



**Christopher M. Thomas, Class of 1968**

In June, 2017, Christopher Thomas retired from the Michigan Department of State after 40 years of election administration service, including 36 years as Michigan's Director of Elections for both Democratic and Republican Secretaries of State. Following his graduation from SJHS in 1968, Thomas earned a B.A. in Political Science from Michigan State University, a M.A. in Urban Affairs from St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO, and a J.D. from Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing.

While employed by the Michigan Secretary of State, Thomas administered Michigan election law, campaign finance act and lobbyist disclosure law. He also served as Secretary to the Board of State Canvassers. He administered the election law with 1,600 county, city and township clerks.

In 2013, President Barack Obama appointed Thomas as a Commissioner on the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, which made recommendations to improve the election day experience of America's voters.

Thomas is a founding member of the National Association of State Election Directors (NASSED) and was elected NASSED President in 1997 and again in 2013. He represented NASSED on the Board of Advisors to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission from 2004 to 2017 and served as the Board Chair from 2006 to 2008. At the NASSED Summer Conference in 2012, Thomas received the first NASSED Distinguished Service Award.

Although retired, Thomas remains active in the world of elections as a Senior Advisor to Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey. He is a Fellow with the Bipartisan Policy Center, serves as a consultant with the Center for Secure and Modern Elections, and is a board member of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab and the U.S. Vote Foundation. He is currently helping to draft legislation to implement Proposal 2, an amendment to the Michigan Constitution adopted by the voters in 2022.



**Kent Vanderberg, Class of 1979**

Following his graduation in 1979, Kent Vanderberg earned a degree in Film and Video at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He then attended New York University before moving to London, where he became the number one video jock in the UK, entertaining at the Hippodrome.

After returning to the U.S., Vanderberg began a career in video production, as an ad agency producer, and started his own production company. In 1997 he moved his family to Florida to work with his clients including Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, National Geographic, Field Entertainment, MotoAmerica, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Hard Rock International, Disney Cruise Line and Disney Worldwide Conservation.

Vanderberg has directed Olympic Games, Pan American Games and Arab Games as well as directed for Tampa Bay Buccaneers football. He has produced videos for several countries and his video to "What the World Needs Now" was featured at the Democratic National Convention in 2016. Vanderberg has an Emmy Award as a live entertainment director. He continues to be active in community theatre.



**Jeff Hoover, Class of 1984**

As a performer in the SJHS variety shows, musicals, and school plays, Jeff Hoover's interest in performing arts was piqued. After his graduation in 1984, Hoover attended Western Michigan University where he continued his theatrical pursuits while also performing with the Twin City Players and Lakeshore Summer Theatre organizations. Jeff got his start on radio at WSJM/WIRX during his college summer breaks.

After moving to Chicago in 1991, Hoover worked for a marketing company before becoming a writer and producer for the Jonathon Brandmeier radio show program. On the show he showcased his art of imitating celebrity voices. During his years in Chicago, Jeff performed improv at Second City, performed a children's show on the Main Stage, and co-founded the WNEP Theater, a company that builds on improvisation and sketch techniques to create plays and other theatrical experiences.

Since 2003 Jeff Hoover has been the Emmy Award winning producer of Chicago's #1 rated WGN Morning News program. His retrospective, "Bozo, Gar & Ray: WGN-TV Classics," earned Jeff a Telly Award in 2005. Each Monday, Jeff has a segment on the show called "And Now For Something Completely Hoover." Two of his sketches were modified for St. Joseph Public School Foundation's ENCORE productions.

Besides being an integral part of all four ENCORE productions, Jeff's volunteering also includes The Greater Illinois Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, Gilda's Club Chicago for cancer support, and producing annual food and toy drives for WGN-TV.

## PAST DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECIPIENTS

- Harry T. Gast, Class of 1938 (Posthumous)
- Edward I. Schalon, Class of 1938
- Burton H. (Burt) Pearson, Class of 1941 (Posthumous)
- Dr William Emery, Class of 1942
- William Gillespie, Class of 1942
- Carol Bartz Stockman, Class of 1945
- Melvyn D. Remus, Class of 1950
- Vice Admiral David M. Bennett, Class of 1952
- Robert L. Gerbel, Class of 1953
- James Menchinger, Class of 1958
- Mary Liskey Goff, Class of 1959
- Dr. Verne R. Schneider, Class of 1959
- Arnold Fege, Class of 1962
- R.L. "Van" VanAntwerp LTG (Ret), Class of 1968
- Jay Schadler, Class of 1970
- Burton H. (Burt) Pearson II, Class of 1974
- Donna J. Tinberg, Class of 1974
- David F. Schultz, Class of 1974
- Richard E. Dyer, Class of 1976
- Maria Madison, Class of 1978
- Theresa Orlaske-Rich, Class of 1978
- Martin Rollinger, Class of 1978
- Amy Porritt-Peirce, Class of 1981
- John Anzalone, Class of 1982
- Mary Jo Burkhard, Class of 1982
- Paul H. Orth, Class of 1983
- Michael D. Swanson, Class of 1987
- Rob Fredrickson, Class of 1989
- Anthony Perron, Class of 1990
- Anna Clark, Class of 1999
- Nina Davuluri, Class of 2007