

***EAST GREENBUSH  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT***

***2014***

***TWELFTH ANNUAL***

***ATHLETIC  
HALL OF FAME***



***SPONSORED BY  
COLUMBIA ALL SPORTS CLUB***

## **ALUMNI ATHLETE INDUCTEES**

A student athlete alumni whose accomplishments at Columbia High School represented the highest caliber of achievement in his/her time as well as athletes who have achieved success after graduation.

## **COACH FACULTY/STAFF INDUCTEES**

A coach or faculty member whose contributions and achievements have improved the reputation and brought credit to our school or have inspired our student athletes to achieve their own personal level of excellence. Not based solely on wins and losses and championships but determined by the degree of respect given the coach and program by other people.

# William Gleason

## Class of 1960



William (Bill) F. Gleason is a Columbia High School graduate of the class of 1960. As one of the most talented and versatile athletes in Columbia history, he earned 8 varsity letters in 3 sports, receiving numerous awards and setting many records. After Columbia he continued to demonstrate his athletic skills in the Air Force, at Western Kentucky State University, and in world championship level bobsled competition.

Bill excelled at football. He played quarterback and safety on the varsity team as a sophomore, junior, and senior. In his senior year he was named as first team quarterback on the All Albany team.

Bill was an outstanding runner on the varsity track team, earning letters as a sophomore, junior, and senior. He competed in the 100 and 200 yard sprints, as well as the 4x100 relay. In his junior and senior years Bill was undefeated in these events, as the team went on to win the Suburban Council championship each year. Bill also earned the Varsity Track and Field Baton Award both years. As a senior Bill was the Intersectional champion in the 100 and 200 yard competitions.

Bill also played basketball, earning varsity letters as a junior and senior and leading his team to the Suburban Council championship in his junior year.

As a senior, Bill was the recipient of the Robert W. Chipp award, given to the outstanding Columbia High athlete each year.

William joined the military after high school and was stationed in Germany where he continued to play football for 3 years as halfback on the Air Force Wiesbaden Flyers. Over those 3 years he led the team in scoring twice, was named "Back of the Year" and MVP, and played in the All Air Force Freedom Bowl, and was named to the All Air Force team.

He also represented Wiesbaden in the Air Force Track and Field Championships, winning the 100 and 200 meter titles, was the 100 and 200 meter West Germany junior champion, and competed in track meets throughout Europe.

Finally, in his spare time, Bill was a member of the United States World Bobsled team, competing in both the two man and four man world championship events.

After his Air Force service ended, Bill received a football scholarship to Western Kentucky University. He went on to have an outstanding 1963 season when Western Kentucky broke an all-time school record with 10 wins in a row.

William resides with his wife of 48 years in Laurel MD.

# **PETER HOWE**

**Class of 1983**



Peter Howe is a graduate of the Columbia High Class of 1983. During his years at Columbia he earned 10 varsity letters in Basketball, Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor Track.

Peter was best known for his achievements in cross country, Peter started running in seventh grade just for the “pure enjoyment” of doing so. By the time he was a senior in Columbia he was averaging 40 miles per week of training. He was cross country team captain his sophomore, junior and senior years, and was named MVP of both the cross country and track teams in his junior and senior years. He was recognized as one of the top 10 cross country runners in the Northeast region during his years at Columbia.

Peter competed in multiple Empire State games where he medaled in the 5000 meter race. He won the 3200 meter run at the prestigious Eddy meet, as well as placing first in the Hartford Invitational 5000 meter run. He set a course record of 15:35.6 during a Section II 5000 meter run in Saratoga State Park.

Peter received the Robert D. Chipp award for excellence in athletics and citizenship as well as the Spalding award for earning the most varsity letters over four years. He was also a member of the National Honor Society.

After Columbia High, Peter received a scholarship to Rutgers University where he continued to compete in track and cross country. He received an award in 1985 as the most improved runner on the team, and was twice named team captain.

After Rutgers, Peter worked in human resources and marketing roles at various locations around the country for the Times Mirror Company. In 2003 he became C.O.O. for the National After School Association, and then assumed the same role for Bright Horizons Family Solutions. He currently serves as Vice President of Marketing for People Fluent just outside of Boston.

Peter lives with his wife of 12 years, Kami, and their two sons Myles and Simon. He continues to remain active with sports by coaching basketball and baseball. He volunteers his time serving on the Board for the Arlington Youth Baseball and Softball Association and the Bay State Youth Baseball organization. Peter is in the process of designing a sporting program for children with disabilities at the Arlington Boys and Girls Club.

# CHRISTA WITTMANN, MD

Class of 2002



Christa Wittmann is a Columbia High graduate of the Class of 2002. One of the best all-around softball players in Columbia history, she earned four Varsity letters, was a 3 time Troy Record Section II 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Star and a three time All State nominee.

Christa was an outstanding offensive player. As a Junior, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight season, Christa led the Blue Devils in batting average (.414) and on base percentage (.453) and runs scored (16). As a Senior she batted .383 and scored 11 runs.

Despite her offensive achievements, it was on defense that Christa really stood out. According to the Troy Record after her Junior season “defensively, there may not be a better player in the area than Wittmann”. By the end of her Senior year there was no doubt: the Record reported that she was “simply the best defensive player in Section II”. In her last 3 years on Columbia varsity, Christa committed only one error.

As Christa’s varsity coach, Gary Holtz described her: “The best all-around player I have ever coached. Near perfection on defense, outstanding offensive player. Tremendous instinct.”

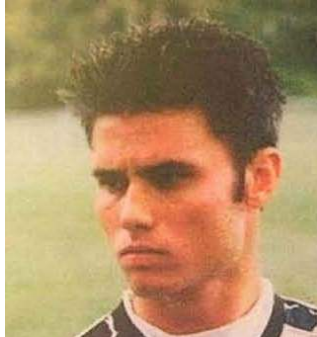
Christa was also active off the field. While at Columbia she was a participant of various clubs including the Math League, Interact, SADD and the National Honor Society.

Christa went on to attend Division 1 Siena College where she continued to play 2<sup>nd</sup> base while studying as a Pre-med major.

Christa attended medical school at Nova Southeastern in Florida. She returned to NY where she completed her residency in Internal Medicine. She currently practices medicine as an Internist where she resides in Essex Ct. She’s recently married to her husband, Misha Spektor, MD.

# **ERIC T. FERGUSON**

**CLASS OF 2004**



Eric T. Ferguson is a Columbia High graduate of the Class of 2004. Eric's hard work and passion for excellence made him a key player on two of the most successful teams in Columbia history: 2003 soccer and 2004 baseball.

Eric was a four year starter on the Columbia soccer team, a period in which the team won four straight division titles. He began his Columbia career as a goalie, but in his 2003 senior year, his coach had a need for a sweeper and felt that Eric had the right stuff for the job. The team went on to become the 2003 Section II Champions. Among the awards Eric received were National Soccer Coaches of America/Adidas All State 1<sup>st</sup> team, Section II Player of the Year, Capital Region Soccer Coaches Association MVP, Times Union/Troy Record/Fox 23 Player of the Year, and Suburban Council MVP.

Eric was an outstanding baseball player as well. Before his baseball career ended Eric garnered honors as a member of the All Suburban Council First Team and the Times Union All Area First Team. In 2004 his Columbia baseball team went on to become Section II and NYS champions.

Eric represented the Capital District on the 2002 Empire State Games soccer team (where he earned Best Defender honors) and he captained the 2003 team.

Eric continued to compete at Ithaca College. On the soccer field he was named Empire 8 Rookie of the Year, First Team Empire 8 All Star, Empire 8 All-Conference Team, and twice was named ECAC/Empire 8 Goalie of the Week. On the diamond, Eric hit .323 his freshman year and went on to a stellar collegiate career that included awards for 1st Team ABCA NY Region All Star, 1st Team Empire 8 All Star, NCAA NY Region All-Tournament Team, and Empire 8 Player of the Week.

After college Eric joined the Army National Guard. He attended the Army Intelligence School at Fort Huachuca AZ where he received the STRAC award for excellence. He has worked as an Intelligence Analyst with the Army National Guard and currently resides in Arlington VA where he is working for a branch of the Department of Defense. Eric is keeping his hand in sports by coaching JV Baseball for the McLean High School in Arlington.

# JONATHAN M. NICOLLA

**Class of 2004**



Jonathan M. Nicolla is a Columbia High graduate of the Class of 2004. His athletic and academic achievements are many. He was a varsity starter for 4 years in baseball team, 3 years in football team, and 2 years in basketball. He maintained high honor roll standing throughout high school with an academic 3.6 GPA.

As a player on Columbia's baseball team, Jonathan received many awards, and was courted by many Division 1 colleges. He was a 3 time All State, All District and All Area selection; Area High School Player of the Year in 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Area – Section II NYS and 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-League. In 2003 Collegiate Baseball News identified Jonathan as potentially being one of the highest draft picks in 2003. He led the Suburban Counsel with a .519 batting average as a sophomore, batted .524 as a junior, and was named Columbia Baseball MVP in 2003 as well as in 2004, the year Columbia baseball captured its first state championship.

In 2003, Jonathan joined the roster of the team representing the American Amateur Baseball Congress as it competed in the prestigious USA Baseball Tournament of Stars. Only 144 players from across the nation were invited to the tournament.

Jonathan also played football at Columbia. He was a 3 year varsity starter and was a 2<sup>nd</sup> team All-Area defensive end.

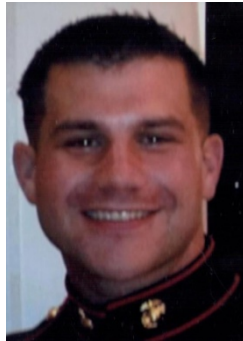
Additionally, Jonathan was a 2 year varsity starter on the Columbia basketball team.

Following high school, Jonathan chose to attend Duke University on a full baseball scholarship. He earned a degree in Sociology, with a minor in Markets and Management. While at Duke he was a 3 year starter on the baseball team, typically at first base or DH. He batted .324 his senior year. He was also a member of the Duke Varsity Club worked as a freelance sports writer for the Times Union, was a radio broadcaster at Duke, and a GM for the Oneonta Outlaws Baseball Organization. After Duke he obtained his Masters of Business Administration at SUNY Albany.

Jonathan is currently working at the Center for Learning Health Care – Duke School of Medicine where he manages operations and development of large scale enrollment research projects. He has co-published several Research Abstracts in areas of quality improvement in the field of cancer research and medicine.

# KYLE M. SMITH

Class of 2004



Kyle M. Smith is a Columbia High graduate of the Class of 2004. The courage, determination, and team orientation that Kyle displayed at Columbia later served him well in an illustrious 9 year career in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Kyle earned letters in varsity football as a sophomore, junior, and senior. He was named a captain in his senior year. Kyle originally hoped to be a running back, but at the request of the coaching staff moved to the offensive line. By the time he was a senior, that offensive line was described by the coaches as the best in the history of Columbia football. As a senior Kyle was named to the Suburban Council and Section II All-Star teams, and was invited to play in the Exceptional Senior game.

Kyle was also a superb wrestler, earning varsity letters in his junior and senior years, and was named captain as a senior. That year he tied for the team lead in total wins (38), was the Class A individual runner up in the 215 pound weight class, and he led the team to the Section II Division I championship. He led not just by example or motivating others: he led through courage and sacrifice. During his semi-final match, Kyle dislocated his shoulder. As the tournament drew to a close, it was clear that without Kyle wrestling in the finals, Columbia could not maintain the slight lead it held over Shenendehowa. The trainer wanted Kyle to go to the hospital, but Kyle insisted that he was able to go back out. Finally, with parental permission, Kyle wrestled and won, giving Columbia the Section II championship.

As impressive as Kyle's high school exploits are, they pale before what came next. After a brief stay at Hudson Valley Community College, Kyle enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was first in his class at both the initial Recruit Training School ("boot camp") as well as the subsequent Infantry Combat Training School. Kyle went on to become a canine handler in the elite Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC). The self described role of MARSOC is "to be America's force of choice to provide small lethal expeditionary teams for global special operations".

Kyle served in both Afghanistan and Iraq (where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart). Citations he received describe how he led raids against 150 threat locations that eliminated numerous Taliban leadership and recovered hundreds of pounds of explosives and heroin. In another citation he "displayed a high level of bravery by consistently being the first Marine to occupy areas of known improvised explosive devices in order to clear the positions. Often exposing himself to heavy enemy fire ... and (explosive) blasts he helped to ensure the safety of his team members".

Kyle has been home from the service now for just a month and is in the process of pursuing a career in law enforcement. He has a 3 year old son, Alexander, who welcomed him home.

Columbia High School is indeed proud of, and salutes, Kyle Smith.



# ALEXANDER ZAMPIER

Class of 2006



Alexander Zampier is a graduate of the Columbia High School Class of 2006. He was a 4 year varsity basketball player, leading the team in scoring all 4 years and winning numerous awards and accolades. He was twice named All Area All Suburban Counsel and twice named TV-13 All Star for Basketball.

Alex became the fourth 1000 point scorer in Columbia basketball history, joining John Lyons, Marc Williams and Craig Forth on the list of Columbia's most prolific career scorers. As a junior Alex scored 42 points in a game against Niskayuna, breaking the all-time Columbia single game record. In his senior year he averaged 22.7 points per game.

Alexander was a member of the National Honor Society, NYS Mathematics League, Peer Leadership Club and Interact. In 2006 he received the Robert D. Chip Award for his academic and athletic achievements.

Alexander also enjoyed playing baseball. Originally Alex gave up baseball to focus on basketball, but in his senior year he joined Columbia's baseball team playing center field. Alex was a Times Union 2<sup>nd</sup> team All-Star, and tied a NYS high school single season record with 3 grand slam home runs. That year he helped the Blue Devils earn a share of the Suburban Council Gold Division title.

Alex continued his education and basketball career at Yale University. During his freshman year he was awarded the John C. Cobb Award as the top freshman on the team. Alex scored 1,144 points during his Yale career, and finished in the top 10 of Yale's all time free throw percentage and 3-point scorers. He had 167 career steals, setting a new Yale career mark. As a senior Captain, Alex led the team in scoring (17.4 ppg), 3-pointers (55), and steals (59). He was named the team's MVP.

After Yale, he was drafted in 2010 by the New Mexico Thunderbirds of the NBA Development League. After a brief stint with the Thunderbirds, Alex once again turned his attention to baseball. He trained with former MLB pro Reggie Smith, but his baseball playing career was cut short by injury necessitating Tommy John surgery. Alex then worked as an intern for the New York Yankees, spent time living in Argentina and playing for the he Argentino de Junin pro basketball team, and most recently accepted a position in player development Port Charlotte Florida with the Tampa Bay Ray's minor league baseball organization.

## **Roger Seymour**

### **Coach / Faculty / Staff**



“Roger served the district faithfully and professionally for twenty five years. He coached his students in the classroom and on the playing field in an enthusiastic, organized manner. He spent hours of preparation for the classroom and the practice field so that each student would achieve the highest possible degree of learning and success.....He deserves this recognition for setting high standards for student academic and athletic performance within a broader context of teaching young people citizenship and service to their community”. This quote from the nomination form says it all. Roger was a consummate professional, both as a teacher and a coach.

Roger attended Hudson Valley Community where he played soccer, basketball and tennis. He led HVCC to two Region III soccer championships, was a National Junior College Athletic Association Soccer All American for two years, and was MVP of the tennis team. He is a member of the HVCC Athletic Hall of Fame.

Roger then attended SUNY Fredonia where he was named to the SUNYAC All Conference Soccer team. After receiving his degree, Roger returned to HVCC where he coached soccer, basketball, and tennis.

Luckily, Roger then joined the East Greenbush Central School District as a math teacher. During a 30 year teaching career, Roger spent 25 years as a coach of various teams including boys varsity soccer (21 years), girls varsity soccer, boys and girls tennis, and boys and girls freshman basketball.

Roger led the boys varsity soccer team to many accomplishments including 2001 Gold Division champions, 2003 Blue Division champions, and 2003 Class A Section II Champions (19-3 Record). Roger was named Class A Section II Coach of the Year. In 2003

Roger’s motto for success “Perfect Practice Makes Perfect Performance”. His teams always worked incredibly hard to achieve the best that they were capable of. Above all, he taught his players respect for their teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and spectators.

Roger is married to his wife Joyce and has 3 children, Scott, Sheri and Sarah, all of whom attended and graduated from Columbia High. As a community member, Roger has for the past 25 years run the Greenbush Soccer Camp for boys and girls, continued to coach indoor and outdoor Greenbush Soccer Club Travel teams and has twice been honored for his outstanding service to the Greenbush Community and presented with the Greenbush Award.

Congratulations to the 2014 Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. You show the true spirit of our athletes and bring the past and present together as one. Thank you to all for paving the way for all our young athletes and teaching them how hard work, integrity, strength, and pride can pay off. You are the pride of the East Greenbush School District Community & the Columbia Athletic Family.

Michael G. Leonard,  
*Athletic Director*

Thank you to all who have helped in preparing for this year's Athletic Hall of Fame Celebration. Please join us next year.

*Blue Devil Pride*

# ***CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME***

## **ALUMNI ATHLETE CATEGORY:**

**(IN ORDER OF YEAR OF GRADUATION)**

ROYAL HERRINGTON (1942) \*  
JOHN MARKS (1948)  
DONALD BINS (1949) \*  
PETER B. ASHBY (1949)  
HOWARD FULLER (1950)  
CHRISTOPHER ASHBY (1951)  
JOHN OBERMAYER (1951) \*  
TED BUREK (1952)  
MILT GRAHAM (1952)  
DOUG CANFIELD (1953)  
ROBERT FEDERCHUCK (1954)  
JOHN TULLAR (1954)  
RICHARD ALOISE (1954) \*  
JAMES CLIFFORD (1956) \*  
ROGER HOWARD (1954)  
FRANCIS CLIFFORD (1958)  
CLARENCE SEEBERGER (1958) \*  
RALPH BLAIR (1959) \*  
THOMAS BOYLE (1960)  
HENRY ROMER (1961)  
WILLIAM ROMER (1962)  
MICHAEL M. MAHAR (1966)  
ROBERT MOORE (1967)  
GERALD ELLIOT (1967)  
PAUL THOMPSON (1969)  
ALBERT RAUSCH (1973)  
ROBERT HELLWIG (1977)  
MARK NARDACCI (1977)  
ERICA (BERGMAN) PUENTES (1977)  
MICHAEL REGA (1978)  
INGE (STOCKMAN) AIKEN (1979)  
SCOTT PLADEL (1980)  
DONNA GIRTLE (1982)  
RICHARD ROMER (1984)  
RUSSELL HILTON (1984)  
JOSEPH ROMER (1984)  
BARBARA (FINKE) SAUTER (1985)  
HOLLY CHASE (1985)  
LYNNE (MAURA) FITZGERALD (1986)  
JOHN KELLER (1986)  
ZACHARY SHEA (1987)  
GLENN PASSMAN (1987)  
ROBIN (ROMER) CHUDY (1988)  
LISA (DANIELS) FISHELL (1988)  
KRISTEN RANDALL (1988)  
JUDITH (FINKE) VITALI (1989)  
KURT RANDALL (1990)  
SHAY HARRISON (1990)  
MARC WILLIAMS (1991)

CHRISTINE (NALLEY) ROANE (1992)  
JULIE FREZON (1994) \*  
DOUG KEENHOLTS (1995)  
BECKY SNOW (1996)  
JAMI SERVIDONE (1996)  
MICHELE GOSH (1997)  
SAMUEL GRECO (1997)  
KATHLEEN (SMITH) RUSSELL (1998)  
SUSAN (YUND) HORST (1998)  
IAN LOCKE (1998)  
MELISSA (ROY) BASIUK (1998)  
CRAIG FORTH (2001)  
CASEY HALLORAN (2002)  
CHRISTOPHER ROSENBAUM (2002)  
THOMAS ARCIDIACONO (2003)  
THOMAS GENOVESI (2003)  
JUSTIN HELLWIG (2004)

## **COACH/STAFF MEMBER CATEGORY:**

NICHOLAS BUDNOWSKI \*  
PETER CITROLO  
EDITH COSGROVE \*  
RICHARD RANDALL  
ROBERT SMITH \*  
THEODORE A. ROMANOWSKI  
HARRY RAPENSKE  
JAMES BERRIER  
GEORGE CZERNO  
GARY HOLTZ  
DENNIS BARRETT \*  
JAMES MCHUGH  
JOHN SERBALIK  
DOROTHY MASIELLO  
JEAN SCHWEIGERT  
MICHAEL LEONARD  
ANTHONY SERVIDONE  
JAMES OBERMAYER  
HENRY WYSOCKI

## **COMMUNITY MEMBER CATEGORY:**

DICK DORAN \*  
JAMES FINKE

\*Deceased