

Coventry High Alumni Hall of Fame

CHS will induct five into second class of Alumni Hall of Fame

Ceremony next weekend at Nino's honors quintet for diverse talents and contributions to CHS

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COVENTRY — The Coventry High School Alumni Hall of Fame will induct five members in its second annual induction ceremony next Friday night at 6 p.m. at Nino's on Lake Tiogue.

Tickets are available from Ernie DiMicco at 401-261-6902 or at dimiccoed@mail.com. Ticket are \$30.00. Donations are welcome with

proceeds going to scholarships for Coventry High School seniors.

The following information about inductees is excerpted from their plaques:

John H. Ball

John Ball has dedicated most of his adult life to vocational-technical education and to improving career opportunities for young people. John earned his



John H. Ball

Bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island then moved on to earn a Master's degree in Education at the University of Connecticut. John also earned his C.A.G.S diploma in educational administration from the same institution. Over the years John continued his studies at a

number of institutions including Cornell University, Temple University,

the University of Maryland, the University of Colorado, among others.

John begin his teaching career at Coventry High in 1957 as a vocational agriculture teacher and after 10 years of motivating students, was promoted to the director of the West Bay Vocational-Technical School where he served from 1967 – 1990. John provided exceptional leadership and support for vocational education. During this period, John played a major role in many initiatives includ-

ing the Alternative Learning Program, the RI Distinguished Merritt Program, the first vocational satellite program in an industrial setting, the "Time About Program", along with many others. John is revered in the world of vocational education for his knowledge, his achievements, and his sense of humor. He certain is viewed as one of the most respected educators in the State of Rhode Island.

John's impact on his community

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and on the youth of the state of Rhode Island cannot be measured. His active life style, and commitment to his community and to the education of our youth continue to inspire others. For all the reasons stated above, John Ball is most deserving of induction into the CHS Hall of Fame.

James F. Bell III

As a graduate of Coventry High School, Jim Bell has distinguished himself in the field of astronomy and space exploration. Jim, who graduated from CHS in 1983, earned his undergraduate degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1987 then went on to get a masters degree and



James F. Bell III

PhD from the University of Hawaii. After moving to Cornell University, he served as a research assistant which offered him an opportunity to work with Carl Sagan before Carl died in 1996. Jim moved on to become an Assistant Professor at Cornell, then an Associate Professor, and finally a tenured Professor of Astronomy. His areas of expertise include surface composition and geology of terrestrial planets, asteroids, comets; telescopic observations and instrumentation; reflectance & emittance spectroscopy (Telescopic, Laboratory, Spacecraft); and Image Processing and Data Reduction/Calibration/Analysis (Telescopic, Spacecraft). He has worked on NASA projects including the NEAR

Project in 2001, where a spacecraft was landed on an asteroid, and was the leader of the Pancam color camera team for the Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity in 2004. He moved to Arizona State University in 2011 and is still collaborating with NASA, currently as a member of the camera team for Curiosity, the newest Mars rover.

Jim has received numerous awards and recognitions for his work including 11 NASA Group Achievement Awards for his involvement in numerous robotic space exploration missions, his selection as a National Academy of Sciences Kavli Fellow, 2007, and Carl Sagan Medal for Excellence in Public Communication, AAS/DPS, 2011. Finally, Jim was also honored by having an asteroid named after him, 8146 JimBell, by the International Astronomical Union, in 1999.

Mary Ann Cantino

Mary Ann Cantino was born in Massachusetts, but that fact has not stopped her from becoming an extraordinary Oaker! After attending high school at North Cambridge Catholic in Cambridge MA, Mary Ann matriculated at Graham Junior College in Boston, MA, receiving an Associate's Degree in Secretarial Sciences in 1961.

Mary Ann embarked on a new career when she began to work in a four-hour position in the night school at the Coventry Career and Technical

Center. In 1980, after 3 years in this position, Mary Ann was hired by the Coventry Public Schools as a clerk in the Middle School under then Principal Ed Lombardi.

In 1987 Mary Ann was transferred to the High School to work with Jim DiPrete. Mary Ann threw herself into the job of managing the office, handling parents and students and screening contacts for faculty and administration alike. In addition she became a master of the budget, helping the administration and staff to use the allocated funds effectively. There was always heads up about freezes or problems that might arise in the future and a step that one might take to avoid the problem.

The Coventry Public School is deeply indebted to Mary Ann for the extraordinary service she rendered to the students, parents, teachers and administrators of Coventry. Our debt to this remarkable Oaker can never be repaid.

Dr. Kate McCarthy-Barnett

Dr. Kate McCarthy-Barnett is a 1985 graduate of Coventry High School who has distinguished herself as an individual who has conquered adversity, achieved distinction in the field of education, and has worked tirelessly on behalf of people with disabilities and the elderly during times of natural disasters.

After graduating, Kate worked to earn bachelor's and master's degrees and then a Doctorate in Education. She then moved on to conduct research and teach courses relating to eliminating barriers to education and employment for people with disabilities. For 10 years, she also wrote a column for the Providence Journal called "disABILITY" where she ex-

plored the problems encountered by those with disabilities and highlighted people who overcame adversity to lead productive lives.

Over the past few years, Kate has worked for the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 1 as the Regional Disability Integration Specialist, located in Boston, Massachusetts. In this position, she leads the Agency's commitment to integrate and coordinate the needs of people with disabilities, access and functional needs in emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. She has served as an appointed member to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 1 Regional Advisory Council and as a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's planning team for the development of Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters. Her experience extends to serving as a member of the Regional Incident Management Assistance Team.

In addition, Dr. McCarthy-Barnett has authored numerous articles and is known for her work on advancing emergency preparedness integration efforts for individuals with disabilities, access and functional needs.

The Coventry High School community is deeply indebted to Kate because of her contributions to the disabled in Rhode Island and at the national level. She continues to

make a significant difference for others and provide leadership, helping to turn disabilities into abilities.

Ted Szymkowicz

Ted Szymkowicz has made an unprecedented contribution to the athletic program at Coventry High School over a 50 year period as a student athlete, teacher, and coach. A 1955 graduate of Coventry High School, Ted played baseball and basketball for 4 years, leading the state in scoring in basketball (class C) and was selected

First Team All-Kent County and was named the 1955 Outstanding Basketball Player in Kent County. Ted also received similar awards in baseball. As a senior, he was awarded the Babe Ruth Sportsmen Award at CHS.

In 1962 Ted returned to Coventry High School as an educator, teaching social studies and coaching for 34 years, until his retirement in 1996.

Appointed Athletic Director in his last 3 years at CHS, Ted also served as a baseball umpire and as a high school and college soccer official. A member of NISOA for over 40 years, Ted served as the state representative to the NE Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association for over 20 years.

Ted Szymkowicz has had a tremendous impact on generations of athletes at the high school and college level through his commitment to athletics and the youth of Coventry. Our debt to Ted can never be repaid.



Dr. K. McCarthy-Bennett



Ted Szymkowicz



Mary Ann Cantino