



### *A YEAR'S WORTH OF GRANTS, AND APPRECIATION*

Ever since the 2006-07 school year, when the Alumni Foundation began awarding grants, we have donated more than \$107,000 to provide students from Elementary to High School with diverse and worthy programs and materials. Below are expressions of gratitude from faculty, staff, and students for some of this past year's grants. Their words help us understand how much the funding has meant.

**Aquatics Special Olympics** – Funds were again provided to buy t-shirts for Bomber participants in the April 30 aquatics competition – and for the student volunteers, so they could show their support of the athletes representing ER. Physical education teacher Jennifer Copp explained, “The swimmers trained

hard. They and the student volunteers proudly wore their shirts to school and the competition, and at both places we received many compliments on them from classmates, and other participants and coaches. Thank you for supporting this event and making our athletes, parents, volunteers, and fans even more excited to be a part of the Special Olympics.”

**Chess Club** – Money was donated for new chess sets and boards. Club adviser Dan O’Leary shared these thoughts: “The ER Chess Club will forever be indebted to you for the provision of new chess sets and boards, which allowed us to increase membership to 40 students this year, and hopefully more next year. Chess promotes many critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, in addition to being a fun way to spend time interacting with peers and others. The Club was open to the community, and several parents joined.”

**Eighth-Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.** – Funding was granted for admission to the National Aquarium in Baltimore on the way home from the nation’s capital. From Dean of Students Bob Hendy: “After a few days of the kids being immersed in U.S. history, the National Aquarium featured displays that included earth science, biology, and environmental science. [Eighth-grade science teacher] Mr. Brownell was busy the entire time answering questions from inquisitive eighth-graders. This living museum inspired the students. As one of them observed, ‘I could spend two days here!’”

**F.I.T.S. (Fun in the Sun)** – For the past several years, the Foundation has provided scholarships for kids entering grades 1-7 who otherwise wouldn’t be able to attend this fun and educational summer program. As FITS founder/coordinator (and sixth-grade teacher) Jared Snyder has said, “The students are extremely grateful. They take part in a variety of activities and learn new things, including teamwork and good sportsmanship.”

**Girls with Goals** – This program, in its second year, serves to empower girls in grades 6-9 to make important decisions with increased confidence, through intervention and support. Money was given for snacks, journals, and art supplies for regular meetings (twice a month from December through June), as well as a field trip to a ‘Voices of Experience’ workshop at Nazareth College. Staff advisers Amy Bianchi-Payne and Kerry McMillan both expressed how much the program meant to the girls who participated. They said the girls even wanted to meet more often to share experiences and concerns, and found it became easier to open up and discuss their feelings with others. Girls with Goals is proving to be a meaningful, inspiring initiative.

**High School Science Olympiad Team** – For the seventh year, funding was granted to this award-winning team to pay for materials used in competitions. The Science Olympians practice and prepare during free periods, after school, and on Saturdays. As team co-adviser Larry Hohl said, “The support of the Alumni Foundation has been a game-changer for us. It’s allowed us to compete and win with schools several times bigger than we are.” Each year members of the team come to an Alumni Foundation Board meeting to demonstrate some of their experiments. Their talent and hard work is clearly evident.

**Second-grade Smoke Detectors** – As described on page 12 of the most recent newsletter, the Foundation provided money for new smoke detectors for our second-graders. This new initiative – a partnership with the ER Fire Department and the District – was a way to remember and honor Tyler Doohan, who died in January 2014. While we received numerous thanks from the faculty, we also received many thank-you letters from the students. Here are some of their thoughts: “Thank you for giving us the smoke detectors. Now we can be safe.” “Thank you for providing me with a smoke detector for my family. I am thankful it will last for 10 years.” “Without the smoke alarm I could get injured if there was a fire. Now my family can stay safe.”

**Student of the Month Backpacks** – Funds were again used to purchase orange backpacks for this program, which honors Junior/Senior High students for making positive contributions to the school community. From teacher and program

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*Please visit the Alumni Foundation’s Website, at [www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm](http://www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm)!*

### JEANETTE D'AGOSTINO BANKER RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

*As part of our Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic awards luncheon on Friday, Aug. 5, the Alumni Foundation proudly honored Jeanette D'Agostino Banker, from the class of 1949, with its annual Distinguished Alumni Award. A brief biography follows....*

Jeanette graduated from East Rochester High School in 1949, growing up on Park Drive with Edmund Lyon Park and the school just across the street. She majored in education at SUNY Brockport, earning a bachelor's degree in 1953 and a master's in 1958.

The field of education has been the focus of Jeanette's life. Psychologist Carl Jung said, "One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings." These words truly define Jeanette. Her career began as a teacher for six years in the Rochester City School District. She then spent 31 years as an Associate Professor of Education at SUNY Brockport, where she was the first female to be President of the Faculty Senate. Jeanette was a demonstration teacher and student teacher supervisor at the Campus School, working with former ER Principal Dr. Andrew Virgilio. She founded American International Schools Overseas, and as director was responsible for the entire program, including planning the curriculum and selecting students and faculty. Jeanette was also coordinator of overseas teaching centers in Germany and Portugal. She later developed a teaching center in the Greece School District, and was its director and supervisor until her retirement. Jeanette continues to volunteer at the College at Brockport.



She has also supported students by influencing the creation of more than a quarter of the scholarships provided by the Brockport Foundation. Two of these awards bear her name – the Jeanette D'Agostino Banker International Scholarship and the Jeanette D'Agostino Banker Political Science Scholarship.

For her years of dedication and work, Jeanette was named to the SUNY Brockport Alumni Association's Hall of Heritage in 1984, and received the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award. In 2011 she received the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International's Frederica Hollister Professional Educator's Award, which recognizes a member who has made a significant impact on education in New York state and exemplifies the best the field has to offer.

While much of Jeanette's life has centered on SUNY Brockport and the Brockport community where she lives, East Rochester has continued to hold a special place in her heart. As a member of a pioneer ER family, she has quietly helped with a variety of initiatives in our village. Jeanette recently donated the original painting created for our Centennial in 1997 – 'Memories of East Rochester.' This work of art by Brockport artist Helen Smagorinsky, which depicts special places in the village circa-1955, was used as a Centennial fundraiser, with more than 1,200 reproductions sold. The plaque on the painting reads, "Presented in 2016 to the Village of East Rochester, N.Y. in loving memory of Antonio and Mary D'Agostino by their children Grace, Jeanette, Frank J., Anthony C." The original now hangs on the first floor of the Eyer Building for all of us to enjoy.

Ancient Greek biographer Plutarch said, "A constant friend is a thing rare and hard to find." Jeanette D'Agostino Banker, with her sense of community and belief in the value of education, has helped many reach their potential. She is a friend on whom we can always depend. We enthusiastically and gratefully honor her for her caring, generosity, kindness, and support.

– Anita M. Mance

Photos from the Monday, June 13 Baccalaureate ceremony, at which numerous ER alumni participated and '83 graduate David Dey was the featured speaker, are at [www.tinyurl.com/gsuq8fo](http://www.tinyurl.com/gsuq8fo).

**CELEBRATING OUR NEWEST ALUMNI:** At the conclusion of graduation rehearsal on Thursday, June 23, the members of the Class of 2016 were welcomed to the ranks of alumni. Board members Katie Conners DeVito '86 and Anita Mance '65 distributed brown and white ER mugs as gifts to the graduates.

Addressing the Class of '16, Miss Mance said, "Many people have given of themselves to support you along the way. As you look back to your time in our school, please know you are part of our ER family, and even though you graduate, you remain part of us. In the future, perhaps you'll find a way to give back to our ER community."

*Congratulations and best of everything to our newest alumni!*





### ~ ALUMNI CONNECTION DAY ~

*Jenalee Bates Herb (left) and Melissa Greco Lopes, both from the Class of 2001, speak with eighth-graders in Mr. Brownell's science room. More photos from the day are at [www.tinyurl.com/jq5kprp](http://www.tinyurl.com/jq5kprp).*

#### **and from the first two Alumni Connection Days:**

*Friday, June 6, 2014 – [www.tinyurl.com/pqtdy2z](http://www.tinyurl.com/pqtdy2z)*

*Friday, June 5, 2015 – [www.tinyurl.com/om6jges](http://www.tinyurl.com/om6jges)*

We proudly sponsored our third-annual 'Alumni Connection Day,' for grades 6-8, on Friday, June 3.

After the students started the day with grade-vs-grade games and contests, more than 20 alumni of all ages visited with them to discuss how their ER education and experiences helped prepare them for their lives after graduation, and advised students on how to make the most of their years in ER. That was followed by an awards ceremony in the auditorium (at which the yearbook was dedicated to music teacher Mrs. Mykel Sapienza), then a picnic lunch, outdoor competitions, and yearbook distribution.

Thank you to Tom Quinzi and everyone else who helped organize the day, and these alumni and friends for their time and dedication: **the Hon. Vicki Argento '80, Jim Baglieri '80, Jenalee Bates Herb '01, Al Cohen '83, Katie Conners DeVito '86, Deborah Essom '77, Mark Florack '68, Melissa Greco Lopes '01, Valerie Greco Quinzi '80, Tim Henry '79, Dave Jenkins '91, Aaron Johnston '87, Jennifer Majewski Lesinski '89, Anita Mance '65, Linda Marino, Noelle Morabito '12, Suzette Morabito '10, Rocco Platino '66, Tom Quinzi '80, Kim Romach '00, Don Seidel '55, and Carl Tobin '59.**

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coordinator Heather Kemper: "We would like to thank the Alumni Foundation again for supporting the Student of the Month tradition at ER. This year we were able to honor almost 70 sixth-graders through seniors. The Student of the Month program has grown into a very motivating and effective positive reinforcement tool. Every time the breakfast ceremony is held, teachers, parents, and other family are in attendance ready to cheer on the winners."

**Urban-Suburban 'Welcome to ER' Picnic** – Last August and this summer, funding was provided for picnics for our new Urban-Suburban families as a way to help welcome them to the ER family. As part of the day, students and their companions tour the school and meet other students, along with adults who will be teaching and guiding them. As Principal Casey van Harsel said last year, "As I reflect of the first two days of school, I'm already able to say these students are ER Bombers. I know the welcoming picnic was an integral part of this transition, and I can't thank the Alumni Foundation enough for making it possible."

The Alumni Foundation sincerely appreciates all who have supported us, whether through our fundraisers or donations. Together we are providing our students with opportunities that truly help make our District special.

– Anita M. Mance, Grants Chairperson

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