

Arthur L. Johnson Hall of Fame

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Hall of Fame was created to honor distinguished alumni and individuals associated with the high school, who have contributed in a positive manner to their profession, their community, or to the students of Arthur L. Johnson High School. There are five categories for which an individual can be nominated: Accomplished Professional, Community Contributor, Volunteer, Crusader Pride, and Distinguished Faculty. The fourth class is being enshrined today, May 18, 2017. Below is a brief biography of each inductee.

HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2018

Dr. Edwin "Skip" Anderson, Class of '62 (Crusader Pride)

Dr. Anderson was a very respected student during his tenure at ALJ. He excelled in sports as well as in the classroom. Ed was a member of the Key Club and Club 56 and received recognition for his efforts by being selected to attend the American Legion NJ Boys State at Rutgers University, and was the recipient of the Sam Timer football endorsement. Ed played three sports each year at ALJ where he was a district wrestling champ, named to the first team All-County and Watchung Conference football team, and set the high school shot put record. Ed received a four-year scholarship to the University of Delaware, where he entered the School of Dentistry and earned his doctor's degree. He continued to excel in his profession and is currently the President of Professional Dental Associates, and is a member of a number of professional dental organizations.

Ed continues to give back to the community by actively participating in The Fraternal Order of Eagles, and created a scholarship in honor of a former coach, Ed Maley. The scholarship provides fund for a football player seeking an occupation as a health professional. Ed has four children. His son, Scott followed in his dad's footsteps and became a dentist. His daughter, Carolee, is a pharmaceutical Representative, and his son, Matt, and daughter, Kristin, are schoolteachers.

Mr. Kurt Epps (Distinguished Faculty)

Mr. Kurt Epps graduated from Perth Amboy High School and attended Montclair State College earning a BA in English and a minor in Dramatics and being named to Who's Who Among Colleges and Universities in 1969. Kurt began his teaching career at Passaic High School and, in 1971, came to ALJ where he served for 37 years, teaching English, journalism, coaching football, officiating wrestling matches, and announcing home football games for 22 years. As Student Council supervisor, Kurt initiated the Mr/Ms ALJ Pageant, raising thousands of dollars which supported student scholarships and various charities. Since retiring, Kurt became an adjunct professor at Middlesex County College and began a business as a college admissions coach. Unknown to many, Kurt is a recidivist criminal who gets re-arrested every year for the past 25 years when he portrays Royal Governor William Franklin, son of the founding father, Ben Franklin. Kurt could do none of these things without the complete support of the loves of his life-the family, his wife Donna, and his three sons, Brett, Kacy, and Cody. Kurt is a proud American who believes in God and country.

Mr. David Durante, Class of 1998 (Accomplished Professional)

David has been involved in gymnastics since the age of six. Since ALJ did not have a boy's gymnastics Team, David created one and was the only student involved. Under the guidance of coach, Bob Nadasky, David won two consecutive State Championships and was also a member of the U.S. National Gymnastics Team representing his age group.

Dave is a multiple time USA gymnastics national champion and was part of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Team as alternate. After retiring from competition, David helped coach his alma mater, Stanford University, to an NCAA Team Title in 2009, and has continued to be a part of the sport through his position on the Athlete Advisory Committee with the United States Olympic Committee as well as his position on the USA Gymnastics Men's Technical Committee. Dave co-owns and operates Power Monkey Fitness which has become a leading educational resource in the fitness world. His team is comprised of former world class athletes that have transitioned to the coaching world. Dave and his team have expanded the brand to include worldwide events, digital coaching programs, and a variety of unique pieces of fitness equipment.

He lives in NYC with his wife, Sadie, and daughter, Alessia.

Mr. Salvatore Bonaccorso Class of 1978 (Community Contributor)

Salvatore Bonaccorso played baseball and football while at the high school and received the Ed McCusker Sportsmanship Award.

Sal's service to the community as Mayor of Clark began 17 years ago. During that time to the present, he has served his home town in a variety of ways. He led the renovation of the Library in 2001, acquired Esposito's Farm and converted it into a community park. He was also instrumental in efforts to install turf at the ALJ Football Field in 2007. When Hurricane Sandy struck, Sal led the town's recovery efforts.

In 2004, for Sal was recognized by Union County as "Mayor of the Year" and received the same accolade in 2016 for leading the efforts on the Clark Commons. Most recently, he was inducted into the NJ Elected Officials Hall of Fame.

Sal has served the community for over twenty years and his dedication to Clark's citizens is second to none. No one person has looked out for the people of Clark more than Sal. He and his wife, Geraldine, have three children, Christine a student at Kean University, Kelly, a senior at ALJ, and Joseph, an eighth grade student at Kumpf Middle School.

Mrs. Eileen (Bergstedt) Parkinson, Class of 1960 (Accomplished Professional)

Eileen is certainly remembered for her years of student service, her accomplishments as a student leader, and for her outstanding performances in the chorus, choir and theater groups. She also served as the Drum Majorette for the marching band. Eileen was also nominated to the National Honor Society and recognized for her Scholarship, Leadership, and Service. She topped this off by achieving the finalist ranking in the NJ Division of the Miss America Competition.

Eileen worked extensively as a broadcaster and documentary producer. She also was an active participant in on-air fund raising for Public Television stations. She has written, produced, and hosted the television special, "Greater Things To Come", for CBS television as well as independent productions for private clients. Eileen studied theater at The Catholic University of America, and holds a degree in Behavioral Science from National Louis University and co-founded GettingPresence.com to coach executive clients in the art of meaningful communications. Eileen and her husband, Bob, have co-authored two books, "Executive Briefings" and, most recently, "Be As Good As You Think You Are". Eileen served as the Chicago Branch President of the Screen Actors Guild for 7 years and sat on the SAG National Board of Directors for 10 years. She also served on the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists National Board of Directors for 14 years. She taught SCUBA diving for more than 20 years. Eileen and Bob have 2 children, Bob, Jr. and Enid; 3 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter. Home is Sarasota, FL, where in 2010 and 2011, they chaired the Siesta Key Crystal Classic International Sand Sculpting Festival, now in its 8th year.