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Cardiologist Cooley, musician Gerber will join GHS Hall of Fame Sept. 28

Alumni excellence in medicine and music will take the spotlight next week at induction ceremonies for the Grafton High School Hall of Fame.

Ryan Cooley, a 1984 Grafton graduate who has become an accomplished cardiologist, and Stuart Gerber, a 1991 graduate known internationally as a soloist and chamber musician, will join the Hall during a 2:20 p.m. school assembly Friday, Sept. 28.

Ryan Cooley

Stuart Gerber

A second ceremony will be held at halftime of the school's varsity football game at 7 p.m. the same day.

Cooley, who is director of the electrophysiology lab at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton, excelled in academics and athletics in high school. In addition to being National Honor Society member, he was a standout tennis player.

As a senior, Cooley placed fifth at the WIAA state tennis tournament and was named to the Prince All-America Team. After graduating, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied molecular biology and played on the men's tennis team.

His collegiate sports honors include the Athletic Board Scholar Award and being named to the Big Ten Athletic All-American team.

Cooley received his medical degree from UW-Madison in 1992 and completed a residency in internal medicine through the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Clinics in Minneapolis. He also completed a cardiology fellowship through the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City and an electrophysiology fellowship through the Wisconsin Electrophysiology Group at Sinai Samaritan and St. Luke's Medical Center.

Cooley is board certified in cardiovascular disease and clinical cardiac electrophysiology. He has performed numerous catheter ablations for atrial fibrillation and has expertise in autonomic nervous-system disorders affecting the heart and blood pressure.

He also serves on a committee advocating sudden cardiac death prevention in athletes.

Gerber, an associate professor of percussion at Georgia State University in Atlanta, has performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Australia and Mexico and been lauded by the New York Times as having "consummate virtuosity."

At Grafton High School, Gerber was a member of the concert choir, vocal jazz ensemble, chamber singers, jazz ensemble and concert, pep and marching bands. He had lead and supporting roles in school musical and drama productions.

In his senior year, Gerber wrote a composition for the concert choir that he conducted in a final performance.

Gerber received a bachelor's degree in music from Oberlin College Conservatory and master's and doctorate degrees in music from the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music. He has done advanced studies at Hochschule für Musik and Theater in Hannover, Germany.

In addition to his work as an educator, Gerber is an active performer of new works and has been involved in several world premieres, including Karlheinz Stockhausen's last solo percussion work, "Himmels Tür," and his percussion trio Mittwoch-Formel.

Gerber has been the faculty percussionist for the Stockhausen-Courses since 2005 and recorded a number of pieces for the Stockhausen Complete Edition. He has worked with many notable composers and perforfmed at the Now Festival in Tallinin, Estonia; Chihuahua International Festival in Mexico; Gulbenkian Center in Lisbon, Portugal; South Bank Centre in London; Ultraschall Festival in Berlin, Germany; Melbourne Recital Centre in Australia; and Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C.

Gerber has also performed with Stewart Copeland, the legendary drummer for The Police, at the Savannah Music Festival.

As an instructor, Gerber has led master classes at conservatories and universities in the United States and abroad and presented a lecture/recital at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention.

He is a founding member of the Atlanta-based group Bent Frequency, performs internationally as one half of the piano/percussion duo Ensemble Sirius and is regularly heard as an extra percussionist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

Founded in 2010, the Grafton High School Hall of Fame recognizes alumni for achievements in five categories: professional, athletic/entertainment, science/technology, community/military service and entrepreneur/industrialist.

Candidates are reviewed by a committee that considers their accomplishments, awards and citizenship, as well as letters of nomination from colleagues and other professionals.

The committee accepts nominations each year through March. Inductees are notified in May and honored in fall.

Previous inductees were Susan Hefle, William Hinz and Geoff Lohmiller in 2010 and Ted Kellner and Kathy Cramer Walsh in 2011.