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Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 3

May, June 2012

Alumni Banquet Tickets Available

Alumni Banquet tickets are now available and can be purchased by calling Eileen Deary at 860-928-2154 or by emailing us at TMHSAA@Charter.net. Among the classes featured this year are 1962, 1972, and 1987. In order to continue the TMHSAA and this newsletter we need your support! Banquet to be held June 16, 2012, 5:30 p.m. Thompson Speedway

TMHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee Announces 2012 Class

The Athletic Hall of Fame Committee announced its 2012 class to be inducted on June 16, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the Thompson Public Schools Auditorium. "We encourage anyone who knew these coaches and players to come and support them during this momentous occasion," says Joe Lindley, committee member.

The 2012 Class will be joining 20 other athletes recognized for their accomplishments on and off the courts and fields of TMHS. They are: Brian Murphy '75 , Jim Naum '50 , Ted Vriga '54 , 1927 Boys Basketball Team - State Champions 1949, 50, 51 Boys Basketball Team - State Champions , Jim Canty '29 , George Dargati '50 , Jerry Ryscavage '55 , Eva Houle '87 , Alan Lebeouf '70 , Ted Fatsi '45 , Tom Fatsi '43 , Billy Guillot '81 , George St. Marie '29 , Angela Girardin '95 , Chris Carabina '50 , Thomas Tanacea '50 , Maggie Stoll '86 , 1993 Girls' Soccer Team , Frank Ungerer '50. The event is free to anyone wishing to attend.

Marcia Lachapelle Music Supervisor

BY: Gladys Tucker

Marcia Colby was born June 11, 1910 in Franklin, New Hampshire. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Colby. Colby was the former Principal of Tourtellotte Memorial High School from 1928-1937 and the Superintendent of the Thompson Public Schools from 1929-1937. Mr. Colby retired from Thompson in 1937.

After graduating from TMHS, Marcia attended Pembroke College, New Hampshire, and then married Alvin J. Lachapelle, TMHS Class of 1929, on August 31, 1933 in St. Joseph Church in North Grosvenordale, CT.



Left and below: Mrs. Lachapelle during her TMHS years. Below she is shown with Mrs. Tourtellotte's 1858 Steinway piano



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Marcia and Alvin lived in Woodstock, Putnam and then on Cortiss Road, Thompson, CT until their retirement. Upon retiring, they moved to Zephyrhills, Florida. All four of their children are graduates of Tourtellotte Memorial High School. Alvin Colby Lachapelle of Zephyrhills, FL, Class of 1952, Patricia Hollifield of Summerville, SC, class of 1953, Pamela Jean Williams of Charleston, SC, Class of 1962, and Peter C. Lachapelle of Indian Trails, NC, Class of 1966.

Marcia's teaching career began in the Oxford, MA Public Schools in 1932. In the late 1930's, she taught music in the Woodstock and Eastford Public Schools, travelling to the school houses located in each section of town.

In 1945, Mrs. Lachapelle began teaching music at Thompson Public Schools where she eventually became Music Supervisor, a position she held for 25 years, until her retirement in 1972. She began her time at Thompson teaching three days a week. In an Annual Board of Education Report to the Town of Thompson, she wrote, "It is the primary aim of this supervisor to help all the children in the Thompson public school system to enjoy music."

Marcia taught music to grades 1-12. She travelled to each elementary school in Thompson's various villages once a week to teach music to the children, leaving music lessons for the classroom teacher to work on during the week. Marcia, during these years, was called the "travelling music supervisor". The teachers and children in the elementary grades loved having Mrs. Lachapelle come to teach us new songs, learn how to sing rounds, and how to play the instruments she brought with her each week. She taught the children about the different instruments, how to use them, and how simple instruments, like sticks, triangles, blocks, tambourines and small bongo drums could be played together. She called this a rhythm band.

Mrs. Lachapelle started a Flutophone class in the fourth grade as it was considered to be pre-band instruction. Listening to music was an important part of her music program, but early on, some of the schools did not have a "victrola" and there were few albums or records available. Getting music to the children was a goal that Marcia continued to work on during her entire career in Thompson.

Students tried out for the different musical programs she began such as: the High School Choir, Senior-Junior Glee Club, Sophomore-Freshman Glee Club, and the All-Connecticut Chorus. Marcia always had students that wanted to be a part of her musical groups.

The All- Connecticut Chorus was a special honor to be selected for from our high school each year. After a tough screening process, Marcia and the students worked very hard to prepare for the concert that was given at the Bushnell in Hartford each year. There, the TMHS Chorus was joined by other

Connecticut high school students. At times rehearsals were held in Windsor, CT for the yearly concert. Mrs. Lachapelle would accompany the four students selected to be in the concert, and always gave our high school students the opportunity to attend this special music concert in Hartford by making certain a school bus was always available for the long drive to the capital city.

Each year, Mrs. Lachapelle also made certain the upper grade grammar school children had the opportunity to attend the Young People's Concert in Worcester, MA. As Marcia stated, "We hope this helped to enrich their knowledge of instruments in the symphony orchestra and to foster a love of good music". The school buses provided the transportation.

Mrs. Lachapelle also had special groups come to the high school for music appreciation, such as the Woodwind Quintet from the Hartt College of Music in Hartford.

She formed a grammar school chorus of 65 fifth, sixth and seventh grade students which met weekly to sing for the P.T.A. and Eighth Grade Graduation exercises.

Marcia provided the music for all performances that were held in our school system. During Christmas assembly, the choir sang for a Nativity Tableau. The concert was directed by Mrs. Fisher. Each spring she produced the music for a concert or musical program in conjunction with the Dramatic Club.

During the 1960-1961 school year, when our new Thompson Memorial Elementary School opened, Mrs. Lachapelle became supervisor of music for all grades. She no longer had to travel to the little schools of the villages and could work on expanding the music programs in the elementary and the high school. Quoting from the Town of Thompson Annual School Report of that year, Mrs. Lachapelle said, "The stage in the gymnasium was listed as a music room but it did not turn out to be satisfactory as the only teaching aid there is a piano. Also the unavoidable noise from the gymnasium was too distracting." Adjustments were made and "most music classes were held in the audio-visual room which is quite well equipped with a piano, record player, auto harp, blackboard etc. and is far enough removed from all classrooms so as not to disturb."

It was not unusual for the schools to produce an extravaganza each year. This brought many aspects of the arts together with music provided and directed by Mrs. Lachapelle, the physical education department assisting, under the leadership of Miss Agnes Gahagan, and the whole extravaganza being directed by Mrs. Mary Fisher.

Mrs. Lachapelle provided much of the music needed for the event and rehearsals by playing the piano oftentimes Mrs. Tourtellotte's 1858 Steinway. Her chorus or singers, which she directed, were always included in the program.

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“Although the public sees only the ‘shows’ we present, there is a music program going on all the time. We endeavor to help each child acquire some skills in reading music, singing, listening and rhythmically responding to various forms of music.” The varied music offerings under the direction of Mrs. Lachapelle were created to encourage students to participate in the joy that music could bring to them.

The class of 1964 dedicated their yearbook to Mrs. Marcia Lachapelle and Miss Agnes Gahagan. The dedication to Mrs. Lachapelle states: “To you, “Mrs. L.,” for your selfless devotion to music and genuine interest in us, we dedicate this annual. It can picture only some of the memories of the time we have spent with you on Tuesdays, in the auditorium, at concert rehearsals, at show-time – and on those “breathtaking rides.”

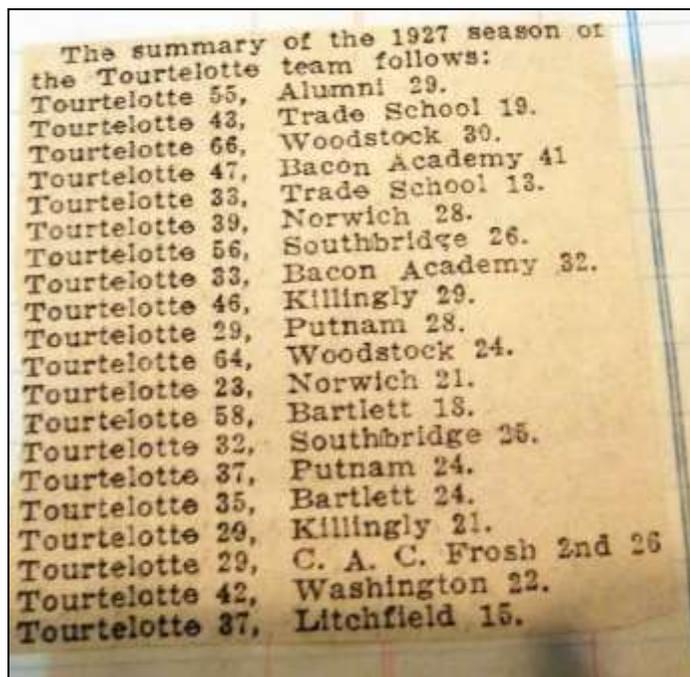
As the Class of 1964 stated, Marcia’s selfless devotion to, and genuine joy and interest she had in teaching music, was felt by many of the students and staff at the Thompson Public Schools over her twenty-five years of dedicated service.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Initial membership due at time of application, yearly renewals due January 1st of each year

- Regular Membership..... \$15.00
- Senior Citizens (65 and older)..... \$5.00
- Graduating Class..... Free

1927 Basketball Season Scores



Above: A picture of a newspaper clipping from the 1927 boys' basketball season. It was the first undefeated season. Compliments of the Chubbuck Family.

2012 Hall of Fame Class Announced

TOURTELLOTTE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL INDUCTS 10 NEW MEMBERS TO ITS PRESTIGIOUS CLUB

The Tourtelotte Memorial High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame Committee announced its 2012 Hall of Fame selections this week. The 10 new inductees will be installed on June 16, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in a ceremony being held at the Thompson Public School Auditorium. “We are very excited about this year’s selections,” states committee member Jim Naum ’50, himself a TMHS Hall of Famer.

Over the past eight months the Hall of Fame Committee has reviewed and researched nominees submitted to the TMHSAA by alumni and community members. “The selections were very difficult this year because of the number of outstanding athletes that were nominated,” continues Naum.

The 2012 slate includes:

Agnes Gahagan 1935 – 1967

Gahagan was a long time teacher as well as, basketball and field hockey coach for the Tigers. She coached basketball at Tourtelotte for 32 years, having racked up many team accolades to include the first girls’ undefeated season in 1938 (12-0), and a girls’ championship in 1938. “What’s unfortunate about Miss Gahagan,” states Joe Lindley, HOF committee member, “is there was little recognition of girls’ sports in those days and no CIAC Championships. Several of her teams were ranked among the very best in state and could have gone all the way had they had a tournament.” Gahagan is recognized as the foundation for girls’ sports at TMHS. Tiger girls have a long proud tradition with seven girls’ teams earning state titles. A number of Tiger female athletes went on to college and professional sports. Many also agree that the Lady Tiger’s success over the years would not have been possible without Gahagan’s support in the early years.

1987 CIAC Boys State Champions:

When the 1987 season began the Tigers were an unlikely candidate for the 1987 State Championship game, but they quickly developed a reputation and a huge following. One of its members, Earl Rosebrooks, was selected All-State. In spite of losing the QVC title bid they regrouped and went on to beat Somers 78-65 in the final game of the year to claim the title.

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Nominations for the athletic Hall of Fame are made by our members. To nominate someone for next year’s class go to www.thompsonpublicschools.org and follow the links to the TMHSAA for a nomination form.

Michelle Beausoleil Field Dedicated

A new sign was installed at the TMHS softball field recently in honor of Michelle Beausoleil. Beausoleil was a Lady Tiger softball player who was among the best to take the field. She passed away as a result of a car accident while attending TMHS.

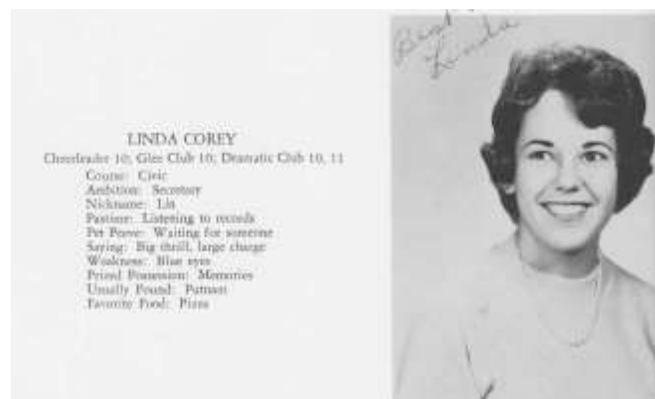
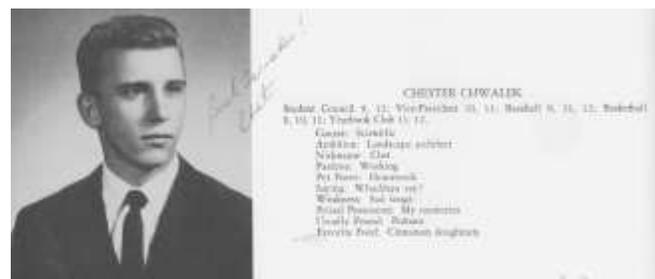


Left: Walter "Stutz" Modliszewski, 2012 Athletic HOF inductee. Stutz '44, played soccer, baseball, and basketball while at TMHS. He then went on to play basketball and baseball at Providence College, Providence, RI. Photom compliments of the Modliszewski family.

Where Were You in '62?

This year's TMHS Alumni Banquet will be featuring the class of 1962. There will be a slide show of old year book pictures along with pictures of other TMHS memories. If you have any pictures you would like to become part of the slide show Email them to TMHSAA@Charter.net or mail them to TMHSAA, '62 Reunion, PO Box 437, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255.

The banquet starts at 5:00 p.m. on June 16th at the Speedway and follows the TMHSAA Hall of Fame induction ceremony being held at the Thompson Public School Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. The Tourtellotte Memorial Room will be opened after the HOF ceremony



TOWN MUST DECIDE FATE OF MRS TOURTELLOTTE'S HOUSE

TEEG MOVING TO NEW HOME

The Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group will be moving into their location on the school grounds this summer. With this move, the town of Thompson must decide what to do with the building they are leaving, which happens to be Mrs. Tourtellotte's old home. The following was reprinted with permission from the Norwich Bulletin.

By KATE BUCKLIN

The Bulletin

Posted Apr 08, 2012 @ 11:23 PM

Thompson, Conn. —

When the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group moves into its new building on Thatcher Road next month, Thompson will need to figure out what the future holds for the group's current home on Main Street.

The town-owned building, which has been the group's offices since the mid-1990s, has a lot of history. It has housed the town library and been a residence for several principals of Tourtellotte Memorial High School. Perhaps most notably, it was the home of Harriet Tourtellotte, the woman whose vast philanthropic work included funding construction and ongoing maintenance of the town's public high school. The Tourtellotte Trust still exists and has about \$2.3 million in it.

"She built the house there, on Main Street, so she could look at the school from her back porch," Joe Lindley said.

A school board member, Tourtellotte Alumni president, Thompson Historical Society member and curator of the Tourtellotte Memorial Room, Lindley is an expert of sorts when it comes to the Tourtellottes. He said that while the wealthy of Thompson were building their homes on the hill in the early 1900s, Harriet Tourtellotte chose to have her modest home among the mill workers.

"She wanted to build it right downtown," Lindley said. "She felt closer to her daughters when she looked at the school, and she is said to have spent a lot of time in the Memorial Room there."

Built high school

Jacob and Harriet Tourtellotte's two daughters died in childhood. The Tourtellottes, natives of Thompson, went out West and made their fortune after the Civil War and also funded several public projects in Minnesota. The Tourtellottes built the public high school in Thompson because they wanted to give Thompson children the benefit of a high school education. The school opened in 1909.

When Harriet Tourtellotte died in 1914 (her husband died in 1912), she left her Main Street home to the town to use as a residence for the principal of the high school.

Thompson First Selectman Larry Groh Jr. said that when the house is vacated in May, the town will put together a committee to come up with recommendations for future use.

Thompson resident Jim Naum said Harriet Tourtellotte's former home was good for the empowerment group for many years, but it is time for the nonprofit to move into more spacious digs. "The old building was getting overcrowded," Naum, a former vice president of the empowerment group, said.

Groh agreed and said although the building is in good shape, it is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. "We'll have to make a decision there," Groh said. "Does the town want to put a different department there, use it for town functions, have the superintendent live there sell it?"

If the town sells the property, it also will have to proceeds should go into the Tourtellotte Trust for school maintenance. Lindley said he supports Groh's plan to have a committee research options for the historic home. "Because of her will and wishes, what should we do?" Lindley said.

The committee, which will include Groh, school representatives and other stakeholders, is expected to form in early summer.

"We'll have to make a decision there," Groh said. "Does the town want to put a different department there, use it for town functions, have the superintendent live there sell it?" If the town sells the property, it also will have to decide whether the proceeds should go into the Tourtellotte Trust for school maintenance. Lindley said he supports Groh's plan to have a committee research options for the historic home. "Because of her will and wishes, what should we do?" Lindley said.

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Above: Mrs. Tourtellotte's home located on Main Street, North Grosvenordale, CT. The home was built around 1912 and was built in No. Grosvenordale so Mrs. Tourtellotte could be close to the school. Picture by: Khoi Ton Norwich Bulletin

They became the eighth TMHS State Champions and are among the 14 teams from the tiny town to take home a state championship title. "This is a great addition to the HOF, states Lindley. "This brings the Canty connection full circle. Jim Canty won in 1927 and 1929 as a player, 1944, 1949, 1950, and 1951 as a coach, and it was one of his players and protégé, Jim Naum, a member of the 1949 and 1950 team, led the '87 team to a seventh state basketball title as its head coach – not bad for a small school." Members of the team are: David Biron, Shawn Brissette, Conway Dodge, Daniel Dodge, Jeff Golembiewski, Gregory Guillott, Jeffrey Guillott, Robert Hamel, John Lesniewski, Christopher Mayotte, Thomas Naum, Kevin O'Connell, Earl Rosebrooks, and Leonard Sugalski. Head Coach - Jim Naum, Assistant Coach – Merrill Seney.

Rose Patterson '41

Known as Tourtellotte's first great female athlete, Patterson lettered in basketball and field hockey, she was a key part of the TMHS girls' first undefeated team in 1938, becoming that team's highest season scorer. Among her many accomplishments were the school's season scoring record, single game scoring record, and season scoring average record... and she did all this as a freshman. "From there," says Lindley, "She just got better."

Coach Tom Auclair

Following the legacy of Coach Jim Canty was not an easy thing to do. Canty coached TMHS Baseball for 30 years and amassed more than 240 wins. Tom Auclair, while a much different coach than Canty, stepped into Canty's shoes and filled them better than anyone in the area could imagine.

Auclair, often known for not holding his tongue with anyone to include his players, was the most highly nominated for this year's spot on the 2012 HOF class. "Many of Tom's former players consider him to be the best coach and mentor they had as young adults. He instilled a great work ethic and refused to lose, a lesson many used into their adult lives," says Lindley.

After playing baseball for the Putnam High School Clippers, Auclair played baseball for Eastern Connecticut State University where, in 1970, he earned a spot on that school's coveted all-time baseball roster. He coached baseball at TMHS Baseball from 1977 to 2004 amassing more than 350 wins, making him the school's all-time winningest baseball coach. His squads had six state championship appearances, 27 QVC tournament appearances and four QVC championship game appearances. He also coached girls' basketball, winning a QVC Championship in 1986 with a 23-2 record.

As if that was not enough, Auclair also coached boys' cross country and was the Tri-Town American Legion Baseball Head Coach from 1976 to 1997 winning zone titles in 1984 and 1997. He was a long-

time baseball clinician and an IAABO basketball referee.

Marie Spinelli '94

Arguably one of the best female athletes ever in school history, Spinelli played softball, basketball, and soccer while at TMHS. She earned all-state and all-star recognition in soccer in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994, and was QVC player of the year in 1992, 1993, and 1994. She led her team to four QVC titles in 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994, and one State Championship in 1993, scoring the winning goal in that game. She was part of the All Eastern Connecticut Team in 1993 and 1994, and the leading scorer for Eastern Connecticut in 1995, scoring 90 goals.

Spinelli was a member of the Olympic Development Team and played club soccer. She played college soccer for two years at the University of Hartford and two years at the University of Connecticut, helping that team make it to the 1998 NCAA National Tournament Championship game. After college she played a number of years semi-professionally.

Walter "Stutz" Modliszewski '44:

Stutz, as he was called during his high school days, played baseball, soccer, and basketball 1941, 1942, 1943, and 1944, and captained both teams in 1944. His basketball team was CIAC State Championship Semi-Finalist in 1941, QVC Basketball Champions 1942, 1943, and 1944, Eastern Connecticut Basketball Champions in 1942, and State Champions in 1944. He led the team to a 20-0 regular season record in 1943 and was the team's high scorer in 1944. He was a QVC Basketball All-Star and a CIAC Basketball All-Tournament Team player in 1944.

He went on to play basketball and baseball at Providence College (1946-1949) and went on to play professionally for the Maritime League. He is described by many as "One of the best athletes of his era."

Al Chandler '65

For four years, 1962-1965, few dominated the court like Al Chandler. As team captain, Chandler led the Tigers to a QVC Championship in 1965. The tigers also made it to the CIAC tournament in 1963, 1964, and 1965. He ran cross country and was part of a QVC Cross Country Championship team.

After high school he attended Eastern Connecticut State University, playing basketball there for four years. There he quickly made his mark and is one of ECSU's top five all-time scorers. He is that school's second all-time season rebounder with 352 rebounds in 1968, second all-time leading rebounder, averaging 17.6 per game, and is the fourth overall all-time leading free throw shooter with 155. He was selected to the ECSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996 (Other Tigers in the ECSU Hall of Fame include George Dargati and Brian Murphy). After college Chandler played semi-professionally for the Bristol Regents and the East Hartford Explorers.

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Dan Chubbuck '27

Chubbuck played baseball and basketball while at Tourtellotte 1925-1927. He was captain of both teams his senior year. He also ran track all three years. He was part of the first CIAC State Basketball Championship in 1927. He holds the TMHS all-time single game scoring record with 59 points in a 106-8 victory over St. Louis of Massachusetts. He set the TMHS All-Time leading scorer in 1927, recording 400 points.

His feats on the track outpaced his remarkable accomplishments on the court and he set the State 100-yard record on May, 22, 1926. After high school he attended the University of Connecticut where he played basketball, football and ran track (1928-1931). He set five college records in 1928 in the shot put, 100 yard dash, broad jump, 220 yard low hurdles.

Chubbuck broke his own college shot put record in 1929, a record that held at that school until 1959. He was selected UCONN's "Best Athlete in School History" in 1932. After college he set two AAU records in the discus and shot put in 1939. He was a heavy favorite for the U.S. Olympic Team. He also played semi-professional basketball and baseball. He was a long-time educator and coach in the Colchester area.

Ray Bates '38

Bates played basketball and baseball 1935, 1936, 1937, and 1938. He was the team's leading basketball scorer in 1938. He led the team to a number one rating in the State of Connecticut in 1938, and the 1938 CIAC State Championship game. He was selected by the Webster Times to their prestigious All-Star Scholastic Basketball Team in 1938. After high school Bates played baseball in the U.S. Army and then later for the Boston Braves.

Glenn Senecal '75

Senecal is TMHS' only 12 letter athlete playing soccer, baseball, and basketball in 1972, 1973, 1974, and 1975 playing varsity and starting all four years. He was part of the 1973 QVC Baseball Champs. After high school he played basketball and baseball at Quinnipiac College in 1976, 1977, and soccer at Nichols College in 1978, and 1979.

After college, Senecal coached basketball and soccer at TMHS, Putnam High School and Marianapolis Prep. He then moved on to coach men's basketball at Nichols College (1984-1986), Assumption College (1986-1989), Holy Cross College (1989-1992), and Bryant University (1992-2001). He then moved to women's basketball coaching at Boston University (2002-2003), Mitchell College (2003-2005), and Albany University (2006). He now coaches at Central Connecticut State University where he has been since 2006.

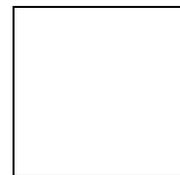
The TMHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee members include Jim Naum '50, Jim Sali '51, John Lesniewski '87, Deb Spinelli, TMHS Athletic Director, Paul Dery '70, and Joe Lindley '74.

The event is open to the public and is free of charge. If you have questions or would like to become part of the HOF Committee contact Deb Spinelli at 860-923-2350 or Email the TMHSAA at TMHSAA@Charter.net.



Clockwise from the top-left: Dan Chubbuck '27, Al Chandler '65, Miss Gahagan, Rosie Patterson '38, 1987 Boys' basketball team, and Glenn Senecal '75.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO:
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