



NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Notre Dame College School Class of 1990



Amy Ball

UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER

FOR HER ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN DIGNITY IN ALL PEOPLE, NIAGARA CATHOLIC IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE AMY BALL WITH AN INAUGURAL NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD.

Amy Ball, a graduate of St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School and Notre Dame College School, first travelled to Iraq in 2009 as a United Nations observer to oversee regional elections. It was while she was there that she began her mission to promote the rights of women and children in Kurdistan.

Since then, Amy has travelled to Kurdistan several times, and founded the Friends of Kurdistan Foundation to support community building efforts in Iraq Kurdistan, with a special focus on maternal and child health and educational initiatives.

Notre Dame College School Class of 1990



Paul Bliss

NEWS ANCHOR - JOURNALIST

FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AS A TEACHER AND VOLUNTEER WITH YOUTH IN NEED, NIAGARA CATHOLIC IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE PAUL BLISS WITH AN INAUGURAL NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD.

Paul Bliss, a graduate of St. Philomena, Our Lady of Victory and Notre Dame College Schools, has been active in the media for much of the past 20 years. In addition to covering stories such as Hurricane Katrina, he is CTV's Queen's Park Bureau Chief and an occasional news anchor. He is also a Journalism Instructor at Number College.

Paul is an active volunteer in his community, as a member of the Board of Directors of YouthLink, which assists at-risk youth and youth with mental health issues, and a volunteer with Big Brother Big Sisters, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

2013

Denis Morris Catholic High School Class of 1999



Carolyn Ciancio-Acker

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR HER EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION, NIAGARA CATHOLIC IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE CAROLYN CIANCIO-ACKER WITH AN INAUGURAL NIAGARA CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD OF DISTINCTION.

Carolyn Ciancio-Acker, a graduate of St. Charles Catholic Elementary School and Denis Morris Catholic High School, earned her Nursing Degree and worked at St. Michael Hospital in Toronto, before becoming Executive Director of the Regent Park Community Health Centre in Toronto in 1992.

Regent Park has one of the highest levels of crime and poverty in Toronto, and Carolyn set out to bring about change. Working with local school boards, Carolyn spearheaded the Pathways to Education Program, which has been replicated in other Canadian cities. She was made a Member of the Order of Canada in November, 2012.

Lakeshore Catholic High School Class of 2003



CPL Tyler Crooks

SOLDIER

FOR MAKING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE WHILE TRYING TO BRING PEACE TO THE TROUBLED NATION OF AFGHANISTAN, NIAGARA CATHOLIC IS HONOURED TO RECOGNIZE TYLER CROOKS WITH AN INAUGURAL NIAGARA CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD OF DISTINCTION.

Tyler Crooks, a graduate of Lakeshore Catholic High School, joined the Canadian Forces shortly after his graduation, and was a member of November Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, stationed at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa.

Tyler was deployed to Afghanistan in September 2008. He was on a dismounted patrol in Zuhail District, west of Kandahar City, on his 24th birthday - March 20, 2009 - when he was killed by a roadside bomb.

Denis Morris Catholic High School Class of 1974



Bruno Dammizio

ENTREPRENEUR

FOR HIS ONGOING COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AT HOME AND IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, NIAGARA CATHOLIC IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE BRUNO DAMMIZIO WITH AN INAUGURAL NIAGARA CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD OF DISTINCTION.

Bruno Dammizio a graduate of Holy Rosary, St. Charles, Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary Schools and Denis Morris Catholic High School, is the highly successful founder of DMC Inc., a Canadian technology services company which has supported many of Canada's Fortune 100 companies. In 2008, DMC was acquired by AT&T Canada.

Bruno has invested a portion of his wealth in students at home and abroad. He supports the Estabbe Children's Welfare Primary School in Uganda, which serves children with special needs, and the Mwilo Primary School in Rwanda. In 2009, Bruno generously contributed \$100,000 to establish the Bruno Dammizio Academic Scholarship at Denis Morris.

Saint Paul Catholic High School Class of 1990



Stephan Moccio

SINGER - SONG WRITER

FOR HIS ONGOING COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING THE ARTS IN EDUCATION, WE ARE PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE STEPHAN MOCCIO WITH AN INAUGURAL NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD.

Stephan Moccio, a graduate of Saint Paul Catholic High School, wrote his pop song at the age of 12 and participated in many competitions across North America throughout high school. He formed his own music company, Sing Little Penguin, in 2003, and has worked with some of the world's most acclaimed singers. He is the composer of the theme song for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, "I Believe."

Despite his extremely busy schedule, Stephan makes time to give back to his former school, through performances and through an annual scholarship contribution.

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School Class of 2000



Dr. Ildiko Murray

OPTOMETRIST

FOR HER GENEROSITY AND COMPASSION TO STUDENTS, WE ARE PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE DR. ILDIKO MURRAY WITH AN INAUGURAL NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD.

Dr. Ildiko Murray, a graduate of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School (SC) and Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, knows as an optometrist, that children who cannot see well, cannot learn. Ildiko donates her professional services to students at St. Denis Catholic Elementary School, and ensures students who need glasses but cannot afford them obtain them at no cost. She has also made arrangements for students who need additional services to receive them.

Notre Dame College School Class of 1999



Dr. Robert Ventresca

PROFESSOR

FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO CREATING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CULTURES AND FAITHS THAT COMPRISE CANADA'S MULTICULTURAL FABRIC, NIAGARA CATHOLIC IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE DR. ROBERT VENTRESCA WITH AN INAUGURAL NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD.

Robert Ventresca, a graduate of St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School and Notre Dame College School, attended King's University College at the University of Western Ontario, graduating with an Honours Degree in History. He obtained his Masters Degree the following year and a Doctorate in History in 2004.

Robert is the Chair of the History Department at King's University College, and has authored books on faith, democracy and Canadian history. He is also a founding member of the Kings University College Centre for Catholic - Jewish Learning.