

Dr. Brian Graham – Superintendent
Mr. Michael Lauria – High School Principal
Mrs. Karen Surdyke – High School Assistant Principal
Mr. Robert Julian – High School Assistant Principal
Mr. John Fitzpatrick – Veronica E. Connor Middle School Principal
Mr. Maxwell Pikula – Veronica E. Connor Middle School Assistant Principal



Thank you to the [GIHS Distinguished Alumni Committee](#):
Cheryl Chamberlain, Richard Crawford, Dr. Brian Graham, Michael Lauria, Lisa Pyc,
Maura Rustowicz, Karen Surdyke

Thank you to the [Grand Island Foundation](#) for donating the plaques:
Susan Campbell, Lee Cohen, Denise Dunbar, Dr. Brian Graham,
Tracey Kozlowski, Nancy Major, Carrie Meaney, Maura Rustowicz,
Fran Seaman

GIHS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD PAST RECEIPIENTS:

Neil Tetkowski – Artist – Class of 1973 - Distinguished Alumni 2006
James Desemone – MD FACE – Class of 1975 – Distinguished Alumni 2006
Lee Zepowitz – CPA CFP – Class of 1976 – Distinguished Alumni 2006
William Whitford – Sr. Mgr. for Research & Product Dev. - Class of 1972
Distinguished Alumni 2006
Karl Kruetz – Research Scientist – Class of 1987 - Distinguished Alumni 2007
Kathryn Hug Anton – FBI Special Agent – Class of 1987-Distinguished Alumni 2007
David Conboy – Engineer / Soldier – Class of 1980 – Distinguished Alumni 2007
JP Kennedy – Ast. US Attorney Criminal Chief – Class of 1981
Distinguished Alumni 2008
Andrew Harbison – Dr. of Osteopathy – Class of 1985 – Distinguished Alumni 2008
Kevin Erker – Major US Marine Corp – Class of 1992 – Distinguished Alumni 2008
Dale Brown – Author – Class of 1974 – Distinguished Alumni 2009
Rossano Galante – Musician – Class of 1985 – Distinguished Alumni 2009
James Klock – US Secret Service – Class of 1979 – Distinguished Alumni 2010
Russell Certo – Physical Therapist OCS – Class of 1978 – Distinguished Alumni 2010
Suzanne Tomkins – Clinical Professor of Law – Class of 1973
Distinguished Alumni 2011
Elizabeth Robinson Judson PhD – Ceramic Engineer – Class of 1977
Distinguished Alumni 2011



GRAND ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL 2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS JUNE 1, 2018 1:00PM



Welcome to the 2018 Grand Island High School Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem – Madrigals

Grand Island High School Alma Mater – Madrigals

“In My Life” by the Beatles – Madrigals

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GRAND ISLAND, WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO YOU,  
OUR HEARTS, OUR DREAMS, OUR GOALS  
WITH HIGH ESTEEM WE LIFT OUR EYES,  
FOR YOU WE LIVE OUR ROLES!  
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GUIDING HAND,  
WHICH WE WILL EVER HOLD,  
OUR STANDARDS HIGH, GRAND ISLAND  
WE RAISE OUR VOICES BOLD!

*Drusilla A. Rose Tamutus*

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Brett Kern ~ Class of 2004

NFL Punter with the Tennessee Titans

Dr. Stacey Schroeder-Watt ~ Class of 1992

Pediatric Anesthesiologist at John R. Oishei Children's Hospital

Dipak Srinivasan ~ Class of 1995

Space Mission Developer and Implementer at the

Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics

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**Dr. Stacey Schroeder-Watt** is a 1992 graduate of Grand Island High School. While attending GIHS, she was ranked number one in the United States in the discus event for high school students and won many national and international competitions in track and field. After graduation, Dr. Watt attended the University of Florida on a full-athletic scholarship. During her education in Gainesville, she became a two-time All-American in the discus event. Earning her degree in microbiology and cell science with a minor in chemistry, Dr. Watt went on to graduate from Syracuse with a medical degree. Wanting to return to her home here in Buffalo, Dr. Watt decided to pursue her residency in anesthesiology and subspecialty pediatric anesthesiology fellowship training at the University at Buffalo. Dr. Watt is currently the chief of anesthesiology at Kaleida Health, Program Director of the University at Buffalo Anesthesiology Residency Program and Program Director of the Pediatric and Obstetric Anesthesiology Fellowship Training Programs.

Stacey who lives on Grand Island is married to George they have two daughters, Audrey and Alexandra who are students in the GI school system. Her oldest will be entering middle school right here next fall!

**Brett Kern** is an American football punter for the Tennessee Titans of the National Football League (NFL). He was signed by the Denver Broncos as an undrafted free agent in 2008. He played college football at Toledo. Kern is a 2004 graduate of Grand Island High School, where he played on the football team. He was named All-New York State as a senior and was a member of the GIHS Section VI championship team. Following graduation from high school, Kern represented New York State in the New York-New Jersey Governor's Bowl played at the United States Military Academy at West Point. In 2008, Kern won the starting punter job for the Broncos.

During his rookie season with the Broncos, Kern attempted 46 punts for an average of 46.7. He made his NFL debut in the season opener against the Oakland Raiders; he had two punts for 80 net yards for a 40.0 average. His longest punt of the year was 64 yards against the San Diego Chargers. Kern remained as the Broncos' punter in his second professional season. Despite having the third highest yards per punt average in NFL history, Kern was waived by the Broncos in 2008-2009. He was claimed off waivers by the Tennessee Titans, replacing Reggie Hodges. At the time Kern was released from the Broncos and claimed by the Titans, the Broncos were 6–0 while the Titans were 0–6. A subsequent Titans winning streak and Broncos losing streak led to a situation where teams with Kern on the roster had compiled a record of 11–0 to begin the season, despite the two teams being a collective 12–10 overall in that period. On November 1, he made his Titans debut against the Jacksonville Jaguars. He had four punts for 193 net yards for a 48.25 average. Overall, in the 2009 season, he totaled 64 punts for 2,910 yards for a 45.47 average. He currently is playing for the Tennessee Titans from 2009 – present. Brett was the punter 2017 NFL Pro Bowl and the Associated Press All-Pro Second Team 2017.

Brett is married to Tiffany Kern and the couple has three children Bryce, Anelle, and Quinn.

**Dipak Srinivasan** is a part of the Principal Staff at The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), in its Space Exploration Sector. He has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University, and another Master's in Applied Physics from Johns Hopkins. He has led diverse teams to develop and operate systems enabling several NASA/APL spacecraft missions, including the MESSENGER mission to Mercury, the New Horizons mission to Pluto and beyond, the STEREO solar observatories, and the Van Allen Probes mission studying our planet's radiation belts. He is currently the lead communications engineer for NASA's Europa Clipper mission, chairs a conference session at the International Astronautical Congress discussing deep-space and near-Earth systems, and a member of the Advisory Council for The Planetary Society.

As active STEM advocates, Dipak and his wife, Aparna, regularly give talks at their local schools to energize young kids' enthusiasm for both space science and engineering. Dipak is also an avid trumpet player and music composer/arranger, currently performing with the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra. He also coaches his daughters' soccer teams.

Dipak was a Grand Island resident from 1978 (moving here when he was about 6 months old) until he left for college in 1995. He attended Jack and Jill Nursery School, Huth Road from K-5, GIMS, and graduated from GIHS as part of the Class of 1995. While on the Island, he was a trumpet player in multiple ensembles in the music program, and a member of the soccer and track teams. Dipak is married to Aparna and the couple has three daughters, Akshaya, Anjika and Anushka.