

RHAC

RUSH-HENRIETTA ALUMNI COUNCIL

www.rhnet.org

RHAC Class Contacts

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Vol. 2, No. 2

Alumni Council Newsletter

RHAC
Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council

February 2008

Alumni Council Meets, Celebrates Successes

Officers, class contacts, and distinguished alumni affiliated with the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council gathered at Rochester Institute of Technology on Friday, February 1, 2008, to celebrate the organization's accomplishments and share goals.

The Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council (RHAC) was established in 2006 to strengthen ties between the district and its graduates. RHAC, led by President Joe Bellanca '65, strives to reconnect graduates through communication and events.

Members of the council assist the district in maintaining an up-to-date alumni directory and with alumni communication, guide and support class reunions, coordinate the annual Alumni Hall of Fame recognition program, and inform and advise the superintendent and Board of Education on matters of interest to Rush-Henrietta alumni.

During the event, Joe Bellanca welcomed several Rush-Henrietta graduates who have been honored as Distinguished Alumni. They included Gary Junge '66, Laura Sadowski '77, and Kristen Waterstram-Rich '72. Starting in 2007, the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council sponsored these awards as part of the Hall of Fame.

The Alumni Council isn't just about honoring the past; it also helps current students in tangible ways. For example, the Senior High School is home to a FIRST Robotics team. This school year, the district reached



Dorothy Porreca, a member of the Class of 1948, donated Rush-Henrietta school memorabilia that was displayed during the Alumni Council's event in February. If you have memorabilia to donate, please call 359-5004 and leave a message.

out to alumni, asking if they or their employers were interested in working with the team. A helpful mix of funding and volunteers followed, which is a testament to our alumni and their desire to give back to their alma mater and help today's Rush-Henrietta students.

Nearly 4,000 R-H graduates have registered with the district's Alumni Center, which provides an easy way to stay in touch with others. The Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council looks forward to fostering more relationships among grads. "Getting something started is the hard part," says Superintendent Ken Graham. "We're going to continue to support this effort in the years to come."

See more pictures on page 4 and at www.rhnet.org/alumniphotos.com.

Visit the Alumni Center at www.rhnet.org!



Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Seeks Nominees for 2008 Hall of Fame

The Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame plans to induct new members during the Fall 2008 homecoming weekend. The date of the induction will be determined soon.

The council seeks 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 its first two Hall of Fame members: Karen L. Hayden Davis, of Farmington, a 1973 graduate serving as vice president and director for the ESL Federal Credit Union, and Bruce Smith, Ph.D., of Penfield, director for the Center of Nanolithography Research at the Rochester Institute of Technology. The induction ceremony took place on September 29, 2007, immediately preceding the annual homecoming football game.

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, the council 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 the local, regional, national, or international levels in any appropriate area of

endeavor (for example, academia and/or education, the arts, business, public service, the media, medicine, the military, philanthropy, science, or sports).

- 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 2008 Rush-Henrietta Alumni Hall of Fame must be received no later than Friday, May 23, 2008. 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 also 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 questions arise or further information is required to make a nomination for the Alumni Hall of Fame, be sure to contact the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council hotline at (585) 359-5004. A member of the council will return 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!

Graduates Encouraged to Register Online

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, including Roth High School, Sperry High School, and Rush-Henrietta Central School. We're accepting entries as far back as 1931, so even if you graduated before district centralization in 1946, join us. And, please, share this invitation with a friend!

50 Years Later, Winslow Opens Time Capsule



Ron Springer, principal of Winslow Elementary School, shows off the time capsule after retrieving it from the cornerstone. The copper box contained letters written by students five decades ago, and items such as a Time magazine from 1958.

Winslow Elementary School kicked off its 50th anniversary celebration on January 24, 2008, by opening the time capsule that was buried in the cornerstone when the school was constructed in 1958. Winslow opened the following year. "As the anniversary approached, we found a time capsule had been filled and placed within the cornerstone," says Principal Ron Springer. "We had all the students gather in the cafeteria to witness the removal of the time capsule. They then participated in opening the container to discover what former students thought was important for us to know 50 years in the future."

Scott Rapp, of Syracuse, N.Y., was a fifth grader when the time capsule was developed, and he made a special day even more so by appearing at the event. "When we opened the time capsule, Mr. Rapp discovered the letter he had written still inside the copper box," Springer says. "He introduced his mom and dad, who also came to the opening, and shared with students how everyone in the school decided what would go in the box. He then read the letter he wrote 50 years ago to our students, just as he had read it to the school before it was placed in the time capsule in 1958." Many of his predictions about 2008 - such as "There might be an intercom system on the teacher's desk so the teacher could get messages without going from room to room" - came true. "Everyone was in awe as they listened to Mr. Rapp and viewed the contents of the time capsule," Springer says. The other letters found inside will be read to students during morning announcements. When the time capsule is put back in place in June, it will contain some new items reflective of 2008.



Scott Rapp, flanked by his parents, was a student when Winslow Elementary School opened. He wrote a letter on behalf of his class when the school's time capsule was filled. In January 2008, he returned to the school to read the letter to today's students.

Leary, Winslow Seek Anniversary Help

Both Leary Elementary School and Winslow Elementary School are commemorating 50th anniversaries this year, and seek alumni willing to share memorabilia, memories, photographs, and stories from those schools. To help Leary, please e-mail Sue Gillette at sgillette@rhnet.org. To help Winslow, please e-mail Travis Anderson at tanderson@rhnet.org. For inquiries specifically about the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council, contact Joe Bellanca, president, at cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com.



2008 RHAC Class Contacts Event



Above, Terry Matthews-DeSant '55, Bob Thompson '58, and Joe Bellanca '65, of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council (RHAC), share some memories as they glance through school district memorabilia during RHAC's class contacts event in February.



Keeping in Touch

Above is school district memorabilia donated by Dorothy Porreca, Class of 1948. It was displayed during the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council's class contacts event in February 2008.

Above right (from left to right), Jack Gaffney '51 talks to Gary Junge '66 and Joe Bellanca '65.

Right (from left to right), Connie Bellanca, a retired Rush-Henrietta teacher, Martha Mack '80 and her father, Jack Gaffney '51, and Laura Sadowski '77, listen to an update on council activities and goals.

Members of the Alumni Council are interested in hearing from alumni regarding ways the organization can continue reaching out to graduates. To share news or views, please contact Joe Bellanca at (585) 334-5147 or cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com.

