

Distinguished Achievement HALL OF FAME

BRAINERD HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT HALL OF FAME



2016
Anthony Griffin
1997 Graduate



2012
Jill (Johnson) Wyant
1989 Graduate



2008
Captain Wallace Lind
1905 Graduate



2003
Duane Lund
1943 Graduate



2016
Keith R. Keller
1978 Graduate



2012
James Peterson, Sr.
1943 Graduate



2007
Thomas G. Anderson
1968 Graduate



2003
Dr. Helen Longfellow
1929 Graduate



2016
Robert Gross
BHS Above and Beyond
Award



2012
Kevin Doran
1979 Graduate



2007
Dr. Gene M. Bierhaus
1939 Graduate



2003
Jim Anderson
1961 Graduate



2015
Colonel Ronald Albers
1965 Graduate



2012
Phil Mattson
1956 Graduate



2007
Dr. Kimberley Broekemeier
1977 Graduate



2002
Sen. Don Samuelson
1951 Graduate



2015
Dr. L.J. Nickisch
1974 Graduate



2011
Brad Hill
1969 Graduate



2007
Cindy Fryklind Clough
1976 Graduate



2002
Dr. Roger Moe
1948 Graduate



2015
Brian Nystrom
1977 Graduate



2011
Basil C. LeBlanc
1972 Graduate



2007
Vice Admiral Howard Thorsen
1951 Graduate



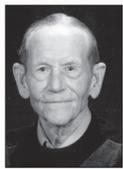
2002
Carl Zapffe
1929 Graduate



2015
Branelle Cibuzar Rodriguez
2000 Graduate



2011
Gayle Anderson Ober
1977 Graduate



2006
Clarence Holden
1930 Graduate



2002
Hortense McKay
1927 Graduate



2014
Tom Haglin
1981 Graduate



2010
Edward T. O'Brien
1923 Graduate



2006
Richard Nolan
1962 Graduate



2001
Robert Anderson
1953 Graduate



2014
Joshua (JP) Larue
1992 Graduate



2010
Madonna H. Meyer
1977 Graduate



2006
Cindy Jane Williams
1985 Graduate



2001
Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson
1967 Graduate



2014
Nancy Pedersen
1970 Graduate



2010
Howard "Jiggs" Blanck
1954 Graduate



2005
Marilyn J. Koering
1956 Graduate



2000
M. Eleanor Nolan
1926 Graduate



2014
Dennis Wolfgang Borgwarth
1979 Graduate



2010
Lt. Col. William F. McCollough
1987 Graduate



2005
Jon Thorson
1982 Graduate



2000
Dr. Harold Kletschka
1941 Graduate



2013
Sheila Wasnie Haverkamp
1981 Graduate



2009
Shawn Stengel
1977 Graduate



2005
Alex G. "Gene" Fremling
1949 Graduate



2000
Paul Hunt
1972 Graduate



2013
Connie Marshall-Grittner
1964 Graduate



2009
Michael O'Leary
1969 Graduate



2005
Roger C. Vergin
1955 Graduate



1999
John A. Mehaffey
1954 Graduate



2013
William Potvin
1972 Graduate



2009
Henry C. Mills II
1946 Graduate



2004
Duane Blanck
1960 Graduate



1999
Stewart C. Mills Jr.
1946 Graduate



2009
Dr. Wayne Little
1950 Graduate



2004
Peggy Kriha Dye
1987 Graduate



1999
Linda Eder
1979 Graduate



2008
John Arnold
1937 Graduate



1999
C. Elmer Anderson
1928 Graduate

The Brainerd High School Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Brainerd Public Schools Foundation and Brainerd Dispatch, has been established to honor graduates of the high school for distinguished achievements and careers.

Two to be inducted into BHS Hall of Fame



Brainerd High School Hall of Fame Banquet planned Sept. 29 at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa. Brainerd Public Schools Foundation will honor two Brainerd High School graduates for their career and personal achievements at the annual Distinguished

Achievement Hall of Fame Banquet Sept. 29 at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and program at 6:30 p.m. Inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame this fall are Kelly Burnham (known professionally as Alan Roach), a 1984 BHS graduate, and Kristen (Doyscher) Williams, a 1998 BHS graduate. By Jodie Tweed

Presenting **KELLY BURNHAM** Professionally known as Alan Roach 2017 Inductee **Class of 1984 | Professional Sports Announcer**



Before the next Minnesota Vikings home game, listen closely. You will likely hear the deep, baritone voice of its regular announcer who may be familiar to many in the Brainerd lakes area.

Kelly Burnham, a 1984 Brainerd High School graduate, is living his dream. As a young boy, he would sit in

front of the television, watching the Vikings with his NFL football players' cards spread out in front of him. He'd move the cards around on the floor, as if he was coaching the players on the field.

"Honestly, I could have named every Viking on the team when I was 4 years old," Burnham recalls. "I've loved the Vikings since I can ever remember having memories."

Burnham, who is known professionally as Alan Roach, has built an impressive resume that would make any sports fan green with envy. He's been the public address announcer for Minnesota Vikings home games since 2016. He's also had a front row seat to nearly every major professional sporting event in the country and around the world as an announcer.



Burnham has been the public address announcer for nine Super Bowls; this February's game in Minnesota will mark his tenth. He's announced ice hockey during the past four Winter Olympics: Sochi, Russia, 2014; Vancouver, Canada, 2010; Torino, Italy, 2006; and Salt Lake City, 2002. He also announced boxing at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The day after the Super Bowl this winter in Minneapolis he'll fly to PyeongChang, South Korea, to announce at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games. Burnham, who lives in Littleton, Colo., is or has been the public address announcer for the following Colorado teams:

- Colorado Avalanche (NHL) 1999 to present
- Colorado Rapids (MLS) 2016 to present
- Denver Broncos (NFL) 2000-2016
- Colorado Rockies (MLB) 1993-2006
- University of Colorado Buffaloes 2007-09
- Denver University Pioneers 2004-05
- Colorado Springs SkySox 1990-91

Burnham has served as public address announcer for numerous Pro Bowls, NFL drafts and Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremonies. He's been the announcer for the NFL Pro Bowl since 2009 and the NFL International Series games in London since 2007. He's also announced five Olympic Gold Medal Hockey games and multiple NHL and MLB All-Star Games. In 2015, he announced baseball at the Pan Am Games in Toronto, Canada.

He's announced for professional soccer games, including the 2017 USA Men's National Team, 2016 USA Women's National Team, the 2015 MLS All-Stars vs. Tottenham, and the 2017 Confederations Cup in Saint Petersburg, Russia, an international soccer tournament preceding the World Cup games, which will have him back in Russia in summer of 2018. In 2009-10, he announced for the Churchill Cup, an international rugby championship.

If you've ever been at the Denver International Airport, you may recognize Burnham's voice. He's the voice of the underground train system at the airport.

"I'm so lucky," Burnham says, of his broadcasting career. "It's a dream job for anybody. It's amazing how many of the world's biggest sports events I've been sitting at a microphone for. There are people who only dream of having a ticket to such an event. I have to pinch myself a lot."



Ironically, Burnham's sport of choice at BHS wasn't football, but basketball, despite being a diehard Vikings fan. He and his family moved to Brainerd from the small farming community of Slayton, Minn., during Christmas break of his ninth-grade year when he started school at Franklin Junior High. He had been in track and football while at Slayton, but once he got to Brainerd, he opted to stick with basketball through his senior year.

"I was kind of afraid of everyone on the football team," Burnham admits with a laugh. "I look back at that now and I wish I knew differently. If you played smart, you wouldn't get hurt. I wish I would have played."

The summer before his junior year at BHS, Burnham got his first on-air radio job, which proved to be the start of a lengthy broadcasting career. He was hired at KLIZ Radio as an announcer. He worked at the Brainerd radio station through the rest of high school and after graduating from BHS in 1984. He enrolled at Southwest State University in Marshall, taking radio and television courses. He assumed he'd get his bachelor's degree there, but the summer after his freshman year, his boss at KLIZ asked him to stay on as sports director.

Burnham didn't return to college. Instead, he took the job at KLIZ. The following spring the radio station sent him to cover spring training for the Minnesota Twins in Kissimmee, Fla. It was 1986 - the year before the Twins won the World Series.

"I'm 19 years old, wandering around Twins' training camp and interviewing players," recalls Burnham. "It was the coolest thing I'd done at that point."

A year later, the radio station told him they no longer had a budget for a sports department, and Burnham left Brainerd, looking for radio work. He then took a series of radio gigs in Garden City, Kan.; Fort Dodge, Iowa; Des Moines, Iowa; and Colorado Springs, Colo., which eventually led to a job at a Denver radio station in July 1991.

He changed his professional name to Alan Roach when he arrived in Denver. While he was working in radio in Brainerd, he worked under his own name. But when he moved to Kansas, Burnham switched to Kelly Walker, an easy name for listeners to remember. Later, he decided to add an Irish flair; he worked as Kelly O'Shay when he played rock-and-roll music.

After moving to Denver, Burnham had a dilemma. There was an afternoon announcer named Steve Kelly and another announcer named Michael O'Shay. He couldn't be Kelly O'Shay.

"There's not really a good reason why Alan Roach popped into being, but it became my name in July 1991," Burnham explains. "Because of my longevity in Denver radio, now 95 percent of the people who have contact with me call me Alan Roach. Even my closest friends don't know me as Kelly Burnham. My family calls me Kelly



and only a very few people I've worked with a long time call me Kelly."

Burnham worked at nine radio stations in four states before landing in Denver, where he worked at KOA Radio for 26 years. When he started as KOA's sports reporter, he would travel with the Denver Broncos doing sideline reports at their away games. He did this for 16 years. "I saw the ins and outs of a football team," Burnham explains. "Standing on the sideline of an NFL game is so different from sitting in the stands or watching it on television."



Burnham's five older siblings all still live in Minnesota. His parents, Phyllis and Dale Burnham, who lived in Nisswa, have since passed away. They both worked for many years at Grand View Lodge - as Burnham did for six years while living in Nisswa. This is why Burnham says he and his family like to stay there when they come back and visit. He and his wife Jennifer got married at Grand View Lodge in 2012. Burnham's former English teacher and student council advisor, Guy Doud, officiated their wedding.

Burnham has two children, a daughter, Katjana, 19, and a son, D'Artagnan, 15.

Burnham has fond memories of his own teenage years spent in Brainerd. He served as student council president his senior year. He was stunned when he learned he was being inducted into the Brainerd High School Hall of Fame.

"I can't wrap my head around it," Burnham says, of the honor. He says he feels humbled by being grouped with the other distinguished BHS alumni who have been inducted before him. "I looked online at the 65 people who are in there and they are teachers, doctors, civic leaders, military heroes, people who have done so much charity work and helped out children and done so much for the community. I feel a bit undeserving. I have a really, cool job and that's all I've done. I'll take it. I love it. It's a very special honor for me."

People often ask Burnham what's the greatest sporting event he's ever been involved with. It's a difficult question for him to answer.

"The Super Bowl is the single greatest sporting event - and I've done nine of them - and the Olympics is the greatest sporting spectacle of them all - and I've done five of them," Burnham explains. "It's impossible to explain how humbling it is to be asked to come back and be part of these experiences. It's unbelievable."



Presenting KRISTEN (DOYSCHER) WILLIAMS

2017 Inductee Class of 1998 | Music Entertainment Business



When you're listening to your favorite country music artists on the radio or streaming one of their songs on Spotify, Apple Music or Pandora, it's likely a 1998 Brainerd High School graduate has played an integral role in getting their music out to the masses.

Kristen (Doyscher) Williams, Senior Vice President of Radio and Streaming for Warner Music Nashville, has been named a 2017 Brainerd High School

Hall of Fame inductee. She works directly with radio stations and online streaming platforms throughout the country to get their artists' music onto playlists. She represents country artists such as Blake Shelton, Zac Brown Band, Brett Eldredge, Cole Swindell, and Hunter Hayes, to name only a few.

Today, Williams is a country music industry leader. She's also become a role model for women in the music business. But growing up in Brainerd, far from the city lights of Nashville, it had never occurred to Williams that jobs like hers even existed.

"I didn't know that there was somebody responsible for getting music played on the radio," she says. "I assumed it just happened."

Williams, the daughter of Becky and Mark Doyscher, moved to Brainerd with her family when she was 6. She's the eldest of six siblings. When she was 12, the family moved to Baxter, where she has fond memories of living on White Sand Lake.

"Growing up in Brainerd was incredibly special," Williams explains. "You take for granted a lot of things when you're a kid and you don't realize how lucky you are. I grew up on a lake and had lakes surrounding me. We lived only a mile from the nearest gas station and we'd ride our bikes to the park and grab a snack on our way home. I had a longtime summer job at Kavanaugh's (Resort). I love a small town feel and that's partly because of how I was raised."

Williams jokes that she now sings only in the kitchen and shower, but she fell in love with singing and performing while a student at Brainerd Public Schools. Her first musical performance was in fifth grade when she dressed in a fish costume and sang a song about a submarine as part of the Brainerd "Windows" production. She didn't start to get serious about pursuing her musical interests until she met Diane Hauan, Director of Vocal Music at Pierz Healy High School, who had been her choir director at the former Franklin Junior High School.

"She was the first person who told me that I had a true instrument in my voice," Williams says of Hauan. "She really taught me how to sing. She worked with me through private lessons and helped me recognize I had a real talent in my voice."

In Hauan's letter of recommendation to Brainerd Public Schools Foundation, she wrote that Williams' character, work ethic and genuine personality made her a fitting match as a Hall of Fame recipient.

"Kristen, as a student, had a radiating smile and an incredible vocal talent. Even at such a young age, she could 'sing circles' around most people. More than that, Kristen was and is a fantastic person. Her ability to succeed in everything that was placed before her, transcended into her adult life."

At Brainerd High School, Williams met former BHS choral director Mike Smith, who helped further develop her vocal talents. She participated in A Capella Choir, Concert Chorale Women's Chorus and Windfall Ensemble. Music wasn't her sole interest while at BHS. Williams had a 4.0 GPA, was a member of Class Cabinet and a multi-sport athlete, serving as captain of both her tennis and softball teams.

Williams graduated from BHS in 1998 and left the Brainerd lakes area for the College of Saint Benedict's in St. Cloud. She initially planned to pursue a



teaching degree, but the dream of pursuing a vocal career persisted. During her senior year, she had a conversation with Mike Smith, which she vividly recalls.

"I told him I was going to be a teacher and he said, 'If you don't use your voice, it's a shame,'" Williams remembers. "It always stuck with me." Following her freshman year at Saint Benedict's, Williams packed her bags and moved to Nashville in August 1999 at age 19. She transferred to Belmont University, known for its music business program. She did later return and graduate from Saint Benedict's with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting at St. Ben's in December 2002.

As she pursued her dreams in Nashville, her parents also reminded her that she needed a back-up plan. While studying business administration /music business at Belmont, she took an internship as a promotions coordinator with Dreamcatcher Entertainment from 2000-2001, where she worked with acts like Kenny Rogers and Diamond Rio. She realized after some time in Nashville that a singing career wasn't something she wanted to do long-term. A career path within the music industry seemed like a great fit.

Her internship led to a job at Warner Music Nashville in 2003, where she continues to work today as a music executive with a staff of 23 employees in her department. The country music industry is starting to experience an uptick in revenues after years of declining profits in recorded music and physical products sold in stores. Williams says that streaming music is helping to drive that increase. Last October she was promoted to Senior Vice President of Radio and Streaming as part of an internal restructuring process to focus more on streaming services.

"In the country genre, we still recognize that radio is the No. 1 driver for new music discovery, but streaming is catching up with other genres like pop, rock and urban," Williams explains. "We restructured our department to give more assets to those dealing with streaming partners. With that, we're trying to be a driver of some of that change."

Williams never thought she'd end up living in Nashville after college, but it is home now. She met her husband, Bo Williams, soon after moving to the city. They live in Gallatin, Tenn., with their daughter, Mckenna, 9, and son, Eli, 7.

Some of Williams' career achievements and honors include:

- Billboard's 40 Under 40 (recognizing the music industry top executives under 40 years of age)
- Billboard's Top 100 Power Players (recognizing the music industry top influential power players)
- Elected to Country Radio Broadcasters Agenda Committee and most recently the Country Radio Broadcasters Board
- Voted as one of Country Aircheck's "Power 31" Industry Leaders
- Nominated for Country Aircheck's SVP-VP/National Promotion Executive of the Year
- Selected by GAC, in partnership with Hershey's Chocolate, for a television spotlight on working mothers

Williams is a member of the Country Music Association, Leadership Music, Warner Music Group Top Line and Country Radio Broadcasters.

Her achievements and honors in community service include:

- Selected and volunteers as Chamber Panel Contributor for Women in the Industry
- Selected and volunteers as Country Radio Seminar Panel Contributor for Women in the Industry
- Partnered with Uber for "Big Break," giving aspiring country artists the chance to play for Warner Music Nashville

Under Williams' leadership, Warner Music Nashville has achieved:

- Six No. 1 singles and eight weeks spent atop the airplay chart with Blake Shelton, Brett Eldredge and Cole Swindell in 2016 plus Four No. 1 singles and 6 weeks spent atop the airplay chart in 2017 year to date - with Blake Shelton, Michael Ray, Dan + Shay
- Three CMA and ACM New Artists of the Year: Hunter Hayes, 2012 CMA New Artist; Brett Eldredge, 2014 CMA New Artist; and Cole Swindell, 2015 ACM New Artist



- Chart share growth has increased 2.5 times since 2010, from 3.8 percent in 2010 to 10.2 percent in 2014
- WMG Nashville on the whole went from 4 percent to 16 percent between 2010-present; Williams now oversees 16 percent share of the chart
- Over 5 billion audience impressions across all Warner Music Nashville promoted singles in 2016, and another 2 billion audience impressions in 2017 to date alone
- Five gold albums, seven platinum albums, 21 gold singles, 16 platinum singles and six multi-platinum singles
- 33 No. 1 singles topping the charts for more than 51 weeks since 2010



When Williams isn't working, she and her family enjoy spending time at the lake, on the baseball field or at a campground. Her daughter is now at the age where Williams was when she discovered a love for singing.

Life has come full circle for this BHS graduate. "She's developing that love of music as well, and she's starting to recognize that she has a voice," Williams says of her daughter, Mckenna. "It's fun to see that same love happening in her as she goes into fifth grade where it started for me, as well."

Williams was stunned and humbled when she learned she was being inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame.

"It's humbling. It's such an honor, and I don't use those words lightly," Williams says. "I don't necessarily see myself worthy of that honor. It's really fun for me to look back where I came from and where I started and truly be grateful for everything that everyone did for me along the way."



While it is impossible to encapsulate in a single article everything these Hall of Fame inductees have accomplished, it is possible to get to know the people behind the success at this year's Hall of Fame dinner at 5:30 p.m. September 29 at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa. There you will have an opportunity to learn more about these champions of Brainerd Public Schools as well as provide the support which enables current and future students to make their mark on the world in the most impactful ways possible. For more information and to reserve tickets, please visit www.bpsf.org or contact Amber Schlegel at 218-454-6921.

Distinguished Achievement HALL OF FAME

Friday, September 29, 2017

Social 5:30 PM | Dinner 6:30 PM | Program 7:15

Grand View Lodge

To attend, call [218-454-6921](tel:218-454-6921). Complete information at www.bpsf.org



**IT'S A
WARRIOR
THING**

**WARRIOR
Homecoming Run
2017**

5K **10K**

BPSF **Brainerd Warriors
Nordic Ski Team**

RACES START AT KIWANIS PARK

**SEPT. 30TH
8:15 AM**

NEW THIS YEAR A 1K FUN RUN!
THIS FAMILY FRIENDLY RUN WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE TRACK AT 9:15 AM

Register At : **BPSF.ORG**

CONTACT KARMA RACE MANAGEMENT FOR FURTHER DETAILS
Kara Schaefer or Henry Praska | karmaracemanagement@gmail.com | 218.330.6102

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SAVE THE DATE! Please join us at the 5th Annual BIG EVENT on Saturday, February 3, 2018. Get your argyle socks, knickerbockers, and golf caps ready for an evening of fun! Event highlights include social hour, plated dinner, silent/live auction, and entertainment! Funds raised go to support Arts, Academics, Athletics and Activities for the students of the Brainerd Public Schools. More info at BPSF.org.



Our mission is to enhance opportunities for quality academics, arts, activities and athletics for the students of the Brainerd Public School District through sustainable grants, scholarships and direct gifts.

Jessica Gangl - Executive Director

Amber Schlegel, Foundation Coordinator

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