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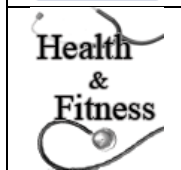
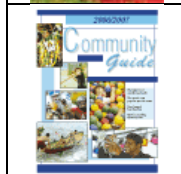
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## RFH inducts 3 grads into Hall of Fame



RFH Hall of Fame inductees with their student escorts: (l-r) RFH Principal Tracy Handerhan; Gene Healy, class of 1989; George Miles, class of 1970; Jennifer Lapp; Steven Fuschetti; John Ryan III, class of 1971; and Ray Binaco.

RUMSON — On May 14, the focus at Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School was on three alumni inducted into the RFH Hall of Fame and their message to students.

In addition to attending the induction ceremony, alumni who are inducted into the RFH Hall of Fame spend the day and share their experiences with students interested in their areas of endeavor. The seminars they speak at are well attended, and students hear from people who once walked the same halls and have gone on to achieve success in their careers.

George Miles, class of 1970, earned his undergraduate degree and a master's in philosophy at Yale University and currently is the curator of the Western Americana Collection at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, the foremost collection of materials dealing with the settlement of the American Frontier, according to a press release from RFH.

The library holds field notes from the Lewis and Clark Expedition as well as family collections of western historical documents and photographs, advertisements, film scripts from silent films dating back as far as 1910, and western movies from the first "talkies" to the present day. Railroad history and American Indian history, interview transcripts, land grants and deeds, and information about gold and silver mines are all archived at Yale and under the care of Miles, who also teaches at the university.

Students interested in history and research were enthralled by the seminar titled "Thinking Historically and Why It Matters," in which Miles challenged them to define history and how it differs from "the past." The discussion touched upon deception, propaganda and attempts to revise history.

"The past hasn't changed, but interpretation changes," Miles told students. "The question is what you choose to believe and how you can decide what sources to trust."

At the induction ceremony, Miles talked about his teachers at RFH, noting that 1970 was a time when students began to seriously question authority, and that it was not stifled by his teachers.

"We challenged the status quo; we were frequently arrogant. But in four years at RFH, I never had a teacher who wasn't passionate about education and the independence to question authority. My teachers were always happy when a student made an argument ... even with a teacher. To teachers I owe a debt that I will spend my life repaying," according to the press release.

John J. Ryan III, class of 1971, went on to Franklin Pierce College, where he earned a degree in marketing and economics. He began a 20-year career with Mercantile Stores as a buyer and worked his way up the corporate ladder until he reached the position of executive vice president for merchandising and marketing. During those years, he moved around the country, opening and working in various department stores before being relocated to the New York corporate office.



One of his innovations during that part of his career was "Moonlight Madness," an event that has become a standard in the marketing field. He was recruited by Wal-Mart in 1995 and served as their executive vice president of international merchandising and marketing, which meant working directly with the trade ministers of countries all over the world. After

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retiring from Wal- Mart, Ryan became an international business consultant to multinational companies. He currently owns three innovative companies and travels internationally in his consulting business.

His seminar, “The Thrill of the Deal,” attracted students who had an interest in business and marketing careers. Facts and figures about the magnitude of the Wal- Mart Corp., the

largest company in the history of the world, amazed students. His advice to students was to have integrity, be creative and challenge the status quo.

Gene Healy, class of 1989, is a wellknown political pundit, journalist and editor whose areas of expertise include executive power, the role of the presidency and federalism. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Chicago Law School. He is vice president of the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., a nonprofit policy research foundation whose mission is “Promoting public policy based on individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and peaceful international relations.”

Healy is a well-known speaker and media commentator and has written policy recommendations, policy analysis, opinions and commentaries that are widely published.

Students who have an interest in politics were fascinated by his seminar, “Punditry for Fun and Profit,” which gave an insider’s view of politics in our nation’s capital. Healy explained the value of the Cato Institute and other “think tanks” as interpreters and chroniclers of current affairs, according to the press release.

He said he benefited from having high school teachers who had varying points of view. Having this spectrum of philosophies helped him to see the whole picture and form his own opinions on the issues.

In his remarks at the induction ceremony, he talked about how much he loves his job.

“I have been complaining about politics since Mr. Fialkoff’s class. Now I make a living complaining about politics and politicians. Is that great or not?! When you do what you love, it doesn’t feel like work,” Healy said.

His recommendation to students: “Embrace your inner ‘dork.’ ” He said he might have done many things in his youth but was worried about peer pressure and didn’t want to be seen as “a dork.”

“I passed up the chance to do things like being on the debating team, something that I would have benefited from, while laboring under the delusion that I wasn’t a dork. Don’t make a decision based on how cool it is,” he told the students.