

HOF Inductees in 2012

Darren Anastasio (1972-75)

Education: RHS (1978); Kutztown University (1978-85) (Includes 2 yrs. of employment). Earned a B.S. in Special Education and Elementary Education. (Dual).

Professional Career: Taught Special Education at Western Montgomery Vo-Tech (1985 & 1986); Reading School District at Northwest Middle School (1986 to present).

Athletics: RHS Cross-Country Team for three years and held school record in junior and senior years; RHS Junior Varsity and Varsity Basketball; a Track Team standout for three years.

Honors: Selected to Berks County All-Star Team and Section I All-Star Team in Cross-Country in addition to being named the outstanding cross-country runner in Berks County as a junior and senior. His basketball teams at Northwest Middle School have dominated county teams over the past few years.

Kent Cristel (1973-76)

Education: St. Peter's College, Jersey City, N.J. (1979-83). B.S. in Education and Business Management (double major); Dean's List and Merit Scholar. Completed advanced courses in Curriculum Development and Instruction.

Work Experiences: (1985-90) Operations Manager for two over-the-road freight firms in Jersey City and Exton, Pa. training, developing, and supervising employees.

Professional: (1993-Present) Reading School District's Student At-Risk Program (STAR) planning and presenting vocational programs which address a student's psycho-social and learning needs. Also, developing strategies to improve teacher effectiveness.

Scholastic Athletics: RHS Basketball player for three years (1976-79); MVP in RHS Holiday Tournament (1979); MVP in Berks County; made first team in the Central PA. Conference. Team won the District 3 Championship in 1977 and 1979, and placed third in 1978.

Collegiate Basketball: His success at RHS led to a full scholarship to St. Peter's, a Division I School which won the New York Metro League Championship in 1983. He played in Madison Square Garden in the National Invitation Tournament (N.I.T.).

Community: Founded and directed "Big Brothers" program at St. Peter's while a student there.

Currently: Founder and operator of "The Home Team Inspection Service", a firm which specializes in radon detection in homes.

Robert A. Spatz (1964-1967)

Education: Kutztown Univ., B.S. in Ed. & Math; West Chester Univ., M.A. in Math; Temple Univ. and Beaver College, Graduate Credits in Math & Computers.

Employment: Upper Dublin (Pa.) School District (1974-Present) - High School Math & Advanced Placement Calculus Teacher.

Awards: Graduated from Kutztown (1974), Summa Cum Laude; Foundation Award for valedictorian (straight A student); Kappa Mu Epsilon Award for top Math Student; Summa Cum Laude from West Chester (1978); Medal for Teacher of the Year from Upper Dublin (1986); Phila. Science Council Award for Outstanding Teacher (1992); Who's Who of American High School Teachers (1992).

Professional: Member of Upper Dublin Ed. Association, Pa. State Ed. Association and National Ed. Association (1974 to present).

Community: Upper Dublin and Souderton PTO's; Sponsor of Upper Dublin Math Team (2nd in state 2 years 1991 & 1992); undershepherd at Christ Reformed Church, Telford, Pa.; Bethel Bible Teacher; Pioneer Club Pal.

HOF Inductees in 2013

Richard Binder (1967-1969)

Education: Graduate of Reading High (1972); B.A. in Secondary Education, Albright College (1977).

Employment: Thirty-year teaching-coaching career with stops at Reading High School, Kutztown University, Alvernia College, Gannon University, and Steelton Highspire High School.

Honors Player: First team all CPC (1972); first team All-City (1971, 1972); Outstanding Senior Athlete (1972); single season assist record Albright College (1976).

Honors Coach: 79-20 record at RHS; school record for wins (32) in 1982-83; Berks County Coach of the Year (1982, 1983, 1984); District 3 Champions (1982-83); 178-44 record at Steelton Highspire High School; six District 3 Titles; three State Championships (AAA); named PA Coach of the Year in 2005 (runner-up in 1998 and 2000); PSAC Eastern State Champions (1988); PSAC Coach of the Year (1988); Keystone Conference Champions (1990-1991); Keystone Conference Coach of the Year (1990-1991). Inducted to Berks County Hall of Fame (2005).

Lawrence P. Blachman (1948-1951)

Education: Won awards in Science, Industrial Arts, and Stage Hand at Southern; graduated number one in the Industrial Vocational Course at RHS (1954); supplemented education with courses in calculus and chemistry from Penn State, and morphology and plastics processing from Drexel University.

Professional: Worked 47 years at the former Polymer Corporation, starting as a factory worker and ultimately attaining the position of Senior Process Engineer; highly instrumental in the development of many types of high pressure thermoplastic hoses, which include the following: (1) a nylon based hose that made automotive air conditioning practical by virtue of its ability to contain refrigerants about 100 times better than rubber based products; (2) a static dissipative high pressure airless paint spray hose used by Wagner, Campbell, & Hausfeld; (3) an electrically non-conductive hose for use in boom trucks; (4) a light weight, high pressure sewer cleaning hose in use by municipalities throughout the U.S.; assisted in setting up a hose manufacturing facility in the Netherlands.

Awards: Holder of four patents pertaining to the design and manufacturing processes of thermoplastic hoses and associated fittings; won ACF (parent company of Polymer) Patent of the Year award in 1979 for a process to bond polyurethane cover material to nylon braid reinforcement.

Military Experience: Served in PA Air National Guard, attaining the rank of Staff Sgt. and level 7 aircraft maintenance AFSC.

Mark S. Reichardt (1973-1975)

Education: RHS graduate (1978); awarded the Ruth C. Jones academic scholarship; Penn State, B.S. in Chemistry (1982); St. Joseph University, M.S. in Chemistry (1989).

Honors: Penn State American Chemical Society Award in Analytical Chemistry (1982); St. Joseph University Graduate Chemistry Award (top graduate student in chemistry - 1989); member of Golden Key National Honor Society and Phi Lambda Upsilon Honorary Chemical Society.

Athletics: Played on the PSU Berks Soccer Team.

Professional: Employed as a senior chemist at Carpenter Technology Corp., Reading, PA, since 1982; author of articles in scientific journals, including Atomic Spectroscopy and Wire Industry; member of American Chemical Society.

Community: Has served as a judge at numerous science fairs in Berks County.

HOF Inductees in 2014

Anthony G. Baxter , Ph.D. (1960-1961)

BACKGROUND: Dr. Anthony G. Baxter had a rough start early in life; he became an alcoholic during his high school years and continued drinking and being incarcerated until he underwent rehabilitation in 1971. Celebrating his 42nd year of sobriety in 2013, Dr. Baxter “gives back what others so graciously gave to me” by informally counseling those who are struggling with substance abuse.

EDUCATION: Failing to graduate from Reading High School with his class, the Class of 1964, because he was incarcerated, Dr. Baxter earned his GED at Reading High School Evening Division in 1967. He migrated to San Francisco in 1973, where he worked as an independent trucker and then as a journeyman welder. In 1980, Dr. Baxter returned to school and earned his A.A. in Mathematics from San Francisco City College, graduating with honors. After graduating magna cum laude from San Francisco State in 1982, earning his B.A. degree in Psychology, Dr. Baxter won scholarships for advanced graduate study at Harvard University where he earned his M.Ed. in Counseling and Consulting Psychology, and later at Stanford University where he earned his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology.

WORK EXPERIENCE: As a Professor at Boston University, Dr. Baxter created innovative approaches to the reform of Chelsea Schools, the first time in the nation when a university took over a public-school district. As a consulting psychologist in the Boston Public Schools, Dr. Baxter worked successfully to increase the number of minority students in the District’s A+ gifted and talented program. As a professor, Dr. Baxter collaborated with the Regional Education Lab at Brown University to reform Boston Public Schools’ Cluster 7 which UMass Boston had adopted as an Educational Laboratory to study school reform. As a professor of education, Dr. Baxter taught research design and methods, measurement science, and statistics courses in UMass Boston’s doctoral program in Urban School Leadership.

ACHIEVEMENTS: A member of the American Psychological Association, the American Educational Research Association, and Psi-Chi, the national honor society in psychology, Dr. Baxter has published and presented his research on the history of African American education, improving the preparation and development of school teachers, the role of the Civil Rights Movement in American education, and improving the education of African American students. As a program evaluator, Dr. Baxter has delivered scores of comprehensive reports that document the impact of intervention on school programs and school reform outcomes to local, regional, and national education agencies.

Richard “Richie” Debiec (1963-1966)

EDUCATION: Southern – 9th Grade Class President, 3-Sport Athlete (Football Basketball, Baseball), Jr. High League Baseball Champion (1965-1966); Reading High School Graduate, 1969; Hiram Scott College, Scottsbluff, NE (1969-1971); Weber State University, University, Ogden, Utah (1971-1974), B.S. in Health and Physical Education; Temple University, M.S. in Education (1985);
Temple University, Secondary School Principal Certificate (1987).

WORK EXPERIENCE: Camp Counselor and U.S. Forest Ranger, Ashley National Forest (1974-1975); Rodent Control Specialist – Bureau of Health, Reading, PA (1975-1978); Substitute Teacher – Wilson High School, West Lawn, PA (1978-1981); In-School Suspension Teacher – Conrad Weiser High School (1981-1993); Assistant Principal – Conrad Weiser High School (1993-2009); retired from Conrad Weiser High School 2009.

SCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS: 3-Sport Athlete (Football, Basketball, Baseball) at RHS (1967-69); Won two consecutive baseball championships in the East Penn League (1967-68).

AWARDS AND HONORS: Recipient of the Most Popular Football Player (1969); Charles L. Dunkelberger Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Baseball Player (1969); Anthony Lanshe Trophy for Outstanding Senior Baseball Player (1969); Honored by the Reading Hot Stover as the City’s Outstanding Baseball Player (1969); Honorable Mention Quarterback in All Central Penn Conference; Selected to the All East Team for the American Legion All Star Game at Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia, PA.

COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS: Full Scholarship for Football to Hiram Scott College; Recipient of the College Football Centennial Award; Pitcher for Hiram Scott Baseball Team; Full Scholarship for Baseball to Weber State University; Won the Big Sky Baseball Championship and selected to the All-Conference Baseball Team; Participated in the NCAA District 7 Baseball Championship in Tempe, AZ.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS: Billard Barbell Sunners Men’s Fastpitch Softball; Gold Medal Winner at the National Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, CO; National Champions, Reading, PA.

COACHING: Assistant Varsity Football Coach at Conrad Weiser High School (1981-82) - Won 2 Berks County Championships; Jr. High Basketball Coach at Conrad Weiser High School (1981-87); Varsity Girls Softball Coach at Conrad Weiser High School (1986-88) - Won A Division Championship (1987) and Runner-up in the District Championship (1987).

COMMUNITY: Served on the Wernersville Ecumenical Affairs Committee for Trinity Lutheran Church, Wernersville, PA; Presently serving as a Preschool Board Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Wernersville, PA; Treasurer of the Berks Vocational Technical School Authority.

Fianna (Yiengst) Holt (1958-1961)

EDUCATION: Reading High School 1964 - ranked 6 out of approx. 660 students; Albright College 1969 - B.S. in chemistry, cum laude, with honors; Drexel University 1989 – M.S. in information studies, 4.0 average; Courses and seminars in stitchery; Embroiderer’s Guild of America (EGA); Other national cross stitch organizations.

HONORS: Delta Phi Alpha honorary German Fraternity; Beta Phi Mu, International Library & Information Studies Honor Society; Albright College Alumni Appreciation Award, 1986; Stitchery exhibits; Margaret Parshall Gallery (EGA), Louisville Kentucky; Albright College Library; Berks County Chapter biennial exhibits.

WORK HISTORY: Corporate librarian, Wyomissing Corporation, 1969-1971; Freelance information specialist, 1971-1985; Parish librarian, Christ Episcopal Church, 1980-2010; Part time reference librarian, Albright College, 1980-1985; Head of Technical Services, cataloger, reference librarian, science liaison librarian, 1985-2010; currently on extended medical leave, last working July of 2010.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: American Library Association; Delaware Valley Chapter, ACRL; Pennsylvania Library Association: College and Research Librarians Division, Technical Services Round Table, Preservation Round Table; Lehigh Valley Chapter (Past Chair); Berks County Library Association (Past President and Past Steering Committee Chair); Church and Synagogue Library Association; American Chemical Society; Embroiderer’s Guild of America (EGA), Berks County Chapter (Past Education and Membership Chairs).

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES: Reading Urban Ministry (Board Member 1980-1990).

HOF Inductees in 2015

Linda Nowotarski Greth (1964-1966)

EDUCATION: Linda is a member of the Reading High School Class of 1969.

EMPLOYMENT: Linda was employed by the Reading School District for forty-four years (1969-2013). During her tenure with the district, Linda served as Administrative Assistant to five superintendents of the Reading School District: Dr. Geigle, Dr. Goodhart, Dr. Flores, Dr. Jamula and Dr. Chapman. Linda also served the district as Administrator for Special Education, Director of Human Resources, Director of Community Relations and Secretary of the Reading School District Board of Directors.

Richard "Rick" Mountz (1968)

EDUCATION: Graduate of Reading High School Class of 1971.

ATHLETICS: Rick had an extensive background in various sports as follows: Football – Berks County Lineman of the Year (1970-71); 1st Team All-Central Penn League, 2 years; 1st Team All-County, 2 years; Lineman of the Year at RHS, 2 years; Captain for the East Team of the County All-Star Game; selected for the prestigious Ron Kichline Award by the Football Officials of Berks County; former Coach and Vice President of the East Reading Colts Football Team, 10 years; Coach at Central Catholic High School, 3 years; Youth Baseball Coach, 8 years.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Past President and member of various social and civic organizations; Past President of the 1900 Club.

EMPLOYMENT: UGI Utilities – served on the Safety Committee; former Insurance Agent – member of the Million Dollar Club and Top Sales Club.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Elected two terms as Berks County Constable; Vice-President Local 600 Pipefitters; Delegate of United Labor Council of berks County.

Florian Jan "Sox" Zajdowicz Jr. (1948-1951) - Posthumous

A graduate of Reading High School class of 1954, Sox gave distinguished service in the United State Navy from 1954 to 1957. A geography major, Sox graduated from Kutztown State College in 1963 and for a brief period worked as a cartographer for the Lancaster County Planning Commission. He began his teaching career at Southern Jr. High School in September 1963 where he also served as Soccer and Track Coach and ninth grade class adviser. While performing his teaching duties at Southern during the day, Sox earned a Master's Degree from West Chester State College and a School Principal's Certificate from Lehigh University. A gifted educator, Sox was awarded two Science Foundation Grants in the Earth Sciences to attend the University of Southern California and Texas A & M. He also gave dedicated service as vice president of the Reading Education Association, taught Social Studies at Reading High School Night School, Recording Secretary of the Oakbrook Fire Company, and Vice President of the Mil-Oak Swimming Association. He was serving as vice principal of Southwest Junior High School when he was stricken with a fatal heart attack while working at a fundraiser at Millmont Elementary School where he served as vice president of the Parent Teacher Association. Sox is survived by his widow, Anna (Piehl) Zajdowicz, his daughter, Allison Zajdowicz Gifford and his son Keith A. Zajdowicz.

HOF Inductees in 2017

KATE BELINSKI proudly attended Southern Middle School from 1990 to 1993.

At Southern, she participated in many activities, including National Junior Honors Society, Science Olympiad, and the concert band; she also played volleyball and [boys] soccer. Kate graduated from Reading High School in 1997, where she was the recipient of the Southern Alumni Association Scholarship, the Superintendent's Scholastic Award, and the RHS Outstanding Leadership Award, among others. At RHS, Kate participated in the National Honor Society, Key Club, German Club, Academic Challenge and Science Olympiad. She was a founding member of the girls' soccer team, and also founded a cultural exchange program between RHS and the school in Germany she attended while studying abroad in 11th grade. Kate graduated *magna cum laude* from American University in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in International Relations. At AU, she held leadership roles in numerous student government and volunteer activities. Kate received her Juris Doctor *cum laude* from George Mason University in 2006.

From 2006-2011, Kate worked at the Federal Election Commission, first as an attorney in the Office of General Counsel, and then as Senior Counsel to a Commissioner. Since 2011, Kate has practiced law at Nossaman LLP, where she is currently a Partner in the Public Policy Practice Group. She focuses on advising corporations, trade associations, non-profit organizations, political action committees (PAC's and "Super PACs"), advocacy groups, candidates and officeholders on a wide range of issues related to campaign finance, government ethics, and administrative law. She has represented clients in investigations conducted by US Senate and House committees, the Department of Justice, federal agencies, and state attorneys general on a variety of matters. She counsels numerous Members of Congress on their legal obligations under the Ethics in Government Act, and represents them before the House and Senate Ethics Committees. Kate also provides general counsel to a number of non-profit organizations and government agencies.

Kate is very active in her community in Washington, DC. She is a past President and current Secretary of Friendship Place, a homeless services organization, and an Advisory Committee member of the St. Paul's Shelter. She is also the *pro bono* General Counsel of Women in Government Relations.

HARRY G. EISENBISE: SOUTHERN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, 1962 – 1965

WORK SUMMARY: Project Engineer with 44 years of engineering experience, including 35 years with WorleyParsons, primarily in power plant design engineering supervision for activities involving power plant design, water treatment, wastewater treatment, and chemical process projects including design, studies, procurement, construction, and start-up. Three years of supervisory experience in utilities operation and maintenance.

EDUCATION: M.B.A. program, University of Cincinnati, 1974-1977; B.S., Chemical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, 1972; Diploma, Reading Senior High School, 1968.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER ACTIVITIES: Registered Professional Engineer – Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and West Virginia; Conducted engineering conference presentations on Power Plant Chemistry, Water Conservation Concerns, and High Energy Piping; Invited to speak several times at Reading High School to selected classes about his career in engineering.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: United Way, campaign co-chair over 20 years, received Live United Champion Award; United Way agency activities, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army Christmas Sharing, Stuff the Bus with school supplies campaigns; Hawk Mountain Council Boy Scouts of America, over 26 years as den leader, scoutmaster, district vice chair, and executive board member; Recipient of 2002 National Silver Beaver Award, Daniel Carter Beard Award, District Award of Merit, and Vigil Honor of Order of Arrow; WorleyParsons Emergency Response team over 10 years, first aid/CPR/AED certified by Red Cross; Recipient of WorleyParsons 2009 People Development Award; Wise County Power Project, received 2003 Certificate of Commendation for Excellence in Construction.

DR. PETER D. NICHOLAS, JR.: SOUTHERN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, 1963 – 1966

EDUCATION: Albright College Pre-Med Program, B.S. in Biology (1973); Temple University, M.D. degree (1977); Reading Hospital and Medical Center, completed residency in Internal Medicine (1980); Tufts University, completed post-doctoral Fellowship in Rheumatology (1986).

EMPLOYMENT: Board-certified internal medicine specialist at Berks Internal Medicine, Wyomissing, PA (1980-1984); private rheumatology practice, Pottsville, PA (1987 -1988); board-certified rheumatologist and senior physician at the Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center, Wyomissing, PA (1988-present); Dr. Nicholas also teaches young physicians at the Reading Hospital and serves as the Chief of Rheumatology; He has been practicing medicine for thirty-nine years.

HONORS: Albright College Dean's Academic Achievement Award and the Glenn A. Deibert, M.D. Memorial Award (1973); AOA Medical Honor Society (1977); Tufts University Dedication to Teaching Award (1986); American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award (1999). In addition to having been an honor student at every school he attended, Peter is most proud of the Horace L. Custer Award, given to him on the Southern Junior High stage in June of 1966.

COMMUNITY: Peter continues to provide medical services at the Reading Hospital to indigent patients from our community. He has volunteered many hours of service to the local Boy Scouts organization.

FAMILY: Peter is married to Maureen N. Dodds, a school nurse. His two boys, Dan and Ben, are in medical school, where they are studying to become physicians.

HOF Inductees in 2018

JOHN C. BOYER, JR. attended Southern Junior High School from 1946 to 1949.

EDUCATION: Graduate of Reading High School, Class of 1952; B.S. Degree in Biology/Chemistry from Albright College in 1960; Master's Degree in Education from Kutztown University in 1971; completed additional graduate courses at Penn State and Temple Universities.

MILITARY SERVICE: Served in the United States Army from 1957 to 1959; stationed for 18 months with the 9th Ordinance Battalion in Heilbronn, Germany.

EMPLOYMENT: Research and development chemist with the George W. Bollman Co. from 1960 to 1967, and continuing there on a part time basis until 1978; Science teacher at Northwest JHS from 1967 to 1975; Biology and Chemistry teacher at Reading High School from 1975 until retirement in 1998; instructor of college level chemistry courses at RACC.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Past activities include Sunday School teacher at St. Matthew's Church, and GED Program instructor at Teen Challenge; Current activities include serving on the Board of Directors for the Reading-Berks School Employee's Credit Union, serving as a Trustee for Holy Cross United Methodist Church, and volunteering at Habitat for Humanity.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS: Awarded a patent while working for the George W. Bollman Co. in 1968; assisted with design of the new chemistry facility at RHS in 1990; served as chairman of the Science Department at RHS from 1992 to 1998; selected as Berks County's "Gifted Teacher of the Year" in 1997; developed and implemented a summer youth program at RACC entitled "Chem Magic".

FAMILY: John has been married to his wife, Marian Ford Boyer for 60 years; they have three children (who all attended Southern and went on to become teachers); and seven grandchildren.

ANGELO DI MARIA attended Southern Junior High School from 1963 to 1965.

Angelo was born in Delia, Sicily in 1947 to Francisco and Giuseppe Di Maria. He arrived in the Reading School District as a non-English speaking student. His interest in sculpting began at the early age of six while growing up in Italy. Today, with 48 years of experience in sculpting a variety of subjects from the human form to wildlife, and from logos to facades, Angelo has developed and perfected a unique process for the colors and textures used in his art. His ability to capture expressions of the human face portrays his natural talent. Here are only a few examples of Angelo's completed sculptures:

- Joe Paterno's 7 ft. bronze statue with four football players in the background, placed on the East Side of Beaver Stadium at Penn State's Main Campus in State College, PA.
- 6 ft. Bronze statue of the Penn State Nittany Lion Mascot, located inside the new Sports Museum at the Main Campus in State College, PA.
- 20 ft. Crucifix commissioned by St. John Neumann Church in Annapolis, Maryland.
- Life size 5ft. statue of St. John Neumann, located at the front entrance of the church in Annapolis, MD.
- Bust of St. John Paul II commissioned by St. Catharine Church, Exeter Township.
- Life Size bust of Jack Gulati, owner of Stokesay Castle in Reading, PA.
- Medallion for Post Precision Casting in Strausstown, PA.
- Restored Bronze statues at Berks County Heritage Center, featuring a weeping police officer and a German Shepherd police dog, in memory of fallen police officers and fallen members of the K-9 Unit.

Angelo was honored by the Berks Arts Council with the Pagoda Award in 2008. He is also an accomplished musician who plays with several bands in the community.

ROSANNE SPOLSKI, Ph.D. attended Southern Junior High School from 1967 to 1970.

I graduated from Reading High School in 1973, and still have vivid memories today of giving the salutatory address at our commencement ceremony. Influenced by my science teachers at both Reading High and Southern, I developed an interest in science and medicine. No one in my family had ever attended college, but I was encouraged by my guidance counselor to apply. Thankfully, I followed that advice and obtained my bachelor's degree in 1977 at Bryn Mawr College, where I majored in Biology. In 1985, I earned my Ph.D. in Biology at Brandeis University, where I became immersed in developmental biology and immunology. With funding from the Cancer Research Institute and Leukemia Society, I did postdoctoral research in immunology at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto.

I became a faculty member at Wake Forest University in 1988, where I was funded by the NIH to carry out research directed at understanding parasite-host immune interactions. At that time, I taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in molecular biology and immunology.

In 1999, I moved to the National Institutes of Health so that I could focus primarily on immunological research as a staff scientist. My research program has focused on a study of the function of the cytokine interleukin-21 in the regulation of immune responses. Interleukin-21 has turned out to be a major player in the control of anti-tumor immunity and is used clinically in the treatment of melanoma and renal carcinoma. We have also identified it as a key player in the development of the autoimmune response of type I diabetes, as well as other autoimmune responses. Our research continues to try to understand how to control these diverse actions of IL-21.

I have authored 81 scientific publications, and hold a number of patents on the use of IL-21 in immune regulation. I am a member of the American Association of Immunology, and have served as a study section member for the review of NIH Autoimmunity Centers of Excellence Grants. We have also received NIH awards for our work on IL-21.

More importantly, my daughters have thrived, and continue to delight and inspire me. Sarah is a union organizer in Pittsburgh, Skye is a graduate student at Harvard, and Marina has just started medical school in Virginia. Life is good.

HOF Inductees in 2019

RICHARD CARPENTER

Richard attended Southern Middle School from 1990 to 1993, and graduated with the Reading High School Class of 1997; but well before graduation, he started his work life at the Reading Farmers Market on Penn Street, where he learned how to “butcher” in the meat shop. Richard worked in this trade for several years as a teenager, and at the age of 18, he was hired as the meat manager for BJ’s Wholesale Club. Richard continued to work his way up the ladder at BJ’s, and eventually became their youngest General Manager.

In 2007, Richard founded Axxess Mechanical at the age of 28 with only five employees. Today, he is the President and CEO of Axxess Industries, which is currently celebrating its 12th anniversary in business. Richard now oversees more than sixty employees who perform various trades throughout the United States, including pipefitting, welding, rigging, electrical work, and general labor.

Richard is also deeply committed to community service. He is a member of the Board of Directors for New Journey Community Outreach (NJCO), a group which provides a daily soup kitchen, a weekly food pantry, and a weekly clothes closet for low income families located on South 6th Street. This past June, Richard co-sponsored a golf fundraiser that raised over \$6000 for NJCO; last December, Richard responded without hesitation to NJCO’s desperate request for winter clothing by purchasing over 100 much needed items, including coats, hats, scarfs, gloves, and blankets; and each year, Richard has continued to provide financial support and volunteers from Axxess Electrical to help with Reading’s “Christmas on the Mountain”, a holiday tradition that also benefits the Reading High School Junior ROTC Program.

Richard currently lives in the Leesport area with his wife, Valerie, and daughter, Caitlin, age 5.

ARLENE E. (WENRICH) CLEAVER – Posthumous

Arlene was born in Reading, PA, to a proud veteran of the Spanish-American War; she attended Southern Junior High from 1933 to 1936, and graduated from Reading Senior High School in 1939. Arlene was married for 59 years to Edward J. Cleaver, a WWII veteran; and was the mother of daughter, Claire. She devoted her career to advocating for the men and women who served our country in the Armed Forces and the Pennsylvania National Guard. In January, 1956, she joined the *Department of Veterans Affairs of Berks County*, and five years later, became *Director* of the department. As one of the first women to head a Veteran’s Department, Arlene broke barriers for other women. She served 34 years in her position, while also serving as *Treasurer* of the *Eastern Region of Directors* for 27 years; and the *State Treasurer of Directors* for 20 years.

Prior to her position in the Berks County Court House, Arlene was employed during WWII as a knitter’s helper at Berkshire Knitting Mills. Later, she held other positions as a secretary-treasurer, as an independent sales rep for housewares, and as the owner-operator of a food-service stand at the Reading Farmers’ Market. It was, however, her lifelong dedication to the military that kept her active, even after retirement. Arlene continued to attend meetings and conventions, and to deliver speeches on topics affecting U.S. veterans and their families. In recognition of her achievements and leadership, Arlene received Special Recognition in *Berks County’s Military Hall of Fame* in November, 2014; and her passing in 2015 received condolences in the form of a *Pennsylvania Senate Proclamation*.

Arlene was an avid traveler, cook, seamstress, and card player; and a tireless volunteer for numerous charitable associations and organizations, frequently holding office. She was a life member of the Max Schaeffer VFW Post 6558; American Legion, Greg Post 212; and Women of the Moose, Chapter 381 (Star Recorder 1955-1960, Deputy Grand Regent 1959-1960). Arlene was also a life member of the Southern Junior High School Alumni Association and 60-year member of Holy Guardian Angels Church, Hyde Park.

ROBERT "BOB O" ORZECOWSKI

EDUCATION: Attended Southern Junior High School from 1961 to 1964, and graduated from Mt. Penn High School, Class of 1967; B.S. Degree from Pennsylvania State University and MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University; Paralegal Certificate from Pennsylvania State University; and certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources.

MILITARY SERVICE: United States Marine Corps, 1967-1970, Honorable Discharge. Awarded National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 5 stars (campaigns), Vietnam Campaign Medal w/device, and the Combat Action Ribbon. Served as machine gunner and infantry squad leader in Vietnam for three tours.

EMPLOYMENT: Worked in high technology defense contracting for 10 years; for the past 30 years, worked in all aspects of medical practice management for various private groups, primarily as Chief Operating Officer for private Hematology and Medical Oncology practices. Currently, Chief Operating Officer for Lancaster Cancer Center, Ltd.

WORK RELATED ACTIVITIES: Author of numerous articles and has presented both nationally and internationally on business, human resources, and medical management topics. Founder and past President of both state and national hematology-oncology management organizations. Member of the local Senior Certified Professional Chapter #179 for over thirty years, holding all officer positions multiple times, including President twice; chaired several committees and instructs in the Chapter's Professional Certification efforts. Bob has also served as an Adjunct Instructor at local colleges for over 20 years, teaching college credit courses in business, management, and human resources. He is on several Advisory Boards for pharmaceutical firms, and is a member of the Executive Council for the National Community Oncology Dispensing Assoc.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: *Past activities* were youth league baseball coach (1991-95), Program Chair for the Berks County Vietnam Memorial Commission (1986-89), and volunteer in the USMC Toys for Tots Program (1986-97). *Current activities* include active Life Member of the R.M. Butterweck Detachment of the Marine Corps League; producer and host of a BCTV show for 13+ years; Editorial Board member for the Oncology Practice Management Journal; Health Occupations Advisory Committee for the Reading-Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center; and Penn State Berks Business Advisory Council.

FAMILY: Bob has been married to his wife, Chris, for over forty-six years; they have three children and five grandchildren; and the family resides in Spring Township.

Hall of Fame Inductees - 2021

KEN LEBRON - Southern 1998 to 2001

EDUCATION: Ken graduated from Reading High School in 2004; he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with the Horatio Alger Distinguished American Award from West Chester University, and an MBA in Project Management with top honors from the Grantham University; and he also completed Leadership Berks at Alvernia University.

MILITARY SERVICE: Ken served a tour of duty in the United States Marine Corp Reserve in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2006 - 2007 deployed in security force support at Al Asad airbase in Iraq.

MILITARY HONORS: Ken was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation, Selected Marine Corp Reserve Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with two bronze stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with bronze "M" device, and Rifle Expert Badge.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

- Director and County Veterans Service Officer, County of Berks, 7/2020 - present
- Deputy Director and County Veterans Service Officer, County of Berks, 5/2016 – 7/2020
- SSVF Program Coordinator and Case Manager, Catholic Charities, 9/2013 – 4/2016
- Veterans Program Coordinator and Case Manager, CPPBC Inc., 2/2012 – 9/2013
- Upward Bound Academic Advisor, RACC, 9/2008 – 1/2012
- Billet Radio Operator, USMCR, 6/2004 – 8/2012
- Military Base Security, USMC, 5/2006 – 5/2007

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP POSITIONS:

- Thin Blue Line, LEMC Berks County Chapter founder, 2021 - present
- United Way Emerging Leaders United, 2018 - present
- Veterans Coalition of Penna. founding member, 2015 – 2017
- Berks County Veterans Treatment Court mentor, 2012 - 2016
- Mentors for Berks Youth, board chair, 2012 – 2013

DORIS PERSKY LEISAWITZ - Southern 1959 to 1962

EDUCATION:

- M.A. in English, New York University, New York, NY - 1973
- B.A. in Education, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA - 1969
- Graduate of Reading Senior High School - 1965

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

- Gallery Teacher at Reading Public Museum (2007-2012)
- GED Tutor at Reading Area Community College (1995-2000)
- TOEFL substitute instructor and tutor at Reading Area Community College (2001)
- Fourth grade teacher Reading School District (1969-1977)

HONORS:

- Berks County Literacy Coalition Award for outstanding work promoting literacy (1999)
- Volunteer Tutor Award Reading Area Community College (1998)
- Outstanding Elementary Teachers of America Award (1973)
- Homecoming Queen Kutztown University (1967)
- Pennsylvania Junior Miss (1965)

ACTIVITIES PAST AND PRESENT:

- Kindergarten Reader 13th and Union Elementary School (2017- present)
- Albright College Neighborhood Task Force (2014-present)
- Board Member Keshet Zion Synagogue (2016-present)
- Board Member and Secretary of Reading Public Library (2004-2012)
- Vice Chairperson City of Reading Board of Ethics (2005-2009)
- President and Board Member B'nai B'rith Apartments (senior housing 1998-2008)
- Minority Inspector of Elections (2005-2016)
- Volunteer Woman's Exchange (2000-2007)

GABRIELLE ALBERT PRINCIPE, Ph.D. - Southern 1980 to 1983

EDUCATION: Gabrielle graduated from Reading High School in 1986; she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology with honors from Temple University, and a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of North Carolina; and she also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell University, focusing on forensic developmental psychology.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY: Gabrielle is currently a Professor of Psychology at the College of Charleston (SC), where she also served as Chair of the Psychology Department; and prior to that, she was a Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department at Ursinus College (PA).

WORK RELATED ACTIVITIES: Gabrielle has presented her research at numerous national and international professional conferences and has provided numerous workshops and webinars on issues of child development and parenting; she blogs for Psychology Today and Huffington Post on issues of childhood, serves as the education section editor for Evolution: The View of Life, and has served as a legal expert in cases involving the use of children as witnesses.

WORK RELATED ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Gabrielle received the Laughlin Professional Achievement Award at Ursinus College for her significant contributions to scholarship; she has authored or co-authored over 25 scientific journal articles and chapters and has also authored a book entitled *Your Brain on Childhood: The Unexpected Side Effects of Classrooms, Ballparks, Family Rooms, and the Minivan*.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Gabrielle has served on the School Board for the Charleston Charter School for Mathematics and Science.