

RHAC

RUSH-HENRIETTA
ALUMNI COUNCIL

www.rhnet.org

Alumni Council Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council

October 2010

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Alumni Council to Induct Four Grads into Hall of Fame

Rush-Henrietta alumni are invited to attend the homecoming football game on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010, and welcome four new members to the district's alumni Hall of Fame.

Sean Costello '90, Bill Flynn '76, Jeffrey Gates '82, and Tammy Van Dame '82 will be welcomed into the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame on Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Senior High School, 1799 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta.

All district graduates are invited to attend any or all of the day's events, which includes an alumni meet-and-greet at 2:15 p.m. in the tent near the entrance to Elmer Gordon Stadium, behind the high school. The Hall of Fame inductions are at 2:30 p.m. on the football field, preceding the annual homecoming football game.

"Rush-Henrietta has produced an impressive list of notable alumni, and we continue to be impressed by their achievements," says Joe Bellanca, a member of the Class of 1965 who serves as president of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council.

"This year, the Alumni Council had so many fine candidates from which to choose," he says. "This year's Hall of Fame inductees possess a broad cross-section of professions, community service, and personal

Join in the Alumni Fun!

When: 2:15 to 3 p.m.
At the Alumni Tent
Saturday, Oct. 9

Where: Senior High School,
1799 Lehigh Station Road

Hall of Fame Ceremony at
2:30 p.m. (football game follows)

Honorees profiled on pages 2-3.

character. We are pleased to welcome them back to their alma mater, and into the Hall of Fame."

Next spring, the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council once again will consider additional nominees for this honor. Names that were submitted this year will be considered again.

The Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation funds the Hall of Fame induction. The Foundation underwrote expenses for past recognition of Distinguished Alumni, now considered Hall of Famers.

For more information, call the Alumni Council hotline at (585) 359-5004 or e-mail cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com.

Visit the Alumni Center at www.rhnet.org!



Four Graduates Named to Hall of Fame

Sean Costello Class of 1990

Sean Costello, a member of the Rush-Henrietta Class of 1990, is an educator who uses his personal experience as an organ transplant recipient to help others. Mr. Costello is an instructional coach at East Irondequoit Middle School. The fact that he's teaching and inspiring others at all is a credit to his perseverance.



In 1991, Mr. Costello was involved in a car accident that left his kidneys badly damaged. For seven years, he received hemodialysis treatments, several times having to postpone his college studies because of illness.

In 2000, he received a kidney transplant, but his journey was far from finished. The following year, an infection left Mr. Costello in a coma for two weeks. Then, in 2004, he lost both hip joints as a result of the anti-rejection transplant drugs he must take. After having both of his hips replaced, he returned to work.

Despite his challenges, Mr. Costello continued to pursue athletic endeavors and inspire others. In 2002 and 2004, he represented New York in the United States Transplant Games in Orlando and Minneapolis, respectively.

He also has raised awareness and money to support others who need transplants. From 2006 to 2009, he co-organized the East Irondequoit Middle School Kidney Walk. Between 2008 and 2010, he served as co-chair of his school's student-staff basketball game to benefit the National Kidney Foundation. To honor his efforts, Mr. Costello received the National Kidney Foundation Award for Volunteer Service. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Costello maintains a deep interest in athletics. He has spent many years as a junior varsity basketball coach and varsity softball coach. In 2002, he was named Monroe County Division III Softball Coach of the Year.

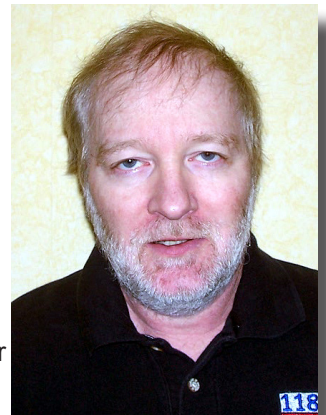
He and his wife, Jennifer, have one daughter and are expecting a second child next year.

Bill Flynn Class of 1976

Bill Flynn, a 1976 Rush-Henrietta graduate, has been a member of the media for 35 years in local radio.

Mr. Flynn began his radio career in 1975 with Rush-Henrietta's WRHR-FM, followed by Rochester's WSAY, WRTK, WXXI, and WHAM. He has created more than 1,300 short radio features, and served as an Associated Press national correspondent from 1987 to 2002.

In 2001, Mr. Flynn moved to 1180 WHAM, where he anchors the overnight news. In 2003, he produced a documentary titled, "When We Saved the Amerks." The piece features the 1972-73 Rochester Americans hockey team and was accepted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Another documentary, "Sounds of Silver," about Rochester baseball's Silver Stadium, was accepted into the library at the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



Mr. Flynn's work as a writer and reporter has earned him impressive awards, and he continues to gain recognition for his efforts. He has four Edward R. Murrow Awards, 11 New York State Associated Press awards, and an award from the New York State Broadcaster's Association to his credit. In 2010, he was honored with induction into Rochester's Frontier Field Walk of Fame.

An accomplished local sports commentator and sports memorabilia collector, Mr. Flynn has maintained a presence on the Rochester sports scene, reporting on the U.S. Open and Ryder Cup tournaments, as well as the LPGA tour.

Mr. Flynn serves as webmaster for the amerksboosterclub.com website, contributing and maintaining historical materials, and operates the scoreboard and keeps statistics for the Rochester RazorSharks basketball team.

He and his wife, Cathy, have two children and live in Henrietta.

Induction Ceremony is Saturday, Oct. 9

Jeffrey Gates Class of 1982

Jeffrey Gates, a member of the Rush-Henrietta Class of 1982, was not satisfied until his desire to expand community theater programs in his adopted hometown was fulfilled.

Mr. Gates, who moved to London, Ohio, in 1995, always has demonstrated a passion for the theatre - starting with his days on the Sperry stage. He was pleased to find that a community theater program existed in London, but identified several ways it could be improved. Mr. Gates believed the program could be expanded to the benefit of everyone who lived within the county, and that it should afford children and their families with opportunities to become involved in theatre.



His ideas weren't embraced at first, but Mr. Gates persisted, aligning himself with enthusiastic people who shared his vision for expanded theater programs for all ages. With their help, he founded the Madison County Arts Council in 1997, where he has directed and produced county-wide theatrical productions and written original scripts for musical revues. Mr. Gates served as the organization's founding president and remains active on and off the theatrical stage.

To demonstrate the Arts Council's commitment to youth, the council's first program in 1997 was the Young Artist Showcase, an opportunity for instrumental and vocal students to perform in a professional format. As proof of its popularity within the community, the fourteenth consecutive installment of the Young Artist Showcase was held in 2010. He is also lead singer for the CD-producing barbershop quartet, The Music Men of London.

Mr. Gates, who works for the Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities, is also an accomplished journalist. While writing for *The Madison Press*, he has won 10 writing awards from the Associated Press Society of Ohio. He credits Rush-Henrietta teachers, Paul Cimicata, Richard Guido, and Bob Sagan, with helping him achieve in music, journalism, and theatre to such a high level.

He and his wife, Maggie, have two sons, Aaron and Reid.

Tammy Van Dame Class of 1982

Tammy Van Dame, a 1982 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is Director of Corporate Communication for Naval Surface Warfare Center Dam Neck in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Ms. Van Dame served 10 years in the U.S. Air Force in public affairs positions throughout Europe and the United States, and served during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in support of the 1st Fighter Wing's efforts. Her many awards and recognitions include the U.S. Department of Defense's highest journalism honor, the Thomas Jefferson Award.

After leaving military service in 1994, Ms. Van Dame became a spokesperson for the Virginia State Police. She was responsible for overseeing media relations and public information for southeastern Virginia. In 2000, Ms. Van Dame was selected to join a team that developed interagency doctrine. This led to her accepting an exercise planner position with U.S. Joint Forces Command working at the Joint Warfighting Center's World News Network. Ms. Van Dame provided simulated media broadcasts to all U.S. combatant commands worldwide, including mission rehearsal exercises for the Salt Lake City and Athens Olympics and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.



In 2003, Ms. Van Dame became part of the U.S. State Department's International Information Speaker's Program and has made several trips to Kosovo. There, in support of public diplomacy efforts, she taught media relations and strategic communication to senior leaders from Kosovo and the United Nations. She continues to bring this program to other governments worldwide and has received ambassador-level honors for her volunteer efforts. (In the photo, she is pictured after presenting in Cambodia.)

Ms. Van Dame also is serving as the volunteer Outreach and Marketing Coordinator for the MODSIM World 2010 Conference and Expo, which is the premier international conference for modeling and simulation communities of practice. MODSIM World also promotes STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education for middle and high school students to keep the United States focused on maintaining a competitive edge.



Grads Invited to Apply to Show Work in Alumni Art Show

The Rush-Henrietta Art Department is planning its first alumni art show to be held in February 2011, and we'd like you to consider being involved! This is an exciting initiative that the art department believes will serve the need for artists to exhibit their work in a supportive environment, for future artists to see and understand the call of the creative spirit, and for the community at large to see the spectacular results of rich and meaningful art education experiences. With alumni participation, we can make this proposed venture a reality!

The show will be held at the Dee Strickland Conference Center at the Ninth Grade Academy, also known as the Carlton O. Webster Building. The first 25 artists who apply and meet the criteria will be selected to participate. To learn more and express your interest, visit www.rhalumniart.com.

Reunion for R-H Classes of 64 -69

Members of Rush-Henrietta's classes of 1964 through 1969 are invited to attend a reunion the weekend of Aug. 5-6, 2011. More specific details will follow. Please contact Joe Bellanca, president of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council and member of the Class of 1965, to express interest in attending. Joe can be reached at cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com. Please share this information with any classmate from these years who might not be on this mailing list. Let's plan to dance to the 60s!

RH Singers Reunite

More than 100 former RH Singers returned to their alma mater in August for a reunion concert to honor the choir's longtime director, Paul Cimicata. "I'm so very proud of our Singers, not only for what they accomplished during their years in high school, but also for what they've done since," he told those in attendance. A video of the concert will be posted soon on the district website at www.rhnet.org!

Hall of Fame Members

Amy Goldstein '75
U.S. Navy Capt. Brad Conners '78
Brenda Lee '68
Cornelius Southall '85
Doug Emblidge '79
Dr. Bruce Smith, '77
Dr. John Eckhardt '60
Dr. Michael Zuber '72
Elma Bellini '72
Gary Junge '66
George Haberberger '84
Howard Ressel '80
James Comstock '71
Jane Uebelacker Talley '56
Janet Breen-Zinck '72
Joan Hoffman '66
Joanne 'Jody' Wandall Day '59
John "Jack" Gaffney '51
Jonathan Plutzik '72
Joseph DeGeorge '70
Karen L. Hayden Davis, '73
Karl Thompson '94
Kristen Waterstram-Rich '72
Laura Sadowski '77
Linda Smith '64
Matthew Vreeland '85
U.S. Army Maj. Michael Baka '94
Patricia Gilmore Chiverton '65
Patrick Sloan '80
Paul Callerame '70
Richard Kettell '72
Robert Thompson '58
Terry Mathews-DeSant '55
Todd Bullard '79

Help the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council

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. Do you have a great idea or a trunk full of school memorabilia from the district's early days? Please feel free to contact RHAC president, Joe Bellanca, at (585) 334-5147 or cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com.