

Pomp and circumstance for Hall of Fame inductees

Eight Gates Chili grads return to their alma mater to inspire younger generations and to be recognized.

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Messenger Post Staff

They've flown helicopters in Vietnam, performed veterinary medicine on large farm animals and started their own companies. They've volunteered in their community, fought fires, coached football and inspired future generations. And that's just a few of the accomplish-

ments of the eight Gates Chili alumni who were inducted into the Hall of Fame prior to Saturday's homecoming game against Pittsford. The induction was the culmination of the pomp and circumstance surrounding a tradition that dates back to 1993.

"Our Hall of Fame is a little bit unique," said John Brondon, assistant superintendent for district operations, chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee and a 1998 Hall of Fame inductee. "It's based on what you have accomplished since graduation, so you could have been an average person in school - not the best athlete, not the lead in the school play. It all depends on what you've done since you graduated."

Before the ceremony, inductees spoke at an assembly for seniors last Thursday. That evening, they were invited to a reception in their honor at the Italian American Community Center on Manitou Road.

On Friday, it was back to school for the Hall of Famers. They are assigned to speak to students in all grade levels, depending on requests from teachers. On Saturday, the inductees marched in the homecoming parade before the induction ceremony.

According to the Hall of Fame rules, no more than eight alumni can be sworn in one year, and nominees must have been out of high school for at least 15 years. This year, Brondon said, the eight

inductees were chosen from a pool of 24 nominees.

The Hall of Fame, consisting of several plaques, is located near the high school auditorium; however, it will be moved into a Hall of Fame courtyard, a new space that is being constructed as part of the district's current building project.

Here are the 2007 Gates Chili Hall of Fame inductees:

Jeanine Agnello, class of 1988

A resident of Gates, Agnello was inspired to become a social studies teacher as a student at Gates Chili High School. She earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY Geneseo and a master's from Nazareth College before coming back to teach at her alma mater. Agnello taught

social studies at Gates Chili Middle School for 12 years before coming to the high school three years ago. She teaches U.S. history, global studies and a civics class, and is adviser to the class of 2009.

"It's good because I'm shaping their future, influencing their future career paths and sort of being on their level and giving them advice on what the real world has in store for them," she said.

B. Andrew Dutcher, class of 1968

A resident of Rochester, B. Andrew Dutcher has been practicing law for 30 years. In high school,

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he said, he was intrigued by the history of the nation and the legal system here. Dutcher also liked math, so he coupled those two passions and became a tax attorney. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester and then went on to attend Boston University Law School.

Dutcher is a trustee at his church, Asbury First United Methodist Church, and he also volunteers with Hope Hall, where he is treasurer and active on its board of directors.

"The message is that you need to do something outside yourself to make a difference in the community and the world," he said.

David Easton, class of 1975

Health, safety and environmental engineer for digital media flow at Eastman Kodak Co., Easton is an assistant coach for the Gates Chili junior varsity football team. He graduated from the School of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University with a degree in paper science engineering. A Chili resident, he was president of the Gates Chili Sports Booster Club for three years.

Easton's advice to students today is, when afforded an opportunity in life, whether it's academic, athletic or any

other way, to grasp that opportunity and do whatever it takes to succeed.

Russell L. Hallauer, class of 1964

Known as "Rusty" in his school days, Hallauer went into the Naval Academy in 1969 immediately after graduating. His first assignment was as a helicopter gunship pilot in Vietnam. He completed 788 combat missions, was awarded the Silver Star and 31 combat action and Air Medals, among others. Hallauer graduated from the United States Naval Academy, the United States Naval Test Pilot School and received his master's degree in the administration of science and technology from George Washington University. He retired from the Navy in 1988 and started his own company in Maryland, Aerotech Management, which specializes in providing technical and programmatic services to the aeronautic industry.

James Harrington, class of 1974

A resident of Gates, Harrington is best known around town for fighting fires. He joined the Gates Fire Department as a volunteer at the age of 18 and has held many positions in the Fire District since then. Before being sworn in as the first full-time chief in the history of the Gates Fire Department in

2005, he worked for Insurance Services Office Inc. as a senior field representative, and as the program coordinator for the Monroe Community College Public Safety Training Center on Scottsville Road.

Harrington said he wasn't the most "scholastic" individual in his class, but he hopes to show students that they can succeed with perseverance.

Joseph Miano, Ph.D., class of 1980

Miano is an associate professor of medicine and pathology and laboratory medicine in the Center for Cardiovascular Research at the University of Rochester. He received his bachelor's degree in biology and physical education from SUNY Cortland, his master's and doctorate in experimental pathology from New York Medical College. He also volunteers as a visiting science teacher at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic School and with Meals on Wheels.

Steven Murphy, class of 1979

A resident of Gates, Murphy is a substation technician at Rochester Gas and Electric, where he's worked for the past 28 years. He is also well-known around town as a commissioner of the Gates Parks and Recreation Commission and a former library board director. Among his

many volunteer activities, Murphy has been a counselor at Camp Good Days and Special Times. He's also helped March of Dimes, the Leukemia Society, the Diabetes Association and Action for a Better Community. A graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology, Murphy stressed the importance of his education during his interactions with students last week.

David Walker, D.V.M., class of 1961

Although baseball was his number one love growing up, a job right out of high school at the Zuber Brothers dairy farm in Chili, led him to a career as a veterinarian rather than in the big leagues. He graduated from Cornell University as a doctor of veterinary medicine in 1968 and worked as a large animal practitioner for about 30 years. He now works for a five-person practice in Maine, Fryeburg Veterinary Hospital. In high school, he was a three-sport, three-captain athlete, was voted most likely to succeed, was president of the National Honor Society. He said the Hall of Fame gives today's generations a chance to hear from people who've "been out there a long time and maybe made a few mistakes along the way."

"It's a real honor for me, being a member of the first graduating class," he said.

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