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2018-19

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*Sweet Home
Alumni Association*



*Distinguished Alumni
Wall of Fame*

2018

*Induction Ceremonies
Friday, November 2, 2018*

The Distinguished Wall of Fame exists in some form in other school districts and colleges around the nation. What sets ours apart are the alumni who were selected for this evening's momentous occasion in Sweet Home's history. Whether it is in the fields of science, business, law, or athletics, all of tonight's recipients are more than worthy of our honor. Our Alumni Board is proud to state that their beginnings are rooted in our very own district.



The nomination and selection process was an exciting time. Nominations were collected in the spring of this year. Nominators accumulated resumes, letters of support, and other documentation that would allow the committee to see a larger picture of the inductee's personal and professional life. Tonight, all of these inductees are deemed as outstanding not only in their professional careers, but have spent countless hours in their communities volunteering or giving back to those who suffered a tragedy, or struggled to succeed. Through the assistance of a small committee comprised of veteran and retired teachers, administrators, alumni board members, alumni, and community members, the four inductees were selected.

As Alumni Coordinator, I am proud of those who will be inducted tonight. Thank you to their friends and family members who have supported them. I look forward to seeing their plaques adorn our main hall so that all of our past and current students, staff, and community members can acknowledge their achievements.

Lisa LaBrake
Sweet Home Alumni Coordinator

PROGRAM



Sweet Home Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame Induction Ceremonies

Friday, November 2, 2018

6:30pm Music and Check-In

6:45pm Welcome & Introductions, Melissa Holmes,
Class of 2000, WGRZ-TV

- ◆ Tom Basinski, Class of 1974, presents
Paul Basinski, Class of 1972
- ◆ High School teachers Jenna Reid DePasquale, Class of 1990, & Heather Kennedy Paolucci, Class of 2002, present
John McGinty, Class of 1973
- ◆ Joseph M. Hanna, Esq. / Partner Goldberg Segalla, presents
Richard Cohen, Class of 1981
- ◆ Brain Grassia, Sweet Home Alum, presents
Patrick Cauley, Class of 1984

7:45pm Closing Remarks, Lisa LaBrake, Alumni Coordinator
Cake & Coffee Served

Special thanks to the following people for their tireless efforts in ensuring that tonight was successful:

Roz Annunziato
Gary Bainbridge
Dave Barbalato
Kelli Bogacz
Debra Coniglio
Bruce Corris
Anthony Day
Don Feldmann
David Harrison
Hermann Studios
High School Custodial Staff
Gary Klenk
Lisa LaBrake
Mike Lopardi
Scott Martin
Trey Measer & Bee Group Newspapers
Pat Mergenhausen
Mike Morrow
Dan Murphy
Heidi Mussachio
Kristina Pinkowski
Tom Rackl
Shevonne Ramadan-Sikes
Dave Sherman
Darcy Spengler
Justin Sullivan
Roey Tacca
Steve Weingarten

Emcees for the evening:

Melissa Holmes, Class of 2000
WGRZ-TV

Patrick Cauley Class of 1984



Patrick Cauley, Class of 1984, is an incredibly proud graduate of Sweet Home. While at Sweet Home, Pat was a standout athlete for the Panthers. He was a member of state championship teams in baseball (1983) and basketball (1984) and was All-ECIC in football, basketball and baseball. He went on to attend Fredonia State and earned a BS in Physical Education in 1989. He earned his MS in Health Education at Cortland State in 1991 and became a star runner earning All-American status that same year. He was given the school's first ever Alumni Hall of Fame honor in 2005.

Following graduation, Pat took a job as a physical education teacher in the Hamburg School District in September 1992. He taught health and physical education to students in grades 6-12 until being named the school's Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics in April 2013. Throughout his career Pat has coached cross country, football, track and field, and basketball. He was an associate head basketball coach for the Empire State Games from 1997-2005 and his teams earned five medals in that time frame. He was named ECIC coach of the year while coaching Sweet Home basketball in 1997-98 and was also involved in a number of Sweet Home summer camps. Pat was also inducted into the Sweet Home Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004.

As Athletic Director at Hamburg, Pat has brought a Unified Basketball program to the district in 2018 and Girls Ice Hockey in 2014.

During his career, Pat focuses on each student he comes across and helps them develop the skills needed for success in school and after graduation. Leadership, team work, resiliency, responsibility, respect and dignity are characteristics Pat lives by. He has learned from being a student and athlete at Sweet Home and continues to teach those skills to all of his students, teachers, colleagues and coaches.

Paul Basinski Class of 1972



Paul Basinski, Class of 1972, was known as a fun-loving student who was a top performer on the swim team and was fascinated by physics, geology and other sciences while attending Sweet Home High. He was a member of the National Honor Society and worked as yearbook editor.

Following graduation, Paul achieved a BA in Geology from SUNY Buffalo in 1975 and a MA in Geology from Mackay School of Mines in Reno, Nevada in 1978. He graduated with honors from both schools and embarked on a career in oil and gas that would take him all over the world.

In 1976, Paul took a position with Kerr-McGee Minerals in Maine and then rapidly moved up the corporate ladder with positions at Chevron, Tesoro, Grace Petroleum, Burlington Resources, El Paso Production and Conoco Phillips. It was at Conoco Phillips where Paul would change oil and gas exploration history with his push to explore Texas oil fields that had been abandoned by large corporations that would later become known as the "Eagle Ford Play". It became one of the richest oil fields in the world and its economic impact has been estimated at \$123 billion.

Paul founded his own oil company - Burgundy Xploration - in 2011. As recently as January 2018, Paul was involved in drilling wells on a 700,000 acre site on the North Slope in Alaska with his Joint Venture partner 88 energy.

Paul has been cited as the "Father of Fracking" by various industry sources and was a strong believer that the fracking industry was America's best hope to end its dependence on oil suppliers from other countries. His company was always environmentally conscious and Paul believed in the proper combination of science, good field practice and vigilance.

Outside of his business, Paul was an avid supporter of Doctors Without Borders and The Houston Symphony.

Paul battled heart disease for over a decade and passed away in April of this year. He is survived by his wife Rene and his brothers John, Tom and Phil.

John McGinty Class of 1973

John McGinty graduated from Sweet Home in 1973 and was a three-sport athlete competing in Football, Basketball and Baseball. John attended Buffalo State College achieving a BS degree in Business in 1977. After graduation, he relocated to Henderson, Nevada and developed a Buffalo-themed restaurant - *Johnny Mac's* - from start-up in Henderson specializing in pizza, wings, beef on weck, and other Buffalo staples.



Johnny Mac's is a highly acclaimed bar and grill that has been featured on TV and within newspapers in the Las Vegas area, even recently awarded best chicken wings in Nevada.

On most lunch and dinner shifts, you will find John at the restaurant talking with customers, serving food and interacting with his staff. He hires locally and has provided countless jobs over the years to those living in and around the Henderson community. While his business acumen and restaurant success of over 30 years is unsurpassed, what truly sets John apart is his commitment to Henderson and those in the community less fortunate.

He has volunteered annually for Toys for Tots, Serving Our Kids Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of Henderson, Little League Baseball and Football Associations, Safe House of Nevada, Police and Fire Association of Henderson, Clark County School District, Henderson Chamber of Commerce, and San Diego, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas Race for the Cure. Recently, he organized a benefit at his restaurant and donated proceeds to military veterans and to those affected by the mass shooting in Las Vegas.

John served as a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson for over five years and was an advisor to the College of Southern Nevada where he mentored young students on being small business owners and surviving a tumultuous economy.

Although John left in 1977, much of his heart still belongs to Sweet Home as his parents, sister and brother still live in the district.

Richard Cohen Class of 1981

As one of Western New York's leading business executives, Richard Cohen, Class of 1981, ranks among the "Legal Elite". Following Sweet Home, Richard attended State University of New York at Buffalo School of Management. He graduated with distinction in 1986, and then graduated from State University of New York at Buffalo Law School in 1989, cum laude. Currently he is a founding partner of Goldberg Segalla, and has been the firm's managing partner since its inception.



At Goldberg Segalla, Rick oversees all of the firm's operations across 20 offices, and is responsible for developing and implementing the firm's strategic direction, and cultivating leadership within the firm. He served as the chair of the firm's Professional Liability Practice Group and its Global Insurance Services Practice Group, which is the largest of its kind in the United States. He also is a member of the firm's Sports and Entertainment Group.

He is well published and has lectured across the country and in Canada on a wide range of topics, including insurance coverage, bad faith, reinsurance, E & O and D & O issues, and sports law. He has been named as one of the Best Lawyers in America in insurance law and is one of a select group of lawyers in the United States inducted into the invitation-only American College of Coverage and Extracontractual Counsel.

In addition to growing the firm to what it is today, Rick also instituted Team Kindness in all of its offices. Team Kindness not only helps out employees of the firm, but it is an extension of Goldberg Segalla into the community. Team Kindness has helped Bunkers in Baghdad, Carly's Club and Ride for Roswell.

Individually, Rick has been part of the Board of Directors for the Mathewson-McCarthy Babe Ruth Youth Baseball League, Roswell Park Alliance Board, Roswell Park Executive Committee, Roswell Park Corporate Committee Co-Chair, and an Instructor for CPCU and AIC Programs.