SUNY CORTLAND C-CLUB HALL OF FAME INDUCTS SIX NEW MEMBERS

Six new members were inducted into the SUNY Cortland C-Club Athletic Hall of Fame during the 34th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, Oct. 26, in the College’s Corey Union Function Room. The inductees, who were also honored at halftime of the Cortland-William Paterson football game at the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex earlier in the day, bring the Hall of Fame roster to 163 alumni and 17 honorary inductees.

The honorees were: Edward Coates ’42 (deceased), Clyde O. Eidens ’49, Joanne St. George ’56, James Codispoti ’63, Karen Cornell Funk ’72 and C.B. Bucknor ’84.

Established in 1969, the C-Club Hall of Fame recognizes Cortland alumni who competed as athletes at the College and who have since distinguished themselves in their professions and within their communities. Honorary members are recognized for their long and significant contributions to SUNY Cortland athletics.

Edward Coates ’42
Deceased

A three-sport standout at Cortland, Edward Coates ’42 developed the master’s and doctoral Sport Management Programs at The Ohio State University (OSU), one of the original three curricula in the U.S. designed to prepare individuals for leadership roles in the administration of sports and sporting events.

The SUNY Cortland Sport Management Program was started and patterned in the 1980s after Coates’ OSU example by his former student, Suzanne Wingate.

A native of Ebenezer, N.Y., Coates lettered in soccer, basketball and baseball at Cortland. Senior class president and a member of Beta Phi Epsilon fraternity, he earned a physical education degree in 1942 and enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. He graduated from Coast Guard Academy Officer Training School and served two years aboard an LST invasion craft in the Pacific Ocean. He later re-entered the Coast Guard Reserve and retired as a captain.

Following WW II, Coates posted a 47-4 record as a semipro baseball pitcher. He scouted for the New York Giants, coached the Trenton Giants and played with the St. Catherine Stags in the Canadian-American League. He also took up tennis and became a nationally ranked player at the Super Senior level, eventually winning in doubles at the 1993 National Senior Olympics and singles at the World Senior Games Championships.

In 1947, Coates earned a master’s degree from Columbia University Teacher’s College and began his professional career as a teacher, coach and athletic director at Royalton-Hartland Central School in Middleport, N.Y.

He entered the doctoral program at Ohio State in the 1960s and earned a Ph.D. in 1966. He specialized in and co-authored a widely acclaimed revised text about the facility planning of physical education, recreation and athletics. He chaired the American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance’s Council of Facilities and Equipment. In developing the OSU Sport Management Program, Coates incorporated input from University-wide academic departments and recruited a national student body.

A 1984 SUNY Cortland Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Coates retired from OSU in 1987 and spent two years restructuring and redesigning a Sport Management Program at the University of California, Fullerton.

(continued)
Coates, who died unexpectedly on Sept. 16, 2002, and his wife, Norma Jean, have four children: Leslie, Gary, Karen and Sally.

Clyde O. Eidens '49  
Scotia, New York

The Cortland intercollegiate golf team medalist who helped to establish the sport at the College after World War II, Clyde O. Eidens ’49 enjoyed a long educational career as a teacher, coach and administrator. In 1982, Educative Educator magazine named him as “one of the Top 100 school administrators in North America.”

A native of Chautauqua, N.Y., Eidens had his Cortland education interrupted by WW II. Serving with the Armed Forces in Europe, he received a Bronze Star for bravery as well as the Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters. Back at Cortland in 1946, he led the newly created golf team and was a standout floor tumbler on the Cortland gymnastics squad. Before the War, he had played basketball and soccer.

Eidens, a Delta Kappa fraternity officer, was the Hilltop Press sports editor. He graduated cum laude with a physical education degree. He earned a master’s degree from St. Lawrence University, where he coached the basketball and golf teams during the 1955-56 season, and a doctorate from Columbia University Teachers College.

Between 1949-55, Eidens taught and coached throughout New York State at Pine Valley, Clymer and Saratoga Springs Central Schools. He was a teacher and Administrative Council member in the Bedford Central Schools before becoming principal at Grand Island Junior and Senior High in 1963. Within the Scotia-Glenville School District, Eidens was assistant superintendent for three years and superintendent from 1970 until his retirement in 1983.

In the mid-1980s, he was acting superintendent in the Shenendehowa and Niskayuna School Districts. A former president of the New York State Council of School Superintendents, Eidens received the organization’s Distinguished Service Award. He also received the Frank C. Moore Award from the Capital District Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Over the years, he has been active with the United Way Committee for Schenectady County, Schenectady Community College, the Schenectady County Boy Scouts, the Scotia Rotary Club and the Ronald McDonald House in Albany. His local impact was recognized when Schenectady County proclaimed Sept. 29, 1995 as “Clyde O. Eidens Day.”

An excellent golfer, he was inducted into the Edison Golf Club Hall of Fame in 1995. Eidens and his wife, Helen, reside in Scotia, N.Y., are the parents of four children: Michael, Richard, Susan (deceased) and Jerry.

Joanne St. George '56  
Mt. Kisco, New York

The Outstanding Female Athlete in her Cortland class, Joanne St. George ’56 was a revered role model and a women’s athletics pioneer while creating and coaching a scholastic field hockey dynasty at Fox Lane High School.

A lifelong resident of Mount Kisco, N.Y., St. George earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Cortland and a master’s degree in physical education from Bridgeport (Conn.) University.

In the pre-intercollegiate athletics days at Cortland, St. George played field hockey, basketball and swam in the Sport Day events. A member of the Marlin Swimming Club, she competed in intramurals and served as president and publicity manager of the Women’s Athletic Association. She was a Red Cross swimming instructor and a Raquette Lake waterfront assistant. St. George was active with the Newman Club, Nu Sigma Chi sorority and the Women’s Residence Organization.

St. George taught physical education and coached intramurals and honor squads at South Glens Falls (N.Y.) Central Schools, Somers (N.Y.) Central Schools and Bethpage (N.Y.) Elementary School. In 1965-66, she taught in Rhine Meine, Germany, at the U.S. Department of Defense Schools.

In 1966, she joined the physical education staff in the Bedford (N.Y.) Public Schools, where she remained until her retirement in 1993. St. George coached basketball, bowling, cheerleading, co-ed volleyball, lacrosse, softball, tennis and volleyball.

(continued)
But it was as field hockey coach that St. George excelled. Between 1971-85, her Fox Lane High teams captured 10 league titles, seven sectional crowns and a state regional championship. She was voted the 1975 Westchester Coach of the Year, the 1978 Westchester/Putnam Coach of the Year, and the 1978 Conference “A” Coach of the Year. For her accomplishments, St. George appeared in Sports Illustrated’s “Faces in the Crowd” in 1980.

Fox Lane High School presented her with its 1993 Dedicated Teacher/Coach Award and inducted her into its Hall of Fame in 1995.

From 1972-93, St. George served her alma mater, SUNY Cortland, as a “master teacher.” She is a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Pi Chapter, Educational Society. St. George is a former National Archery Association instructor at the World Archery Center.

James Codispoti ’63
Rye, New York

James Codispoti ’63, an outstanding basketball player and track and field star while at Cortland, led his powerhouse Mamaroneck High golf teams to a 234-103-8 record during his three decades as head coach.

A Bolivar, N.Y., native, Codispoti was Student Council president, All-Alleghany County in football and basketball, the Section Five pole champion and record holder, and a national Honor Society member while at Bolivar Central School.

At Cortland, Codispoti scored 41 points against Alfred University as a freshman basketball player. He later co-captained the varsity squad to the SUNYAC Championship and received that sport’s Red Letter. He captured four letters as a pole vaulter and javelin thrower for the Red Dragon track and field team, which won the New York State title his junior year. A Beta Phi Epsilon member and a two-year residence hall counselor, Codispoti received the 1961 Whitney T. Corey Scholarship.

After graduation, he attended the University of Maryland on a graduate assistantship and earned his master’s degree there in 1965. A year earlier, Codispoti joined Mamaroneck Public Schools as a physical education teacher and coach. He remained there for the next 37 years — 34 of those in the senior high school.

As the golf coach from 1971-2001, he guided six all-state golfers and five who turned professional. His teams won six league championships. He was voted Westchester County Golf Coaches’ Coach of the Year in 1990 and served as the New York State Section One Golf Coordinator in 1999-2001.

Codispoti also directed the Mamaroneck boys’ basketball team from 1968-93. He received the first Frank Demaio Memorial Sportsmanship Award in 1987 from the Westchester County Basketball Coaches Association. His 1975-76 squad went 17-3 and the New York Daily News voted Codispoti its 1976 Westchester Basketball Coach of the Year.

In 1975, he developed the Physical Education Master Plan. During the 1980s, he served on the Mamaroneck High Physical Education Program committee that established the innovative and respected Athletic-Option and Outside Agency Program. A certified New York State Special Olympics Coach, Codispoti was a track and field volunteer/assistant throughout the 1970s.

An active Cortland Alumni Association member, Codispoti was the 1993 Rye Golf Club senior champion. He and his wife, Lois Kornrumpf Codispoti ’64, have three children: Tim, Tom and Lisa ’86.

Karen Cornell Funk ’72
Marathon, New York

After graduating from SUNY Cortland, Karen Cornell Funk ’72 returned to her small hometown of Marathon, N.Y., where she built from scratch one of New York State’s greatest scholastic field hockey dynasties.

Over her 28 seasons as head coach, Funk has led Marathon Central field hockey squads to four New York Class D state championships, five sectional titles, nine league crowns and an overall 285-125-42 record.

Her former players include a member of the USA National Field Hockey Team, members of the Under-18 and Under-16 National Teams, and participants in the prestigious U.S Field Hockey Futures Program. Funk’s Marathon field hockey charges have gone on to play at 17 different universities and colleges, including national championship teams at the University of Maryland, SUNY Cortland, William Smith and Herkimer County Community College.

(continued)
As a SUNY Cortland undergraduate, Funk played intramural softball, officiated volleyball and softball, and was active with the Women's Athletic Association.

After graduation, she went back home to Marathon as a substitute teacher and coach. As Title IX unfolded, she instituted varsity field hockey in 1972 and started a youth field hockey program in 1988. She became a full-time physical educator at Marathon in 1982.

Her contributions extend well beyond one sport. Funk has coached girls basketball, volleyball and softball at different levels. She initiated a sixth grade D.A.R.E. Program, implemented a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, and was student advisor to the Athletes Living Chemical Free Program.

A 26-year member of the Osco Robinson American Legion Auxiliary, Funk has chaired its Education, Scholarship and New York Girls State Committees since the 1980s. She annually volunteers for the Lions' Club-sponsored Red Cross Bloodmobile and serves on the Pastor/Parish Committee at United Methodist Church.

Funk has received the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Award from the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, the Interscholastic Athletic Conference’s Robert Springer Coach of the Year Award, and Sportsmanship Awards from both the Southern Tier Officials and New York State Tournament.

She and her husband, Richard, have a daughter, Cari.

C.B. Bucknor ’84
Brooklyn, New York

C.B. Bucknor ’84, a former standout Red Dragon baseball player, has the distinction of being the only SUNY Cortland alumnus ever to become a Major League Baseball umpire. He is currently one of about 70 umpires working the American and National Leagues.

Born in Jamaica, West Indies, Bucknor grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and attended Canarsie High. As a youngsters, he became interested in baseball as a member of the Bonnie Youth Club, Inc., an association that annually provides organized baseball for more than 200 children in Brooklyn. Nearly 25 years later, Bucknor stays active with that club, having served on its board of directors.