

RHAC

RUSH-HENRIETTA ALUMNI COUNCIL

www.rhnet.org

Alumni Council Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council

September 2014

RHAC Class Contacts

Before 1960

Volunteer Wanted
Contact Joe Bellanca

1960-1969

Joe Bellanca, President
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cjbellanca@
rochester.rr.com

1970-1979

Dianne Osgood Meli
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1980-1989

Martha Mack
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Brian Levy
blevy@ikon.com

1990-1999

Ann Grabowski
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2000-2013

Volunteer Wanted
Contact Joe Bellanca

RHAC

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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, Sept. 20, 2014, and welcome four new members to the district's alumni Hall of Fame.

Ronald Boillat '77, Harry Howitt '64, Sherry Powers Finzer '81, and Donna Warfield '75 will be welcomed into the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame Saturday, Sept. 20, at Elmer Gordon Stadium at the Senior High School, 1799 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta.

All district graduates are invited to attend this special event, which includes an alumni meet-and-greet at 1 p.m. in the tent near the entrance to Elmer Gordon Stadium, behind the high school. The Hall of Fame inductions are at 1:30 p.m. on the football field, preceding the annual homecoming football game.

"We do this every year, and the quality of the Hall of Fame nominees makes it difficult to choose just a few," says Joe Bellanca, a member of the Class of 1965 who serves as president of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council.

"Our newest Hall of Fame inductees represent graduates who have pursued a wide range of professions," Bellanca says. We look forward to welcoming them back to their alma mater, and into the Hall of Fame."

Join in the Alumni Fun!

When: 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 20

Where: Senior High School,
1799 Lehigh Station Road

Hall of Fame Ceremony at
1:30 p.m. (football game follows)

Honorees profiled on pages 2-3.

Next spring, the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council will consider more nominees for the 2015 Hall of Fame. Names that were submitted this year will be considered again. New nominations will be solicited during May and June.

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

For more information, or to express an interest in becoming involved in supporting the Alumni Council's efforts, please contact Joe Bellanca at 585-334-5147 or e-mail cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com.

Visit the Alumni Center at www.rhnet.org!



Four Graduates Named to Hall of Fame

Ronald Boillat Class of 1977

Ronald Boillat, a member of the Rush-Henrietta Class of 1977, has enjoyed a successful business career with start-up ventures, turnaround situations, and established entities.

His initial business experience was at ACC Long Distance, a regional carrier in Upstate New York. Ron spent eight years at this start-up company, ending his tenure as its vice president of sales and marketing. He spent the next 12 years in the wireless industry, six with Cellular One as vice president of sales and marketing. He oversaw the company's daily operations and helped shaped its strategic direction.



Ron later joined Frontier Cellular, which was facing a significant challenge. Its growth was well below industry averages and it was losing money. By developing and executing an aggressive strategic plan, including implementation of CDMA technology ahead of its competitors, Ron was able to help the company post record growth that outpaced the industry. From 2001 to 2009, he served as president of Current Communications.

Today, Ron serves as chief development officer at Rochester-based Sweetwater Energy. The company uses a patented technology to produce low-cost sugar solutions from non-food biomass. This sugar solution is sold to refineries, which use it to produce biofuels, biochemicals, and bioplastics. Unlike petroleum-based technologies, this unique process significantly reduces greenhouse gases. Ron is responsible for the design, deployment, and operation of Sweetwater's demonstration plant in Rochester and its commercial facilities that will open during the next two years.

In addition to his successful business ventures, Ron has been involved in his community. He has served on the board of directors for Bivona Child Advocacy Center, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. He also has coached youth baseball, football, and soccer. Ron was honored with the Rochester Business Journal's "40 Under 40" award, which recognizes those 40 and younger for their professional success and contributions to our community.

A member of the 1976 state champion football team, Ron remembers his time at Rush-Henrietta fondly. He lives in Pittsford.

Sherry Powers Finzer Class of 1981

Sherry Powers Finzer, a 1981 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is an internationally known flutist and recording artist.

A renowned flutist, Sherry blends her classical training with music from the pop and jazz eras, composing and performing contemporary instrumental compositions, and using her music as a way to help people heal both mentally and physically. As a classical flutist she has won local and national flute competitions.



Sherry is a performing artist for the Pearl Flute Company, based in Japan, and Guo Flutes, based in Taiwan. She recorded her first solo album, *Desert Journey*, in 2007. Two years later, she began recording her Sanctuary series of New Age/Healing music on the Heart Dance Records label. Her most recent release, *Transformation*, was named Best Album 2013 by the United Kingdom-based One World Music. Sherry's music can be found on iTunes, Pandora, and Amazon. In 2015, she will tour internationally with Australian pianist, Fiona Joy, and in the United States with Native American flutist, Mark Holland.

Even while in the midst of her greatest professional success, Sherry continues to look for ways to make positive contributions to her community. In 2009, she founded the Arizona Music Initiative, a not-for-profit organization designed to inspire, educate, and entertain children, seniors, and people with special needs. In addition, she is a regular volunteer at several Phoenix-area middle schools, where she assists band directors in getting the most out of their flute sections. Reflecting on her own schooling, Sherry credits Howard Rowe, one of her high school music teachers, for encouraging her passion for musical performance.

Sherry has served as program chair for the Arizona Flute Society for three years and is a member of the National Flute Association and World Flute Society. She hosts a weekly radio show on Positive Music Radio at www.postivemusicradio.net. It airs from noon to 4 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Saturdays and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Sundays Eastern time.

Sherry lives in Phoenix with her husband, Chuck, a 1981 Rush-Henrietta graduate. They have two sons, Nick and Tyler.

Induction Ceremony is Saturday, Sept. 20

Harry Howitt Class of 1964

Harry Howitt, Ph.D., a 1964 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is a retired United States Air Force colonel who has spent his professional career helping others as a clinical psychologist. He enjoyed a 33-year military career, during which time he was described as a “superstar leader.”



A Vietnam veteran, Harry was assigned to the Military Advisory Command in Saigon in 1969. During his active service, he received the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal four times for outstanding performance at a military installation.

A lifetime member of the American Psychological Association, Military Division, Harry earned many other honors, including being named Air Force Psychologist of the Year. He also received the Legion of Merit Medal. This recognized his high level of performance and dedication to the military both as a psychologist and for his leadership while serving as a commander for a Medical Operations Squadron, at the Air Force’s largest Behavioral Medicine Department, and as hospital commander at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. He also served as president of the Air Force Society of Clinical Psychologists.

Since retiring in 2003, Harry has worked full-time at the Joint Military Base, located at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, where he serves as a behavioral health psychology consultant.

Harry is a member of the Men’s Health Network Advisory Board, a distinguished group of professionals who are dedicated to raising public awareness about mental health. As part of his work with the Men’s Health Network, Howitt contributed to a booklet, “Your Head: An Owner’s Manual.” The book addresses anxiety, depression, and stress.

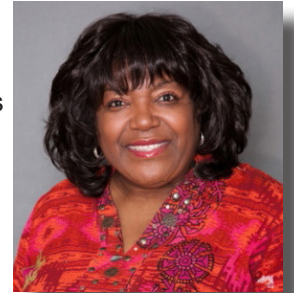
The Men’s Health Network is just one of many successful endeavors in which Harry has been involved. As Brig. Gen. Garry Trexler wrote of the airman while recommending him for a promotion, “Everything he touches turns to gold.”

Harry credits Mr. Elliott, Mr. Pruden, Ms. Theofanis, and Mr. Rittenhouse for helping to shape him, his interests, and future success while he was a student at Rush-Henrietta.

Harry lives in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife, Caroline.

Donna Warfield Class of 1975

Donna Warfield, a member of the Rush-Henrietta Class of 1975, has enjoyed success in multiple fields, including as a recording artist, composer and author, and ordained minister. Her career as an inspirational speaker, teacher, coach, and volunteer spans more than two decades.



Donna graduated with a dual MBA degree from Atlanta University and spent 13 years in Georgia, building her business skills and expanding her faith-based initiatives. She has enjoyed a rewarding career in information technology, working for some of the biggest names in business, including 3M, UNISYS, Xerox Corp., Amoco Oil/BP, and MCI/WorldCom. Today, she is a senior regional trainer for Kaiser Permanente.

Early in Donna’s career, influential coaches and mentors inspired her to give back. One of those mentors was Lee Iacocca, former president and CEO of Chrysler Corporation, who mentored Donna when she participated in one of the company’s MBA internship programs. Among Iacocca’s lessons: Use the gifts and talents you have been given to help others.

In 2005, Donna wrote, the bestselling self-help book, “Whatever Floats Your Boat.” In 2012, she wrote and recorded “Dramatized - Your Life a Song Only YOU Can Sing,” a collection of inspirational spoken words coupled with songs that represent Donna’s life experiences and express her spirituality. More information can be found at dramatizedthensing.com

A strong advocate of serving the community, Donna has served on a number of boards in greater Atlanta, including Goodwill Industries North Advisory Board, The Center for Children and Youth, The Center for Children and Young Adults, The Sullivan Center and the Georgia Association of Personnel Services. Donna attributes her strong interest in community service to her parents.

Her volunteer efforts have taken her around the world. In 1999, Donna served as a missionary to Africa, where she visited countries such as Kenya and Uganada. There, she taught children and adults in classroom settings and villages.

Donna lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. She plans to marry her fiancée, James Crim, next year.