

# 2014 Alumni Awards

The Canton Community College/Spoon River College Alumni Association hosted its annual Alumni Association Awards Reception and Athletic Hall of Fame Induction at the Canton Campus on Saturday, October 11, 2014.

Welcoming the honorees and guests were SRC President Curtis Oldfield, SRC Foundation Chair Gary Davis, and CCC/SRC Alumni Association President Denny Dalmasso.

## Alumni Achievement Award (Dr. Ruben Gayon)

Ruben Gayon's family fled Cuba, shortly after Fidel Castro took power, in search of the American Dream. Ruben is a first generation Cuban American. He was born in Florida to Ruben and Mayra Gayon.

Ruben attended Spoon River College from 1999-2001.

"Spoon River College was the foundation of my education," Ruben states. "I was very fortunate to have gone to SRC. The teachers were very helpful and caring as well as challenging."

He also believes that his participation in the SRC Drama Program was a great experience for his future career.

As owner of Gayon High Performance Chiropractic and Rehab, Inc. in Canton, Illinois, Ruben makes a difference in the lives of others.

Working with students has been important to him as well. For the past eight years, Ruben has served as the team physician for Farmington High School sports.

## Alumni Achievement Award (Ken Long)

Ken Long, of Canton, Illinois, graduated from Canton High School in 1969 and immediately enrolled at Spoon River College, attending from 1969-1971. His future wife, Nina, also attended SRC from 1971-1973.

Ken currently serves as Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer at MidAmerica National Bank where he has been employed for over 40 years. Ken's daughter, Keely Vollmar is a teacher at Canton High School and his son, Brian, is a structural engineer with Morton Buildings.

Ken embodies the term "community-minded." He has served on numerous community organizations throughout his life. His favorite has been the Kiwanis Club of Canton where he was a charter member. He has served as both President and Vice President of that charitable organization.

Ken says that "SRC provided me the opportunity to expand my horizons by continuing my education, by participating in extracurricular activities and through meeting new people."

## Alumni Achievement Award (Kevin Metzger)

Kevin Metzger of Peoria, Illinois, is in his 33rd year of teaching and coaching. He attended Spoon River College in the Fall of 1975 and then from 1977-1978.

Since becoming an educator, Kevin has been a teacher, co-athletic director, head boys' basketball coach and assistant baseball coach at East Peoria High School for 16 years and 9 years at Peoria District

150. Currently, he is in his 8th year at Limestone Community High School where he teaches drivers education and is the head girls' basketball coach and the assistant boys' and girls' soccer coach.

Kevin has been married to his wife Colleen for 31 years and has twins Amber and Riley Metzger who are now age 24. Colleen is employed at District 150, while Amber is employed at OSF and Riley is completing an internship at the Christian Center.

Kevin is very involved in organizations and has received several awards. He is currently a member of the Illinois High School and College Driver Education Association and a member of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association as well as on the Board of Directors. He was named to the Woodruff High School Hall of Fame as a Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach for the 1987 Team and was the 2013 IBCA District 12 Coach of the Year.

"My time at SRC provided me with the opportunity to develop confidence within myself both academically and socially," Kevin states. "It was SRC's Ed Georgieff and Martha Strode that led me into the education field. They provided me with the confidence and leadership that I could make an impact in the lives of students and athletes."

#### [Alumni Achievement Award \(Jane Nimmo Myers\)](#)

Jane Myers, Macomb, Illinois, is the Hospitalist Nurse Director at McDonough District Hospital. She is married to Dr. Eldon Myers, Jr. and has two sons, Marc (Toni) Baxter of Macomb and Ryan Baxter of Louisville, KY. She also has one grandson, Lukas.

Jane attended Spoon River College while a student at Graham Hospital School of Nursing. She graduated from Graham Hospital School of Nursing and received her BA and MA in Gerontology from Western Illinois University. She is a Certified Diabetes Educator.

She has practiced in Illinois, Mississippi, New York, Washington, and Iowa. While living in Iowa, she was honored in 2010 as one of 100 Great Iowa Nurses. She has worked in pediatrics, medical/surgical, and intensive care units with recent emphasis on care of patients with chronic diseases.

In her current position at McDonough District Hospital, Jane provides administrative, case management, and communication support to the hospitalists. She also serves as a liaison with patients, their families, and the hospital's nursing and ancillary staff.

Jane says, "Spoon River College, in its unique downtown setting, provided me with a solid base in the arts and sciences complimenting my nursing program."

#### [Alumni Achievement Award \(Steve Moore\)](#)

Steve Moore graduated from Canton High School in 1966. In August of that same year, Steve entered Spoon River College at the age of 17. His stay at SRC was brief because he entered military service when he turned 18 and spent 30 months serving his country. Most of Steve's service was in Vietnam. When Steve came home, he returned to SRC and graduated in 1971.

Steve credits Cyril Cavanaugh, Kathryn Doubet, Faye Hedin, and Helen Lawson with helping him make it through SRC successfully. Steve transferred to Eastern Illinois and graduated with a B. S. in Education in 1973.

Steve and his wife Marcia (Pilcher) were employed by The Highland School District where Steve taught American History and Literature. The Highland District received a federal grant to begin an Alternative School program designed for students who “should be able to graduate, but for some reason had difficulty in the regular classroom.” Through that program, Steve took on the students that no one else wanted and helped to make those students successful.

Steve received two Masters degrees — the first from Eastern Illinois University in 1979 and the second from the University of Illinois in 1982. He became part of the adjunct faculty at Illinois State University in 1985.

After 30 years of teaching at Highland High School, Steve retired in 2004 and he and Marcia returned to Canton to be closer to family. The couple has one son, Quinn, who lives in Oswego with his wife Danielle and son, Patrick.

“Spoon River College was a great place to start,” Steve states. “The cost was low and the instruction was exceptional. It was my time at SRC which helped me decide to become a teacher. I would recommend Spoon River College to anyone seeking education beyond high school.”

### [Outstanding Service Award \(Mike Martin\)](#)

Coming from a small town, Mike Martin didn’t think he was ready for a big university and so he chose Canton Community College in 1965 where “you could get help and the teachers knew who you were.” He received his degree in the spring of 1967. Mike remembers that he attended classes downtown where there were “a couple of pool tables, a snack area, and lots of card games” going on.

Mike says, “Sometimes it was hard to go to class, but I did.” He also played on the baseball team and in intramurals like touch football and basketball at the YMCA. He spent a lot of time watching the CCC basketball team and a lot of time in the library as well.

Mike transferred to WIU and received a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree. He student taught at Lewistown High School in 1969 and served as a volunteer coach for the baseball and track teams. In July 1970, he was drafted into the Army and spent 19 months in South Korea as an MP dog handler guarding missile sites.

When he was hired as a 6th grade teacher at Isaac Swan School in 1972 upon the suggestion of his boss at Senn-Soldwedel Dairy, Mike’s lifelong coaching career began. Over the years, Mike coached winning junior high boys’ basketball and football and girls’ softball teams.

In 1982, Mike became the Junior High Girls 7th and 8th grade basketball coach and has continued to coach at either or both levels ever since. The girls’ teams have had great success over the years with 19 state tournament appearances. They received 2 fourth place trophies, 3 third place trophies, 5 second place trophies, and 4 first place trophies.

Mike’s combined record for all the boys’ and girls’ teams he coached is 828 wins/308 losses. The teams have won a total of 81 tournament championships including 30 regionals, 22 sectionals, and four large school state championships.

Mike retired from teaching in 2002 but has never retired from coaching. He was the IBCA Girls Junior High/North Coach of the Year in 2003 and has been the IBCA District 16 Girls Coach of the Year 5 times. In the Spring of 2014, Mike was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame.

### Distinguished Retiree Award (Ed Georgieff)

Called “the Godfather of SRC Athletics” by BJ McCullum, Ed Georgieff’s tenure at Spoon River College extended from 1966 to 1993.

“It was an exciting and challenging time to be a part of the birth of an institution,” says Ed. “It was an opportunity to work with a talented professional group of individuals who helped take the institution from birth through adolescence to maturity.”

Ed received many accolades and honors including being inducted into the Granite City High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997. He is also a member of the Basketball Team William Jewell College Athletics Hall of Fame and the Spoon River College Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1973, Ed was named the NJCAA Section V Basketball Coach of the Year.

Ed served his community as a member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Canton. He is also a former member of the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce and its Ambassador Club.

Ed lives in Canton with his wife Betty where they enjoy attending their grandchildren’s many activities. Betty and Ed have one daughter, Dimana Minder, (husband Mark, children Alyssa and Kyra) and one son, Edward (wife Rhonda, children Meghan and Sarah).

“A college is only born once,” Ed continues, “and the care given to it by all was admirable. I will always cherish having worked with students, faculty, administration, staff and board. Spoon River College will always be dear to my heart.”

### Distinguished Retiree Award (Marian Guyton)

Marian Eleanor Smith was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1916. She graduated from Canton High School in 1933, skipping one full year of school. She graduated from Monmouth College in 1937 with a B.A. degree, received the Mortar Board Honor, was secretary of the student body, and a member of the Kappa Delta sorority. She received her Master’s Degree from Bradley University in 1971.

Marian began teaching in 1937 and continued teaching in Blandinsville, Macomb, and St. Charles, Illinois until 1945. She then taught tennis for the Canton Park District in the 1950s and 60s implementing and directing the Fulton County Tennis Tournament for many years. She was a journalist for the Canton Daily Ledger from 1958-1966 including a position as city editor. From 1966-1978, Marian taught at Canton Community College/Spoon River College.

Marian and her husband Joseph Guyton married in November 22, 1945. Marian acquired three stepchildren (Joe, Jon and Mary Alice) and the couple later had two children of their own (Sally and Tom). Marian and Joe had 10 grandchildren.

Marian died on October 12, 1994 in Lenexa, Kansas. Upon her death, her daughter Sally discovered this quote from Marian in a desk drawer...

“I’m the last of a dying breed, an independent liberal who still smokes cigarettes, who takes no pills, and who corresponds with my adult children instead of phoning them. I neither have — nor wish to have— a microwave, a dishwasher nor a VCR. I’m happy.”

### Sports Hall of Fame Inductee (Dr. Randy Klinedinst)

Dr. Randy L. Klinedinst participated in Cross Country, Indoor/Outdoor Track and Field and Baseball at Spoon River College from 1974-1976 while taking classes in the pre-medical curriculum.

After graduating from Canton High School where he excelled his senior year in cross country as the school's number one runner, along with MVP honors, Randy naturally wanted to continue running in college. At the time, SRC had no cross country program, but Coach Charlie Black convinced Randy to attend SRC on scholarship if one was instated.

At SRC, Randy participated in many track and field events including individual running events and several relays. He most notably ran in the 600 yard dash, 880 yard run, 800 meter run, and the 1000 yard run in which he set SRC records. At the Region IV Regional Championships held in the Armory of the University of Illinois, he qualified for the NJCAA Nationals each year in the 1000 yard run. Both years, he went on to run at Nationals held at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

While training to qualify for Nationals, he suffered an injury where he was unable to run. This caused him to seek chiropractic care. That experience made such a difference for him and his performance that he calls it "A Life Changer." He attributes his running experience at SRC as a defining moment in his life.

Dr. Klinedinst has been a doctor of chiropractic for over 30 years in Canton, Illinois, practicing at Klinedinst Chiropractic. His son, Tyson, recently joined him in his practice where they hope to make the same difference in the lives of their patients.

Randy was awarded SRC's first Distinguished Alumnus award in 1983.

An interesting side note: Randy's wife, Samantha, and his two sons, Tyson and Seth, all graduated with Associate Degrees from Spoon River College.

### Sports Hall of Fame Inductee (William "BJ" McCullum)

BJ McCullum played basketball and golf at Spoon River College and was also an assistant coach, a head coach, the athletic director and eventually the director of athletics and auxiliary services.

With a record of 118-98 in seven years, BJ's basketball teams received rankings as high as 6th in 1989-90 and 3rd in 1990-91 tying for most wins (26) in a season and having the best winning percentage. BJ's best record as an SRC coach was 25-7.

During his years at SRC, BJ recruited and coached six Division I athletes including Hall of Fame members Bobby Allen and Vance Clarke. He also coached Shannon Pritchard who has the 5th most points (64) ever scored in an NJCAA game.

Two former players, Bobby Allen and Jeff Holloway, played over eight years professionally overseas. BJ also brought diversity to SRC by recruiting athletes from Jamaica, Canada, Russia, Israel, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, and Antigua.

BJ says that when his assistant coach Jon Grzanich became head coach at SRC, Jon "unseated me as the winningest coach in history."

BJ served as an assistant and head coach for over 20 years at three different colleges: Spoon River, Lincoln, and Black Hawk East. His record was 411-276 overall and 394-266 as a head coach. His teams

played in three national tournaments and he recruited and/or coached two National Players of the Year and 12 Junior College All Americans. Twenty five of his players went on to play Division I Basketball and dozens of former players are educated, employed and productive members of society.

BJ thanks Ed Georgieff for the success that SRC athletics experienced and Martha Strode who helped teach him the consequences of work. He most of all thanks his parents for being role models and his wife and son who sacrificed so that BJ could “chase his dream.”

For information about nominating a team or an individual for next year’s Athletic Hall of Fame Induction, visit <http://www.src.edu/alumni/Pages/awards.aspx>.