



The newest members of the Gates Chili Alumni Hall of Fame include Alfred DiMora, class of 1975; Michael Mooney, class of 1978; Dr. Daniel Palermo, class of 1977; Ann W. Caldwell, class of 1961; and Christopher Carosa, class of 1978.

5 things you should know ... about Gates Chili Hall of Fame inductees

By Mike Murphy, staff writer

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Gates, N.Y. —

One is the creative director of an advertising agency. One is a dentist. One is president and managing member of an asset management firm. One is a visiting scholar and writer. One makes luxury cars.

All are now Hall-of-Famers.

Michael Mooney, Gates Chili High School class of 1978; Dr. Daniel Palermo, class of 1977; Christopher Carosa, class of 1978; Ann W. Caldwell, class of 1961; and Alfred DiMora, class of 1975, are the newest inductees of the Gates Chili alumni Hall of Fame.

They were honored at a reception Thursday night, after spending part of the day sharing with students how they “made it.” A formal induction was held Saturday before the Spartans’ homecoming football game.

The idea, according to John Brondon, assistant superintendent for administration and personnel, is for students to listen to their stories and come away with the understanding that, “I can be that person.”

Inductees are not honored for what they did at Gates Chili, but for their accomplishments after graduation, Brondon said. All credit their time at Gates Chili for guiding them down the road to success.

The teachers, according to DiMora, a luxury car designer and manufacturer, supported you no matter what you wanted to do.

“The people here were very, very encouraging,” he said.

In the case of Caldwell, she helped all the others who followed her. She was salutatorian of the first graduating class at the high school, and she and her classmates came in as sophomores.

“It was a good experience, an unusual one,” she said. “It really prepared me.”

And here’s why, along with the inspiration and advice that spurred Caldwell and her fellow inductees onto success:

Ann C. Caldwell

Being part of the first graduating class at Gates Chili High School was her first experience of change, and change led to success — as well as a series of firsts. She is a visiting scholar at the Women’s Studies Research Center at Brandeis University. She retired as president of MGH Institute of Health Professions, and has worked in several roles and fields since she was editor of the school paper.

She was the first woman to serve as a chief development officer at an Ivy League college during her tenure at Brown University, but she also recalls commuting from Boston to New York City by airplane, and being the only woman onboard.

“I’ve often been the first woman, and the only woman,” she said. Change has been a way for her to grow, to learn and to meet new people. “Change is going to happen,” she said. “So use change to expand your universe.”

Michael R. Mooney

To quote the great American humorist Mark Twain, Mooney said if you love what you’re doing, you’ll never work a day in your life — and he loves what he does.

He is creative director at Full Moon Advertising in Rochester, and has won several awards for his creative work in graphic design and advertising for clients such as Eastman Kodak Co., Finger Lakes and Monroe community colleges, Johnson & Johnson and more. He is an adjunct professor at Rochester Institute of Technology, where he earned his master of fine arts degree.

An all-county swimmer while at Gates Chili, Mooney and his wife have two sons.

His career advice includes work hard and “find what you’re good at it, stick to it and be passionate about it,” he said, “because you’re going to do it the next 40 or 50 years.”

Alfred J. DiMora

“American Graffiti,” the movie that took a fond look back to cruising around in classic cars in the 1950s, validated DiMora’s youthful love of automobiles and kicked his career ambition into gear.

“I’m going to build and manufacture my own cars,” he said. “It was the overall presence of the cars, and what was going on — it just triggers you. I fell in love with cars.”

While in high school he was already tricking out his own cars and those of his friends, but left for California and Clenet Coachworks after high school. Nearly 600 of his Clenets, which are considered the American Rolls Royce, have been sold to royalty, celebrities and car enthusiasts alike.

Married and the father of two stepchildren, DiMora also founded Sceptre Motorcar Co. and a computer firm, before returning to cars. He is developing the first hand-built, \$2 million production automobile.

Dr. Daniel Palermo

A high hurdler and sprinter during his high school years, Palermo took the words of his coach, former athletic director Sam Utter, to heart.

“He told us if we worked hard, and put the effort in to what we were doing, we’d be winners,” Palermo said. Looking back, he was right, said Palermo, who is a dentist with Cornerstone Dental in Rochester.

He is adjunct clinical professor with Eastman Dental Center, and received an award for general excellence in clinical education from the Department of General Dentistry at the University of Rochester. He and his wife have three children, and he volunteers with the United Way and St. Joseph’s Villa.

“What you put in, you get out,” he said. “If you put effort in, good things will come.”

Christopher Carosa

Carosa’s parents and grandparents, as well as teachers, inspired him to succeed by encouraging him and teaching him not to be afraid to have high expectations.

He is president and managing member of Carosa Stanton Asset Management LLC, and is president and chairman of the board of the Bullfinch Fund, which has earned high marks from Barron’s magazine and the Wall Street Journal. A Yale grad with a degree in physics and astronomy, he managed the school’s hockey team and broadcast games.

He and his wife have three children. He has served as a member of the Mendon Town Board, been a volunteer coach and adult leader for Boy Scouts, co-founded a newspaper and authored a play.

Someone once told him that he was involved in too many activities, but he didn’t listen.

“I think only the people who believe they can’t do a lot of things, can’t do a lot of things.”

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