

*Sweet Home  
Alumni Association*

*Distinguished Alumni  
Wall of Fame*

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20  11

*Induction Ceremonies  
Friday, November 4, 2011*

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

Craig Allwes  
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Darcy Spengler  
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Steve Weingarten

**Emcee for the evening:**  
Melissa Holmes, Channel 4 WIVB-TV

Our Distinguished Wall of Fame is in its second year, and is already embedded into Sweet Home tradition. Tonight's recipients are successful in their own fields - whether it is in law enforcement, public relations, scientific research, or business. One common area links all five recipients: volunteering for their communities. Each one of the recipients selected an organization to dedicate time to in order to help others less fortunate. 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 2011. 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 4, 2011*

6:30pm .... Food & Refreshments Served

7:00pm ..... Welcome & Introductions, Melissa Holmes, Class of 2000

- ◆ Dan Herbeck, '72 presents  
*Hugh B. Scott, Class of 1967*
- ◆ Paul Strefeler, '90 presents  
*Dr. Kenneth Goldstein, Class of 1969*
- ◆ Tracy Gray, Executive Director of Make A Wish, presents  
*Ken Tirohn, Class of 1980*
- ◆ Pat Mergenhagen, former Alumni Coordinator, presents  
*Donald Feldmann, Class of 1990*
- ◆ Alan Camhi, retired High School English teacher, presents  
*Adam J. Burgasser, PhD Class of 1992*

8:00pm .... Closing Remarks  
Cake & Coffee Served

## **Adam J. Burgasser, PhD** **Class of 1992**



Adam J. Burgasser, PhD, Class of 1992, is currently an Assistant Professor of Physics at the University of California San Diego in the Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences. Prior to teaching at UC San Diego, Adam was an Assistant Professor of Physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Adam earned his bachelors of science and masters of science in Physics and completed his Ph.D. in Physics with a minor in Planetary Science from the California Institute of Technology in 2001.

Dr. Burgasser has taught classes in Stellar Astrophysics, Stellar Structure and Evolution and the Solar System. In addition, Adam has given countless presentations on the solar system all over the country and his work has been published in over 100 peer reviewed journals.

Adam has been the recipient of several postgraduate and postdoctoral fellowships from NASA and was an NCAA Top 8 Scholar Athlete in 1997.

## **Dr. Kenneth Goldstein** **Class of 1969**

Dr. Kenneth Goldstein, Class of 1969, has four podiatry offices throughout the Western New York area.



In addition to his professional work, Dr. Goldstein currently serves as an Adjunct Clinical Instructor in the SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Ken's prior teaching experiences include New York College of Podiatry Medicine, Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine, California College of Podiatric Medicine, Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine and The Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. His work has been published in 13 books and journals.

Ken has served as Chief of Podiatry at the Niagara Falls Medical Center, sat on the Education Committee of the American Cancer Society and been President of the New York State Podiatric Medical Association, Western New York Division.

In his time away from work and school, Dr. Goldstein has been an active member of the Podiatry Clinic Staff at Friends of the Night People in Buffalo since 2000.

## **Ken Tirohn** **Class of 1980**

Ken Tirohn, Class of 1980, is the Principal and Chief Operating Officer of the Accessium Group in Williamsville, New York. Accessium specializes in delivering medical information from one doctor to another in a timely manner anywhere - from local physicians to hospitals here in the Western New York area to as far away as California.



Outside of Ken's business successes, his real passion over the last 10 years has been helping children with life threatening illnesses. He is a Wish Granter with the Make a Wish Foundation. He currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Western New York Chapter and is also an Executive Committee Member.

Ken is also heavily involved with Mikey's Way Foundation. He became involved through Make a Wish when he helped grant Mikey Friedman's wish in 2005. Mikey gave his wish away to go on a shopping spree to buy gifts for other sick kids going through cancer treatment in the hospital. The event was so successful that Mikey created his own foundation and Ken was asked to serve on its Board of Directors.

Ken is also a board member of the Niagara University Theater.

## Donald Feldmann Class of 1990



Donald Feldmann, Class of 1990, is currently the Public and Community Relations Coordinator for Sweet Home, a position he has held since 2001. In this role he also serves as Chair of the Sweet Home Dollars for Scholars Chapter. Dollars for Scholars raises money to provide scholarships to graduating Sweet Home seniors. This year the chapter will surpass \$750,000 raised in support of the senior scholarship fund.

Prior to joining Sweet Home, Don spent some time at the Buffalo Bisons as Marketing and Gameday Manager where he coordinated entertainment and presentation for major events including the Buffalo Philharmonic Independence Eve Show, Tony Bennett Live in Concert, The Beach Boys, Celebrity / Old Timers Classic and hundreds of Buffalo Bisons games.

Don's work experience also includes serving as Communications Manager at Lakeside Health System in Brockport, New York. While there, he was part of a team that organized Annual Dinners featuring Barbara Bush, Gerald Ford and Jack Kemp that raised over \$250,000 in support of the Health System's Capital Campaign.

Don currently sits on the Buffalo 2012 Triple-A All-Star Game Organizational Committee.

## Hugh B. Scott Class of 1967



There are more than 1.1 million lawyers in the United States, but only a handful have reached the heights reached by Hugh B. Scott, a member of the Class of 1967.

In late 1994, Hugh was selected as the first African-American individual ever to serve as a federal judge in Western New York. Before taking the federal bench, Judge Scott worked as a lawyer for the City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York State and then, as a Buffalo City Court judge.

Hugh is a graduate of Niagara University and University at Buffalo Law School and has served as a volunteer in dozens of local charities and not-for-profit organizations including Catholic Health Systems, The Gow School for the Physically Challenged, Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Judicial Task Force on Domestic Violence.

In 2002, Scott received a distinguished service award from the Buffalo Law Review at UB Law School, and in 2011, he received the Charles H. Dougherty Award from the Erie County Bar Association.

Judge Scott and his wife, Trudy, have two sons.