SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame to Induct Eight Members Oct. 11

Eight new members will be inducted into the SUNY Cortland C-Club Athletic Hall of Fame during the 35th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, Oct. 11, in the College's Corey Union Function Room.

This year's honorees are: William W. Mahon '49, George J. McCabe '55, Richard L. Skimin '57 (posthumous), Harry Schwarze '63, Margaret Fisher Strait '67, Donald C. Ridall '75 and honorary inductees Eric L. Malmberg and Judson H. Taylor.

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. The inductees, who will also be introduced at halftime of the Cortland-Oneonta women's soccer game at the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex earlier in the day, bring the Hall of Fame roster to 169 alumni and 19 honorary inductees.

William W. Mahon '49
Murrells Inlet, S.C.

William Mahon '49 earned a reputation as an innovative and socially conscious physical education teacher and director of health, physical education and recreation during more than three decades in the field.

A native of Martindale, N.Y., Mahon earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from SUNY Cortland and a master's degree in physical education from Springfield College.

While at Cortland, Mahon was a three-year starter on the soccer squad and played baseball for a season. He was the sportswriter for The Hilltop Press, a student government representative, a Newman Club member and vice president of Beta Phi Epsilon fraternity.

He began his professional career in 1949 teaching physical education to children with disabilities at the Wassaic (N.Y.) State School. During the summer, he directed the Beekman Recreation Center in Poughquag. In 1953, he became a physical education teacher and coach at Easton (Md.) Junior-Senior High school. He coached baseball, soccer and led the basketball team to the state finals. He was the Easton Jaycees “Man of the Year” in 1953 and that summer, as director of the Easton playgrounds, battled public opposition to integrate the recreational program there.

Mahon became a physical education teacher, coach and department chair at Garden City (N.Y.) Schools from 1956-59. He then directed the health, physical education and recreation program at Harborfields High School in Greenlawn, N.Y., until 1968 and held the same position with Bay Shore (N.Y.) Schools until his retirement in 1984.

Among his many “firsts,” Mahon developed the first summer recreation program for children with disabilities in Huntington Township in 1961 and, for those efforts, received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from Suffolk County. He initiated, designed and ran the first medical symposium for Suffolk County Schools. Mahon designed play days for “exceptional children” throughout Suffolk County and watched the program grow from three to 35 schools.

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Under his leadership, Bay Shore was the first Suffolk County high school to provide girls athletic competition in soccer. He was the county soccer chair for seven years. He represented Bay Shore schools in a successful legal challenge of their Title IX initiatives for girls’ sports.

As the summer recreation program director at the Bay Shore Schools between 1968-84, Mahon created the first summer recreation program that provided busing to and from the schools, including a ferry to Fire Island for swimming.

For nine years, Mahon was New York State legislative chair for the New York State Council of Administrators of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He helped to write the Critical Health Bill and in 1967 successfully lobbied passage of the Speno-Bridges Bill, which provided a mandate for teaching health at the junior and senior high levels in New York State.

Mahon devoted 28 years of service to Kiwanis International, including serving as past president of the Bay Shore and Northport clubs and as New York State lieutenant governor representing Suffolk County. He was the Northport Kiwanis’ Man of the Year in 1986-87. He is also a past president of the Suffolk County Zone of the New York State Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Mahon and his late wife, Patricia, have four children, Mary, Scott, Terry and Deirdre.

George J. McCabe ’55
Oxford, Ohio

An outstanding three-sport athlete at Cortland, George J. McCabe ’55 enjoyed a distinguished career as a decorated U.S. Navy aviator and as a civic-minded, high school instructor of naval science.

McCabe grew up in New Paltz, N.Y. He earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from SUNY Cortland and a master’s degree in education from Pepperdine University.

An exceptional collegiate athlete, McCabe lettered for three years in soccer, basketball and baseball at Cortland. He was an all-state soccer halfback as a junior and senior and was honorable mention All-American in his final year. He received the coveted Beta Phi Epsilon Sports King Award.

McCabe enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was selected for the Aviation Officer Cadet Program. Since earning his aviator wings in 1957, he has logged more than 5,300 hours of flight time.

Between 1956 and his retirement from the Navy in 1977, McCabe had an illustrious career. He was an air traffic control officer in Brunswick, Maine, then the executive officer and navigator of the flagship for the commander of the U.S. Middle East forces. Between 1966-68, he flew P-3 missions in the Western Pacific and Vietnam.

After serving as a flight instructor and advanced training office in Corpus Christi, Texas, McCabe returned to flying missions in the Pacific and Vietnam with the Fleet Air Wing Ten out of the Philippines. He became officer-in-charge of the Philippines-based Patrol Wing One Detachment from 1972-75. He returned stateside and closed out his military career as an associate professor of naval science and executive officer of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Command at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

McCabe was awarded the U.S. Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation by the Secretary of the Navy for his contributions in the recovery of the captured merchant ship, USS Mayaguez, from the Cambodians in the Gulf of Siam. During his career, he also earned three Navy Commendation medals, an Air Medal, four Meritorious Unit Citations, two Navy Unit Citations, five stars in his Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Philippine Presidential Citation and the National Defense Ribbon with one star.

From 1977-96, McCabe was the naval science instructor at Little Miami High School in Morrow, Ohio. He managed the Anti-Drug program and for 15 years administered both the “Toys for Tots” program at Christmas and the school district’s “Neediest Kids of All” program, which provided food and clothing for underprivileged children. He started men’s soccer at the high school and won two league titles. He was also the Outstanding Coach of the Year in tennis.

Within the community, he coached the boys’ baseball and basketball teams and has been an active member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. For two years, he was appointed executive director of the Youth Awards Program for the 8th Congressional District. He is currently a U.S. Tennis Association-Midwest top-ranked 65 year-old age group singles and doubles player.

McCabe and his wife, Barbara Grubbs ’55, have four children, Lynne, Jennifer, George and Kathy, and four grandchildren.

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Richard L. Skimin '57
(Deceased)

One of Dutchess Community College’s (DCC) original “pioneers” who became a legend at the Poughkeepsie, N.Y. school, the late Richard L. Skimin ’57 created its Department of Health, Recreation, Athletics and Dance, started and directed its intercollegiate athletic program and was a tireless community volunteer during his 39 years at the college.

A native of Saginaw, Mich., Skimin attended Bennett High in Buffalo, N.Y. He earned a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Cortland and a master’s degree from Michigan State University.

While at Cortland, Skimin was captain of both the Red Dragon football and baseball teams. He played quarterback and defensive back on the gridiron, where his 68-yard interception return against the University of Buffalo in 1954 is still among the longest in school history.

In 1958, Skimin was one of the original 13 faculty members hired at DCC, then just a single building, and immediately set about establishing the health and physical education department and an intercollegiate athletics program. He was instrumental in the construction of Falcon Hall, the athletic facility on the DCC campus, in 1965.

He coached the DCC baseball, basketball and cross country teams. In 1966, he took over the golf and bowling teams. Meanwhile, he added wrestling and women’s basketball, volleyball, softball and bowling programs. He also served as the college’s intramural director in addition to his physical education teaching load.

Skimin was a founder and president of the Eastern Junior College Athletic Conference. He also served as president of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials and the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the New York State Public High School Soccer Officials.

A golf enthusiast and the New York State Golf Association secretary, he established the John Orcutt Golf Tournament in honor of a DCC colleague who died from spinal bifida. Skimin also co-chaired the NYS Division of American Cancer Society State Golf Tournament. He was elected posthumously into the Dutchess County Golf Hall of Fame and was also inducted into the Dutchess County Old Timers Baseball Association Hall of Fame.

Within the community, Skimin served on the Dutchess County Legislature in the early 1970s. He worked to create the Dutchess County Office for the Aged, the position of county parks commissioner, and assisted in drafting the charter for the County’s Sports Museum. He was president of the Miss Dutchess County Scholarship Pageant and the Exchange Club of Poughkeepsie.

Known affectionately to all at DCC as “Coach,” Skimin was one of just two original faculty members on staff when he retired on May 22, 1996. He died of a heart attack on Oct. 20, 1998. The following year, DCC named its baseball field in his honor.

Skimin and his late wife, Josephine, are survived by three daughters, Kelly-Sue, Stacey and Kristin.

Harry Schwarze ’63
Waterloo, N.Y.

Harry Schwarze ’63, the most accomplished shot put and discus thrower in Cortland history, remained at the forefront of his sport long after graduation while distinguishing himself as a scholastic volleyball coach.

Born in Queens, N.Y., Schwarze grew up in New Hyde Park, N.Y. and attended Sewanhaka High School. He earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from SUNY Cortland and a master’s degree from Syracuse University.

As a shot putter for the Red Dragon track and field team between 1960-63, Schwarze won four State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) titles. He set a school record that would stand for two decades, was the NCAA Regional champ in 1961 and runner-up in 1963, placed fourth at the 1963 Penn Relays, and had a career-best 53-foot, 11-inch throw to take second at the prestigious Metropolitan AAU Championships. He played two years on the Cortland football squad and received the vaunted Beta Sports King Award in 1962.

In the Empire State Games, Schwarze won 10 gold medals in shot put and nine gold medals in the discus between 1983 -2000. He added two gold medals in the Empire State Senior Games in 1996 and 1997. On the masters circuit, he captured the Eastern regional shot put crown twice and was the national champion in 1989. He continues to compete with the Syracuse Chargers Track and Field Club.

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Schwarze taught elementary physical education and coached in both the Bay Shore (N.Y.) and Auburn (N.Y.) School Districts. He then taught senior high physical education and coached at both the Elmont (N.Y.) and Pearl River (N.Y.) School Districts and was a physical education instructor at SUNY Farmingdale before joining the Waterloo (N.Y.) Senior High staff in 1970. He remained there for the next 28 years until his retirement in 1998.

While Schwarze briefly coached varsity football, track and girls basketball, he was the varsity girls volleyball coach from 1975 until 2000. His teams have captured seven league and three sectional championships. His 1991 squad won the Western Zone Regional crown and advanced to the state semifinals. The three-time Finger Lakes Athletic League "Coach of the Year," Schwarze chaired the conference’s Volleyball Committee for 13 years.

At nearby Hobart College, Schwarze was an assistant football coach from 1973-80, assistant track and field coach from 1973-89, and head track and field coach in 1990-92. He was the physical fitness and weight training instructor at Finger Lakes Community College from 1992-98.

A member of the Waterloo Presbyterian Church Choir and a former Bible Class instructor, Schwarze was active with the Waterloo Memorial Youth and Community Center. In 1983, he received the Cystic Fibrosis Service Award after directing the local Cystic Fibrosis Bike-a-Thon for three years. He served on the Seneca County ARC Board of Directors from 1980-83.

Schwarze and his wife, Beverly Tuttle ’61, have two children, Heather and Andrew.

**Margaret Fisher Strait ’67**

Waddington, N.Y.

As the director of athletics and chair of the Sports and Leisure Studies Department at St. Lawrence University (SLU), Margaret Fisher Strait ’67 has guided a major renovation of the campus’ athletic facilities while directing one of the most comprehensive intercollegiate athletic programs in NCAA Division III and two NCAA Division I ice hockey programs.

Strait, a native of Madrid, N.Y., was an officer and competitor for the SUNY Cortland Ski Club between 1963-67. She also participated with the College’s Dolphinettes Swim Club, was president of Sigma Rho sorority and a member of the Inter-Sorority Council.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from SUNY Cortland and a M.Ed. in counseling from St. Lawrence University.

In 1967, she began her professional career as a women’s swim coach and instructor at Syosset (N.Y.) High School. She taught health and physical education at Stonington (Conn.) Junior High for a year before joining the SLU faculty in 1970 as a physical education instructor.

Within the Sports and Leisure Studies Department, Strait was promoted to assistant professor in 1975, associate professor in 1990 and chair in 1998. She co-directed SLU’s Human Performance Lab and is co-author of *Ski Touring —A Winter Affair* (Kendall Hunt Publishing Co., 1975).

Strait spent 17 seasons as women’s tennis coach and eight as men’s tennis coach. She was voted the 1994 New York State Coach of the Year. She led her women’s teams to three conference championships and two state titles, while rebuilding the men’s program into a conference champion. She chaired both the New York State Women’s Athletic Association and New York State Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women Tennis Committees.

From 1970-80, she was head alpine and cross country ski coach for the women. From 1980-89, she assisted with both the men’s and women’s ski teams. In 1999, she received the Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association Service Award. She was a cross country official for the Nordic Skiing events during the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid.

The SLU director of athletics since 1998, Strait has coordinated the addition of seven new athletic teams, as well as all phases of the athletics facilities’ renovation. These improvements include a new artificial turf field, a new football field, several new practice venues, Appleton Arena improvements, and a new, nine-lane outdoor all-weather track, which was the site of the 2003 NCAA Division III Track and Field Championships. She is also working on a new fitness center, field house, and squash and tennis facilities.

As a Waddington Village Board member between 1990-95, she improved recreational opportunities in her community. She has also chaired the Madrid-Waddington Parent Coaches Association.

She and her husband, Russ, have two children, Hawley and Wendy.

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Donald C. Ridall ’75  
DeWitt, N.Y.

The boys soccer coach and athletic director at Manlius (N.Y.) Pebble Hill (MPH) for more than a quarter-of-a-century, Donald C. Ridall ’75 captured back-to-back New York State titles in 2000 and 2001 and was voted the 2001 National Coach of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

A native of Lysander, N.Y., Ridall earned an associate’s degree at Auburn Community College before matriculating to SUNY Cortland, where he received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Ridall was a two-year performer, team captain and MVP for the Auburn Community College soccer squad. At Cortland, he played on two ECAC champion men’s soccer teams under new head coach Fred Taube. Ridall also worked as a resident assistant in Cheney Hall and organized the intramural floor hockey tournament as a senior.

He taught physical education for a year at Oswego (N.Y.) High School before joining the MPH faculty as a physical education teacher and boys soccer coach in 1976. He added the duties of director of athletics two years later.

Ridall’s MPH soccer squads have won 10 league titles, two sectional, three regional and two state championships. A five-time Section III Coach of the Year, Ridall was twice voted New York State Coach of the Year and was the 2001 NSCAA Northeast Coach of the Year. He was named coach for the first McDonald’s All-American High School Soccer Game in 2002.

Outside of MPH, Ridall coached the silver medalist squad at the first Empire State Games in 1978 and was an assistant coach for the national indoor champion Syracuse Blitz in 1996 and 1997. He also coached five years with the Olympic Development Program in New York State and was active with the Eastwood Youth Soccer program in the early 1990s. He has served on a variety of committees at the league, sectional and state level.

A volunteer fireman with the Lysander Fire Department for seven years, Ridall has taught Sunday School for the past decade and now assists as a Sunday School superintendent at Rockefeller United Methodist Church in Syracuse. Since 1983, he has been involved with the Minoa Softball League, having served as president and secretary.

Ridall, an active member of the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association’s Syracuse Area Chapter, and his wife, Loraine Jones Ridall ’77, have two children, Patrick and Cady.

Eric L. Malmberg (Honorary)  
Marathon, N.Y.

During a five-year period beginning in 1986, Coach Eric Malmberg directed his powerhouse SUNY Cortland men’s gymnastics teams to four national championships.

As the head gymnastics coach at Cortland from 1977-80, 1982-90 and 1991-93, Malmberg guided the Red Dragons to 10 North Atlantic Gymnastics League (NAGL) titles. Over the years, his Cortland gymnasts won more than 60 All-American honors. In 1985, his Red Dragon vaulter Derrick Cornelious became the best in the nation by winning the NCAA Division I competition.

Malmberg’s teams won NCAA Division II-III national crowns in 1986, 1987, 1989 and 1990. He was voted the National Coach of the Year in each of those seasons and was twice named Regional Coach of the Year.

The Ambler, Pa., native earned a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education from East Stroudsburg University, an M.S. in counselor education at Long Island University, and an Ed.D. in teaching and curriculum from Syracuse University.

From 1974-77, Malmberg was the assistant gymnastics coach and a physical activity specialist at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He joined the SUNY Cortland faculty as an instructor for three years before spending 1980-81 as a member of the USA Gymnastics Junior National Team coaching staff. He taught physical education at Maple Hill High School in Castleton, N.Y., for a year before rejoining the SUNY Cortland Physical Education Department faculty in 1982.

Malmberg was promoted to assistant professor in 1985, to associate professor in 1995 and served as the department chair in 2000-01. In 2001, he co-edited the New York State Educational Framework for Interscholastic Athletics. That same year, he received the Amazing People Award from the New York State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. In 2002, the SUNY Cortland Physical Education Majors Club gave Malmberg its Most Valuable Faculty Member Award.

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Over the years, Malmberg has made numerous presentations at professional conference and to school groups. He is the author of *KIDnastics: A Child-Centered Approach to Teaching Gymnastics* (Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics).

He and his wife, C. Sue Harris Malmberg '80, have three children, Tyler, Marta and Lucas.

**Judson H. Taylor (Honorary) Bristol, R.I.**

Throughout his eight-year SUNY Cortland presidency until his retirement on July 1, 2003, Judson H. Taylor strongly advocated for SUNY Cortland intercollegiate athletics.

He oversaw a major renovation of the campus athletic facilities, was the driving force behind the College building its $18 million Stadium Complex and was the visionary who brought the 2002 Empire State Games to Cortland.

Taylor endorsed the addition of women's ice hockey and women's golf as intercollegiate sports and he converted 11 part-time Cortland coaching positions to full-time lines. He supported the creation of an Athletic Department replacing the Athletic Office at the College. He persuaded the SUNY Cortland students to increase funding in support of athletics.

Taylor and his wife, Elise, were regular spectators at all the Cortland athletic events and even travelled to Australia in 1996 with the Cortland field hockey team. His concern for Cortland's student-athletes was exhibited time and again. When Cortland's successful senior baseball players had to miss Commencement to compete at the NCAA World Series, Taylor personally presented them with their diplomas at their Virginia venue.

During Taylor’s presidency, SUNY Cortland became one of a select few NCAA Division III institutions to annually finish among the Top 20 in the Sears Directors Cup standings, emblematic of overall athletic excellence.

At the national level, Taylor served on the influential National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) President’s Council.

Taylor worked with College Council Chair Stephen Hunt and state legislators to fund the College’s state-of-the-art stadium complex, a facility that will benefit both the College and community. Then, to showcase the new venue, he brought the 25th Annual Empire State Games to Cortland, which became the smallest city to ever host America’s oldest and largest state games. As part of that effort, he approved enhancements to Cortland’s bleachers, scoreboards, fences and press boxes, having already overseen the new wood floor in Corey Gymnasium.

In 1998, Taylor received the Fraser Stokes Award for outstanding service to Cortland athletics.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Taylor earned a B.A. degree in education in 1960 and an M.Ed. degree in counseling from the University of Oregon in 1962. He received a Ph.D. degree in educational psychology from Arizona State University in 1969.

From 1970-92, he was a member of the faculty at California State University at Dominguez Hills. While there, he served as a professor of educational psychology, Graduate Education Department chair, director of learning assistance and testing, and dean of the School of Education.

Taylor has had extensive international experience as well. In 1969-70, he was a school psychologist with Department of Defense schools in Japan. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Lisbon in 1979, working with Portugal’s Ministry of Education and Culture. Taylor served as an educational evaluation consultant for a USAID/San Diego State project in Brazil from 1974-76 and received a Foreign Service Award from San Diego State for his work. In 1983, Taylor served as a visiting professor at the Boston University World Bank project in Lisbon.

Prior to arriving in Cortland, Taylor had been provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls for three years.

The Taylors are the parents of two children, Nanci and Catherine, and have four grandchildren.

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