

RHAC

RUSH-HENRIETTA
ALUMNI COUNCIL

www.rhnet.org

Alumni Council Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council

February 2009

RHAC Class Contacts

Before 1960

Carolyn and Jack Gaffney
585-334-3989
mmack@rhnet.org

1960-1969

Joe Bellanca, President
585-334-5147
cjbellanca@
rochester.rr.com

1970-1979

TBD; To volunteer,
contact Joe Bellanca

1980-1989

Karen Feasel Tambusco
E-mail preferred
krtam@rochester.rr.com

1990-1999

Ann Grabowski
E-Mail preferred
rh1993@gmail.com

2000-2009

Varun Mehta
585-755-6946
vmehta@bu.edu

RHAC

2034 Lehigh Station Road
Henrietta, NY 14467
(585) 359-5004

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Alumni Help is Key to Making 'Career Day' a Success

Imagine being a high school student and having access to some of the most successful graduates to have walked those same halls before you. What kind of difference might that interaction have made in your choice of college and career?

The Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council needs your help and expertise! The Council is trying to make connections between our past and present students. We'd like you to consider taking part - in person or via remote access if living elsewhere - in a Career Day event in Fall 2009 at the Senior High School. (Don't worry, it's still known as the James E. Sperry building, which is probably the way most of you remember it.)

The Alumni Council, which was established in 2006 to solidify ties between the district and its graduates, is examining the possibility of hosting a Career Day event. It will give current students the unique opportunity to talk to their predecessors, learning directly from those who already have achieved high levels of success.

Students at the Senior High School have access to many opportunities. There is one area that could be strengthened significantly, and that involves developing some sort of bond with you, the people who know best just what it feels like to be a Rush-Henrietta student trying to map out a successful career path.

You should know that Rush-Henrietta is very proud of its graduates. When

Share Your Expertise!

In what ways would you be willing to share your advice and expertise with students?

(Attend a Career Day, host a student for a day, etc.?)

Please let us know by completing a brief survey at www.rhnet.org/careers.

district leaders look through the online Alumni Center directory, they are in awe when they read about the amazing work being done by many of our one-time students. From teachers to airline pilots, you're making us proud. We'd like to enlist your help in advising today's students regarding the best ways to attain similar levels of success! And we'd really enjoy welcoming you back to school!

To gauge your interest in helping underclassmen through a Career Day event, job-shadowing opportunity, or other endeavor in the fall, we've posted a brief survey at www.rhnet.org/careers. Please take a few moments and tell us what you think.

No matter how you can help, we hope you will agree that giving back to your alma mater is a great way to ensure a brighter future for all of us. Thank you for considering this effort.

Visit the Alumni Center at www.rhnet.org!

Alumni Council Will Reach out to New Grads

Next fall, the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council will reach out to the district's newest graduates by inviting members of the Class of 2009 back to the Senior High School for a time of sharing and reflection. This year's high school seniors will be invited to come back to school in December 2009, after they have completed their first semester of college, to provide the district with feedback about how the transition from their senior year of high school to their freshman year of college has been. The event, which will be organized and sponsored by the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council, will be set up in the form of a question-and-answer session with school staff members. During this get-together, we hope to gain some valuable feedback and answers to important questions, such as: "Did we provide you with the necessary skills in research, writing, and technology during your time at Rush-Henrietta?" The district's goal is to prepare students as much as possible for success after they graduate from high school. To help with this effort, please contact Joe Bellanca '65 at cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com.

Roth Grad Reunited With Long-Lost Class Ring

When Dean McDonough, a 1986 Roth High School graduate, lost his class ring the following year, he never thought he'd see it again. That was the case for more than 20 years, until the Rush-Henrietta Central School District's Web site and online Alumni Center helped reunite the ring and its grateful owner.

Last summer, the person who found the ring contacted the school district via its Web site. Using the information provided, including the name inscribed on the ring, a member of the Office of Community Relations consulted the searchable Alumni Center database, but found nothing. Later, he tried again, this time searching for someone who might have married Mr. McDonough.

On the second attempt, he struck gold. After contacting Kim Tedesco McDonough, who also had an entry in the Alumni Center, the ring soon was returned for the first time in two decades to its stunned, but thankful owner.



The Rush-Henrietta Central School District's Web site, in particular its searchable Alumni Center, made it possible for district officials to return this class ring, lost in 1987, to its rightful owner.

Online Form Makes Transcript Requests Easy

Requesting a transcript from the Rush-Henrietta Central School District has never been easier! The district created an online form that is making life easier for R-H graduates. The form, which can be found at www.rhnet.org/transcript, or in the Quick Links menu on the home page under Transcript Request, simplifies transcript inquiries by asking for all pertinent information at the beginning of the process, rather than in stages. We hope you find this a convenient and useful tool!

Hall of Fame Welcomes Four New Members

During homecoming weekend in September 2008, four notable alumni were inducted into the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame. They are U.S. Navy Capt. Brad "Brick" Conners '78, Terry Mathews-DeSant '55, Howard Ressel '80, and Dr. Michael Zuber '72. Alumni were invited to a reception before and after the traditional homecoming football game, and an electronic kiosk was set up so graduates who hadn't registered in our online database could get in on the fun with the click of a mouse. More than 200 new alumni have signed up online since homecoming, and now nearly 4,250 people are reconnecting on the district Web site at www.rhnet.org/alumni. In the photo to the right, Howard Ressel, Terry Mathews-DeSant, and Jim Cox, a former Rush-Henrietta teacher representing U.S. Navy Capt. Brad Conners, are shown after the Hall of Fame induction ceremony.





Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Seeks Nominees for 2009 Hall of Fame

The Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame will induct new members during the Fall 2009 homecoming weekend. The date of the induction will be determined soon, but the planning already has begun!

Council members are seeking Hall of Fame nominees whose personal and professional life are considered exemplary, and whose successes will serve as an inspiration to current Rush-Henrietta students.

Last year, the council inducted four alumni into the Hall of Fame: U.S. Navy Capt. Brad "Brick" Conners '78, Terry Mathews-DeSant '55, Howard Ressel '80, and Michael Zuber, Ph.D., '72. The induction ceremony takes place preceding the annual homecoming football game and provides an attractive venue in which to honor these notable alumni and recognize their accomplishments.

Since 2000, graduates selected as "Distinguished Alumni" also have been honored through support of the Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation. Names of those selected as Distinguished Alumni in past years appear on an Alumni Hall of Fame plaque displayed at the Senior High School.

To be considered for induction to the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame, council members will apply the following criteria to all who are nominated:

- Nominees must be graduates of a high school operated within the towns of Rush and/or Henrietta, including Rush High School or the Monroe Academy in Henrietta. Eligible graduates also may have earned diplomas from any of the more recent high schools that served residents of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District including the Rush-Henrietta High School from 1952 to 1968, the James E. Sperry High School from 1969 to the present, or the Charles Roth building during years in which it was operating as a second high school in the district.

- Nominees may have succeeded at local, regional, national,

or international levels in any appropriate area of endeavor (academia and/or education, the arts, business, public service, the media, medicine, the military, philanthropy, science, sports, as examples).

- Alumni may be nominated posthumously.

- Anyone may nominate a R-H alumnus or alumna, but you may not nominate yourself. Nominators need not have attended Rush-Henrietta schools in order to submit a nomination.

- Incomplete nominations will not be considered. Nominators must provide details about those aspects that make the nominee worthy of induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

Nominations for the 2009 Rush-Henrietta Alumni Hall of Fame must be received no later than Friday, May 22, 2009. The nomination must be submitted on an approved form for this purpose. The form can be downloaded from the Rush-Henrietta Web site. Simply visit www.rhnet.org/halloffame to download a form and learn more! Supporting materials, including resumes and letters of recommendation, are welcome.

Nominating materials will be reviewed by all members of the R-H Alumni Council Board of Directors as part of the selection process. Nominees who are not selected will automatically be advanced to the following year's collection of nominees, unless the nominator asks that the name be withdrawn.

If you have questions or need more information in order to make a nomination for the district's Hall of Fame, please contact the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council hotline at (585) 359-5004. A member of the council will return all telephone inquiries as soon as possible.

Finally, nominations must be mailed to: Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame, c/o Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation, P.O. Box 777, Henrietta, N.Y. 14467.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Grads Urged to Register Online, Attend Meeting

Rush-Henrietta graduates are encouraged to visit www.rhnet.org/alumni and register in the online directory. It's a perfect way to stay in touch with others! This database is for all graduates of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, no matter which school you attended. Graduates are invited to attend the next meeting of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council! The gathering is at 7 p.m. Monday, March 30, at the home of Jack ('51) and Carolyn ('53) Gaffney, 809 Rush-Henrietta Town Line Road.