

Dr. Katherine Cramer Walsh



Class of 1989

Inducted: October 14, 2011



Dr. Katherine (Kathy) Cramer Walsh was the Valedictorian of the Class of 1989. She began her career at GHS as an outstanding student and leader. She participated in Student Council, the musical and play, swimming, soccer, and National Honors Society. Under her leadership, the Grafton High School chapter of Amnesty International was started. Since high school she has dedicated her life to the study and training of others to become the compassionate, concerned leader she is. While earning her bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, she received the Leon Epstein Award for the best paper authored by a undergraduate or graduate student, the Troxell Award for outstanding undergraduate academic achievement and service, and, in 1994, was named the outstanding female political science major at the university. She is an associate professor of political science and an affiliate professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; she received her Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. She focuses her teaching and research on public opinion, civic engagement and democracy. She has written two books: Talking About Race: Community Dialogues and the Politics of Difference and Talking About Politics: Informal Groups and Social Identity in American Life. She has also co-authored Democracy At Risk: How Political Choices Have Undermined Citizenship, and What We Can Do About It. She is the recipient of several teaching awards, including the UW-Madison Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. She is a member of the City of Madison Equal Opportunities Commission, and a board member for the YWCA Madison.