

# RHAC

RUSH-HENRIETTA  
ALUMNI COUNCIL

[www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org)

# Alumni Council Newsletter

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Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council

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## Alumni Council Formed, Grads Invited to Homecoming

The first meeting of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council in June attracted people who represented graduating classes from 1948 to 2001. Representatives from each decade since the 1940s had a chance to renew acquaintances and discuss the new Council and its goal of reaching out to R-H alumni.

A Board of Directors was officially elected, along with three officers for the 2006-2007 school year. Following the formal portion of the meeting, those attending remained for more than an hour to chat, sharing coffee, pastries, and R-H memories.

Council members will gather five more times during the year, with the next meeting scheduled for the Parker Administration Building at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, September 21. Council minutes will be posted in the Alumni Center section of the school district's Web site at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org).

Goals include distribution of a semi-annual Alumni Council Newsletter. This is the first edition of the electronic communication vehicle designed to keep alumni informed about Council activities, class reunions, and other initiatives. The next issue will appear on this Web site in early 2007.

You are among more than 3,200 graduates registered online, and the number grows daily. Please share this exciting new project with family members, friends, and classmates. Graduates are urged to register at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org).

R-H graduates are invited to visit the Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation and Alumni Tent during the homecoming celebration on Saturday, September 16. Located at the north end of the football field, Alumni Council officers, Foundation representatives, and Distinguished Alumni award recipients will be greeting visitors.

Souvenirs, including refrigerator magnets featuring the Alumni Council logo and a friendly reminder to visit the school district's Web site at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org), will be available.

Alumni also will receive cards with information about visiting the Web site and joining the online Alumni Directory, which helps graduates keep in touch with each other, learn about class reunion activities, and receive important district news.

Distinguished Alumni Awards are sponsored this year through the Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation. Foundation trustees established the recognition program in 2000 and have honored such alumni as 13WHAM News Anchor Doug Emblidge, County Court Judge Elma Bellini, Paul Callerame, founder of St. Pauly Textile Inc., and Cornelius "Corny" Southall, Rush-Henrietta football great and an agent with the United States Secret Service.

Starting in 2007, the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council will sponsor these awards. RHAC will seek nominations later this year.



## Five R-H Graduates to be Honored During Homecoming Festivities

Five Rush-Henrietta graduates will be named Distinguished Alumni as part of the district's homecoming celebration at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, September 16, at the Senior High School, 1799 Lehigh Station Road. Superintendent Dr. Ken Graham will present the awards before Rush-Henrietta's varsity football team meets Penfield. The five graduates being honored are:

**Joan Hoffman**, Class of 1966, is Vice President for Education at the recently expanded Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester. She is responsible for all programs and staff related to public events, visiting school groups, scouts, after-school groups, and the Charter School. A former teacher and counselor, Joan was co-owner of Knowledge Systems, Inc., specializing in educational programs for schools, businesses, and financial institutions. She later joined Information Associates, Inc. and developed classroom and instructor materials. In April 2005, Joan received the Phi Delta Kappa Education Leadership Award, and in July 2005 was named a Fellow at Harvard University's Project Zero Summer Institute.

**James Comstock**, Class of 1971, is the full-time Chief of the Henrietta Fire District. A 30-year veteran of the department, James began as a volunteer with the West Henrietta Fire Department. In 1984, he became a full-time employee of the fire district, rising to the rank of Battalion Chief. James' service extends to the county and state levels as trainer and a lecturer of the Monroe County Criminal Justice Training Center. He serves on the school district's Health and Safety Shared Decision-making Team, is an assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop #7, an assistant coach for the R-H travel soccer club, a member of R-H SAVE (Safe Schools Initiative), and a parent volunteer with R-H cross country and track teams.

**Laura Jeanne Sadowski**, Class of 1977, is Vice President for Marketing and Development for the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester. She has been an Assistant Vice President and Regional Public Relations Manager for HSBC Bank, formerly Marine Midland, and Coordinator of Creative Services for Verno Advertising Associates. Laura Jeanne is a member

of three boards of directors, including Career Development Services, the Rochester Arts and Lectures, and Sojourner House. She makes frequent national presentations, has served on the Colonial Williamsburg faculty, and at the University of Colorado Boulder's Museum Management Program. She was the 1997 Matrix Award winner from the Association for Women in Communication, and received the 2004 Marketer of the Year Award from the American Marketing Association.

**Patrick Sloan**, Class of 1980, produces "4 Quarters" for ESPN. Since 1995, Patrick has written and produced daily features for ESPN's popular "SportsCenter" and "RPM 2DAY" programs. Patrick also served as sports director and anchor for TV stations in Richmond, Virginia, and Monroe, Louisiana. In 1996, 2003, and 2004, he received Emmy awards for ESPN's "SportsCenter." He also received a "Best Sports Feature" award from the Louisiana Associated Press, a First Place Sports Operation award from Virginia United Press International, and a "Best Year-Round Sports Coverage" award from Virginia Associated Press.

**Dr. Karl Thompson**, Class of 1994, studies microbiology as a post-doctoral fellow with the National Institutes of Health and a post-doctoral research fellow in the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. He earned a doctorate in microbiology in 2006 from Howard University in Washington, D.C.; he also earned a bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences from the same college. He earned an undergraduate research assistanceship in Howard University's Department of Microbiology in 1998, completing his B.S. in 2000. During his doctoral studies, Karl's interests focused on pneumonia-causing bacteria and on bacterial genetics. His expertise, recognized by peers, led to presentations at the University of Wisconsin, Harvard Medical School, and at this year's general meeting of the American Society for Microbiology.

Please join us at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, September 16, for the alumni awards presentation, and stay if you wish to cheer the R-H football team on to victory!

*R-H Information is Only a Click Away!*



Visit the district's redesigned Web site for comprehensive information about Rush-Henrietta schools. Also, consider subscribing to one of the district's latest services, E-News, which provides brief e-mail notifications, announcements, and reminders about important meetings, Alumni Council activities, and issues. Visit [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org)

## *Rush-Henrietta Class of 1976 Reunites*



Students who graduated from the Rush-Henrietta Central School District in 1976 enjoyed a time of fellowship during a reunion held in July 2006. As part of the festivities, alumni placed a memorial stone at Rush-Henrietta Senior High School.

## *Alumni Updates, Reunion Reminders Online*

An increasing number of Rush-Henrietta graduates are using the district's Web site to stay in contact with childhood friends. With more than 3,200 entries in the district's online alumni database, doing so is easier today than ever. The Alumni Center provides several useful methods to locate Rush-Henrietta graduates.

Interested in finding out what a high school friend has been up to since graduation? To perform a search, enter a first and last name, or choose a particular year and look through the entries for that graduating class. Want to look up someone, but can't remember his or her complete name? In the Alumni Center, simply enter a first or last name to narrow down the results. For example, searching for the name "Eric" yields 19 entries, ranging from 1964 to 2002. That should make it easier to pick out the Eric who sat next to you during study hall.

One also can post reunion information and learn more about upcoming reunions. Reunion information currently is posted for those who graduated in 1956, 1961, 1980, 1982, 1986, and 1996. For example, alumni have provided this information regarding an upcoming reunion: Attention 1986 Sperry graduates! Our 20th reunion will be on October 6-8, 2006. Please visit [geocities.com/sperryclass86](http://geocities.com/sperryclass86) to view reunion news and help us find missing classmates! You also may contact Mary Anne Potter-Bleiler at [mabkev1@hotmail.com](mailto:mabkev1@hotmail.com) for more information.

Please visit [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) and the Alumni Center often for future updates!

## *Alumni Council Seeks Ideas from Grads*

Members of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council are interested in hearing from alumni regarding ways the council can continue to reach out to district graduates. To share news or views, please contact RHAC president, Joe Bellanca, at (585)-334-5147 or [cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com).