

PRESS RELEASE

The Southern Garrett High School Alumni Association has announced the names of the three graduates who will be inducted into the inaugural class of the Southern High Hall of Fame. They are Maurice S. Brookhart, class of 1960; Brenda Snyder Brosnihan, class of 1978; and Charles W. Mason, Jr., class of 1956.

This recognition is for Southern High School graduates who have made significant achievements in their chosen field, brought positive acclaim to the school through a variety of endeavors, and/or made outstanding contributions to the school.

Inductees will have a plaque and photo placed on a dedicated wall in the school's library to honor their achievements and to serve as an inspiration to current and future Southern students.

The following information on these inductees was edited from the letters provided by the individuals who nominated each inductee.

Maurice S. Brookhart was a member of the Southern High Class of 1960. After graduating from Southern, he attended Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore on a Maryland State scholarship and graduated with an A.B. degree in chemistry in 1964. From Hopkins he went to graduate school at UCLA and in 1968 was awarded the PhD in Chemistry. He then accepted a NATO postdoctoral fellowship to study in Southampton, England. When Brookhart returned in 1969 he assumed a faculty position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Brookhart rose through the ranks at UNC to become a W.R. Kenan Professor of Chemistry in 1990. He currently teaches organic and inorganic chemistry and catalysis and directs an active research group comprised of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from across the globe. He has held visiting scholar positions in Rennes, Bordeaux and Toulouse (France), Oxford (England), Marburg and Muelheim (Germany), Seville (Spain) and UC-Berkeley and lectured in such distant places as Australia, South Africa, Turkey, Japan and South Korea. His research achievements have been recognized by his election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and to the National Academy of Sciences and by the award of an honorary degree from the University of Rennes. Members are elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Membership is a widely accepted mark of excellence in science and is considered one of the highest honors that a scientist can receive.

In addition, Brookhart has received the North Carolina Award in Science, the Gibbs Medal and several major national awards from the American Chemical Society including ones in Organometallic Chemistry and Polymer Chemistry. Perhaps his most recognized research achievement was the invention of a new family of catalysts which produce new types of polyethylene plastics. This technology was later licensed from UNC by the DuPont Company.

At Southern, Brook played clarinet in the band, saxophone in the dance band, sang in the chorus and was active on the student council. On a dare from classmates he played football his senior year and, as Brook has spoken, "fortunately for the team, I never saw much action". He was a member of St. Paul's Methodist Church and an enthusiastic Boy Scout, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Brook spent summers caddying at the Oakland Country Club, working in his father's garage or lifeguarding at Herrington Manor State Park.

Brenda (Synder) Brosnihan is a 1978 graduate of Southern Garrett High School. Majoring in Health and Physical Education, she attended Frostburg State University. She is considered a Youth Movement Specialist and has been in the fitness education field for over 30 years. Brenda opened her own movement education studio in 1980 in Oakland.

As a former aerobic champion, and coach of eight consecutive national youth champion teams, Brenda has provided and continues to offer Garrett County students an opportunity to participate in dance, fitness, and gymnastics classes for all ages. Highlighting her career in 2003, her junior aerobic team won the World Sport Aerobic Championship, having the distinction of being the first United States team to bring home a gold medal. In addition to giving movement education lectures both nationally and internationally, she has also provided Garrett County students the opportunity to travel and compete abroad in Japan, Argentina, and Mexico.

Brenda has been a valuable leader in the community. With the help of her students, she has organized and participated in fundraising efforts that have donated over \$150,000 to community charities. Her "Thrill the World", and "Pink Glove" dance promotions have both received national acclaim. As a lifelong advocate of health and fitness, Brenda articulates best with her motto of, "Movement education is an experience that comes from the heart".

Charles W. Mason, Jr. is a 1956 Southern High graduate. While a student he was selected to receive the Future Farmers of America State Farmer award. He also had the distinction of scoring the first touchdown in the history of Southern High School.

For over 55 years, Charles has been a prominent and successful dairy farmer. In 1965, he and his family were recognized as Garrett County Farm Family of the Year. This was followed in 1966 when he was named as the Maryland Outstanding Young Farmer and in 2002 when he was inducted into the Maryland Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame. He was subsequently named to the Maryland Century Farm Program which recognized farm families who have engaged in the business of agriculture for over 100 years. Charles has a breadth of community and national service in numerous agricultural organizations, including service as Chairman of the Board of Southern States, the Board of Dairy One, and the Board of Dairy Farmers of America.