

Minisink Valley High School 2007 Hall of Fame Inductees



Dr. Sam Bowser

graduated from Minisink Valley in 1975. He earned his Ph.D. in Cell Biology from the State University of New York, Albany. His many accomplishments include having an area of Antarctica (Bowser Valley) named in his honor in recognition of a decade of research, the Science Teachers Association of NY Executive Award for exceptional contributions to K-12 science education, the American Heart Association award, and being named a New York State Affiliate Research Fellow and a Electron Microcopy Society of America Presidential Scholar. He currently works as a research scientist at the Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health.



Maureen Halahan

graduated from Minisink Valley in 1976. Maureen is president and CEO of the Orange County Partnership, the economic development agency in Orange County. Diverse is the best description of her career path. She has been a special education teacher, a sales rep, an office manager in the real estate development field, the owner of an organic produce company and a public relations director. She serves as chair of the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation and sits on the boards of the Orange County Capital Development Corporation, Leadership Orange, Newburgh-Stewart Empire Zone and the editorial board for *Hudson Valley Business News*.



Julia Matthews

graduated from Minisink Valley in 1987. Currently, she is a project manager at Ibis Reproductive Health focusing on bringing attention to the need for female-controlled methods for HIV prevention. She has conducted assessments in conflict settings around the world to determine whether refugees fleeing conflict had access to life-saving reproductive health care. Her research has brought her to the border areas of Zambia/Angola, Thailand/Burma, Chad/Sudan and the post-tsunami region of Indonesia to speak with people displaced by armed conflict and the staff of nongovernmental organizations and United Nations representatives.



Father Thomas Looney

graduated from Minisink Valley in 1978. Following his graduation from Minisink Valley, Father Looney attended Stonehill College where he graduated *Magna Cum Laude*. He continued his education receiving his Masters degree from The University of St. Michael's College and his Ph.D. from The Catholic University of America. He currently is the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA.



Kenneth O'Connor

graduated from Minisink Valley in 1995. He earned varsity letters in both cross country and track and field. He is currently a captain in the United States Marine Corps. He is a helicopter pilot with HMM-262 and is presently deployed to Iraq. He has served in Okinawa since August 2003 and has assisted in humanitarian assistance/disaster relief efforts in Indonesia, in the wake of the tsunami, and in two separate assistance missions to the Philippines. For his assistance in the wake of typhoon Nanmudol in December 2004, he earned the Humanitarian Service Medal. Captain O'Connor currently resides in Okinawa, Japan.