SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame to Induct Seven New Members Oct. 23

Seven new members will be inducted into the SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame during its 36th annual banquet and ceremonies on Saturday, Oct. 23, in Corey Union.

The 2004 honorees are: Vincent J. Mascia, Jr. ’53, Geraldine M. DiCamillo ’58, Lynn D. Hemink ’62, Era N. Mugisa ’69, Rodney Verkey ’69, Deborah Pallozzi ’79 and Victoria Mitchell ’91. In addition to Saturday night’s official ceremony, the inductees will also be introduced at halftime of the Cortland-William Paterson football game earlier that afternoon.

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.

New C-Club members have been added annually and this year’s ceremony will bring the Hall of Fame roster to 176 alumni and 19 honorary members. A closer look at this year’s inductees follows.

Vincent J. Mascia, Jr. ’53
Stuart, Florida

A three-sport letterman at Cortland, Vincent J. Mascia, Jr. ’53 went on to a distinguished career as a U.S. Navy aviator, businessman and conscientious owner of a multimillion dollar corporation.

The Buffalo, N.Y., native graduated from Kensington High. He earned letters in football, track and field and lacrosse at Cortland. He was a three-year starter at halfback in football and led the 1951 squad in scoring despite in a season cut short by a broken leg. He was a record-setting hurdler in track.

On campus, Mascia, who was listed in *Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities*, was active with the House of Delegates Executive Council, the Cardinal key Society, the Health Club, the Newman Club and was house president of Beta Phi Epsilon fraternity.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Cortland and a master’s degree in education from Canisius College.

Mascia served as an aviator with the U.S. Navy between 1953-57. He was the most junior officer selected to become section leader with the VF-92 Fighter Squadron. He made 108 shipboard landings on the CVA-38 aircraft carrier Shangri-La. He was assigned to Naval Air Station Pensacola as an instructor. Selected to attend U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command Survival School, he was ranked second among 249 classmates. He attained the rank of Sr. Lt. in 1958 and retired from the Reserves in 1960.

Between 1957-60, Mascia taught and coached at Lewiston-Porter High, where his track and field squads won two regional titles.

He entered the corporate world in 1960 as an award-winning salesman for Pennsalt Chemicals. In 1964, he went to Hysol Corp. and soon advanced to a regional sales manager position. He joined Amicon Corp., a division of W.R. Grace, in 1970 and was promoted to vice president of marketing. He served as president of Vandar Corp. from 1980-83.

Mascia was president/owner of Mavidon Corp., a manufacturer of specialty resins, coatings, adhesives and encapsulants of the electrical/electronic industrial markets, from 1983-96. He employed 60 persons and had sales approaching $10 million.

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SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame to Induct Seven During Oct. 23 Ceremony (Page 2 of 5)

Inc. Magazine selected Mavidon as one of the Top 500 fastest growing companies in the U.S., while Mascia’s operation won distinguished supplier awards from Motorola Corp. and Sprague Electronics. Mavidon received both the Governor’s and the Palm City Chamber of Commerce’s Industrial Appreciation Awards, as well as the Martin County Education Award of Partnership for classroom sponsorship.

Mascia served on the boards for the Florida National Bank, the Martin County Economic Development Council and the Tri-County Rehab Center. He raised funds for a new Catholic church in his community and has generously supported the SUNY Cortland baseball program and improvements at Wallace Field.

He and his wife, Roberta Miller Mascia ’53, have five children, David, Thomas, Susan, Kathleen and Carolynne.

Geraldine M. DiCamillo ’58
West Kingston, Rhode Island

A leader in the formation of scholastic girls sports in New York State, Geraldine M. DiCamillo ’58 went on to coach at the collegiate level and serve as administrator with United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA), the world’s oldest and largest association of tennis-teaching professionals.

A native of Niagara Falls, N.Y., DiCamillo graduated from Niagara Falls High. She competed with the SUNY Cortland aquatic, tennis and badminton clubs available to women students in the 1950s. She was active with the Officials Club, Arethusa sorority, the House of Delegates, the Women’s Athletic Council and the Cortland Dance Group. She co-edited the Cortland yearbook and was a member of the Winter Carnival Queen’s Court.

DiCamillo earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Cortland and a master of science in physical education from Ithaca College.

Between 1958-67, she taught at Sleepy Hollow High in North Tarrytown, N.Y., Marymount College in Tarrytown, N.Y. and Poughkeepsie Junior/Senior High School.

From 1967-76, she taught at Byram Hills High School in Armonk, N.Y., where, in 1971, she had a significant impact on the evolution of girls’ sports in New York State. With the entry of Title IX, she was elected to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association’s Section I Executive Athletic Council. She established the Women’s Sectional Athletic Council, which then created and coordinated the first leagues and tournaments for girls in that region.

DiCamillo joined the University of Rhode Island faculty in 1976. She taught physical education courses and was the head coach for women’s tennis and women’s gymnastics teams. She served in the Eastern Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (EAIAW) Committees in both sports.

In 1980, DiCamillo, desiring a career change, went to work as an engineer’s aide for Hardon, Inc., a Newport, R.I., company that supported IBM in its work with the building of Trident submarines at the Naval Underwater System Center there. She kept active in collegiate sports, though, as the head coach of the men’s and women’s tennis teams for seven seasons at Salve Regina University in Newport. DiCamillo, who studied at the Rhode Island School of Design, also helped as a publication designer in the Salve Regina sports information office.

Since 1992, she has been executive administrator of the New England Division of the USPTA, which strives to raise the standards of the tennis profession worldwide while promoting greater awareness of the sport. In 1995, she received the National Newsletter of the Year Award at the USPTA World Conference on Tennis in LaQuinta, Calif.

A lifelong tennis enthusiast, DiCamillo has been ranked nationally in USPTA Championships among the top doubles players in her age group during the past decade. She continues to offer her talents as the junior varsity boys tennis coach at South Kingstown High and as the assistant tennis pro at Point Judith Country Club. For 15 years, she has worked ticket sales at the International Tennis Hall of Fame Grass Court Tennis Championships.

She serves on the social committee for Christ the King Church on the University of Rhode Island campus, assists with the Courthouse Center for the Arts in West Kingston, R.I., helps direct the Annual Randall Realty Boys High School Tennis Tournament, and works of the Annual Charlie Swanson Memorial Tennis Tournament in Narragansett, R.I. to benefit Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island.

Lynn D. Hemink ’62
Clovis, California

A well-rounded and exceptional two-sport student-athlete at SUNY Cortland, Lynn D. Hemink ’69 became an accomplished, civic-minded college and university administrator in both New York State and California.

Hemink graduated from Williamsville (N.Y.) High. He played four years of basketball at SUNY Cortland. Although only six-foot, three-inches tall, he averaged double-figure scoring throughout his varsity career and was an All-State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Tournament Team member for the 1961 league champion Cortland squad.

In track and field, Hemink, who doubled as a sprinter, captured the New York State high jump championship in 1960, the same year he set the Cortland school record at six-feet, two inches.

An eight-time Dean’s List member, Hemink was vice president of both his senior class and Beta Phi Epsilon fraternity. He was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, served with the House of Delegates, was a residence hall counselor, participated in the Modern Dance Group recital and was selected to Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

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Hemink graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in physical education from SUNY Cortland. He earned a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from SUNY Albany and was a Ph.D. in administration higher education from Michigan State University.

He began his career as an instructor of psychology in SUNY Oneonta’s Education Department between 1963-65.

From 1967-85, Hemink was an administrator at SUNY Oswego. He joined the staff there as assistant to the president and then served as associate dean for both arts and sciences and later professional studies. An assistant vice president for administrative affairs, he became the acting vice president before servicing a vice president for administrative services from 1978-85. In 1979, he received tenure as associate professor of school psychology and counseling.

In 1985, Hemink headed west to California State University in Fresno as vice president for administration and external relations. Remaining at Fresno until his retirement in 2000, Hemink became vice president for university advancement, executive assistant to the president and then executive director of auxiliary services.

At Fresno, he developed the advancement program into one of the finest in the California State University system. He chaired the Athletic Corporation that grew from a $4 million annual budget to a $22 million annual budget. Under Hemink’s leadership, the university built a new softball stadium, expanded the football stadium to 42,000 seats including skyboxes and other amenities, and constructed a $103 million Save Mart Center with a 16,000-seat basketball arena.

After his retirement, Hemink raised hundreds of thousands of dollars as corporate campaign coordinator for the Saint Agnes Medical center in Fresno.

Over the years, he has served on the board of directors for San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, the San Joaquin River Conservancy, the Fresno Regional Foundation, the Fresno County and City Chamber of Commerce, the Fresno Economic Development Council and the Oswego Hospital.

A long time Rotarian in New York and California, Hemink is a former president and still active member of the Fresno Audubon Society.

He and his wife, Ellen, have two children, David and Elizabeth.

**Era N. Mugisa ’69**
Kampala, Uganda

A two-time All-America soccer standout at SUNY Cortland in the late 1960s, Era N. Mugisa ’69 returned to his native Uganda where he has been a successful international soccer coach and a primary driving force for the advancement of athletics, physical education and sports science for the past 30 years.

Before attending SUNY Cortland, Mugisa, who hails from Hoima, Uganda, had already made his mark while still in his twenties as the first Ugandan National soccer coach from 1962-64.

At Cortland, he was an All-American selection and a first team All-State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) pick in 1967 and 1968 for Coach T. Fred “Prof” Holloway’s Red Mules. He earned both his bachelor’s degree in physical education in 1969 and his master’s degree in education 1972 from SUNY Cortland.

He returned to Africa and was lecturer and director of athletics at the National Teachers’ College in Kampala, Uganda between 1970-72. In 1973, he was named sports tutor, the director of athletics, at Makerere University in Kampala. Over the years, he was promoted to principal sports tutor and the head of the Sports Department. He was a lecturer at Kenyatta University in Kenya in 1978-79 and turned down a teaching opportunity at the SUNY Cortland Campus School to return to Uganda after the fall of Idi Amin in 1980.

In 2000, Mugisa has been coordinator of the Bachelor of Sports Science Degree program as a member of the Faculty of Science at Makerere University. The program includes a very competitive intramural program that has been a model for other African universities.

Over the years, Mugisa has created the Uganda Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (UAHPERD), the Uganda Track and Field Athletics Coaches Association (UTFACA), the East Central and Southern African University Sports Association (ECSAUSA), the National University Sports Federation, and the Association for Health and Fitness through Sports, Games and Dance for All (ASHEFIT).

He also stepped in to help keep the East African University Games from collapsing and attempted, albeit unsuccessfully, to introduce American football in Africa. He did succeed in his efforts to introduce baseball at Makerere University.


Between 1974-78, he was vice president of All-Africa University Sports. He served as chairman of the Ugandan Football Association from 1974-78. He was chairman of both the National Soccer Federation and the Confederation of East and Central Africa Soccer Association from 1975-77. He is also a past president of the Uganda Field Hockey Association and chair of the National Stadium Committee.


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SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame to Induct Seven During Oct. 23 Ceremony (Page 4 of 5)

He served on a five-person ad hoc committee looking at rejuvenating the All-Africa University Sports Federation. For his retirement years, he is establishing a private business, Sportsera Center, Ltd., that features a gymnasium for rehabilitation, fitness and testing for individuals of all ages.

Mugisa is married and has seven children, four girls and three boys.

Rodney E. Verkey ’69
Seneca Falls, New York

SUNY Cortland’s first Kodak All-America football player who later played with the NFL’s Atlanta Falcons, Rodney E. Verkey ’69 had an exceptional career as a coach and long-time director of athletics at Lyons (N.Y.) Central School.

The Seneca Falls, N.Y., native was an all-state football player and three-sport standout at Mynderse Academy before arriving at Cortland. He competed for three seasons on the Red Dragon basketball squad but excelled on the football gridiron. The 6-4, 215-pound tight end and defensive end landed a spot on the 1967 Kodak American Football Coaches Association Small College All-America Team alongside future National Football League stalwarts Marvin Upshaw, Haven Moses and Greg Landry.

An ECAC Player of the Week on numerous occasions in both football and basketball, Verkey won the football Red Letter and was named the SUNY Cortland Athlete of the Year in 1967-68. He was signed by the NFL’s Atlanta Falcons and played on the team’s taxi squad for two years. He also competed in semi-pro basketball with the Auburn Lakers.

While at Cortland, he served as vice president of the Men’s Athletic Association and was a member of Beta Phi Epsilon. Verkey, who earned his bachelor’s degree in physical education, taught and coached at Cazenovia (N.Y.) Central, Union Springs (N.Y.) central and South Seneca Central between 1970-74.

Verkey joined the Lyons Central staff in 1974 and remained there until his retirement in 2002. He coached the Lyons baseball squad for five years, taking the team to five straight sectional finals, three sectional titles and a state championship. He was named Section V Coach of the Year three times. He also coached varsity basketball for seven seasons. He led his teams to three sectional crowns and a state title, while posting a 128-29 career coaching mark. He was once named Coach of the Year.

In 1978, he was named athletic director and serve in that role until 2002. He has been the Section V basketball chairman and a Wayne County basketball officials’ assigner since 1975. He has been a member of the Section V Executive Council for the past 23 years and a Section V officials negotiator since 1998.

He served the Wayne County Athletic Association as president for five years and is a member of the Lyons High School Hall of Fame Committee.

In 2000-01, Verkey was voted the Section V Athletic Director of the Year. He was inducted into the Section V Football Hall of Fame in 2003.

An active member of the Lyons Elks Club, he also helps in the community with Youth Hoop Basketball and the Over the Rim Club. He served on the SUNY Cortland Football Centennial Committee in 1992-93.

Verkey and his wife, Christine, have three grown children, Jason ’93, Matt and Andy.

Deborah J. Pallozzi ’79
Ithaca, New York

A four-year standout student-athlete on the SUNY Cortland softball team in the 1970s, Deborah J. Pallozzi built the Ithaca College softball program into an NCAA Division III perennial powerhouse during the past 16 years as the head coach.

Pallozzi has guided her Ithaca teams into the NCAA Div. III playoffs an impressive 13 of her 16 years, including earning a bid to the last 11 consecutive post-season tournaments. In 2002, she coached the Bombers to the NCAA Div. III national championship. Her overall record of 418-224-1 ranks her 12th among all active Div. III softball coaches in the U.S.


Pallozzi has coached the 2001 NCAA Div. III Player of the Year, Laura Remia, as well as the 1994, 1999 and 2000 ECAC Players of the Year and the 2002 and 2003 Empire 8 Rookies of the Year. She has directed 10 All-Americans.

She joined the Ithaca College faculty in 1988 and teaches both physical education and health education courses. She was assistant volleyball coach from 1988-95 for the two-time ECAC champion Bomber squads, She also helped guide the team to a 1995 NCAA Div. III Final Four appearance.

A native of Waterford, N.Y., Pallozzi attended Waterford-Halfmoon High. At SUNY Cortland, she started all four years for the softball squad. Her 7-0 mark as a freshman pitcher in 1976 remains the school record for single-season winning percentage. During her Cortland career, the Red Dragons won the 1977 New York State championship and appeared in the Eastern AIAW tournament.

Nominated for the 1978 Student-Teacher of the Year Award, Pallozzi was a member of Theta Phi Sorority. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in physical education in 1979. She earned a master’s degree in physical education from Ithaca College in 1993.

Pallozzi taught and coached at Columbia High in East Greenbush, N.Y., in 1979-80. The following year, she was assistant softball coach for the University of Missouri in Columbia squad that finished fifth nationally in the AIAW Tournament.

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As the pitching and infield coach at SUNY Albany in 1982-83, she helped to guide the team to its first-ever AIAW playoff appearance. She was head coach at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., before joining Ithaca College in 1987 as a graduate assistant working with softball.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Pallozzi played for two ASA Women’s Major Fastpitch teams, the JC Girls of Syracuse and the Jimmie Girls of Schenectady. She coached the latter in the Atlantic Coastal Conference in 1987-88. She has competed internationally in the British West Indies, Venezuela and Belize.

A highly sought-after softball clinician and speaker in the Northeast, she was a contributing author to The Softball Coaching Bible.

Pallozzi has served as chair of numerous committees for the NCAA, ECAC, Empire State Games, New York State Women’s Collegiate Athletic Association and the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA).

In 1987, she became the first female inducted into the Waterford-Halfmoon High School Athletic Hall of Fame. she was named the Ithaca Journal female Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2002 and the Doris Kostrinsky Coach of the Year in 2002. She twice received both the New York State and the NFCA Div. III Northeast Coaching Staff of the Year Awards, while receiving the honor four times from the Empire 8 Conference.

In the community, her softball players have raised thousands of dollars through walk-a-thons for the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance.

Victoria Mitchell ’91
Cheektowaga, New York

The greatest female scholar-athlete in SUNY Cortland history, Victoria Mitchell was a seven-time NCAA Div. III national champion in cross country and track while distinguishing herself in the classroom as a GTE Academic All-American and a Cortland honors student who graduated magna cum laude.

In 1999, Mitchell joined the University of Buffalo coaching staff and is in her second year as its successful head cross country and women’s track and field coach.

An unheralded scholastic athlete from Snyder, N.Y., and Amherst Central School, Mitchell developed into the nation’s premier NCAA Div. III distance runner while at Cortland under the tutelage of nationally renown coach Jack Daniels.

In cross country, she competed on Cortland’s 1989 and 1990 national championship teams. She placed fifth nationally in 1989 and was the individual national champion in 1990.

Her NCAA indoor track national crowns included the 1500 meters in both 1989-90 and 1990-91 and the 5,000 meters in 1990-91. In NCAA outdoor track competition, Mitchell took first nationally in the 3,000 meters in 1990 and in both the 5,000 meters and 10,000 meters in 1991.

Along the way, she captured SUNYAC titles twice in the 1,500 meters and 3,000 meters, as well as part of the Red Dragon distance medley and 3,200-meter relays. She twice won the ECAC 1,500-meter championship and the 3,000 meters once. She placed second in the nation in the 5,000 meters at the 1990 NCAA Div. III Outdoor Track Championships.

Mitchell, who made the Dean’s List every semester at Cortland, graduated with a 3.72 grade point average. She was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi and the Phi Eta Sigma honor societies and received a prestigious Alpha Delta Junior Scholarship.

The 1991 Hanes Her Way Woman of the Year, Mitchell was named both a SUNYAC and New York State Scholar-Athlete Award winner.

An accomplished violinist, she was first chair in the College-Community Orchestra at Cortland and was named the College’s Outstanding Musician of the Year in 1988-89.

Mitchell graduated magna cum laude with a B.S.E. in Physical Education in 1991 and earned a master’s in exercise physiology from North Carolina- Greensboro in 1994, where she maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

A distinguished athlete and international competitor, Mitchell is currently ranked in the top 10 nationally as a distance runner. She competed in the 1996 U.S. Olympic 10,000-meter trials and made her marathon debut at the 1999 Hong Kong Marathon, where she qualified for the 2000 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials.

Prior to arriving at UB in 1999, Mitchell served as the assistant cross country and track and field coach at William Jewell College in Kansas City, Mo. Mitchell also spent five years at Holy Angels Academy in Buffalo, where she taught physical education and was the head cross country and track and field coach.

In 2001, she was invited to join the Fila Discovery USA training program, a program designed to develop American distance runners into elite marathon athletes able to compete with the best in the world. She has been a member of five USA national teams, including the 1993 World University Games and 1998 IAAF World Road Race Championship in Manaus, Brazil.

The 2003 SUNY Cortland Western New York Alumna of the Year, Mitchell has been an active volunteer coach for various groups raising funds for charitable organizations, such as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Center for the Visually Impaired.

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