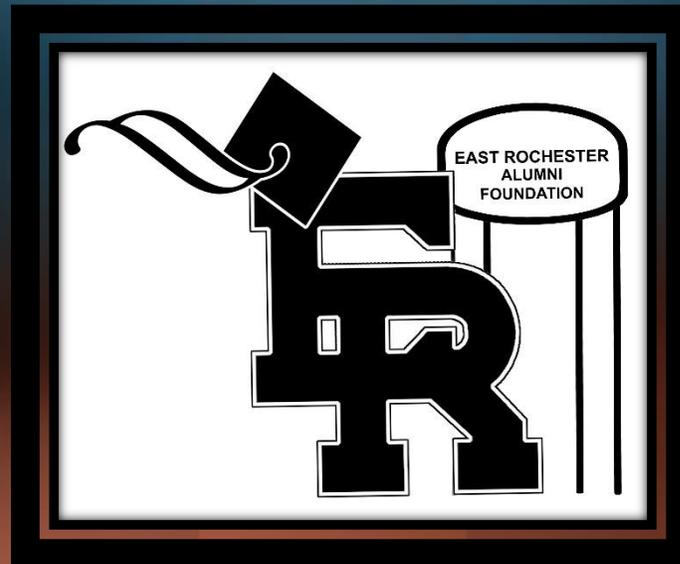


East Rochester Alumni Foundation

Distinguished Alumni Award



2009

Nicholas Verzella – Class of 1944



“for his many years of dedicated service to the village and people of East Rochester; for his ability to educate and inspire students we placed in his care and for his many contributions to the traditions and culture of his beloved home town.” In his 39 years as an educator Nick was a teacher, administrator, and coach. As a veteran of World War II, he was also honored twice as Legion Post 1917 Legionnaire of the Year and Legionnaire of the Year for Monroe County. In 2011, he was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans’ Hall of Fame. He also was inducted into the ER Bomber Athletic Wall of Fame in 2011.

2010

Brigadier General Richard R. McPhee – Class of 1974

Rear Admiral Donald P. Quinn – Class of 1975



These two military officers received plaques with the following inscription: “ for his outstanding leadership, scholastic and athletic accomplishments while a student at East Rochester High School; for his distinguished military career including graduation from the West Point Military Academy (Rich McPhee), the United States Naval Academy (Don Quinn), numerous decorations, exceptional combat service in Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom; for being the first ER Alumnus to achieve rank of Brigadier General (Rich McPhee), the first ER Alumnus to achieve the rank of Rear Admiral (Don Quinn) and for the enormous pride he has brought to his family, school and community.” Both Rich and Don have had numerous major responsibilities and levels of command in their careers..

2011

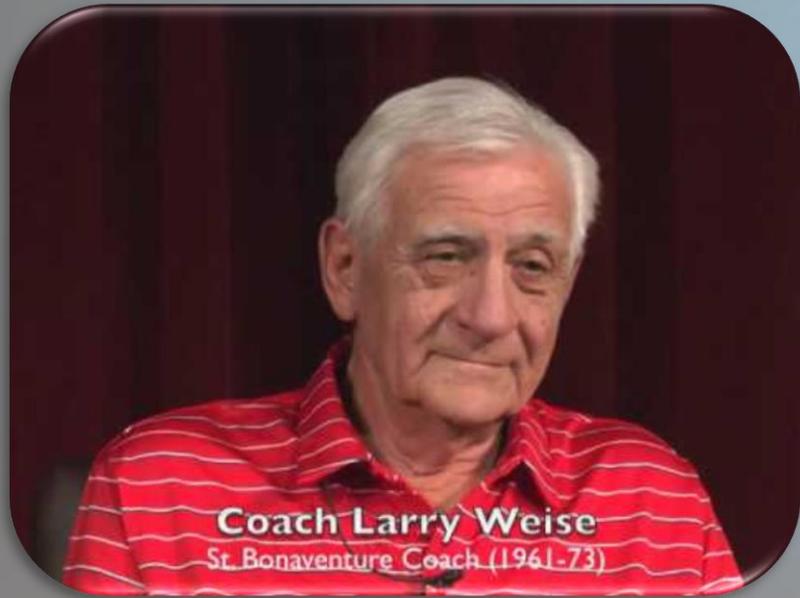
Sam Urzetta— Class of 1944



“Nationally recognized as a champion amateur and professional golfer, Sam Urzetta earned the love and admiration of the East Rochester community with his humble integrity: loving father, devoted husband, selfless community leader, and stalwart friend.” This award was presented posthumously to Sam’s family. While the world knew of Sam’s golfing accolades, we knew what a special, kind, giving man he was. As was stated by others, “our thanks go to Sam for helping us all be better people.”

2012

Larry Weise – Class of 1954



“Athlete, coach, college administrator, family man, Larry Weise embodies the prized values of East Rochester High School Alumni: sportsmanship, excellence, leadership, service to family and community.” Larry was a member of the St. Bonaventure basketball team and its coach from 1961-1973, taking them to the Final Four in 1970. He also was the University’s Athletic Director, and in 1968 and 1970 was named the ECAC Coach of the Year.

2013

Honorable Victoria M. Argento – Class of 1980



...committed to community, to youth, and to her family and cultural heritage, Judge Vicki Argento stands as a model of professional achievement, selfless service, and leadership for all ER Alumni.” Among Vicki’s professional memberships/service in Monroe County are the Rochester Teen Court and the Center for Dispute Settlement. In East Rochester she has been active in Little League and the ER Chamber of Commerce. She was the first female member of the St. Nicola Society of East Rochester and a key presenter at the East Rochester Alumni Foundation’s 2009, 2010 Career Night events.

2014

Thomas Conners Jr. – Class of 1944

- “Teacher, community leader, mentor, and friend to generations of East Rochester Youth: ‘Mr. East Rochester.’” Tom Conners has served the country, village, and students for more than 60 years. He served as a teacher and coach for 34 years. He also served on the village board and as the village historian. As a veteran he has been an active member of the ER American Legion Memorial Post.

2015

Mary Steigerwald Whittier – Class of 1983



“Founder and driving force behind the Bivona Child Advocacy Center, Mary has been honored by law enforcement and the social work community for serving the needs of vulnerable and abused children. Her passion for justice and relentless defense of children most in need make her a true CHAMPION.” Mary has served on numerous boards including the Rochester Police Foundation and the NYS Children’s Alliance. She has received numerous awards including the Carl S. Hallauer Award in 2008 and woman of Distinction by the NYS Senate in 2014.

2016

Jeanette D'Agostino Banker



Jeanette has devoted her life to developing the potential in others: a trailblazing educational leader at SUNY Brockport, a mentor to generations of teachers and students, a coordinator of international study opportunities. Jeanette's selfless generosity over the years has included support for the work of the ERAF.