

RHAC

RUSH-HENRIETTA
ALUMNI COUNCIL

www.rhnet.org

Alumni Council Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council

April 2010

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Alumni Return to R-H to Support Student Career Day

Alumni returned this past fall to Rush-Henrietta Senior High School, where they shared their secrets to success with students interested in learning more about specific careers. They returned to take part in the first Student Career Day, sponsored by the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council.

During Student Career Day, alumni:

- reinforced to students that they should have high expectations about what they achieve in high school, providing examples of how they pushed themselves when they were students, and explaining how they took advantage – or wish they had – of particular classes or opportunities available to students today.
- drew on personal experience to stress to students the importance of taking four years of math and science courses, as well as exploring foreign languages, urging students to pursue a well-developed course foundation.
- described the continuing education or additional training they have received since high school or college, and shared why that extra learning has been crucial to their success.
- discussed their career field and provided insight into available jobs students might not know about, as well as new jobs that are still on the horizon.

The school district extends its sincere appreciation to these alumni, who volunteered their time to help launch



Bethany Choate, Class of 2002.

Student Career Day. We are proud of their accomplishments. They are Michael Baka '94, Stephen Busack '62, Pat Chiverton '65, Bethany Choate '02, Jim Comstock '71, Tom D'Agostino '81, Karen Davis '73, Mark Keyser '95, Paul Kolacki '77, Brenda Lee '68, Amanda Locke '03, Robert Pearson '76, Howard Ressel '80, Dawn Robinson '95, Peter Rosella '94, Laura Sadowski '77, Bruce Smith '77, Chris Tieppo '98, and Kristen Waterstram-Rich '72.

This was the first time the district has organized this type of event, and we are grateful to all who participated. We held it on the day of parent-teacher conferences, and student attendance wasn't what we had hoped. We are considering revamping this event, possibly to hold it in the late summer or early fall, and with a built-in student audience! If you are interested in participating, e-mail alumnicouncil@rhnet.org.

Visit the Alumni Center at www.rhnet.org!



Alumni Info, Reunion Updates are 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 4,800 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 31 entries, ranging from 1964 to 2002. That should make it easier to pick out the Eric who sat next to you during study hall. You also can post reunion information and learn about upcoming reunions. Reunion information is posted for those who graduated in 1955, 1959, 1969, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1990, and 1999. Visit www.rhnet.org/alumni for updates!

Grads Urged to Register Online, Attend Meeting

Rush-Henrietta graduates are encouraged to visit www.rhnet.org/alumni and register in the district's 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. In addition, all graduates are invited to attend an upcoming meeting of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council! The next gathering is at 4:15 p.m. Monday, June 14, at the Parker Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta. Please join us!

Parker Administration Building to be Dedicated

The Rush-Henrietta Central School District recently opened a new Parker Administration Building, located on the same site as the original, at 2034 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta. The school district will dedicate the new building, named in honor of John Parker, an administrator during the district's early years, Tuesday, May 25. Come and tour the new building from 5 to 6 p.m., with a dedication to follow at 6 p.m. We will enjoy seeing our alumni at this event.

Council Gauging Interest in 60s Reunion

As part of its volunteer duties, the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council regularly meets with graduates interested in organizing reunions. We were approached about the idea of helping organize an all-1960s reunion, in which we would invite everyone who graduated from Rush-Henrietta between 1960 and 1969. This reunion would take place in 2011. If you graduated in the 1960s and haven't taken our survey, please do so now by visiting www.rhnet.org/60sreunion.

Hall of Fame Welcomes Three New Members

During homecoming weekend in October 2009, three accomplished alumni were inducted into the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame. They are U.S. Army Major Michael Baka '94, John "Jack" Gaffney '51, and Jonathan Plutzik '72. Baka is enjoying a successful military career in which he has served in places as varied as Iraq and West Point. Gaffney, a lifelong resident of the school district, is the retired director of the Rush-Henrietta transportation department. Plutzik had a long and productive career in the financial services and game-development fields, and has led numerous charitable efforts. In the photo to the right, Hall of Famer, John "Jack" Gaffney '51, poses with his wife, Carolyn, and daughter, Martha Mack, at the Hall of Fame induction ceremony.





Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Seeks Nominees for 2010 Hall of Fame

The Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame will induct new members during the Fall 2010 homecoming weekend. The Hall of Fame inductions will take place Saturday, Oct. 9.

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 three alumni into the Hall of Fame: U.S. Army Maj. Michael Baka '94, John "Jack" Gaffney '51, and Jonathan Plutzik '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 2010 Rush-Henrietta Alumni Hall of Fame must be received no later than Friday, May 21, 2010. 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 automatically will advance 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 Invited to Get Involved in Homecoming

Rush-Henrietta graduates are encouraged to take part in homecoming festivities Friday, Oct. 8, and Saturday, Oct. 9. On Friday evening, the school district will hold its annual homecoming parade on Lehigh Station Road. Any alumni interested in taking part in the parade - perhaps on a float or driving in a classic car - should contact Martha Mack '80 at mmack@rhnet.org. Alumni also are invited to attend a get-together under the big tent during halftime of the homecoming football game Saturday.