Welcome Back, RHS!

RHS Staff and Students Welcome Large Cohort of New Teachers

By Matthew Angrisani

Rahway High School’s 2014-15 school year already has one month down and is off to a great start. The freshmen continue familiarizing themselves to the high school and seem to be adapting well to their new surroundings. Meanwhile, sophomores and juniors continue their march toward academic success, while the seniors strive to complete their last year in the high school and inch ever closer to graduation.

A notable and important change to the school building this year is the unprecedented number of new teachers who join the high school: 14 new faculty members in all, including a new vice-principal. Our new cohort includes the following new faculty: Mr. Miguel Bolivar—Instrumental Music; Mr. Kerry Burkhard—Special Education; Mr. Jeffrey Kureczski—Chemistry; Mr. Stephan LaBelle—Strings Orchestra; Mr. Joseph Mudrak—Special Education; Ms. Jensyn Modero—Theater; Ms. Estefania Rios—English; Ms. Carly Romeo—Special Education; Ms. Jenna Scaletti—Mathematics; Ms. Patricia Soriano—Italian; Mr. Gregory Wesolowich—Technology; Ms. Bella Oliva—Chemistry; Ms. Jackelin Santiago—Trinitas Counseling. Our new vice principal, Ms. Tricia Volino-Reinoso joins us after many years teaching science in the Rahway Academy. Ms. Rivera, one of the school’s other vice principals, reflected on the especially large group of new educators and said, “This year, a record number of new teachers entered Rahway High School. Although these teachers have big shoes to fill, I have full confidence in their ability to do so.” She continued, “I believe that each of them is a positive, approachable, accessible, and enthusiastic educator. They all are motivated to do well as they perfect their craft, set high expectations for their students, and learn from their teaching mentors.”

We wish the best to all of our new faculty members for a terrific year. In the following pages, look for biographical information about each of our new teachers and administrators. Have a great year, RHS!

Coach Stueber Inducted into Wrestling Hall of Fame

By Courtney Clarke

Mr. Fred Stueber, RHS’s longtime physical education teacher and wrestling coach, was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame on Sunday, September 21.

Mr. Stueber was inducted as a coach for his “Lifetime Service to Wrestling.” The ceremony took place at Jumping Brook Country Club in Neptune and was attended by about 200 people, including his wife, his son, and two sisters and their husbands. Additionally, other important individuals from Rahway were in attendance, including Athletic Director Tom Lewis, Rahway’s Mayor, Samson Steinman, and brothers Antonio and Daniel Garay, who both wrestled for Stueber as students. Daniel Garay, now a teacher in the high school and one of Stueber’s assistant wrestling coaches said, “I have been fortunate to learn from Stueber, compete for him, and ultimately coach in the corner with him. It is a very deserving honor and a well overdue accomplishment for him. He has distinguished himself as one of the greats in the sport of wrestling as a true teacher and leader.”

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Coach Stueber

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Five others were inducted with Stueber that night, and the process for nominating and ultimately selecting an inductee was the responsibility of the New Jersey chapter of the Hall of Fame along with a committee responsible for nominations. Stueber was actually first nominated two years ago and won induction in his second round. In order to nominate and ultimately induct someone, “they go through the record books,” according to Stueber. He was quick to say, rather modestly, that he could imagine many others who deserved to be nominated and inducted before him, and he wasn’t “even sure if I belong in it.”

Mr. Fred Stueber graduated from Rahway High School in 1970, playing football, basketball, and baseball. He did not take up wrestling, surprisingly, until college where, despite not being very good in the beginning, he remembers, “I fell in love with the sport and got better as the years went on.” He said that a similar thing happened when he began coaching in 1983, after returning to the high school as a teacher in 1976. “I wasn’t a very good coach at first. With a lot of help and support from other coaches and friends, I got better.”

As of 2012, Rahway’s dual record was 341-114-5, and Coach Stueber enjoys a number of other impressive statistics, including coaching six State Champions, a High School National Champion, four High School All-Americans, and two College All-Americans.

Beyond statistics and formal accomplishments, though, Coach Stueber is a beloved teacher and coach at Rahway High School because, as so many in the Rahway community often point out, he is a selfless individual who works everyday to promote good values, ethics, and a spirit of community and altruism among all the students and staff members with whom he comes in contact. He is known for ensuring that the inability to purchase sporting equipment never stands in the way of a student taking part in organized athletics, for always insisting that his athletes perform at a high level in the classroom as their first priority, and for believing that what is more important than being a good athlete is being a good person.

Asked to summarize his induction experience, Coach Stueber said, “It’s the icing on a career. A very small fraternity of people are ever inducted. I’ve been on a cloud ever since. But, you know, it’s also a nice pat on the back to all the athletes who have wrestled under my tutelage and all the coaches who have worked with me.”

Humble to the end, Coach Fred Stueber stands as a model of what a teacher, athlete, coach, and gentleman should be. Congratulations, Mr. Stueber! We are so proud of you and are honored to be part of the Rahway community with you.

Introducing RHS’s New VP: Ms. Volino-Reinoso

By Alisha Cooper

In addition to a number of new teachers to the high school this year, the building also welcomes an administrator, a new vice principal, Ms. Tricia Volino-Reinoso. While new to the building, Ms. Volino-Reinoso is not new to the district. For the past 17 years, she has taught science in the Academy, always, she points out, in Room 318. Additionally, for 14 years, she coached track and field at the high school, noting that one of her reasons she wished to become an administrator at RHS was because, as she says, “I missed working with that age group.”

Ms. Volino-Reinoso is a Rahway resident who attended Lafayette College for her undergraduate education and Walden University for graduate school. Her first job was working at an engineering firm before switching to teaching, which was her childhood dream. She counts among her hobbies running, exercise in general, spending time with her family, and cooking. She emphasizes that she considers herself an especially good cook.

Asked about her first day on the job, Ms. Volino-Reinoso described her feelings as “nervous, excited, weird, used to the middle school, and looking forward to taking the journey.” She continued, “What I am really looking forward to this year is learning as much as I can, adding to the positive attitude the school already has, and seeing creativity and being creative.”

Does Ms. Volino-Reinoso have any advice for her new high school students? “When people work together they often achieve their greatest successes,” she said.

Welcome, Ms. Volino-Reinoso. We look forward to a great year working with you.

Ms. Sharon West, far-right, being recognized for her work with the BT and Diane Mathis Community Garden in Roselle.

Ms. West Honored in Roselle

By Kai Whitfield

Over the summer, Ms. Sharon West, one of our very own safety officers here at RHS, was recognized for work she contributed to a town garden in her hometown of Roselle.

The community garden was started by Roselle residents BT and Diane Mathis and subsequently named for them. On June 6, 2010, a Roselle landscaping company, Roselle’s senior citizens, and students from Grace Wilday Middle School dug out and landscaped the first community garden in Roselle at Anthony Amalfi Community Center on Shaffer Avenue.

This past summer, the Mayor of Roselle, Jamel Holley, asked Ms. West, who is active in her community, if she would volunteer her time to help clean up the garden. The project began on July 1, and during that time the Department of Public Works, members of Roselle City Council, and numerous children from a summer camp where Ms. West works put in the time to beautify the garden. While Ms. West prepared a vegetable and flower garden, her campers made a stepping stones project.

The work was completed on August 15. A city-wide recognition of appreciation was given to Ms. West from the mayor of Roselle and the senior citizens of the community to express their thanks for what she and the residents of Roselle had contributed to the community. When asked what the garden and the city of Roselle means to her, Ms. West immediately mentioned three of her biggest priorities. “Senior citizens, children, and community,” she said. Because of the wonderful job Ms. West and the rest of the volunteers did, BT and Diane Mathis indicated that they are no longer planning on stepping down from handling and overseeing the community garden. Rather, they will continue to work there with the support of Ms. West and other members of the town.

Ms. Tricia Volino-Reinoso.
Checking in with Coach Mo and Rahway Football

By Jefferson Gabriel

Q. What is the season looking like so far?
A. We are off to a surprisingly rough start, but we feel very confident in our future success. The youth of our team has definitely shown itself in the beginning of the season but we like the makeup of the team and we like the demeanor. We feel like we’re going to bounce back and have a successful season coming off of an 0-2 start.

Q. Any particular things you like about this group this year?
A. I really like the work ethic they have. There are not too many kids that are distracted at practice. Everyone is focused. That’s really what I like about them.

Q. Who are the captains this year?
A. Tyler West, Sean Twerdak, and Edriece Patterson

Q. What are the games you are looking forward to?
A. I really look forward to every game. I try not to make one game more important than the others. Often, I look forward to playing a team we have not beaten in several years.

Q. Thanks for sitting down with us, Coach Mo.
A. Thank you.

Cross Country Finding Success

By Tysheem James

The cross country team is off to a strong start. Both the boys and girls opened their season at the prestigious Randolph Invitational where both teams finished in the top five. Corey McGhie is the leader of the boys team, finishing 7th overall. Senior captain Damonique Harris led the Lady Indians. The Indians recently went 2-0 in dual meets beating rivals Union Catholic and Arthur L. Johnson of Clark. Corey McGhie and Odrigue Joseph had a 1-2 finish for the Indians. Kabeer Downey, Rodrigue Joseph, JaTyre Epps, and Deshawne Bunjon rounded out the top seven for the Indians. The Lady Indians fell to Union Catholic, but beat ALJ soundly. Chasity Docteur led Rahway with a solid finish and a personal best performance. Assata Edwards, Gabrielle Charles, Savannah Cook, and Abisola Attilola rounded out the top five for Rahway.

Cross Country Team at the Randolph Invitational.

Coach Kawczynski Reflects on Strengths of Girls Soccer

By Dayana C. Alvarez

Q. Who are some standout players to look for this season?
A. The team has some very talented individual players. From the back we have the goalkeeper, Jordan Rudy, who is a junior this year. We have a sweeper who is a senior starter. Her name is Mia Sade-Greene. She is tremendous in the back, sweeping for us. We have two outside fullbacks, Samantha Valderrama, who plays one side, and Najah Hetsberger, who plays on the other side. Najah has brought some very good speed for us in the back as well. In the midfield we have a number of freshmen—Karyna Vargas, Natasha Bustamante, and Trinity Garay. We have three very young midfield players. On the outside halves we have Alexus Wysocki, playing on one side, and we also have Christina Kallinosis, playing on the other side. Upfront we have our goal scorer, Emily Beenders, who also led Union County last year in goal scoring with 29 goals. Overall, I’m expecting a very successful season.

Girls Tennis

By Jefferson Gabriel

Coach Remley sent us some fantastic news on the tennis team. The team got off to a great start with a 6-0 record. Leading players are Aidah Muhammad, Diany Caba, Tiffany Rivera, Aliyah Shell, Indy Florencio and Karolina Rosso. This is the best start of the season for the girls tennis team in over 25 years. The team made it to the second day of the Union County Tennis Tournament for the first time in over 14 years. Team goals are to be competitive in the state tournament which starts in early October and to win our conference.

Rahway Football

Rahway’s cheerleaders getting ready before a big game.

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Welcoming Our New Faculty

By Kate-Camilla Torres
Q. College/Education?
A. Montclair State University for undergraduate; Johns Hopkins for a master’s degree; currently pursuing a doctorate at Rutgers.
Q. Previous experience?
A. Previously worked in Montville as Band Director
Q. Initial Impression of Rahway?
A. I was struck by the very warm and approachable students. They made me feel at home very quickly.
Q. Goals for this year?
A. I really want to devote myself to this job and help the music program gain notice outside of Union County.

By Aida Rodriguez
Q. College/Education?
A. Kean University in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in political science and history.
Q. Previous experience?
A. I spent nine years teaching history at private special education schools throughout New Jersey.
Q. Why did you become a teacher?
A. I became a teacher because of Mr. Stueber. He asked me to coach wrestling with him back in 2000. I found it to be an amazing experience, and it opened my eyes to the fact that I worked well with children.
Q. Looking forward to this year?
A. I’m looking forward to watching the maturation of my students over the course of the year.

By Kai Whitfield
Q. College/Education?
A. The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) with a degree in chemistry and secondary education.
Q. Previous Experience?
A. I started teaching for the first time at RHS last school year in May and June as a long-term substitute. Therefore, this is my first real teaching job and I am very happy to be here.
Q. When did you decide that you wanted to be a teacher?
A. Ever since my junior year of high school, I wanted to be a teacher. It took me until college to figure out that I wanted to teach high school chemistry. So far, I am very happy with my choice of becoming a teacher.

By Deyja Lovell
Q. College/Education?
A. Kean University
Q. Previous experience?
A. I taught for two years at Carteret Middle School.
Q. Reason for becoming a teacher?
A. I became a teacher because I wanted to change the world.
Q. Experience at Rahway so far?
A. I am thoroughly enjoying RHS.
Welcoming Our New Faculty

By Kate-Camilla Torres
Q. College/Education?
A. A BFA in Musical Theater from the Boston Conservatory and a Theater Certification from Kean University.
Q. Previous experience?
A. I was Theatre Arts Director/Choreographer at James Caldwell High School for the past four years and a choreographer for Mt. St. Dominic Academy for the past six years.
Q. Initial impression of Rahway?
A. My experience at RHS has been nothing but positive. I feel like I have been teaching here for years. That is largely due to the very talented faculty, staff, and students. Special thanks to Ms. Dooley for being a great mentor.

By Alexis Miles
Q. College/Education?
A. Kean University
Q. Who inspired you in your life?
A. I was inspired by my English teachers. They were all memorable.
Q. When did you decide that you wanted to be a teacher?
A. I had a biology class and the professor was offering extra credit if we volunteered to teach a class on bullying in a high school. Because biology wasn’t my best subject, I agreed to do it. I discovered that I really enjoyed teaching high school students.
Q. School year so far?
A. Everything is going very well.

By Jefferson Gabriel
Q. College/Education?
A. William Paterson University
Q. Why did you become a teacher?
A. I’ve always wanted to leave an impact and help students the way many of my teachers did for me.
Q. How would you describe your year so far?
A. Busy, but exciting.
Q. What are you looking forward to?
A. I’m looking forward to watching my students grow.

By Michael Harris
Q. College/Education?
A. Kean University
Q. Previous experience?
A. I held a long-term substitute position in Rahway last year.
Q. Why did you become a teacher?
A. I enjoy helping children learn and become successful in mathematics.
Q. How has your year been so far?
A. It’s been a wonderful learning experience.
Welcoming Our New Faculty

By Kelvin Caraballo
Q. College/Education?
A. Hofstra University and Queens College
Q. Previous experience?
A. I previously taught in Mott Haven Village Prep in the Bronx.
Q. Initial impression of Rahway?
A. I love it here. The students are so good.
Q. What are you looking forward to this year?
A. I’m looking forward to doing projects with my students and seeing their language abilities grow.

Ms. Soriano-Italian

By Alisha Cooper
Q. College/Education?
A. Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Q. Previous experience?
A. I worked as a fabricator (welding, machining) and student taught at Elizabethtown Area Middle School.
Q. Why did you become a teacher?
A. I have always enjoyed teaching since I was in Boy Scouts and worked as a merit badge counselor. I love technology education and find it a wonderful way to apply critical thinking skills.
Q. How has your Rahway experience been thus far?
A. Amazing. We have a wonderful, passionate staff and student body. I look forward to meeting more of you soon.

Mr. Wesolowich-Technology

By Jefferson Gabriel
Q. College/Education?
A. I attended Rowan University for my undergraduate degree and Monmouth University for a master’s degree with a focus on Clinical Practice with Families and Children and Clinical Alcohol Drug Counseling.
Q. Previous experience?
A. I’ve worked as a social worker in various hospitals, including Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Monmouth Medical Center.
Q. How has your experience been at RHS so far?
A. I’ve had such a smooth transition and I attribute this to both the helpful staff and students.
Q. Final thoughts about the school year?
A. I’m looking forward to this school year. If anyone ever needs someone to talk to, come see me in Room 214A.

Ms. Santiago-Trinitas Counseling

By Michael Harris
Q. College/Education?
A. I graduated from Rowan University with a degree in chemistry. I received a master’s degree in teaching from The College of New Jersey.
Q. Previous experience?
A. I did my teaching internships in Trenton Central High School and South Brunswick High School.
Q. Why did you choose teaching as a career?
A. I wanted to work with students to develop the skills they need to become successful.
Q. How has your experience been at RHS so far?
A. It’s been great. Everyone has been very welcoming.

Ms. Oliva-Chemistry