

# RHAC

RUSH-HENRIETTA  
ALUMNI COUNCIL

www.rhnet.org

# Alumni Council Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council

September 2011

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Vol. 6, No. 1

## Alumni Council to Induct Five Grads into Hall of Fame

Rush-Henrietta alumni are invited to attend the homecoming football game on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011, and welcome five new members to the district's alumni Hall of Fame.

Capt. Michael Baretela '87, Michael King, Ph.D. '91, Shelly Gorino '80, Charles Knisely, Ph.D. '71, and Donald Newton '52 will be welcomed into the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame on Saturday, Oct. 15, 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.

"Rush-Henrietta has produced a long list of accomplished 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 again had many outstanding candidates from which to choose," he says. "This year's Hall of Fame inductees possess a broad cross-section of professions, community service, and

### Join in the Alumni Fun!

**When:** 1 p.m..  
Saturday, Oct. 15

**Where:** Senior High School,  
1799 Lehigh Station Road

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

Honorees profiled on pages 2-4.

personal 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 will consider more 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](http://www.rhnet.org)!



## Five Graduates Named to Hall of Fame

### Capt. Michael Baretela Class of 1987

Captain Michael Baretela, a 1987 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is Commanding Officer of the United States Navy Strategic Systems Program Office for Shipboard Systems. He is responsible for on-site technical management for all shipboard systems for the Trident Strategic Weapon System.

After high school graduation, Captain Baretela attended the University at Buffalo. In 1991, he received a degree in mechanical engineering. Joining the Navy, he completed nuclear propulsion and basic submarine officer training. He was assigned to the northwestern United States, serving as an electrical officer and assistant weapons officer on an Ohio-class submarine.



In 1996, Captain Baretela reported to Arlington, Va., where he was assigned to the Weapon System Operation and Evaluation Branch. In 1998, after receiving a master's degree in engineering management from Catholic University of America, he began work in the Navy's Strategic Systems Programs. Serving as Advanced Systems Project Officer, Captain Baretela focused his efforts on the development of fiberoptic gyroscopes used in strategic navigation systems.

In 2000, Captain Baretela received a master's degree in electrical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School. He also received the Armed Forces Communication and Electronic Systems Achievement Award for outstanding academic achievement.

In 2009, Captain Baretela reported for duty as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was responsible for ensuring that every tactical ground vehicle in Iraq was equipped with Counter Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare systems. He led a team of more than 300 military and civilian personnel dispersed at 33 locations throughout Iraq and Kuwait to install, maintain, and update these defense systems on more than 22,000 vehicles.

Captain Baretela has received the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

He and his wife, Tracie, have one daughter, Katie.

### Shelly Gorino Class of 1980

Shelly Gorino, a member of the Rush-Henrietta Class of 1980, is a familiar face in the community. As director of the Henrietta Senior Center, she has made a positive impact on many people. Under Ms. Gorino's leadership, the Center celebrated 20 years at its present location in July 2011.

Ms. Gorino's commitment to seniors is evident in her career choice and the programs she supports. She is on the coordinators board of the Monroe County Office for the Aging and the advisory board of the Woodcrest Commons Senior Living Community. She also sits on the board for the Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal.

By working closely with the Henrietta Youth Asset Program, Ms. Gorino was able to create and promote intergenerational programs that benefit community members of every age and bring youth and seniors together. Among these programs are the Vollmer Even Start/Senior Reading Program, the After School/Senior Activity Program, the Listening Post, and the Town Summer Concert Series.



All of these activities require collaboration, and Ms. Gorino interacts with many groups to bring new and innovative programs to Henrietta. Three years ago, she initiated the town's Employee Wellness Program. In addition, this year she worked with Wegmans Food Markets to introduce a hiking program called Passport to Family Wellness.

Ms. Gorino also recognizes needs in other communities and has volunteered to fill the gap. She has served as a board member of the Chili Recreation Commission, was instrumental in creating the Scottsville Farmers' Market, and helped establish the Scottsville Ice Arena as a not-for-profit facility. The arena provides a place for youth and adult recreational ice-skating, and a place for high school hockey teams, including Rush-Henrietta, to practice and play. Her impact is evident in every aspect of community life. As her friend and co-worker Kathy Macomber noted, "Shelly is a great idea person who thinks outside the box. She always goes above and beyond with whatever project she tackles."

Ms. Gorino resides in Chili, N.Y., and has two children.

## Induction Ceremony is Saturday, Oct. 15

**Michael King, Ph.D.**  
Class of 1991

Michael King, Ph.D., a 1991 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is a professor at Cornell University, where his research focuses on the study of how blood cells and cancer cells in the bloodstream stick to each other and communicate with the vessel wall. This microscopic behavior is important in many biomedical processes such as blood clotting and thrombosis, inflammation, and the spread of cancer to different organs.

Dr. King joined Cornell University in 2008 after six years at the University of Rochester. He has made significant research contributions that could help millions of people. Dr. King was the first to develop a set of techniques for isolating rare circulating stem cells from patient blood samples. This led to the creation of CellTraffix, a Rochester-based startup. His research has led to new approaches for targeted drug and gene delivery to circulating cells. He has used his expertise to publish two books and lead international symposiums.



In addition, Dr. King has made an impact on medical and bioengineering policy. In 2011, as chair of the Scientific and Standardization Committee of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, he published an official position paper setting international standards for thrombosis research. He also serves as co-leader of the Multi-scale Systems Biology working group, which serves as an advisory body for the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and the United States Department of Defense, among others.

Dr. King has advanced biomedical engineering education. In Rochester, he developed a core course called "Biomedical Computation." His accompanying textbook, "Numerical and Statistical Methods for Bioengineering," is gaining popularity.

Dr. King speaks often and fondly of his time at Rush-Henrietta and the fundamental education that enabled his success. He is particularly grateful for teachers who challenged and inspired him. These include Mr. Jim Iak, science; Dr. Roger Eckers, music; and Mr. Jim DeCamp, English.

He and his wife, Dr. Cynthia Reinhart-King, are colleagues at Cornell University.

**Charles Knisely, Ph.D.**  
Class of 1971

Charles Knisely, a member of the Rush-Henrietta Class of 1971, is a professor and chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa.

Dr. Knisely is a prominent educator who has done outstanding research in the areas of flow-induced vibrations, fluid dynamics, and hydraulic gate failure. He earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1975 and a M.S. in 1978, both from Bucknell University. In 1980, he received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Lehigh University.

Before joining Bucknell as an assistant professor in 1990, Dr. Knisely worked as a research engineer in Switzerland and Germany. He also worked for the U.S. Navy in Bethesda, Md., and lectured in the Civil Engineering Department at Kyoto University in Japan.



Dr. Knisely holds six patents with several more pending and is also an accomplished author of numerous professional journal articles. His expertise has earned him a spot in "Who's Who in the East," "Who's Who in Science and Engineering," "Who's Who's in the World," and "Who's Who in America." In 2007, he was a co-author on a manuscript that won the Best Paper Award from the Japanese Society for Experimental Mechanics.

Dr. Knisely served the Lewisburg area for many years as a youth lacrosse coach. He was a founder and head coach of the Central Susquehanna Lacrosse Club for 11 years, contributing to the sustained development of youth and high school lacrosse. He notes the influence of former Rush-Henrietta lacrosse coach, David Armstrong, on his personal development, both on and off the field.

Like all educators, Dr. Knisely recognizes the importance of a good foundation. "I owe much of my success to the early academic training I received from many dedicated and exceptional teachers in the Rush-Henrietta school district," he says. "In particular, I have very fond memories of some special teachers: Donna Dudley Rowe, Edna Claunch, Lucy Bodak, and Richard Ayer."

He and his wife have three children and live in Lewisburg.





## Hall of Fame Ceremony is Oct. 15

**Donald Newton**  
Class of 1952

Donald Newton, a member of the Rush-Henrietta Class of 1952, retired from the working world after a long and distinguished career in public service. A common thread in his efforts, both volunteer and paid, is that he worked to make Henrietta a better and safer place for all.

In 1952, when he was just 18 years old, Mr. Newton visited the Henrietta Volunteer Fire Department and signed up for what would become a lifetime of duty. With dedication, perseverance, and old-fashioned hard work, he advanced through the ranks. He became a fire chief and later served as a fire commissioner. When he reached 35 years of active-duty service, the fire department honored Mr. Newton for his commitment to protecting his hometown. He remains a life member of the East Henrietta Fire Department.



Mr. Newton was employed by the town of Henrietta from 1955 to 1963. He worked for the highway department, doing roadwork and driving a snowplow in an effort to keep the community safe. He left to work for the Mobil Oil Co., where he stayed from 1963 to 1989. For 23 years during the time he worked for Mobil, he also drove a school bus for the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. Many former students will remember him as a driver who safeguarded them during late runs and to and from sporting events.

Mr. Newton retired to Florida 22 years ago, but returns to his summer home in Scottsville each year. He has continued his service to the community by volunteering as a course marshal at the Wegmans LPGA tournament in his hometown. "He has given his time and heart over the years to making Henrietta a better place to be," says his daughter, Denise Shuart, a member of the Class of 1974. "He is a person I look up to and admire."

## Remembering Mrs. Levy

Mrs. Phyllis Levy, a longtime and beloved member of the Rush-Henrietta community, passed away on September 14, 2011, after a brief illness.

Phyllis, who retired from the district in March 2011, was aptly described in a *Henrietta Post* article as "a constant welcoming presence at the Rush-Henrietta Senior High School since the doors first opened in September 1968."

Phyllis once estimated that more than 20,000 students came through the high school while she worked there. Not surprisingly, she knew every one of them. Phyllis was a mainstay in the high school main office for more than four decades. She is pictured, on the right of the below photo, with Mrs. Jean Sheffer at the district's annual retirement dinner in May 2011.

Contributions in her honor may be directed to The Phyllis Levy Memorial Fund, c/o Joanne Keely, 594 Eastbrooke Lane, Rochester, NY 14618.

Let us give thanks for Phyllis Levy, one of our most loyal Royal Comets.



## 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](mailto:cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com).