

2024 Outstanding Alumni

Dennis Gladden

Class of 1956



Dennis Gladden, Class of 1956, was active in sports programs at Musselman High School, primarily football and baseball. Dennis' quiet demeanor and unassuming ways may make him seem to be an unlikely candidate for Outstanding Alumni. However, it is those qualities which make him an excellent candidate. He does not belong to clubs, organizations, and groups in the area, with the exception of membership at Bunker Hill Presbyterian Church. He quietly assumes the posture of the best qualities of "Applemen": honesty, integrity, work ethic, and trustworthiness.

After his first job, ironically in an orchard of another variety (peaches) and then apples, he worked for almost 40 years at Corning Glass Works in Berkeley County. He was one of the first hires and rose through the ranks to retire as a Supervisor and named a Senior Associate. He traveled extensively in his early work years to France, Brazil, and wherever his knowledge and expertise was requested to train others with the glass procedure equipment.

During this time, he also married (for 55 years) and reared three children in the South Berkeley area and all three are Musselman graduates. After retirement, he began a hobby of working on small engines such as lawn mowers, weed eaters, snow blowers, rototillers, and whatever his friends and neighbors needed to keep their equipment functional. At 86 years old, he continues to work in his garage daily with his "hobby".

He never hesitates to assist anyone in his community and has a huge heart, especially for animals. He makes a difference in our community with the sole motivation that it is the right thing to do; help his community with his time and talents. Many conversations of global proportions occur in his garage and no one leaves there without feeling valued. Isn't that "Outstanding"? Could there be any better representation of the "Applemen Spirit"?

2024 Outstanding Alumni

Gary "Peanut" Collis

Class of 1969



As a freshman in the Musselman High School Class of 1969, Gary left school to provide for his mother and himself by working at a local orchard and gas station. He proudly received his GED in 1995 and is currently a member of the BHS-MHS Alumni Association.

Gary worked for 3M Company and in 1976, he started volunteering at the South Berkeley Volunteer Fire Department. He volunteered in Fire and EMS for over 21 years. He served as Rescue Chief as an EMT and was a CPR instructor for over 20 years sharing life saving techniques with hundreds of people. For his exemplary service, he was named a Life Time Member of the South Berkeley Fire and EMS.

In 1988, he was appointed to the Berkeley County Emergency Ambulance Board of Directors by the Berkeley County Commission. As a volunteer, Gary served as the first President of the Board for 8 years. As President, he managed the system until 1990 when the first paid person was hired.

Gary was appointed by the Berkeley County Commission to serve on the Board of Directors on the North Eastern Regional EMS Board (NEREMS) that oversaw nine counties of WV North East in Training and Certification. He served 25 years, 15 years as President. Gary was appointed by NEREMS to serve on a Contract State Board Technical System Network to oversee EMS for the entire state for 20 years. He served as Vice President and President for 10 years. In 1999, Gary was hired as the first paid Program Manager to manage the paid EMS System in Berkeley County which had 25 employees. He held the position until his retirement in 2014. During his tenure, employees grew to 65 with a budget of 3.5 million dollars.

In 2002, Governor Wise appointed Gary to the WV EMS Advisory Council Board of Directors to supply advice and directions to the WV Office of Emergency Medical Service.

During the eighties, Gary volunteered with the Musselman High football program and Coach Price. He filmed every home and away game for several years.

Gary served as a Deacon for over 25 years with Mountain View Church of the Brethren and Bunker Hill Brethren in Christ Churches. He served as trustee, finance, and chairperson of the Administrative Board for 13 years. He managed the church service sound system and security system weekly. Gary travelled to Tennessee to deliver toys and clothing to needy people in Tennessee. For over 15 years, he helped prepare and serve semi-monthly meals at the Rescue Mission and presented inspiring messages to the 50-75 men living in the Mission.

Gary served as a volunteer judge for the Shenandoah Apple Blossom/Firemans Parade to judge ambulances for equipment and appearance for 5 years.

He has been married to the love of his life, Darlene, for 55 years. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Gary continues to volunteer using his hard work ethic to make a difference in the lives of others.

2024 Outstanding Alumni

Steven Campbell

Class of 1983



Steven Campbell graduated from Musselman High School in 1983. While at Musselman High School he was diagnosed with Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, but that did not stop him from starting on the varsity basketball team and winning the 3200m relay race at the State championship. He also ran in the 400m, 800m, and was a member of the undefeated 1600m relay team. Steve also played receiver and defensive back on the Applemen football team. He scored the first touchdown in the semi-final State championship game to clench the victory.

Upon graduation, Steve attended Shepherd College and was their leading wide receiver his senior year. In 1986, he was chosen to participate in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes playoffs. After earning his degree, he continued to coach part-time at Shepherd until he was hired as a defense coach at Daniel Morgan Middle School. This was just the start of Steve's athletic career.

In 1993, he was the head of the Athletic Department, head football coach and physical education teacher at Hancock High. He was then named the head football coach at Southern Maryland and later James Wood High. In 2005, however, Steve knew he needed to return home to his roots at Musselman. He was named the Athletic Director and has not looked back since. He has been instrumental in growing the athletic programs, not only at Musselman, but in the entire state over the last 20 years. He started the Hall of Fame Committee Program for our Applemen and was later inducted for his contributions. Steve supervised the construction of our wrestling building, the design and installation of a new gym floor, and has worked tirelessly to grow our girls' wrestling program and feeder programs.

In the Fall of 2023, we had the honor of bringing back our beloved apple cart during the first home football game. Again, Steve worked hours to make sure our school held onto this special tradition. He also knows how important it was to involve other alumni in the progress and often looked to them for advice during the process. He can often be found on the weekends power washing our buildings, mowing our fields, or trimming trees.

During the week, his office light is the last one turned off because he rarely misses an event. His connections and relationships in our community do not go unnoticed. If there is a need at Musselman High, he always knows a former Applemen and will make sure our students have the absolute best. In the Fall of 2024, Waldeck Field will finally be converted to a turf field and our track will be refinished. Again, this is a direct result of the demanding work put in by Steve Campbell. He has been involved in hours of meeting with architects, engineers, and Board members to make this happen for our Applemen.