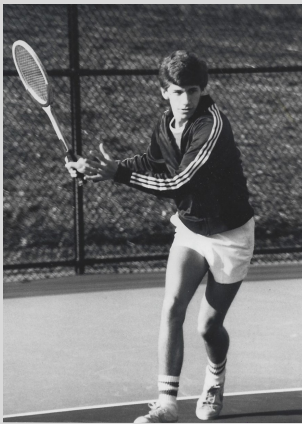




Celebrating 12 years
and still going strong

JBHS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT, FEBRUARY 2024



JBHS ALUMNUS, OGDEN MORSE, III

For most of us, our first memories of JBHS are from freshman year. But in the case of Ogden Morse, JBHS Class of 1984, the namesake of one of the school's founding teachers, they started much earlier.

From being slightly intimidated by Geraldine Lynch, to eating his egg-salad sandwich around the conference table with the likes of Rosemary Martin and the Kilbourns, to being offered a "full scholarship" by Jerry Bielizna to run cross-country instead of playing soccer, the memories are many and lasting. And, on Halloween, the last stop was always Roy Briggs' house, where he killed time counting his candy, while Mr. Briggs and his dad enjoyed an adult beverage.

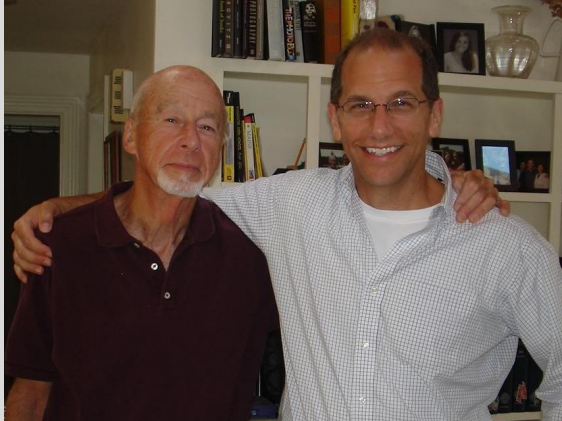
During O-O's (his nickname) actual high-school years, there came the privilege of having the legendary Jim Dolan as his soccer coach, and wonderful teachers like Jerome Meyer and Randy Potter. The highlight, of course, was having his dad for AP English senior year – in doing so, following in the footsteps of his sisters Susie ('76), Lyndi ('78), and Vicki ('81), who passed away in 2015 after a brief illness.



After graduating from Dartmouth in 1988, O-O held a variety of jobs in New York City before starting down the entrepreneurial path by founding an educational-software company to bring his father's innovative approach to vocabulary development to the school market. After that product was acquired by a company in Boston, and despite the fact that O-O had vowed never to go into teaching because of the financial sacrifices it required, he became an English teacher at Falmouth High School in Maine, where he had settled in 1998. And it was there, perhaps not surprisingly given his lineage, that he found himself in his professional element, enjoying virtually every moment of the years he spent in that role.



In 2010, O-O reluctantly left teaching to pursue his second educational-software company – again, co-founded with his dad – which began by creating



programs targeting literacy in grades 6-12 before eventually developing in partnership with The College Board a digital platform called AP Classroom that is now used by more than three million students. That company, Academic Merit, was acquired in August 2022. Today, he is now leading an edtech startup called Storywizard, which is using AI to enhance learning and instruction in and beyond the classroom.

“Looking back on my career,” Ogden says, “there’s no question that what has been most rewarding was the opportunity to work with my father,” who died in 2020. “Even when I was teaching, I felt like he was there in the classroom with me because I was always sharing my experiences with him.”

Today, Ogden continues to live in Maine with his wife, Sue, and their sons Colby and Tegan. “Of course I am biased, but I have come to appreciate what a terrific education I received at Barlow. The quality of the teachers, and their level of commitment, were extraordinary. My father was an exemplar of these qualities, and I know he absolutely adored the career he chose.”

Thanks, Ogden, O-O, Oggie, for this great piece and for sharing the great memories of your dad, our wonderful Mr. Morse.

The JBHSAA

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE OUR NEXT JBHSAA SPOTLIGHT?

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have something that you would like us to share, please send along an email to the address below. **FYI:** We continue to look for alumni that we can do a spotlight on.

infojbhsaa@gmail.com

Below are the website addresses for our JBHSAA:

JoelBarlowAlumni.com

JoelBarlowAlumni.org

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064701725118&mibextid=ZbWKwL>