

# 2007 Allegheny Valley School District Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

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## *Fred J. Caro*



**Fred J. Caro (attended 1941-1954)** - Fred Caro graduated from SHS in 1954 and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Health from the Lock Haven University in 1958. In college he, as Captain, and his football team earned special honors; he was also a 4-year wrestling squad member. Caro took graduate courses at Eastern Michigan University, the University of Pittsburgh, and received his M.S. Degree in Physical Education in 1963 from Springfield College. A Certificate of Advanced Study in Leadership and Administration was also earned at Springfield. Caro worked as a professional educator for 41 years; the final 36 years at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. At the University, Caro served as Chairman in the Health/Physical Education Department for 15 years, where he implemented a degree program, several non-degree service programs, and authored many undergraduate courses. His work earned him Professor Emeritus Status by the faculty and administration upon his retirement in 1999. As a wrestling coach for 21 seasons, Caro coached one individual N.A.I.A. National Champion, nine All-Americans, and seven Pennsylvania Conference Champions. He served on many state and national committees and was the Team Leader/Coach for the 1977 National Team on tour to Japan and South Korea. For his efforts, Caro has been inducted into six Halls of Fame including the N.A.I.A. National Wrestling Hall of Fame and the Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame. Service to his community included school board membership for 10 years, serving as President and Vice President. He is respected, was effective, and has been a positive role model.

## *Darlene K. Martin Ryniec*



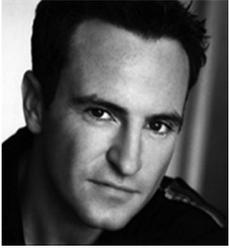
**Darlene K. Martin Ryniec (attended 1950-1962)** - Darlene K. Martin Ryniec was raised in Acmetonia and graduated from Springdale High School in 1962. Her school history included long-time participation in the band, roles in drama and musical productions, and editor of the high school's yearbook. She graduated from Muskingum College in New Concord, OH in 1966 with a Bachelor of Music Degree and went on to work as a music educator in the North Allegheny School District. While leaving the school district to raise a family, she and her husband opened "Ryniec Studios" where she has taught hundreds of children and adults piano, organ, and voice. She developed her own complete and comprehensive program of study. Currently, Ryniec is a former member of Pittsburgh's Mendelssohn Choir. In 1990, Ryniec felt a call to go into the ministry as a United Methodist pastor. She attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. Currently, Ryniec serves as minister to two area churches. She has served on mission projects through local churches and accompanied youth trips. Ryniec achieved the Medallion Award for three consecutive years for her growth within the church community and serves as a mentor for other women pastors. Her recognition and advancement in this area cannot be so much measured by awards and trophies, but rather by changed lives.

## *Frank V. Semper*



**Frank V. Semper (attended 1951-1963)** - Frank V. Semper lived in the arts department while attending Springdale High School. He participated in class plays, musicals, choir, marching and concert bands, and the nationally known stage band, the Mellowmen. Semper graduated in 1963 and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education at Edinboro State College and a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh. He served as an elementary teacher for 35 years with the Riverview School District. A recipient of the 2001 Southwestern Pennsylvania Teacher of Distinction Award, he excelled in teaching science through inquiry, exploration, and discovery. Semper became a dedicated teacher of the environment, developing an outdoor Education Program for the school district. He was co-founder of an annual 5th/6th Grade Musical and worked extensively on the high school musical productions. In addition, Semper has donated countless volunteer hours to his community, including St. Ireneaus Church, the annual Oakmont Lion's Club Show - a theater production that raises money for vision care, Riverview Relay for Life (American Cancer Society), and the Riverview Foundation for the Arts. Currently, Semper works with Duquesne University's School of Education as a supervisor of student teachers. He continues to inspire his students to impact society as professionals and, even more importantly, as caring and compassionate citizens.

## *John Siciliano*



**John Siciliano (attended 1976-1989)** - John Siciliano graduated from Springdale High School and went on to Point Park College through a soccer scholarship to study theater and journalism. During his college career, Siciliano suffered a debilitating accident, ending in the amputation of his right leg. With his never-give-up attitude, Siciliano found the inner strength to become an athlete again. He specialized in the 100- and 200-meter sprints and broke the 200-meter record at the 1996 Paralympic Trials in Atlanta, GA. He earned a spot on the 1996 USA Team, where he became the fastest man in America for this category. Upon graduation with Bachelors Degrees in Journalism/Communications and Fine Arts, he went to work in New York City, wrote screenplays, and eventually moved to the West Coast to become an actor in Hollywood. Siciliano continued his education at the University of Southern California and obtained a Masters Degree. Siciliano travels across the country giving motivational speeches and lectures using his own life as an example of strength and optimism in overcoming adversity. In addition, he works to improve prosthetics and work with newly injured soldier. In 2006, Siciliano was invited by Her Majesty, the Queen of Doha, Qatar to be a moderator for her First International Forum on Children with Special Needs. Through his life, Siciliano motivates others to go beyond their handicap and reach for the stars.

## *Stephen Yakopec, Jr.*



**Stephen Yakopec, Jr. (attended 1963-1976)** - Stephen Yakopec, Jr. came from the small community of Acmetonia and graduated from Springdale High School in 1976. While in high school, he participated in soccer, being part of one of the most successful athletic programs in the school's history. Yakopec was elected President of Student Council and represented his class as its Valedictorian. He went on to Harvard University and was a Rhodes Scholar Nominee. He graduated in 1980 and attended the University of Pittsburgh to receive a J.D. Degree in 1984. Yakopec began his law career with a small firm and rose to a named partner position. Currently, he owns his own successful law practice and serves as the solicitor for several local municipalities. He has been requested by his peers to speak on various legal subjects at the local and state levels. Yakopec's articles have been published in trade publications for the National Business Institute and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Allegheny County Bar Association School and Municipal Solicitors Section. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals. Yakopec serves as a youth coach in soccer and baseball, co-founding the Bullpen Club, an organization created to support baseball at all levels in the community. He has also become a mentor to high school students through an interscholastic Moot Court Competition. Yakopec's knowledge of people allows him to serve as a positive role model in many of life's arenas.