

Lower Moreland inducts five into hall of fame

By: Jesse Reilly, Staff Writer

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**Although Lower Moreland High School's Hall of Fame Induction is about recognizing past graduates, Principal Frank McKee said it is also a time to inspire current students.**

"Who's to say the 600 of you will not be recognized up here in the future," he said to kick off the induction ceremony Nov. 7. "This is your chance to dream big."

Alan Bell, David Deibert, Brad Herman, Todd Liberman and Valerie Plame-Wilson were this year's inductees.

Videos highlighting the alum's accomplishments were shown throughout the ceremony.

"When I was sitting in your seats I didn't think espionage was a viable career option," Plame, the former CIA operative said to Lower Moreland students. "But I was always able to float between groups. I was friends with the jocks, the nerds and drama kids and being adaptable and comfortable in different environments helped me in my career as a spy."

A 1981 graduate, Plame-Wilson went on to Penn State University and achieved a degree in advertising. She then received two master's degrees from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She was a CIA operations officer until her cover was blown in the summer of 2003.

It is truly an out-of-body experience to be honored at my high school," she said.

Following Plame-Wilson, the program focused on a grad that stayed a little closer to home. Deibert, father of Lower Moreland senior Scott, took the stage.

"This was something I really didn't expect," he said. "I urge to get off the couch and find a way to contribute to the community."

A former school board member, Deibert stressed the importance of service.

"To get, you must give, to take another breath, you must exhale one. The world's most valuable resource is each and every one of us."

For Liberman, a 1993 graduate, it was exciting come back to school.

"It is an honor to be welcomed home by all of you," he said, adding that his stint on the school's newspaper proved to be more than a hobby. "It became my golden ticket, I just had a passion for taking pictures."

After graduating from American University in Washington, D.C., Liberman worked for as a software engineer and eventually created Voicestar, a leading company in the call tracking industry.

The ceremony moved from the private sector to the Ivy League's for Bell's video.

Receiving a perfect score on his SATs, Bell was an extraordinary student whose life was cut short. After battling cancer for several years, he lost his fight. His sister accepted the award on his behalf.

"If he was here he would say something funny and unique," she said. "But I am going to give you five tips for life. First, be curious, don't stop asking questions. Second, be genuine, don't fit someone else's mold. Third, remember who loves you. Fourth, step outside your comfort zone, and fifth, play out your shoulds. The magic journey in life is following them - don't say you should volunteer, go out and do it."

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and a student at the university's prestigious business school, she said her brother wasn't all books.

"He laughed hard and loved harder," she said.

Although life took some grads into the government and other into the private sector - it also took one to Hollywood.

"Eleven years ago I said I wasn't going to come back unless the Phil's won the World Series," Herman, who currently lives in California, said as he took the stage.

Working on visual effects for blockbuster like "Transformers" and "Pirates of the Caribbean," Herman gave the students some advice.

"Know what you want to do with your life before you go to college," he said. "And remember that the things you put on Myspace.com and Facebook.com today will prevent you from getting a job in the future, it will come back and haunt you."

In concluding the ceremony, the graduate said no matter where you go remember where you came from.

"Work hard and don't forget your roots," he said.