

Heather Morrison Oppedisano Class of 1990 Columbia High School Alumni Hall of Fame Induction, 2015

Mrs. Heather Morrison Oppedisano, a familiar face on Time Warner Cable Your News (formerly Capital News 9) since 2002, is an acclaimed broadcast meteorologist, advocate for students with disabilities, mentor to high school and college students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), volunteer for charitable events, and motivational speaker in the community. She and her husband, Thomas, are the proud parents of two sons, Thomas and Vincent, and co-founders of the A.B.L.E. Scholarship Foundation, a non-profit that supports alternatives for better learning environments and assists those students who may be unable to afford private tuition at Saratoga Academy.

Mrs. Oppedisano knew early in life that she wanted to work in the news business, and the change of seasons in the Capital Region still captivates her: “The weather here is unique and unpredictable; it makes forecasting an exciting endeavor.” At Columbia High School, she was the secretary of the CHS Chorus member, a Student Council representative, and a cheerleader, demonstrating the dedication, composure and enthusiasm that would prove to be invaluable traits during her subsequent career path. After Mrs. Oppedisano earned her associate’s degree on broadcast communications at Oakland Community College in Farmington, Michigan, she earned a B.A. in film, art and media studies with a minor in Asian studies at Western Michigan University’s School of Communication. While an undergraduate, she worked as a residential advisor to upperclassmen, a digital video director for the school’s Extended University Programs, and a production assistant with A & R Films, working with a director on a series of “Honey Bunches of Oats” commercials.

Prior to graduating from WMU, Mrs. Oppedisano had already secured a position as a television production assistant and technical director at WOTV 41, an ABC News affiliate in Battle Creek, Michigan, where she worked with a veteran team of news meteorologists to formulate weather forecasts and weather graphics. This experience inspired her to return to school to earn a bachelor’s degree in broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State University. At WLNS News Channel 6, she was the director of live 6 and 11 pm newscasts in Lansing, Michigan, and eventually began filling in as an on air meteorologist for the early morning shift. Moving back east, Mrs. Oppedisano was a weather intern at UPN9 in Secaucus, NJ and WWOR-TV in New York City before becoming a full-time on air meteorologist for Time Warner Cable, helping to launch the area’s first 24-hour cable news station, and earning personal commendations. Her poise, expertise and dedication in forecasting the weather with pinpoint accuracy have garnered Mrs. Oppedisano loyal viewers not only in the Capital Region but also on weekends on NY1 in Manhattan, “the largest market in the broadcast business”, according to Larry Cosgrove of WEATHERAmerica.net. She has become a trusted source for weather on Time Warner’s cable systems across the nation and on statewide radio syndication.

With gusto, Mrs. Oppedisano promotes a number of causes near and dear to heart. Through Time Warner’s “Connect a Million Minds” initiative, she speaks to young women at high schools, SUNY and Siena about STEM careers. In 2010, the Enlarged City School District of Troy bestowed a “Partners in Education” award to Mrs. Oppedisano for mentoring students in its school-to-work programs. The 2013 founding of A.B. L.E. was inspired by her sons’ diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, and she donates her time to the Autism Society and other organizations dedicated to students with special needs. Her unwavering altruism not only gives hope to many, it inspires many in our community to join in creating a better future.

This evening, the East Greenbush Education Foundation is honored to induct Mrs. Oppedisano, an alumna who has distinguished herself through her professional achievement and outstanding service as a mentor and advocate for students and families throughout the Capital Region.