



2023

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY
& APPRECIATION DINNER

November 30, 2023

WELCOME

Dear Columbus Family,

Welcome to our annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Appreciation Dinner. This event gives us the opportunity to honor those among us for their outstanding achievements and steadfast dedication to our school. This year's inductees have all embodied the Columbus, Marist spirit and make our school family extremely proud.

Tonight, we also celebrate and thank our strongest supporters. We are so grateful for all the efforts you make to ensure that Columbus continues to offer an exceptional education. On behalf of the Marist Brothers, our students, faculty and administration, thank you!

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming tonight's inductees to our Hall of Fame.

Adelante!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas Kruczek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Kruczek" clearly visible.

Thomas Kruczek
President

2023 Christopher Columbus High School Hall of Fame Inductees:

Manuel Armando “Doc” Guerra

(Teacher, Posthumously)

Born in La Habana Cuba in 1915, Dr. Guerra attended Belen Jesuit School in La Habana and went on to receive a law degree from the University of La Habana and then have a distinguished career in the military. When the political and personal freedom conditions became

unbearable in 1959, Dr. Guerra left his beloved Cuba with his family in 1960 (wife, Narcisa, and young daughters Beatriz and Maria Eugenia). His mother, Pilar and his two brothers, Gustavo and Fernando and sisters, Gisela and Olga Guerra joined them in 1961.

In the United States, Dr. Guerra pivoted to a career in education and pursued his degree attending class in the evenings. He received his Master’s Degree in Education and thereafter his Doctorate Degree in Spanish Literature and History from the University of Miami.

Dr. Guerra’s first position as a Professor was in Washington, DC where he taught Spanish for five years. Always pursuing a professor’s position in Miami to be with his family, he



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was hired as a Spanish Professor at Columbus in 1968. He made it his mission to shape the next generation of Hispanic leaders. Dr. Guerra was often the target of some of the most creative pranks young minds could conceive; however, he was not deterred. He became a fundamental part of the Columbus culture and marveled at enriching his students' lives with the history, traditions, and the works of the literary giants of his beloved Cuba.

Dr. Guerra retired from CCHS in 1991. He lived his life true to the Jesuit motto, "Men for Others."

Prior to his passing on January 14, 2010, he had the distinction of being the oldest living Belen alum.



Bob Linfors **'85**

*(Administrator/Teacher/
Coach)*

Bob began his career in education in the city of Baltimore teaching Language Arts at Canton Middle School. He returned to Christopher Columbus to teach English in 1995 and has

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been here ever since. He has taught English to all years and at all levels, from Phase 2 to AP and even designed and taught a course called Imaginative Literature which explores the work of JRR Tolkien. For 25 years, Bob ran Columbus' School Newspaper, *The LOG*, transitioning it from newsprint to an online digital format.

In 2021, Bob became Dean of Students, the position he now holds.

As an assistant varsity football coach, Bob has had the distinct honor to help guide the Columbus Explorers to each of their first two State Championships.

When students return to visit, they usually recall two things about being in Mr. Linfors' class: one, how he helped them to not just understand Shakespeare, but to enjoy it; and, two, they fondly recall the many stories he told. He always makes a point to remind his present and past students of his two mantras, "In all things - fight on" and "Reading makes you better."

Bob earned a BA in English and a BA in History at Florida International University and a MA from Arizona State University. He and Sophia, his wife of nearly 25 years, have three daughters, Hailey 21, Audrey 18, and Deanna 15.

Grant Miller

(Friend)

If there is one thing that best describes Grant Miller, clearly it is his character – and that he is one, too! Whether it is in his daily interactions with the staff of Miami’s Community Newspapers or its thousands of readers, advertisers, and elected officials, Grant’s personal and professional brand makes him one of the most recognized personalities in Miami-Dade County.



Early on, Grant was greatly influenced by his teachers in high school, and his professors at both Miami-Dade College, and Florida International University. They impressed upon him the importance of education, of course. But through their expertise and example, he also learned the power of commitment to making life better – not just for oneself, but for all those around us.

He was told he had within him “the ability to truly make positive and long-lasting impacts in his community” and that is what he set out to do. These very lessons he later imparted upon his two sons, one who holds a PHD from Emory University and is currently a physical therapist in Atlanta; and the younger son who is in his 3rd year at University of Miami School of Law.

It was in 1982 that Grant launched his career in newspa-

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per/media production. Today, as the company's publisher and with his brother Michael Miller as the executive editor, the Community Newspapers has emerged as a massive media organization serving 11 publications in 15 local municipalities and connecting hundreds of thousands of readers and viewers every day.

While staying true to the operation's mission to "give back" by providing inclusion, connection, and vital interaction, Grant also kept his eye on the ball of another driver in his life – his passion for sports. Over the last 45 years, he has served as president of the Howard Palmetto Baseball & Softball Association, president of the Greater Miami Pop Warner Football, the director of Boys Club Football, and as chairman of the Southeastern Pop Warner Championship. Among all this, he's coached high school football and baseball, little league baseball, little league football, and little league soccer.

In addition, Grant has had the honor of serving with multiple civic organizations, as a trustee of Chamber South, the Aventura Marketing Council, the Doral Chamber, and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. He is also the founder of the Pinecrest Business Association, the Palmetto Bay Business Association, and the Cutler Bay Business Association.

A life of service – and no doubt there's more to come!



Rafael Roca

(Class of 1988 / Alumni Parent)

Rafael is the Division President for D.R. Horton's Southeast Florida Division and just recently celebrated his 30-year anniversary with the company. DR Horton (DHI on the NYSE) is the largest publicly traded homebuilder in the country for 21 consecutive years. Rafael has climbed

the corporate ladder and filled various roles throughout his career in the Southeast Florida division. The area Rafael covers is Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin County.

Rafael is the immediate past president of the Gold Coast Builders Association (GCBA) as well as a long-standing member of the Builder's Association of South Florida (BASF). He will soon be joining the Board of Directors for the Latin Builder's Association (LBA) which he has been a member of for over 20 years. Rafael has been named one of Southeast Florida Business Journal's Top 250 Real Estate Power Leaders for nine consecutive years.

Born in Miami and raised along with two brothers and two sisters to Cuban-born parents, he learned early that hard work is the only way to move ahead. He graduated from Christopher Columbus High School in 1988, where he currently serves on the School Board, before that he spent 11 years on the Alumni Association Committee of which six of those years he served as President. He attended

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Florida International University's School of Engineering, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Construction Management in 1995 while maintaining a full time job at the time. Upon graduation, Rafael went on to get his Certified General Contractor's license, where he has been the qualifier for DR Horton since his early years with the Company.

Rafael has been happily married since 1996 to his lovely wife Elena and together they have five wonderful children, three boys (all of which are Columbus graduates) and two girls (both of which have attended Lourdes Academy) and four grandchildren.

Brother Ben Consigli, fms

Born in 1962 in New York City, Ben Consigli embarked on a journey that would see him become a dedicated Marist Brother, profoundly impacting the lives of many and contributing significantly to the Marist Institute.

From a young age, Ben displayed a hunger for knowledge and a deep-rooted faith. These qualities laid the foundation for a remarkable path ahead. After completing his early education, he felt a calling to join the Marist religious congregation. In 1989, he took his first profession





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of vows as a Marist Brother and then went on to make his perpetual profession in 1995, solidifying his lifelong dedication to the Marist mission. Br. Ben earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Humanities from Queens College, a Master of Arts degree in teaching history from Rutgers University, and a Graduate Professional Diploma in Educational Administration from Saint John's University.

He commenced his career as an educator at Archbishop Molloy High School in New York and Roselle Catholic in New Jersey. His ability to inspire and guide young minds quickly became evident, leading to his appointment as a school administrator at Molloy from 1995 to 2000.

As the new millennium dawned, Ben embarked on a fresh chapter of his career. In 2000, he assumed the role of Principal at the Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville, Texas, where he continued to shape the educational landscape. His dedication to the Marist Brothers and his leadership abilities saw him appointed as Vice-Provincial for the former Esopus Province, USA, in 2001.

Br. Ben's involvement in Province administration was extensive and diverse. He served as a Provincial Councilor, a member of the Province Finance Commission, Vice-Provincial, Assistant Provincial, and Director of Marist Education. In 2009, he assumed the role of Provincial, a position that carried significant responsibility in leading and overseeing the Marist Brothers' work and mission within his Province.

Following his mandate as Provincial, Br. Ben embarked on a sabbatical from 2015 to 2016. During this period, he

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continued his journey of personal and spiritual growth by studying at the School of Applied Theology in Berkeley, California, deepening his understanding of faith and education.

In his later years, Brother Ben brought his wealth of knowledge and experience to Christopher Columbus High School where he served as a guidance counselor, offering support and guidance to young students.

In 2017, at the 22nd General Chapter in Rio Negro, Colombia, Brother Ben was elected as a member of the Marist Brothers' General Council, assisting the Superior General in the animation of Marist life and mission in the 79 countries where the Marist Brothers minister, in particular in the regions of Europe and Oceania.

Brother Ben's life stands as a testament to the transformative power of education, faith, and steadfast commitment. His journey, from a young boy in New York to a leader within the Marist Institute, is a story of dedication, service, and the enduring impact of one individual's mission to educate and inspire. As a Marist Brother, he continues to shape the future, one student at a time, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those he encounters along the way.



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME:

Ramon Abadin (Class of 1977)
Anthony Abraham (Alumni Parent)
Thomas G. Abraham (Class of 1971)
Jose "JB" Aleman (Class of 1984)
Facundo Bacardi (Class of 1984)
Br. Herb Baker (Educator/Athletic Trainer)
Richard R. Baker (Class of 1962)
John Baumann (Class of 1966)
Gerald Bean (Alumni Parent)
Pat Bell (Class of 1965)
Brother Benedict (1st Principal)
Matt Bernhardt (Class of 1989)
Jim Bernhardt (Alumni Parent)
Tom Bezold (Class of 1971)
Patricia Bixby (Alumni Parent)
Br. Michael Brady (Administrator/Teacher)
Marc Buoniconti (Class of 1984)
E. Carter Burrus (Class of 1962/Teacher)
Robert Bustamante (Class of 1972)
Patricia Call (Administrator)
Raoul G. Cantero (Class of 1978)
Michael A. Carricarte (Class of 1959)
Teresa Chomat (Teacher/Alumni Parent)
Rogelio "Roger" Cuevas (Class of 1962)
Mrs. Irene Culmo (Teacher/Alumni Parent)
Br. Kenneth Curtin, fms (Teacher/

Campus Minister/Admissions Director)
Luis De La Aguilera (Class of 1977)
Fr. Arthur Dennison (Teacher)
Paul J. DiMare, Sr. (Alumni Parent)
Br. Felix Elardo (Teacher/Administrator)
Roberto Estades (Class of 1965)
Lee Evans (Alumni Parent)
Dr. Joseph Fernandez (Class of 1980)
Manny Figueroa (Class of 1967)
Fred Foyo (Class of 1975/Teacher & Coach/Posthumously)
Alejandro Galvez (Class of 1992)
Al Garcia (Class of 1981 / Alumni Parent)
Pedro Garcia-Casals (Administrator/Alumni Parent)
Carlos Gimenez (Class of 1972)
Patrick J. Gleber (Class of 1977)
Tito Gomez (Class of 1964)
Br. Eladio Gonzalez (Guidance Counselor/Teacher)
Pedro Jose Greer Jr. (Class of 1974)
Brian Griese (Class of 1993)
Ignacio Halley (Alumni Parent)
Nancy Husted (Teacher, Posthumously)
Br. Kevin Handibode (Administrator, Teacher, Coach)
Br. John Healy (Educator/Guidance Counselor)



V.C. (Vince) Hennessy (Class of 1963)

Paul Herald (Alumni Parent)

Thomas Herald, (Class of 1975)

William Herald (Class of 1971)

Alonzo Highsmith (Class of 1983)

Dave Isenberg (Educator)

Howard J. Korth (Alumni Parent)

James Lanier (Class of 1975)

Dr. Matthew A. Larkin (Alumni Parent)

Marcus Lemonis (Class of 1991)

Carlos Luis (Class of 1985)

Tom Lord (Class of 1974)

John Lynskey (Class of 1978/
Teacher/Administrator)

Judge Mallory Horton (Alumni Parent)

Br. Rafael Martin (Teacher/Librarian)

Fernando Martinez (Class of 1983)

Jorge Mas (Class of 1981/Alumni Parent)

Jose Mas (Class of 1989)

Juan Carlos Mas (Class of 1984)

Miguel Maspons (Class of 1981)

Douglas "Doug" McClintock (Class of 1966)

Dr. Mary Eileen McDonough (Alumni Parent)

Dick McEnany (Class of 1966)

Chris McKeon (Administrator/
Teacher/Alumni Parent)

Br. Patrick McNamara (Administrator)

Br. Patrick McNulty (Teacher/
Counselor)

John P. Miller (Teacher)

Steve O'Brien (Class of 1972/
Teacher)

Cesar T. Odio (Class of 1977)

Thomas H. O'Neil (Teacher)

Hernan Organvidez (Class of 1981)

Br. Angelo Palmieri (Administrator/
Teacher)

Fred Panzer (Teacher/Alumni Parent)

Rafael A. Peñalver (Class of 1969)

David Scott Plummer (Alumni Parent)

Timothy Plummer (Class of 1983)

Richard F. Pollock (Athletic Director/
Coach)

David Pugh (Administrator/Alumni Parent)

Maria Rams-Foyo (Educator)

Brian Regan (Class of 1976)

General Victor E. Renuart (Class of 1967)

David Riley (Teacher/Coach)

Mr. John F. Roche (Teacher)

Mark Rodgers (Class of 1977/
Teacher)

Ray Rodriguez (Class of 1969)

Wayne Rotolante (Class of 1963)

Br. Bernard Ruth (CCHS
Administrator)

Alina Sanchez (Educator/Alumni Parent)



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME: *(Continues from previous page)*

Robert Sanchez (Class of 1983)

Joe Sanz (Class of 1972)

Lewis Savino (Administrator)

Doug Sawyer (Class of 1975)

Br. Edmund Sheehan (Librarian/
Administrator/Teacher)

Michael J. Shula (Class of 1983)

John J. Spiegel (Class of 1967)

Achille “Butch” Staiano (Educator/Coach)

Nicholas Stanham (Class of 1986)

Roberto Suarez (Class of 1969)

Mario Sueiras (Class of 1991)

Brother Eugene Trzeciecki (Teacher)

Anibal Valdes (Alumni Parent/Alum of
Colegio Champagnat, Cuba)

Dr. Franklyn Verdon (Alumni Parent)

Dr. Juan Vila (Class of 1997 / Administrator)

Karl “Joe” Weber (Class of 1983/Teacher/
Coach)

Douglas “Doug” Yount (Class of 1967)

Dr. Joseph Zavertnik (Alumni Parent)

*A sincere thank you for your
presence to honor the newest
members of
Christopher Columbus High
School's*

Hall of Fame

*We appreciate your dedication
and contribution to make this
celebration truly special.*



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

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