

## Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame Biographical Information 2016 – 2017

### **Our first inductee to the 2017 Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame:**

#### **Ms. Vanessa Blakeslee**

Vanessa graduated from Pleasant Valley in 1997. She attended Rollins College for her Bachelor of Arts degree and went on to receive her Master of Arts at the University of Central Florida. She finished up her education in 2008 by attaining a Master of Fine Arts in writing at the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Currently Vanessa continues to write novels and is a University instructor at the University of Central Florida and Rollins College.



#### **Honors Received**

While at Pleasant Valley, Vanessa received the Rotary Club Scholarship and was a member of the National Honor Society. She was also involved in various other clubs and activities throughout her high school career.

Vanessa has flourished in her writing career publishing 2 books, *Juventud* and *Train Shots* as well as publishing 33 short stories and 38 essays in various literary journals such as *The Southern Review*, *The Green Mountains Review*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *the Globe and Mail*, and *the Kenyon Review Online*.

For her work on *Train Shots*, she was awarded the 2014 IPPY Gold Medal in Short Fiction and was nominated for the 2014 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. She was also a 2014 Sherwood Anderson Foundation Fiction Award Finalist. She has been awarded grants and residencies from Yaddo, The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, The Banff Centre, Ledig House, the Edward F. Albee Foundation, and the Ragdale Foundation. In 2013 she received the Individual Artist Fellowship in Literature from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

Vanessa currently resides in Winter Park Florida. **Congratulations to Ms. Vanessa Blakeslee**

### **Our 2<sup>nd</sup> inductee to the 2017 Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame:**

#### **Dr. Nathan Yozwiak**

Nathan graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in 2001. He attended Johns Hopkins University and graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in in Molecular and Cellular Biology. He went on to attend the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health and earned his PhD. For Infectious Disease and Immunity in 2011. Currently Dr. Yozwiak is the Associate Director of Viral Genomics at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT and a senior scientist in the Department of Organismal Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University.



## **Honors Received**

While at Pleasant Valley, Nathan was valedictorian of his graduating class in 2001. He was a member of the National Honor Society and also participated in soccer as well as various other clubs and organizations.

Dr. Yozwiak manages a research portfolio studying Ebola and Lassa virus diagnostics and evolution in collaboration with partners in West Africa. He is currently working to establish the African Center of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Disease at Redeemers University, Nigeria where he is also an adjunct senior lecturer. His focus is on outbreak surveillance and policy, developing diagnostic research and teaching tolls and expanding global infectious disease research capacity.

Dr. Yozwiak has been published and interviewed on his research by organizations such as NPR, the Boston Globe, The Boston Herald, Science, Nature, HHMI Bio Interactive, The Toronto Star and Wired Magazine. He also has spoken at numerous conferences all over the world regarding his research throughout his career.

Dr. Yozwiak currently resides in Cambridge, Massachusetts with his wife Jasmine of 3 years. **Congratulations to Dr. Nathan Yozwiak!**

## **Our 3<sup>rd</sup> inductee this evening to the 2017 Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame:**

### **Ms. Tricia O'Keefe**

Tricia graduated from Pleasant Valley in 2002. While in high school Tricia was a member of the National Honor Society, she was secretary of the varsity chorale society and participated in drama, FBLA, and concert chorus. She was also awarded the Choral Academic Award for 2002.

Tricia is a singer-songwriter that started writing songs when she was 12 years old. At the age of 17 she released her 1<sup>st</sup> CD and she was writing source music for the daytime drama "All My Children" At the age of 19 she was a regionally touring artist and starred in a national TV commercial for Coke Zero featuring the song "Chilltop" with the artist G-Love. At the age of 21 she made her national TV debut by performing on the talk show "Soap Talk".



Tricia, who is also known as "Delphia" has played in numerous venues around the country such as the CBGB and The World Café in New York City, the Wild Horse Saloon in Nashville, South by Southwest in Austin Texas, and the Tracadoro Theatre in Philadelphia. She has shared the stage with the likes of Leon Russell, Jeffrey Gaines, Marshall Crenshaw and Amos Lee. She is signed by the record label Maverick Records and has CD's out entitled "All the Honest Liars", "Star Burns Brightest" and "Once Black Cadillac"

Trisha currently resides in New Mexico. **Congratulations to Ms. Tricia O'Keefe!**

## **Our 4<sup>th</sup> inductee to the 2017 Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame:**

### **Mr. Dwight Heist**

Dwight graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in 1962. While in high school Dwight was a 2 year letter winner in baseball and played clarinet in the Pleasant Valley High School Band. He also played in the American Legion Band as well as the Bernie Parsons Dance Band where he performed at the Pleasant Valley Junior Senior Prom.

Dwight graduated in 1966 from East Stroudsburg State Teachers School with a Bachelor of Science in Education certified in Social Studies. He went on to attain his Master's degree in administration from Lehigh University in 1969. Currently Dwight is retired.



### **Honors Received:**

Dwight taught history grades 7 – 12 at Pleasant Valley retiring in 2006 after 40 years of teaching. Dwight served as the advisor to the John C. Mills chapter of the Senior National Honor Society and he also founded the government internship program through Penn State University which he ran for 20 years. He was also a member of the American Federation of Musicians for over 30 years. He also helped out where needed at various athletic events throughout his career here at Pleasant Valley.

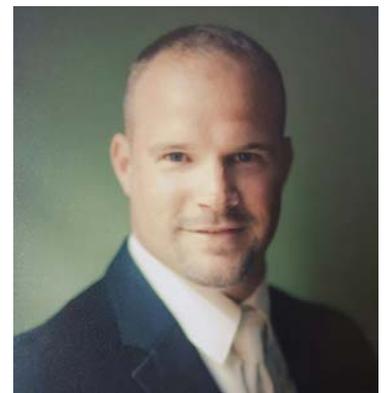
Dwight currently resides in Brodheads ville, PA. **Congratulations to Mr. Dwight Heist!**

## **Our 5<sup>th</sup> inductee to the 2017 Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame:**

### **Mr. Mike Borger**

Mike graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in 2000. Mike attended Keystone College and Lackawanna College and earned associate degrees in Sports Management and Environmental Science in 2002.

While in high school, Mike was a 4 year letter winner in both football and baseball and was involved in the DARE program as a role model for the younger students here at Pleasant Valley. Currently, Mike works as a maintenance technician at the Pleasant Valley School District which he has done for the past 12 years.



### **Honors Received:**

Mike received many honors and holds a number of Pleasant Valley sports records to this day. In football, Mike was named 1<sup>st</sup> team inside linebacker for 2 years, he was named Pocono Record Defensive Player of the year, 1<sup>st</sup> team linebacker for both the Times News and the Morning Call, as well as Channel 13's player of the week his senior year. He currently holds 2 PV school records for the most tackles in a season - 176, and most tackles in a career – 500. He was captain of the football team and helped them win the Eastern Conference Championship in 1999.

In baseball Mike was named 1<sup>st</sup> team pitcher and outfielder; he was named The Pocono Records player of the year, The Morning Call's 1<sup>st</sup> team outfielder and Channel 13's player of the week. He currently holds the Pleasant Valley record for wins in a season by a pitcher – 21. Mike's senior year was culminated by winning the overall male athlete award given out at the Pleasant Valley Athletic Awards banquet yearly to the best male athlete.

Mike currently resides in Kunkletown with his wife Christie of 6 years. He has 2 children, Chase 5, and Emma 3 and they are currently expecting their 3<sup>rd</sup> child. **Congratulations to Mike Borger!**

## **Our 6th inductee to the 2017 Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame:**

### **Mrs. Amy Hosking-Reyes**

Amy graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in 2005. Amy attended Fairfield University where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology in 2009. She went on to Penn State University and graduated with an associate's degree in Physical Therapy in 2010. Amy is currently working as a physical therapist assistant in Wilmington Delaware.



While in high school, Amy was a 4 year letter winner in Track and a 3 year letter winner in field hockey. She was also a member of the National Honor Society and graduated from PV with Cum Laude Honors.

### **Honors Received:**

While at Pleasant Valley, Amy received numerous athletic awards and honors. In track, Amy was the MVC league champion in the 100 meter hurdles and qualified for the district tournament all 4 years she participated.

In field hockey, she was a 2 year 1<sup>st</sup> team all-star for the MVC, she was the Pocono Record Player of the Year for field hockey her senior year, Morning Call All Star, captain of her team, and the team MVP. She was also selected to participate in the field hockey futures program.

Amy signed a letter of intent to play Division I field hockey @ Fairfield University where she played in 73 games throughout her college career. She was awarded the coaches award in her senior year. Amy is also a certified USFHA level 1 coach for the Futures program and is a certified referee for field hockey.

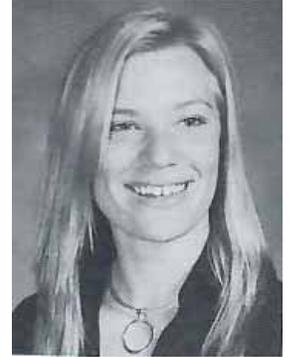
Amy currently resides in Wilmington, Delaware with her husband of 5 years Mike Reyes, also a Pleasant Valley graduate. **Congratulations to Mrs. Amy Hosking-Reyes!**

## **Our 7th inductee to the 2017 Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame:**

### **Ms. Alesha Sisco**

Alesha graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in 2006. After graduation, Alesha attended Blair Academy for one year and then went on to Dickinson College where she earned her degree in International Business and Management, Economics in 2011.

While in high school, Alesha was a 4 year letter winner in both basketball and softball. Alesha was also involved in the big brother/big sister program.



### **Honors Received:**

While at Pleasant Valley, Alesha received numerous athletic awards in honors. In basketball, she was a 3 year 1<sup>st</sup> team all MVC player and 2 time MVP. She was a 1,000 pt. scorer and led her teams to 3 consecutive MVC Championships and 1 District Championship. She was the Pocono Record Player of the Year, 4 time channel 13 player of the week, and she was captain of her team.

In softball, Alesha was a 4 year 1<sup>st</sup> team all MVC player and MVP of the MVC in 2005. She was team captain and helped lead her team to 3 consecutive MVC championships. She was a 2 time Pocono Record player of year and 2 time Channel 13 player of the week. She was also named to the morning call 1<sup>st</sup> team her senior year.

At Dickinson College where she played basketball, she holds the record for the highest field goal percentage in school history and was a 1000 pt. scorer. She was the team captain and a 2 time 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-star. She played softball at Dickinson College as well and was a 2 time 1<sup>st</sup> team all-star leading her team to the conference championship in 2010.

Alesha currently resides in Nashville Tennessee. **Congratulations to Ms. Alesha Sisco!**