

Name

Valarie Jackson

Year of Graduation

1987

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

Following graduation, I earned a master's degree in Exercise Physiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation from East Stroudsburg University and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Exercise Science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

I started my career in cardiac rehabilitation and gradually moved to various facets of management. Prior to returning to Cole Memorial as the Executive Director of Clinical Services, I was the Director of Regional Operations at UPMC Hamot with responsibilities for the development and maintenance of affiliated hospital relationships, operational leadership and the strategic direction of regional hospital and physician business initiatives as well as providing transitional executive leadership.

Outside of work, I am part of a 12-member blues/rock band in Erie and enjoy home renovation projects.

Where do you currently live?

I have just returned to Port Allegany after residing in Fairview, Pennsylvania.

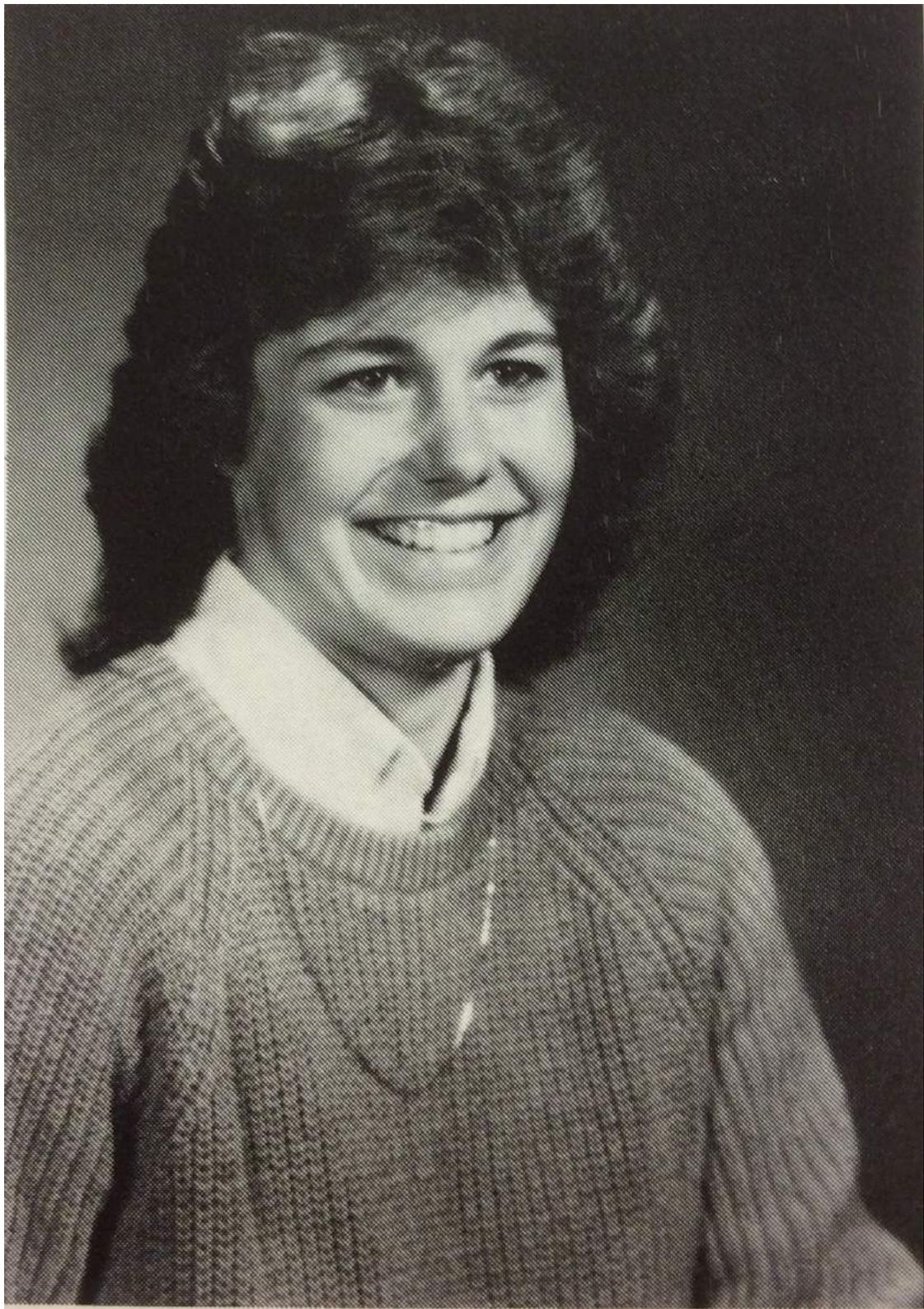
Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

It is difficult to pick just one....each left an impression. Mrs. Gregg - her kind and caring demeanor caused me to think more introspectively. Mr. Daisley taught me that it was possible to work hard and enjoy it. He was quick with a joke and had an extraordinarily warm personality, making it conducive to learning and exploring new journeys. And, Mr. Caskey...as my teacher and basketball coach, he created an environment which fostered high standards of ethics and personal integrity while instilling self-confidence. I have carried these with me throughout my career.

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

1987 was the "Year of the Gator" as all of our sports teams had extremely successful seasons, finishing the year with a total of something like 7 losses. The school, community and even some of our rivals embraced the success. The athletes of the various sports traveled to support each other throughout the year.

"Clip" Smith (WKBW -TV) came to town and interviewed the coaches and community members. The fire department met us just outside of town to "parade" us through town in the early morning hours. The support from, and pride of the community was outstanding...it was great to be part of the small town success.



Valerie K. Jackson

