

Meritorious Inductee into the Class of 2016

Dr. Karen(Komsisky) Wolowick

A letter written by Mrs. Florence (Flossie) Finn in 1997

Karen is one of the true success stories from Lake-Lehman High School. I first met Karen when I coached her in junior high field hockey and I was impressed with this determined young lady. Not only was she talented athletically, but she possessed an energetic work ethic. She was an eager learner, an ambitious player and a consistent competitor.

As Karen entered her freshman year, I became her guidance counselor enabling me to become even more aware of her superior intellect. Her aptitude tests predicted her excellence in the classroom as Karen chose the most demanding schedule that Lake-Lehman offered. During counseling sessions, Karen and I planned her preparation which would lead to a career in the medical world. At that time, I encouraged her desire to explore medicine because I felt she had the rare intelligence, work ethic and drive that one needs to prepare for a physician.

Another side of Karen's character which I had the pleasure of observing involved her being a peer helper. I was sponsor of this select group which was chosen by students and faculty and was based on one's ability to relate to one's peers and to act as a role model. Karen was an exemplary peer helper for four years.

As Karen became a senior, she excelled as a student as well as an athlete. She was recruited by several colleges including Drew University. However, Millersville fit her family financially and she chose to participate in a demanding honors curriculum. Once again, she distinguished herself academically and athletically, thus providing that she can handle the demands of both rigorous programs. Her abilities and time management skills enabled her to function outstandingly while working to meet financial obligations as well as working on research assistantships.

I believe that all Karen's experiences have groomed her for the life of a prospective physician. The long hours, demanding schedules, rigorous practical experiences, and pressures are not new to Karen. As a retired educator of 34 years, I have assessed many students' abilities and find Karen to be one of the top ten. I have no doubt that she will succeed in medical school. *(End of letter)*

Karen is a 1994 honors graduate of Lake-Lehman High School. She was a recipient of the James Nicholas Leadership Award, member of the National Council on Youth Leadership Youth Salute, a Peer Helper, Freshman Class Officer, participated in the Science Olympiad, was selected to Who's Who Among American High School Students, lettered in Field Hockey and Basketball and was the winner of the Women's History Month Essay Contest from the Luzerne County Commission for Women in 1993.

While at Millersville University, Karen was NCAA Division II Field Hockey All-American 2nd Team and PSAC All Conference 1st Team in 1996. She was NCAA Division II Field Hockey 2 year co-captain and a 4 year varsity letter winner. She also won the Millersville University Field Hockey Best Defensive Player Award in 1997 and was selected to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association North/South Senior All-Star Game in 1997. In 1998, Karen was voted by Millersville Coaches as Outstanding Senior Female Athlete of the Year.

In 1998, Karen received her BS degree in Biology from Millersville and completed her post Baccalaureate Health Sciences Medical Program at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and Lake-Erie College. Karen received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree in 2004 at Erie and while in medical school, trained, participated and completed the UPMC City of Pittsburgh Marathon. Karen completed her medical residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and has continued as a Doctor in Obstetrics and Gynecology in the DuPage Medical Group in Illinois, where she is described by her colleagues as an “Excellent Doctor”

Karen currently resides in Illinois with her husband Dr. Mark Wolowick and their three children.