



Alumni Council Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council

September 2013

RHAC Class Contacts

Before 1960

Volunteer Wanted
Contact Joe Bellanca

1960-1969

Joe Bellanca
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1970-1979

Dianne Osgood Meli
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1980-1989

Martha Mack
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Brian Levy

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1990-1999

Ann Grabowski
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Volunteer Wanted
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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. 12, 2013, and welcome four new members to the district's alumni Hall of Fame.

Matthew Allen '98, Maj. Charles Guess '79, Dr. Jacqueline LaLonde Darcey '85, and Scott Mayo '80 will be welcomed into the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame on Saturday, Oct. 12, 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.

"This year, the Alumni Council again had many outstanding candidates from which to choose," he says. "Our 2013 Alumni Council Hall of Fame inductees represent graduates who have pursued a wide range of

Join in the Alumni Fun!

When: 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 12

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.

professions and their success is second to none. We look forward to welcoming them back to their alma mater, and into the Hall of Fame."

Next spring, the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council will consider more nominees for the 2014 Hall of Fame. Names that were submitted this year will be considered again.

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, contact Joe Bellanca at 585-334-5147 or e-mail cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com.



Four Graduates Named to Hall of Fame

Matthew Allen
Class of 1998

Matthew Allen, a 1998 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is a pediatric nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist at Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong. Those who know him describe Matt as a highly motivated person who sets high standards and consistently mentors others to achieve their professional goals.

As a student at St. John Fisher College, Matt earned many honors, such as the President's Award for Excellence in Service and Leadership four consecutive years. While working as a nurse at Golisano Children's Hospital, Matt enrolled in the University of Rochester's School of Nursing and received his degree as a pediatric nurse practitioner.



In addition to his work at Golisano Children's Hospital, Matt is a pediatric clinical instructor for Wegmans School of Nursing at St. John Fisher College, and legal nurse consultant for local lawyers working on medical cases. In each of these roles, Matt has made significant contributions to the development, education, and professional growth of future generations of nurses as well as improving advocacy and care for children.

In 2010, Matt was asked to develop a pediatric orthopedic program for Golisano Children's Hospital, a task he successfully accomplished. Most notably, Matt developed the first orthopedic car seat program in the region to address safe transportation of children who have orthopedic needs. Matt was able to find funding, gain approval from the University of Rochester, and help the program grow within the community.

U.S. News and World Report magazine publishes an annual Best Children's Hospital ranking each year. Golisano Children's Hospital was included in the most recent list as one of the nation's best orthopedic programs. This is in part due to Matt's contributions and relentless pursuit of improved care for children. Today, he is assisting the University of Rochester Medical Center with the development and design of the new Golisano Children's Hospital and helping to prepare the pediatric service for reaccreditation.

Matt lives in Henrietta with his wife, Noreen, and their daughter, Hailey.

Jacqueline LaLonde Darcey, M.D.
Class of 1985

Jacqueline LaLonde Darcey, M.D., a 1985 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is an attending physician at Morristown Medical Center in New Jersey. She has made her mark by providing the less fortunate with health care and teaching a new generation of medical professionals.



Not long after graduating with honors from Old Dominion University, Jacquie enrolled in medical school at the State University of New York at the Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn and completed an Internal Medicine residency at Morristown Medical Center. There, she received the Lester A. Granet Humanitarian Award, recognizing her compassionate approach to patient care.

In 2003, Jacquie was named Associate Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Morristown Medical Center. Working with patients regardless of health insurance, she takes pride in caring for the indigent and their special primary care needs. "It can be a challenge in many ways, she says," but seeing patients know you care when no one else has ever made them feel that way is incredible."

Jacquie enjoys sharing her knowledge with medical students, residents, and other health care professionals. She specializes in simulation training and creates simulated crisis scenarios using a computerized human mannequin. In addition, in 2013, she was selected to participate in the Alliance of Academic Internal Medicine's Harvard executive leadership workshop in Boston.

Jacquie credits two high school science teachers, Bob Patton and Linda Jean Smith, with fostering her love for science, and recalls Terri Mathews-Desant and Wayne Scarborough as teachers who helped her become successful.

In her personal time, Jacquie leads a community-minded lifestyle. She sings in a chamber choir, participates in a church youth ministry outreach program, and has helped raise money and awareness to combat homelessness. A triathlete, Jacquie plans to assist a person with special needs to achieve his or her dream of running a road race or participating in a biathlon or triathlon.

Jacquie lives in New Jersey with her husband, John, and two children, MacKenzie and Griffin.

Induction Ceremony is Saturday, Oct. 12

Maj. Charles E. Guess Class of 1979

Charles “Chuck” Guess, a 1979 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is a major in the New York State Police Aviation Unit. As commander, Chuck is responsible for 60 personnel and 20 aircraft, as well as law enforcement, executive transport, search and rescue, medevac, disaster relief and aerial support of Department of Conservation field missions. His 23 years with the New York State Police and a distinguished military career are evidence of his strong dedication to national defense and public safety.



Chuck attended SUNY Brockport and graduated with a bachelor’s in History and a minor in Military Science. A member of the Army ROTC, he was a Distinguished Military Graduate and received a regular Army commission upon graduation. In the military, he attended Ranger, Airborne, Air Assault, and Northern Warfare schools and U.S. Army Flight School, where he learned to fly helicopters. He left the Army in 1990, having achieved the rank of captain.

After joining the New York State Police, Chuck worked as a trooper on patrol and as a member of the Mobile Response Team (SWAT) and SCUBA Unit, training other troopers as a firearms instructor and defensive tactics instructor.

Chuck’s considerable training and skills made him uniquely qualified to assist at the sites of some of our nation’s most devastating events. Following the 1996 crash of TWA Flight 800, he spent four weeks SCUBA diving as part of the State Police recovery operations. In 2001, as an officer in both the SCUBA and Mobile Response Team units, he and his team worked tirelessly at Ground Zero, conducting tactical team victim recovery operations for seven months. In addition, due to the loss of many New York Fire Department divers on 9-11, he planned and conducted training for new members of the FDNY SCUBA team, essentially rebuilding the unit.

After graduating from the FBI National Academy training program in Quantico, Va., in 2005, Chuck rose through the ranks. In 2011, he assumed his position as Commander of the New York State Police Aviation Unit, managing State Police aviation assets, and was promoted to major in 2012.

Chuck lives in Ballston Spa, N.Y. with his wife of 29 years, Elinor, and has two daughters, Jennifer and Rebecca.

Scott Mayo Class of 1980

Scott Mayo, a 1980 Rush-Henrietta graduate, is a gifted saxophonist, flutist, singer, composer, Grammy-nominated musician, and producer. A fixture in the Los Angeles music scene, Scott is a multidimensional performer who has toured the world. Reviews describe him as “an immense talent” and “an absolute master of the stage.”

A Henrietta native, Scott worked at WRHR, the high school radio station, an experience he says prepped him for professional radio work. “Scott hosted Sunday afternoons on the air at WDKX...,” recalls station staff member, Ella Dean. “WDKX has launched the careers of many, but Scott has accomplished things that most of us can only dream of.”



His passion and talent have made Scott a sought-after performer. He is perhaps best known for his work with Earth, Wind and Fire, having spent six years touring with the group playing saxophone and flute. He has worked with other legendary artists such as Stevie Wonder, Sergio Mendes, Luther Vandross, Steven Tyler, Cee-Lo Green, Michael Bolton, Bruce Springsteen, Carrie Underwood, Beyonce, Tim McGraw, Queen Latifah and Jennifer Hudson.

In 2003, Scott released his instrumental debut album, *Low Angle View*, which showcases his talent as a multi-instrumentalist. His second album, *Testimony*, was released this summer and is his first all-vocal project. It is available on iTunes, Amazon and CDBaby.

No stranger to television, Scott has performed on “The Voice,” “American Idol,” “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” “The Emmy Awards,” and “The Singing Bee.” At the 2011 Grammy Awards, he shared the stage with Mick Jagger and Raphael Saadiq. During the 2011 BET Awards, Scott was the featured saxophone soloist honoring the late Clarence Clemons of Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band.

Scott’s work has also reached the big screen. He can be heard on the soundtracks for two animated films, “Happy Feet Two” in 2011 and “Epic” in 2013.

He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Jennifer, and has a 21-year old son, Michael, who is a senior at the New England Conservatory of Music.



Elmer Gordon Stadium Rededicated to Mark Completion of Phase III Renovations

During a ceremony before the first home football game of the season, held Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013, Elmer Gordon Stadium was rededicated. The renovated complex, which has undergone a major revitalization, is the first portion of the district's Phase III renovations plan to be completed.

As you may recall, our community overwhelmingly approved the third and final phase of the district's Facility Renovations Plan in 2011. The Phase III project focuses on improving the Senior High School campus by adding a new gymnasium, expanding the fitness center, renovating athletic fields, and creating additional classrooms and a new counseling center.

Construction crews continue building a modern gymnasium, which should be ready for student use by the start of the second semester in January 2014. Once that work is done, the district will renovate the existing gymnasium to create a

new fitness center, as well as a new counseling center and more classrooms to support student achievement.

The Phase III project also involves renovating athletic fields at Elmer Gordon Stadium. There is a new, sand-based multipurpose field suitable for football, lacrosse, and track and a second sand-based, multipurpose field suitable for lacrosse and soccer. There is also a new field for the varsity girls softball team, as well as many track and field improvements. The Phase III project is expected to be complete by the end of 2014. (Pictured: Elmer Gordon's family with Dr. Graham and Board of Education members.)



Elmer Gordon: Rush-Henrietta's Own

Elmer Gordon combined a career as a prominent medical investigator with outstanding civic leadership. Outspoken and direct, he believed citizens had a responsibility to become involved in their community.

As a forensic toxicologist with the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office, Elmer built a national reputation as an expert in poisons and their detection. He was one of only 100 toxicologists licensed by the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists. From 1969 until his death, he shared his expertise with medical students at the University of Rochester, where he was an associate in pharmacology.



With four children attending Rush-Henrietta schools, Elmer was elected to the Board of Education in 1970. As president from 1976 to 1978, he brought a no-nonsense approach to board business. In 1979, Elmer was elected president of the Monroe County Schools Boards Association. He was the first African-American to hold that office. He called on association members to become more active in legislative issues, reminding them of the growing influence of the state and federal governments on local education.

Born and raised in Portsmouth, Va., Elmer left college during the Great Depression to join the Civilian Conservation Corps. He eventually returned to school, supporting himself as a pipefitter in the Navy Yards of Norfolk, Va. When World War II began, Elmer joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and was assigned to the 302nd Fighter Squadron, part of the famed all-African-American pilot group stationed at Tuskegee Army Airfield. (Read more about Elmer Gordon by visiting the district website at www.rhnet.org/elmergordon).

Please Consider Joining the Alumni Council

The Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council needs you! We are seeking additional graduates to become members of the Alumni Council Board of Directors. The commitment is minimal, but the reward is great. Members meet several times each year with fellow graduates, reviewing and selecting Hall of Fame candidates and assisting with class reunions. Your involvement can be tailored based on your individual interests. If you are interested in supporting the work of the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council, please contact RHAC president, Joe Bellanca, at (585) 334-5147 or cjbellanca@rochester.rr.com. We hope to hear from you!