



The 2009 Distinguished Alumni for Columbia Borough School District presented by the Columbia Education Foundation was Mr. Wayne Von Stetten. Wayne Von Stetten graduated from Columbia High School in 1942. He was on the 1941 undefeated football team that was recently inducted into the Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame. He served in the U. S. Navy during World War II, graduated from Bloomsburg State Teachers College and spent the next four decades in public education in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey. He earned a Masters Degree from Seton Hall University. He taught English and was principal of the high school in his years of service. He was a leader in urban education leading in the desegregation of schools in which he served.

Wayne authored four published books: "Family Ties", "Few Loose Ends", "Jessie Was Her Name", and "Distinguished Military Men". The later book was about the six Generals and two Admirals from Columbia High School. All proceeds from the book were donated to the Columbia Public Library. Pictures of the Generals and Admirals grace the lobby of Columbia High School.

Wayne was principal of Brandywine High School in Delaware and had the athletic complex named in his honor. "The Wayne Von Stetten Stadium." He taught communications at Rutgers University and University of Delaware. He has been honored by President Reagan at the White House as a United States Model high School Principal. He has also been honored by the Valley Forge Foundation and Danforth Foundation. In 1997 he received the Distinguished Service Award from Bloomsburg University.

Today Wayne lives at Willow Valley with his wife Margaret. They are the parents of Wayne II, James, Eileen and Richard. He volunteers with the Columbia Historic Preservation Society and various committees at the Willow Valley Spring Run.