Preparing World Class Citizens

South
Colonie Central School District

Hall of Fame
Hall of Fame

About the Hall of Fame

Since 1994, Colonie Central High School graduates — like the ones listed here — have been honored in our CCHS Hall of Fame. The inductees represent a variety of high school classes and accomplishments.

The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to identify role models for our students and to illustrate to them that South Colonie Schools provide the educational foundation necessary to build a successful life.

Please help us in nominating a Hall of Fame candidate. All nominees are acknowledged and, if not selected the first year, remain in an active pool of nominees for a period of five years. For more information contact the main office.

HALL OF FAME

INDUCTIONS: 1994

Ralph Boyd, Jr.

Class of 1975

Ralph Boyd has been a federal prosecutor and assistant United States attorney. He has prosecuted cases involving domestic terrorism, bombings, narcotics trafficking, federal firearms violations and gang-related violence. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he spent a great deal of time speaking to law classes about criminal law issues and supervising student interns. He also counselled inner-city youth on the importance of education, developing positive values, and the inevitable consequences of committing serious crimes.

Charles Campagna

Class of 1973

Chuck Campagna was the first professional football player out of Colonie Central High School. After graduating from American International College he played for the New England Patriots of the NFL, and the Hamilton Tiger Cats and Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League—despite 14 hamstring injuries. He has been vice president of national and international accounts for the largest lighting manufacturer in the world. He has been active in the March of Dimes and Special Olympics.

Brian Casey

Class of 1967

As a D.A.R.E. officer with the Colonie Police Department, Brian Casey touched the lives of many children in South Colonie. After graduating from Hudson Valley Community College, he served in the U.S. Navy for two years, completed Basic Officer Training and attended the FBI Academy’s Special Tactical Training Firearms School. He spent countless hours counseling students on the dangers of drugs and alcohol and the importance of wearing seatbelts and bicycle helmets.

John Gregg

Class of 1957

John Gregg has five degrees including a D.D.S., an M.S. in Anatomy and Oral Surgery and a Ph.D. in Anatomy and Neurobiology. He has been published more than 75 times and has served as a consultant to dozens of hospitals and advisory boards. A nationally known oral surgeon, he has been a full professor at the University of North Carolina and an adjunct professor at Virginia Tech University and the University of Maryland. He has worked in the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery research at Virginia Tech University.

Bruce Leland

Class of 1964

After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Hartwick College, Bruce Leland went on to get his Ph.D. at Rutgers University. A professor at Western Illinois University, he has been acting chair of the English Department and director of the Writing Program. He has published three textbooks and many articles. He has also served for years on the Board of Directors for Macomb Community Theatre.

Diana Marchitto

Class of 1962

After graduating from SUNY Albany, she returned to South Colonie to teach. She has been published in the Journal of Business Education. As a trustee of the Schalmont Board of Education, she has worked to provide a less toxic environment for students. Because of her efforts, Schalmont Schools have been recognized as a statewide leader in environmental efforts.

Don Mion

Class of 1970

With degrees in education, Don Mion has been a teacher in North Colonie Schools, head football coach and wrestling coach for Shaker High School. He has helped to organize Students in Local Government Day and was a member of the History and Art Museum.
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Inductions: 1995

Mary Brizzell
• Class of 1961

As Town Supervisor, Mary Brizzell has dedicated many years of service in the Town of Colonie. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Russell Sage, she taught at Saint Ambrose School in Latham. In 1971, she and her husband, Bill, combined talents to begin their retail/wholesale gardening business, Brizzell’s Flowers. Brizzell was an active volunteer in the North Colonie Schools. She has also been a supporting member of the Friends of Pruyn House and the two local Chambers of Commerce. In 1991, she was named Woman of the Year by the Latham Business and Professional Association. During her 12 years as a Town Board member, she served as liaison to a wide range of town departments and on countless committees and councils.

Leo Carignan
• Class of 1961

Leo Carignan has been a “super-fan” of the district’s Girls Basketball Program since its inception in 1975. In 20 years, he had never missed a game. At home games, he could be found working the concession stand or selling 50-50 tickets. Back in the early days, he served as a fill-in equipment manager, he went on scouting assignments and helped arrange the awards banquet. Although he never had a child play on a Colonie team, he supported the girls during the good and bad seasons. Before he became a bus driver and custodian for South Colonie Schools, he worked for 20th Century Fox Film Corporation as a manager.

Alden “Joe” Doolittle
• Class of 1963

As Vice President for Quality Improvement, Joe Doolittle has been a founding member of CHP’s management team with many years of leadership in development and operations of HM O’s. He has also served on the Executive Committee of the Governor’s Excelsior Award and has been a board member of Health Care Underwriters Mutual (HUM) and The HM O Group Insurance Co., Ltd. He has also held an appointment as lecturer in the Sloan Services Administration at Cornell University. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Colgate University and a Master’s Degree in medical and hospital administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

Edward Winders
• Class of 1960

Edward Winders has worked as chairman of a Long Island-based engineering and architectural firm. Prior to purchasing this firm, he was corporate senior vice president of another engineering organization for 17 years. He started his professional career as assistant commissioner at the New York State Department of Transportation in 1976. Three years later he was appointed deputy commissioner of the State Racing and Wagering Board. At 25 years old, he served as a member of the Albany County Legislature from 1968 to 1975 and as a minority leader in 1974. He is the recipient of numerous awards and has been a member and head of many local and civil community boards.

Frank Myers
• Class of 1963

Frank Myers graduated from SUNY Albany with a Bachelor’s Degree in 1968 and a Master’s Degree in 1977. He has been a business teacher and coach at Colonie Central High School for many years. He was the first Girls Outdoor Track coach at Colonie and began the popular Colonie Recreation Department’s summer track meets and Dynamic Duo road race. As a coach, he has to his credit a state championship Girls Cross Country Team, a national indoor mile championship, a two-time state champion 1600 meter runner and a Penn Relays’ 1500 victor.

Please take the time to nominate an alumnus or alumna you believe would be an ideal role model for our children. Nomination forms are available in the office of Colonie Central High School, One Raider Blvd., Albany 12205.
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HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS: 1996
Janet Worth Moen
• Class of 1961
Janet Worth has been an assistant/associate professor of Sociology at the University of North Dakota and has served as the faculty coordinator for the Center of Peace Studies.

Harold ‘Pep’ Sands
• Class of 1947
“Pep” Sands has served this community for more than 30 years as a guidance counselor, coach and involved citizen. He has been co-chairman for the cancer drive, collected for the Heart Association, American Cancer Society and Multiple Sclerosis Society. He has counseled troubled young men through jail visitations.

Richard Kruse
• Class of 1959
Richard Kruse has been band director and head of the Music Department at the Romulus School District in Michigan. He has led students to more than 75 First Division ratings. The music reading system he developed called “‘A’ for Everybody” is now being used by more than 40 teachers throughout Michigan.

Henry Dennis, Jr.
• Class of 1961
Henry Dennis’ firm is responsible for building the Turf Inn on Wolf Road, the Park V restaurant, luxury homes at Cobble Hill in Loudonville, Twin Lake Apartments in Clifton Park and the Polish American Club in Albany. He has been a representative in the Albany County Legislature, helped to plan many events for residents of the Ann Lee Home and has been an associate professor at HVCC.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS: 1997
Eric Emerick
• Class of 1982
While at Colonie High School, Erick was All-MetroLand quarterback, but in 1986 suffered a devastating injury in an automobile accident. Despite suffering from quadriplegia, he persevered in sports to become a tennis champion. In 1995, he won the U.S. Tennis Association National Indoor Doubles Wheelchair Championship and in the following year, he won the same championship while adding the singles championship. In 1996, he also won the U.S. Open quad singles championship. Mr. Emerick has operated a freelance desktop publishing company in his home.

Sharon Falkenheimer
• Class of 1970
Air Force Colonel Sharon Falkenheimer was Utah’s “Mattie Wattis Award” recipient honoring the spirit of American women. The award acknowledges the dedication of individual females for their accomplishments in what used to be male occupations and environments. Falkenheimer graduated from Harvard with a master’s degree in Public Health and is a graduate of Upstate Medical College and the School of Aerospace Medicine. Colonel Falkenheimer played a valuable role in the preparation of military personnel traveling to Saudi Arabia for Desert Storm.

Kim Halburian
• Class of 1976
Kim Halburian has been a police officer with the Metro Dade Police Narcotics Division in Florida and received the “Officer of the Year” award in 1996 by the Dade County Police Officers Assistant Trust. He received his department’s “Exceptional Service Award.” The Police Officers Trust Fund provides financial assistance beyond that of health insurance policies for law enforcement personnel and their families throughout Dade County.

Ruth-Ercile Hodges
• Class of 1990
Ruth-Ercile Hodges served at the time of her death as a U.S. Consular Corps staff member. Hodges was formerly commissioned as a foreign service officer and awarded her first overseas posting to the U.S. Embassy in the Dominican Republic. Fewer than 3 percent of all applicants examined for foreign service officers by the Department of Defense are selected. While studying for her bachelor’s degree at Spelman College, Hodges was one of 12 students in the nation to receive the Foreign Affairs Fellowship, awarded by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and U.S. Department of State. Hodges received a master’s from George Washington University. While at CCHS she organized the Human Rights/Group Council and coordinated the Capital District’s “Day of the African Child” for UNICEF and the United Nations.

An avid fundraiser, earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Rochester Institute of Technology. After college he served with the Rochester police force and later as a police officer in Vermont.
Martha Maurer  
**Class of 1970**

Colonel Maurer was one of eight out of 800 officers to be recognized on the Joint Staff and one of only 15 officers selected from the Air Force as a National Defense Fellow. Maurer was appointed Adjunct Research Fellow/Affiliate at the J.F.K. School of Government at Harvard. She spent 23 years in the military serving in the communications field and has received eight personal military awards. She served 10 years in Europe prior to the end of the Cold War. Colonel Maurer received a master’s in human relations from the University of Oklahoma and attended three professional military schools. She has authored a book on Coalition Command Control that is used as course material for military education in both the U.S. and its allied countries. She graduated from CCHS in only three years and was class Salutatorian.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS: 1998  
Jane (Charles) Shaw  
**Class of 1980**

Jane (Charles) Shaw has made a career in the film industry. She was an executive producer at Apple Box Productions in Vancouver, where she is working on a feature length film about a Russian woman who walks across Canada to her homeland. She produced a feature film called Once in a Blue Moon, which premiered at the Toronto and Vancouver Film Festivals.

Carol (MacHaffie) Lewin  
**Class of 1966**

Carol (MacHaffie) Endres is an internationally recognized folk artist. She has had her own company and storefront in Kinderhook selling and licensing her “American Primitive” artwork. Among the many pieces of home furnishings that have displayed Endres’ work are calendars, stationary, giftware, textiles and wall art. Her designs have been in great demand with the gift and home furnishing industry to whom she licenses her work. The Franklin Mint has produced a limited edition, six-plate series of her work depicting scenes from American life.

James D. Ryan  
**Class of 1966**

James D. Ryan has been partner and executive committee member of Clough Harbour & Associates, an engineering firm based in the Capital District. Ryan has been director of the Industrial Facilities Division, which provides consulting engineering services to many Fortune 500 companies throughout the country.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS: 1999  
Steven Jensen  
**Class of 1965**

Steven Jensen attended Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I., and prior to that, he was a chaplain and commander in the U.S. Navy. He served aboard a battleship and several submarines. Jensen received several awards while in the Navy including the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, as well as numerous ribbons including recognition for sharpshooter’s rifle and expert pistol. In 1984, Jensen was selected as Military Officer of the Year for the Marine Corps Air Station in Kaneohe Bay.

Jensen attended SUNY at Albany, upon graduating from Colonie Central High School, and graduated in 1969 with a bachelor’s degree in secondary education and German.

Dean Rueckert  
**Class of 1965**

Dean Rueckert has been the managing partner for Rueckert & Shanley Advertising and Public Relations firm, responsible for the day-to-day operations, client relations, marketing strategies and the development of creative strategies and production.

Edward Sim, Jr.  
**Class of 1975**

Edward Sim has been a police officer, firefighter, and emergency medical technician in the Town of Colonie. He started with the Town of Colonie Police Department as a dispatcher in 1977 and became an officer in 1981. As a member of the Colonie Fire Department, Sim served as chief from 1982-84 and again from 1988-92. He was president of the Colonie Fire Department. In 1979 he was honored as Officer of the Year and, in 1987, was designated as Firefighter of the Year by his department.

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His multimillion-dollar full-service agency had a wide array of clients with an emphasis in health care. He has also served the Town of Colonie as deputy supervisor and as a member of the Town Board. In addition to his town work, he has also represented the 25th Legislative District of Albany County. Rueckert has served on the board of directors for the Capital District YMCA and the Shaker Road Loudonville Fire Department.

Upon graduation from Colonie Central High School, Rueckert was active in varsity and intramural sports, as well as the school band. He majored in graphic design at the Art Institute of Boston.

### Inductions

**1998**

- **Jane (Charles) Shaw**  
  **Class of 1980**

- **Carol (MacHaffie) Endres**  
  **Class of 1966**

**1999**

- **Steven Jensen**  
  **Class of 1965**

- **Dean Rueckert**  
  **Class of 1965**

- **Edward Sim, Jr.**  
  **Class of 1975**
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Hall of Fame Inductions: 2000

Phillip Kolker
- Class of 1959

Phillip Kolker has been the principal bassoon with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra since 1972. Over many years, Kolker has been chosen to be the principal bassoon and soloist for a variety of the finest orchestras in the nation. He has been heard performing on many commercial and radio broadcasts. Kolker has studied music at the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester and has been awarded the prestigious Performer’s Certificate.

He has been a model performer and teacher of the bassoon on the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory, where he served as Chairman of the Woodwind, Brass, Harp and Percussion Department. He has presented master classes at numerous conservatories including the Curtis Institute, the Eastman School of Music and the Interlochen National Camp.

Hall of Fame Inductions: 2002

James J. Morrell
- Class of 1962

James Morrell has been the owner of seven automobile dealerships, 27 radio stations and nine other businesses in the Capital District area. He was honored in 2002 with the Trefoil Award for work with the Girl Scouts of America and is a former Man-of-the-Year for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. He was awarded the Dr. Egon Plaeger Humanitarian Award from Siena College and the Danny Thomas Humanitarian Award from St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

Professionally, Morrell was named Time Magazine’s “Dealer of the Year” by the National Automotive Dealers Association and was president of the New York State Automobile Sales Association.

In addition to managing 43 different businesses, Morrell has continued to find time to “give back” to the community in an attempt to improve the quality of life. One of the many examples is that his Albany Broadcasting Company (ABC) sponsored the building of a Habitat for Humanity house. This property was a home valued at more than $100,000 and donated to a needy family as part of the Habitat for Humanity program. After the September 11th attacks on America, ABC also gave away 120,000 American flags and raised $120,000 in money and supplies for the New York City disaster relief efforts.

While attending CCHS, Morrell was President of the Student Council and was a member of 23 school clubs and organizations. He continued his involvement at Siena College where he graduated in 1966.

Joseph ‘Chuck’ Zarriello
- Class of 1957

Chuck Zarriello has been well known in the Albany area both as a community leader and volunteer. He served as Albany County Legislator from 1992 to 1994 and on the Colonie Town Board from 1995 to 1999. He was then appointed by Governor George Pataki to be the State Liquor Authority Commissioner.

Zarriello is past president of the Albany County Restaurant/Tavern Association and a past vice president of the State Restaurant/Tavern Association. He has been a member of the Fuller Road Fire Department since 1955 where he served as president. Zarriello was a well-respected leader in many area organizations and in the community and was seen as a great communicator. Perhaps his best quality has been his ability to treat everyone fairly and got the job done in the most efficient manner. In 1989, Zarriello survived serious health problems and, following this, he decided to get his EMT license in order to help others when they were injured or ill. He became a first responder with the Fuller Road Fire Department.

Kym Frank Gaylo
- Class of 1977

Kym Frank Gaylo has been a true friend to the environment.

As a chemical engineer for the second largest Proctor & Gamble plant in the world, Gaylo traveled the globe for the company — making sure its manufacturing plants were operating efficiently and monitoring the air quality.

In her position, she has been head of a department consisting of 13 managers and 20 technicians. Gaylo was also part of a task force in Cincinnati, Ohio, that compared air pollution and air quality tests against government results.

As a graduate of Rochester Polytechnic Institute, Gaylo spent time on the college campus in Troy recruiting graduates for positions in Proctor & Gamble company. She was also active in the community working for many years with the Big
Sister organization. She earned a master's degree from Iowa State University and served on the Board of Directors of Good Will of Iowa. She was a member of the Phi Sigma sorority.

In her free time she has been an ice dancer and a member of the Queen City Figure Skating organization.

**Don Myers**

**Class of 1967**

Don Myers has been an avid runner, athlete and friend to the youth of Colonie. A multi-letterman in cross country running, outdoor track and basketball while a student at Colonie Central, Myers was the school record holder in the one-mile run from 1967-1975. He went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education from the State University at Cortland and a master’s degree from Russell Sage College.

Myers has continued to be active as the Assistant Superintendent for the Town of Colonie Parks and Recreation Department. In that position, he has been directly responsible for the Colonie Recreation Department’s summer playground program, the running of the Colonie relays, and was involved with the Town of Colonie Golf Course and the Town Park swimming pool. All of these organizations serve the youth of the South Colonie and North Colonie schools.

Myers was awarded the Hudson-Mohawk Road Runners Club Distinguished Service Award for his work with the Colonie Recreation Department’s summer track program, which he helped start in 1968, and for his sponsorship of the Colonie Dynamic Duo road race which had 1979 as its inaugural year. Myers was also a hero and was recognized for saving two people who had fallen through the ice on Saratoga Lake in the winter of 1989. He and the other rescuers were given an award by the New York State Legislature and the event was filmed by WTEN Channel 10.

Myers has been a member of the New York State Recreation and Parks Society and a charter member of the Capital District Track Officials Association. He has also been facilities coordinator for the Latham Circle Soccer Program.

**Hall of Fame Inductions: 2003**

**Dr. Anthony C. Campagna**

**Class of 1977**

Dr. Anthony C. Campagna has been named one of Boston magazine’s top physicians in the field of pulmonary medicine. He has been a full time attending physician at the Lahey Clinic, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, since 1999. Prior to that he worked in internal pulmonary medicine at Deaconess Waltham Hospital. Dr. Campagna has done extensive research in his field of medicine, authored numerous professional articles and lectured at medical conferences. He has been licensed to practice in Massachusetts, New York and California. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Siena College and attended Albany Medical College.

“Throughout my career, I have attempted to balance the clinical care of my patients with teaching and mentoring students and research,” Dr. Campagna said. “Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work in nearly every environment this profession offers.”

**David A. Gamble**

**Class of 1989**

David A. Gamble was the only CCHS alumnus to play in the National Football League. A Super Bowl champion with the Denver Broncos in 1998, Gamble was awarded the key to the Village of Colonie for his accomplishments and continued support to area youth. He has continued to mentor, motivate and serve as a positive role model through his involvement with Little League, Pop Warner and high school athletics.

A CCHS letterman in three sports (football, basketball and track), Gamble was co-founder and director of the Need for Speed Strength and Conditioning summer camp at CCHS. A 1993 graduate of the University of New Hampshire, his accomplishments as a student athlete there included president of the
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Black Student Union and captain of the football team. He remains one of the top offensive players in UNH history in terms of yards gained and touchdowns scored. He has served as director of youth services for Trinity Institute — Homer Perkins Center and was executive director of the Field of Dreams for the City of Albany. He was assistant football coach at Siena College and also played in the Canadian Football League.

**HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS: 2004**

**Patrice J. Ricciardi**

- **Class of 1971**

  Patrice J. Ricciardi Ragaini has been an accomplished businesswoman and a tireless educational activist in the Baldwin, Maryland, area where she has resided since 1990. Over the past 13 years, Patrice has been an active member of the school community both as PTA President (1998-2000) and as a member and past chair of the School Improvement Team at Carroll Manor Elementary School. Most important was the contribution she made convincing the Baltimore County Board of Education to focus and prioritize a request for a $2.1 million renovation to that school, seeing the project through to completion in 2003. This helped lead to Carroll Manor Elementary being named one of only two Blue Ribbon Schools in Maryland — with its students earning the highest scores in the state for reading and math.

  Patrice has served on the Maryland Parent Advisory Council and the Baltimore County Education Coalition. Professionally, she has been a senior account manager for Global Payments, Inc. — responsible for Global’s operational alliance with Discover Business Services generating more than $400 billion in transaction volume annually with over 5,000 customers. Prior to that, Patrice worked for 22 years with PHH Arval — the No. 2 vehicle fleet management company in the world, managing one million vehicles for clients ranging from small companies to a third of the Fortune 500 companies. She has received numerous professional honors and recognition over the years. Patrice graduated Summa Cum Laude from Siena College and attended the graduate program at George State University in Atlanta.

**Michael A. DiPietro, M.D.**

- **Class of 1966**

  Dr. Michael A. DiPietro has had a long and distinguished medical career and has been a full professor of radiology at the University of Michigan School of Medicine. He has been board certified in pediatrics, diagnostic radiology and pediatric radiology and has been listed in various “Best Doctors in America” publications/lists over the years. He has written numerous published peer review papers in his field, which have earned him a Silver and a Bronze Award from the Society for Pediatric Radiology. Dr. DiPietro has been a medical lecturer all over the world including appearances in Europe, Argentina and Singapore. He has maintained membership in 16 key professional organizations and is active in the Michigan Pediatric Radiological Society, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine Society of Pediatric Radiology, the Association of University Radiologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

  In 1991, Dr. DiPietro was a founding member and co-director of the Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Society. For decades he has funded the Charles DiPietro Memorial Award at Colonie Central High School. The scholarship, named for his father, has been given to a senior showing promise in any aspect of graphic arts. Dr. DiPietro is a graduate of Union College and earned his medical degree at the State University of New York Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. He has also practiced medicine in Pittsburgh and Boston and done residency work at Yale University and was a clinical fellow at Harvard Medical School.

Colonie Central High School

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The Colonie High School Hall of Fame is published by South Colonie School District and the Board of Education in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.

South Colonie does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, handicap or age. Inquiries concerning this policy of equal opportunity should be made to the Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, 102 Loralee Drive, Albany, New York 12205, (518) 869-3576