

CAREER DAY 2016



**Students with
Undersheriff
Craig Dumond ('84)**



Solar, Todd Paternoster ('89)



Realty, Cher Brundage ('72)



Digital Media, Mike Sellitti ('02)

Twenty-three presenters, all Sidney Central School alumni with the exception of guests, Robert Weeks and Alix Sheldon, daughter of Sidney Alumni Association board president, Doug Sheldon, class of '59, generously donated their time and met with students who showed interest in their specific career. The setting was spectacular with 23 round banquet tables set up in the center of the gymnasium to create an environment where the students could have a conversation with the presenters and not just be lectured to. The 350 students, were divided into two groups, 9th and 10th grade, and 11th and 12th grade, for two, 1 ½ hour sessions. All were seated on the bleachers at the start of each session when presenters entered the gym clapping their hands, to the beat of the song "Happy", by Pharrell Williams, bringing a charge of positive energy and elevating the anticipation of students and staff alike.



**Lynn Livingston, Cosmetology
(Left), and Kim Ives, Dental
Hygiene (Right), both Class
of '85.**

Presenters took their place next to their appointed table as Greg Davie introduced each one, bringing a real-life connection to the students by telling them the year each alumnus graduated and what they were involved in when they were in high school. We learned that Big Chuck

D'Imperio was the original Sidney mascot who, as a student in the Mid-60s, was given four career choices as he approached graduation: become a

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Career Day Presenters

Solar

Todd Paternoster, 1989

Agriculture

Jay Waltz, Faculty

Environmental Science

Dave Teitelbaum, Faculty

Maintenance & Engineering

Jeff Pendorf, 1982

Broadcasting

Chuck D'Imperio, 1967

Human Resources

Sheri Youngs, 1991

Education

Marge Johnson, 1971

Financial Advisor

Corbin Curley, 2011

Pilot

Liz Eaton, 2000

Nursing

Chelsea Pixley, 2009

Brittney Schunk, 2009

Surgeon

Dr. Mariah Fisher, 1998

Hospitality

Alix Sheldon and Robert Weeks

Cosmetology

Lynn Livingston, 1985

Dental Hygiene

Kim Ives, 1985

Manufacturing

Amber Fogarty, 1993

Matt McKown, 2006

Digital Media

Mike Sellitti, 2002

Attorney

Shane Eaton Armstrong, 1998

Under Sheriff

Craig Dumond, 1984

Law Enforcement

Jason Bessett, 1989

John Cornell, 1990

Michelle Marshall, 1990

Realty

Cher Brundage, 1972

Computer Programming

Tanner Westcott, 2011



Manufacturing with Amber Fogarty (93) and Matt McKown ('06)



Pilot, Liz Eaton ('00)



Surgeon, Dr. Mariah Fisher ('98)



Computer Programming, Tanner Westcott ('11)

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farmer, take over your father's store, work at Bendix, or go into the military. He chose to follow his own dream and has become a renown public figure in radio, has authored a number of New York State-themed books, and is a keynote speaker at community events; Todd Paternoster ('89) taught biology at Sidney for ten years before becoming an entrepreneur in solar energy; and Shane Eaton Armstrong ('98), now an attorney, was a team member of one of the best girls' track teams in the history of Sidney High.

Opening remarks made by Ray Durso, Executive Director of The Genesis Group, Utica NY, told students to "choose careers that are interesting and exciting to you, then success and happiness in your work will follow". High School Principle Eben Bullock said, "the alumni of Sidney Central School have taken the initiative to organize and create this career presentation because they care about you. Having the alumni come back and host a Career Day for you is very powerful."

Students then assembled at the table with their career choice. Once seated, the presenters engaged the students (approximately 10 students per table) in 12-minute presentations about their specific career path. Each student attended six different career presentations, chosen prior to the event based on completing a "cluster finder inventory with Sidney's new program, Naviance. This program helps students learn or refine career clusters that may be a good match for them, based on activities of interest, personal qualities, and subjects they enjoy." ("Students Participate in Career Day." *Sidney Central School District*. Sidney Central School District, 22 Apr. 2016 Web. 29 Apr. 2016.)

At the close of each session, Sidney alumnus Chuck D'Imperio (Class of 1967) addressed the crowd of students and reminded them life is short, that they should "go for the gold" and pursue their dreams. And those dreams all start right here at Sidney High School. He also explained to them that the gathering of alumni presenters on this day was just a small fraction of the vast career paths chosen by graduates over the decades. Chuck reemphasized the role of alumni, "some of you may not like being here at Sidney High, but we love you and we are not going to let you go. You are important to us and we care about your future. You are only limited by your imagination. If you dream it, you can do it. Your contact with us is not limited to this presentation; we are here to help you."



Students were enthusiastic and engaged as they listened, took notes and asked questions. Being in the midst of alumni who had graduated from Sidney who have succeeded in their careers was truly motivational. The students' smiles, laughter and high-fives to the presenters as they exited the gym said it all.

High School Principal Eben Bullock shared the overriding comments made by students as a result of Career Day:

- * "I liked that they were alumni",
- * "They were actually people who were in our shoes",
- * "It makes it seem real that we can accomplish those goals",
- * "Career Day added more confusion to my career choices, because now I learned about many things that I would like to do, so it will make my decision more difficult",
- * "I have changed my career path based on what I learned",
- * "It opened my eyes to careers I had not thought of", and
- * "I liked the conversation rather than going from table to table to pick up brochures".



Career Day Organizers — Sidney Alumni Assoc. Board of Directors, Bryan Innes ('01) and Teri D'Imperio Schunk ('84).

Board members from the Sidney Alumni Association, as well as the local media were present to capture this inspiring event. A luncheon for presenters and school faculty, was held at the Sidney Golf and Country club house.

Teri D'Imperio Schunk , '84