

*Sweet Home
Alumni Association*

*Distinguished Alumni
Wall of Fame*

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
2012-13**

Marianne Jasen, President
Scott M. Johnson, Vice President
Douglas J. Galli
Joe Miranda
Michael F. Morrow
Carol A. Nowak
Dirk D. Rabenold

Kevin Murray, ex-officio student member



Anthony J. Day, Superintendent of Schools
Joleen Reinholz, Sweet Home High School Principal

20  12

*Induction Ceremonies
Friday, November 2, 2012*

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

Craig Allwes
Roz Annunziato
Gary Bainbridge
Dave Barbalato
Mike Baumann
Kelli Bogacz
Sandy Cocca
Debra Coniglio
Bruce Corris
Anthony Day
Don Feldmann
David Harrison
Todd Helming & Hermann Studios
High School Custodial Staff
Gary Klenk
Lisa LaBrake
Keith Langlotz
Mike Lopardi
Trey Measer & Bee Group Newspapers
Pat Mergenhagen
Mike Morrow
Dan Murphy
Heidi Mussachio
Kristina Pinkowski
Joleen Reinholz
Dave Sherman
Darcy Spengler
Roey Tacca
Steve Weingarten

Emcees for the evening:
Don Feldmann & Lisa LaBrake

Our Distinguished Wall of Fame is in it's third year, and is already embedded into Sweet Home tradition. Tonight's recipients are successful in their own fields - whether it is in art, law, small business, amateur athletics, or computer science. To think that their beginnings derived from Sweet Home High School is inspirational to all who celebrate with us tonight.



Nominations for these impressive inductees were collected in the spring of 2012. Through the aid of a small committee comprised of veteran and retired teachers, administrators, alumni board members, alumni, and community members, tonight's nominees will be inducted.

Behind every great person, a number of people have helped him / her achieve success. Thank you to friends and family members of the inductees for accompanying them tonight and in supporting them in their passion to make a difference in their respective fields. The inductees have left an indelible mark on our school and community - one that will be commemorated for years to come.

Lisa LaBrake
Sweet Home Alumni Coordinator

PROGRAM



Sweet Home Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame Induction Ceremonies

Friday, November 2, 2012

6:30pm Food & Refreshments Served

7:00pm Welcome & Introductions, Lisa LaBrake, Alumni Coordinator

- ◆ Paul Strefeler, '90 presents
Reggie Witherspoon, Class of 1979
- ◆ Lisa LaBrake, Alumni Coordinator, presents
Eric P. Rakowski, Class of 1976
- ◆ Beth Bloomquist, '79 presents
Neal M. Gafter, Class of 1977
- ◆ Alan Camhi, retired High School English teacher, presents
Amy Cappellazzo, Class of 1985
- ◆ Michael Lopardi, retired High School administrator, presents
Rocco Casullo, Class of 1988

8:00pm Closing Remarks
Cake & Coffee Served

Rocco Casullo Class of 1988



Rocco Casullo, Class of 1988, opened Casullo's Automotive Services, Inc. in 1990 following his graduation from SUNY Alfred. Since then Casullo's has received numerous American Automobile Association Top Shop Awards for excellence in customer service.

Casullo is an ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician and is one of the youngest mechanics in the nation to receive the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence Award. In 1997, Rocco was the recipient of the "Young Entrepreneur of the Year" from the Buffalo District of the Small Business Administration.

Rocco is also currently a committee member for the Alfred State five year review board for auto service, auto body and truck and diesel programs. In addition, Casullo has also donated large amounts of auto parts and supplies to the school's Auto body and Truck department.

In his time away from work, Rocco is very involved in his community. His shop has provided countless internship opportunities for aspiring mechanics. Rocco is also heavily involved with the Heritage Centers of Western New York, serving as a chairperson for a number of fundraising events as well as providing free oil changes and state and vehicle inspections to all of the agency's group home vehicles.

Eric P. Rakowski Class of 1976

Eric P. Rakowski, Class of 1976, is currently a professor in the Berkley Law School, University of California at Berkley. Prior to teaching at UC Berkley, Rakowski served as a law clerk for Judge Harry Edwards in the US Court of Appeals and for Justice William Brennan of the United States Supreme Court.



Eric graduated first in his class from Harvard College in 1980 with a Bachelor of Arts in Government. He later earned a Bachelors degree and Doctorate in Philosophy from Oxford University and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1987.

He currently holds the Edward C. Halbach Jr. Chair in Trust & Estates Law at Berkley Law and received the Rutter Award for Teaching Distinction in 2010 from the law school. Eric has also taught as a visiting professor at Harvard Law School.

Eric is the author of Equal Justice, a book about distributive justice, as well as many journal articles. Outside of teaching, he is an independent trustee and serves on the board of four mutual fund groups: Aston Funds, Harding Loevner Funds, Manager Funds and Third Avenue Funds.

Rakowski is also a member of the New York Bar Association and the American Law Institute.

Neal M. Gafter Class of 1977

Neal M. Gafter, Ph.D graduated from Sweet Home in 1977 and earned his Bachelors of Science in Computer Science from Case Western University in 1981, graduating with high honors. Neal went on to earn a Masters of Science degree in Computer Science in 1984 from the University of Rochester. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Rochester in 1990.



Neal has over 32 years of high-level experience in the computer science industry, more specifically in the computer programming language design and implementation. He currently works for Microsoft on the dotNet platform languages. His career has seen Neal be a part of the development teams of major technological advances.

While at Sun Microsystems, Neal was the primary designer and developer of Sun's Java Programming Language, compiler and related tools. Neal moved to Google following his time at Sun and, while there, he was responsible for the design and implementation for the architecture surrounding what is now know as Google Calendar.

In addition, Neal is the owner of 5 United States patents, a presenter at hundreds of industry conferences and been published in numerous books and journals.

He is also the author of Java Puzzlers: Traps, Pitfalls and Corner Cases, which many expert reviews have deemed as a must read for any Java developer and programmer.

Amy Cappellazzo Class of 1985



During her high school years, those around her knew that Amy Cappellazzo, Class of 1985, had a strong interest in art. Frequent trips to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery with her mother cemented the fact that she wanted to work in the art world. Amy has not only worked in the art world, she has excelled in it and currently holds the position of Chairman of Christie's Post-War and Contemporary Development.

As a curator and art advisor, Amy played a key role in starting the Art Basel Miami Beach Fair. But her career really took off when she joined Christie's, considered the world's leading art business, in 2001. She was appointed Senior Vice President, International Co-Head of Contemporary Art that year and was promoted to Deputy Chairman, Christie's America in January 2008. Amy played a crucial role in the historic Christie's sale in May 2004, which was the first ever Post-War and Contemporary auction to break \$100 million. Building on that achievement, she led the department in the 2007 sale, which totaled nearly \$400 million. Since joining Christie's in 2001, the auction house has sold more than \$1.17 billion worth of art in major New York contemporary art sales.

Steven Murphy, the Chief Executive Office at Christie's, remarked, "Amy's infallible sense for the art and the market has made her into one of the main catalysts in the international Post-War and Contemporary Art field".

In 2006, Amy was named as one of New York City's Forty Under Forty by Crain's New York Business Magazine and has been included as part of the top-20 of Art Review's 'One Hundred Most Powerful People in the Art World' annually for the last seven years. In 2010, Fast Company named Cappellazzo one of the 100 Most Creative People in the World.

Reggie Witherspoon Class of 1979



Reggie Witherspoon, Class of 1979, has over 20 years of collegiate and high school basketball coaching experience in Western New York. He was officially named head men's basketball coach at the University at Buffalo on March 10, 2000. Reggie enters his 14th season as the head coach at UB and his 184 wins rank third in school history. He has led Buffalo to the only four 20-win seasons in school history and to four post-season tournament berths.

Some of Reggie's personal accomplishments include being named as an assistant coach for the 2010 USA Men's U18 National Team at the FIBS Americas U18 Championship, where he helped to lead Team USA to the gold medal. He was also named Coach of the Year/Conference on three separate occasions, following great seasons by his UB Bulls.

Prior to taking the helm at UB, Reggie was the coach of Erie Community College for two plus seasons from 1998-2000, where he was named Region III Division I Coach of the Year once.

Reggie got his start in coaching right here at Sweet Home High School, serving five seasons as head coach and another eight as an assistant. As head coach, his teams won four straight divisional championships, the first and only time that happened in school history.

Outside of coaching, Reggie is heavily involved in the Boys and Girls Clubs of WNY, Gloria Parks Community Center and St. Luke's Mission.

Reggie was also the co-founder of the Buffalo Team ACE All-Star Program for high school athletes. Because of his efforts, he has developed more than 20 players who went on to compete at the Division I level.