaMaC Conference title.

He then earned his M.S. degree at Northwest Missouri State, Maryville, while serving as assistant baseball coach. He took his first collegiate head coaching job at Loras College, Dubuque, in 1990. He guided the Duhawks to their first national ranking in school history.

Joel is now in his 23rd season as head baseball coach and is a fitness management and physical education instructor at Wartburg College, Waverly. He guided the Knights to 12-straight Iowa Conference regular season championships and they have celebrated 29 total championships during his tenure.

He led the Knights into the NCAA Division III National Tournament 14 times. His 2000 baseball team won the school's first Regional Championship and went on to compete in the NCAA Division III College World Series to finish the season ranked sixth in the nation. The 2005 team also won a Regional Championship and finished fourth in the College World Series.

He has been named the Iowa Conference Coach of the Year 11 times and was named the four-year College Coach of the Year by the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association six times. He was named Central Region Collegiate Coach of the Year in 2000 and 2005 by the American Baseball Coaches Association. He has posted an overall career record at Wartburg of 674-319-4. In 2011, he was inducted in the Coe College Athletic Hall of Fame.

Joel and his wife, Debbie, a 1990 Clarence-Lowden graduate, reside in Waverly and have two sons, McClain and Ripken. His mother is Barb Holst.

## 2017-18 Alumni Award Recipients

Alumni Achievement Award  
**Colette Freeman**

Alumni Athletics Award  
**Joel Holst**

Alumni Achievement Award  
**Calvin Irons**

Alumni Fine Arts Award  
**Dale Kruse**

Alumni Achievement Award  
**Wayne Svoboda**

## THANK YOU

*North Cedar Education Foundation for financially supporting the Alumni Awards and Reception.*

## Alumni Achievement Award

### Calvin Irons



The study of geometry at Clarence High School sparked the interest of one student, Calvin Irons, which eventually led to the development of a multinational publishing company. After graduating from high school

in 1961, Calvin, the son of James and Doris Irons, enrolled at the State College of Iowa (now the University of Northern Iowa), Cedar Falls, and earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in mathematics. He then taught in the mathematics department at the university. From there he studied at the University of Hawaii and held a graduate teaching assistantship.

He then went to Indiana University to write, field test and publish materials that could be used to incorporate more mathematics into the preparation of elementary teachers.

In 1975, after completion of a Ph.D. at Indiana University, Calvin accepted a position at Brisbane College of Advanced Education, now Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia. He was tasked with the development of higher degree qualifications and to build research capacity. By 1979, he was named head of the department of mathematics. His success in writing elementary curriculum utilized extensively throughout Australia led to the development of materials for overseas markets. During this time, he wrote and traveled extensively to speak and work with education departments around the world.

He secured funding at QUT to explore the development of teaching techniques in the digital era. In 1995, he and a past student formed ORIGO Education. Over the next 10 years, the publishing company evolved, and its materials were used in nearly every Australian elementary school. By 2014, ORIGO had expanded with offices in other countries and was offering a full range of mathematics resources for use in elementary schools around the world. He also left QUT to devote full-time work to ORIGO. He is currently working in Thailand on a project with the government to prepare every elementary teacher with techniques in math education.

He is the author/co-author of more than 600 published books and articles.

While at Indiana University, he met his wife, Rosemary Reuille. They worked together professionally at QUT in the worldwide mathematics related activities that followed. They also have another interest -- wine. Over the past 25 years, they, along with another couple, have built OceanView Estates Winery outside of Brisbane.

## Alumni Fine Arts Award

### Dale Kruse



As a student at Lincoln High School, Dale Kruse was involved in choir, show choir and band. He also played the lead in numerous drama and musical productions, was editor of the school newspaper and active in Student

Council and National Honor Society. Dale was a three-time Iowa All-State Choir member, received numerous Division I ratings for musical and speech performances and was honored as the National Choral Award winner.

After graduating high school in 1982, he went on to earn a B.A. degree from Luther College, Decorah, in 1986; a M.M. degree from Drake University, Des Moines, in 1988; and a D.M.A. degree from the University of Minnesota in 2015.

Previously, he conducted the Augsburg College Cedar Singers Men's Choir of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dale taught choral music at Robbinsdale Armstrong High School and Wayzata High School, both in Minnesota. He was also on the

voice faculty at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota.

For 12 years, he was the Music Director for the Minnesota Opera: Project Opera voice training program, a nationally recognized program he founded. Other duties included leading their summer opera camp and being the children's chorus master for mainstage productions.

Currently, he is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice and Lyric Theater at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota.

He has served as president, membership chair and auditions chair for the Minnesota National Association of Teachers of Singing chapter. Dale is a frequent performer in the Twin Cities, has sung with the Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Prairie Home Companion, Berkshire Opera, Oregon Bach Festival and Lyra Concert Baroque Orchestra. With students, he has travelled to England, Scotland and Wales.

Recently, he was selected as the 2015 Conductor of the Missouri All-Collegiate Honors Choir and winner of the 2016-17 American Prize in Conducting for the opera/musical theater, community division for his work on the world premier of *Memory Boy* with the Minnesota Opera: Project Opera. He's also a jurist for "Opera for All Voices," a new initiative bringing stories with purpose to all audiences that is commissioned by a consortium of companies led by Santa Fe Opera.

## Alumni Achievement Award

### Wayne Svoboda



Wayne Svoboda graduated from Lincoln High School in 1973. He grew up on the family farm west of Mechanicsville and is the son of Alberta and the late Vern "Bud" Svoboda. While at Lincoln, he was a four-year letter

winner of the football team, a member of the National Honor Society and he held acting roles in school theatrical productions. He was a columnist and reporter for the school newspaper, the Lincoln Log, and a staff writer for the yearbook. Outside of school, he was active in several community and church organizations.

He earned an undergraduate degree from Iowa State University, Ames. He furthered his education with master's degrees from Columbia University in journalism and London School of Economics in economic history.

During his career, Wayne has been a journalist and university educator. His first job in journalism was as a reporter and Saturday editor at The Des Moines Register. From there, he worked as an intern at The Wall Street Journal in New York

and then full time as Africa editor at The Economist newspaper in London, reporting from the continent and editing dispatches in London. He also served as a New York correspondent for Time magazine covering Wall Street and other economic issues, the United Nations and news from New York City and nearby states.

As an educator, he taught at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism for 10 years, then directed the journalism program at Queens College, a senior college that is part of the City University of New York (CUNY), from 2003 to 2006. He has been an associate professor at CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism since 2006. From 2002 to 2003, he taught as a Fulbright professor at Charles University, Prague, and Masaryk University, Brno, both in the Czech Republic. In 2005, he taught, also as a Fulbrighter, at Moscow State University, Russia. During his teaching years, he twice reported from Kosovo when the American military was deployed there. He's visited various military bases and spent a week as a civilian participant in seminars at the Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Each fall at CUNY, Wayne teaches a course called "Craft," with an aim to provide instruction in journalistic reporting, writing and ethics. Each spring, he teaches a course called "Voices and Perspectives in Conflict." In this class, he takes students on field trips to meet with people whose stories too seldom show up in news accounts.

Wayne currently resides in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Marla Stewart.

**Applications for the 2018-19 North Cedar Alumni Awards are due Sept. 15, 2018.  
The nomination form is available at [www.north-cedar.org](http://www.north-cedar.org)**