FOOTBALL ALUMNI

‘Dinner with the Coach’ Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Former Yellowjacket football players celebrated their 10th “Dinner with the Coach” this spring, an annual event to recognize the achievements of iconic coach Pat Stark. In all, 35 football alumni attended the April 30 event at Perlo’s Restaurant in East Rochester, traveling from throughout New York and Pennsylvania.

A Rochester and Syracuse University Hall of Famer, Coach Stark significantly elevated the stature of the Yellowjacket football program during his coaching tenure at Rochester from 1969 to 1983. Those participating in this year’s dinner were members that encompassed all his teams at Rochester—including some who played during the school record 13 straight victories and No. 1 ranking in the East for Division III.

It was a diverse group, with families from a variety of backgrounds and hometowns, and including former captains, hall of famers, and role players alike, who have since become entrepreneurs and professionals in the military, commerce, industry, education, medicine, and law. 

—PHIL CHRYS ’75

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1993 Michael O’Reilly was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in January to a new, five-year term as one of the five commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission. Michael was nominated by President Barack Obama to join the FCC in 2013 to complete the term of a previous commissioner who resigned to resume private law practice. Before joining the FCC, Michael was a policy advisor in the Office of the Senate Republican Whip.

1994 Hideaki Hirai writes that he conducted his inaugural concert as music director of the New York Festival Orchestra in March at Merkin Concert Hall. . . . Philip Kusnetz was named a 2015 Top Legal Eagle by Long Island Pulse Magazine. Philip practices matrimonial and family law.

1997 Bart Chacchia leads the business law practice in the Rochester office of Bond, Schoeneck & King. He joined the firm in April. . . . Jeff Goater ’00M (MS), ’01S (MBA), ’04M (MS) has been promoted to senior vice president of finance and business development at the Cambridge, Massachusetts, gene therapy company Voyager Therapeutics. . . . Jennifer La Chuisa has launched her own law firm, La Chuisa Law, in Miami, Florida. She writes that she “specializes in resolving international and domestic business disputes on behalf of small to medium-sized companies and individuals, in litigation and arbitration.” . . . Caurie Miner Putnam ’98W (MS) writes: “I’m sending along news of my recent marriage to Eric Ferguson at the historic Morgan Manning House in Brockport, New York. My lovely sister, Stephanie and me from the day. “Also in attendance were Aaron ’06 and Nicole Oleska Hilger ’96, Joe Huss ’98, and Sean Dana ’09. Caurie adds: “Eric and I live in a log home in Brockport with our two boys. He is a police officer and I am a columnist for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. I also freelance report for Reuters on news of international interest from western New York and blog for the Huffington Post. 

1998 Judith Currano writes: “My book, Chemical Information for Chemists: A Primer, was published by the Royal Society of Chemistry at the beginning of 2014. Later that year, I was appointed to the board of trustees of the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, a small nonprofit organization based in Cambridge, UK, dealing with the archiving and distribution of crystal structure data. In November 2014, the Currano/Allen family (Peter Allen ’00, Teddy, and I), welcomed a new member, William John Currano Allen. Bill and Teddy have already begun having excellent adventures.” . . . Ben Judkins, a political scientist and martial arts expert, has written The Creation of Wing Chun: A Social History of the Southern Chinese Martial Arts (SUNY Press).