

2011 Allegheny Valley School District Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

Michael A. Fortun



(attended 1972-1976) - Michael A. Fortun graduated from Springdale High School in 1976, serving as the class Valedictorian. He graduated from Hampshire College with a Bachelor of Arts in 1982 and received his doctoral degree at Harvard University in 1993. Fortun's career is in academia, teaching at the university level to both undergraduate and graduate students. Over his esteemed career, he has written two books, edited a national journal, participated in conferences around the world, and served as the Assistant Director of The Washington School of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington D.C. He has won the Harvard University Award for Distinction in Teaching, and in 2000-2001, Fortun was selected as one of only 20 scholars in the School of Social Science of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, a distinct and high honor. Currently, Fortun serves as Associate Professor in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A historian of the life sciences, his research focuses on the contemporary science, culture, and political economy of genomics. He continues to represent the Allegheny Valley School District with honor in the areas of education and life-long learning.

Marjorie Ryan Petcovic, Ed.D.



(attended 1953-1966) - Marjorie Ryan Petcovic grew up in Cheswick and attended schools in the Allegheny Valley School District, graduating in 1966. She took her multiple talents to California University of Pennsylvania graduating in 1970. Petcovic continued her formal education by receiving a Master of Arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado and a doctoral degree in Education from Northern Arizona University. Her work focused on reading and curriculum, with advanced work in the field of communications. Petcovic's work as an educator went hand-in-hand with her role as a military wife. She relocated 18 times as part of a military family, working in education at all levels from a one-room multi-grade elementary school through teaching graduate university courses. She authored *Soldier's Benefits Resource* from her expertise in both education and the military to help families assimilate. Currently, she is the founder of TriSon Solutions, LLC. Petcovic has been associated with Literacy Volunteers of America and the National Affiliation for Literacy Advancement. Through her work as scholar, teacher, author, administrator, and business leader, Petcovic has enhanced the reputation of our District and our country.

Thomas J. Puzniak



(attended 1939-1952) - Thomas J. Puzniak graduated from Springdale Jr-Sr High School in 1952. He entered the work world while also furthering his education at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1962. Puzniak rose from a research technician to Manager of Systems and Controls at Gulf Research. Through his career, he authored a multitude of patents and published many technical papers focused on the advancement of analytical and process technology. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the ISA "Fellow" award and three Industrial Research "IR-100" awards. Puzniak went on to serve as Vice President of the Systems and Controls Department for the University of Pittsburgh Applied Research Center (UPARC) and as a consultant engineer for the Allegheny County Health Department where he remains active in Risk and Emergency Management Planning. He has served on several local college curriculum advisory committees, the Allegheny Valley Federal Credit Union, the Boy Scouts, and his local church council. Puzniak has been a contributing citizen throughout his life. He has shown that one person from a small town can make a difference in the world.

Susan Brozek Scott



(attended 1963-1976) – Susan Brozek Scott graduated from Springdale High School in 1976. She attended the University of Pittsburgh, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Rhetoric and Communications, graduating in 1980. She broke into the very tough field of broadcasting, making her way up the corporate ladder in a career that spanned five television stations in four states. Scott worked as a news reporter, news anchor, talk show host, and producer, creating new, original programming for television viewers. In 2008, Scott saw a need for innovative children’s programming and founded Afterschool Buddy, Inc., a programming and production company that teaches children about diversity, health and wellness, and environmental awareness. Throughout her career, Scott has served as a mentor, giving of her time to educate individuals on career direction, overcoming obstacles, and self-esteem. In addition, Scott partners with non-profit organizations to assist in fundraising and educational efforts. She has received numerous accolades throughout her career including Golden Quill Awards, NC TV Journalist of the Year, Best PA Spot News, and Best Pennsylvania Television Documentary. Role-model, professional, and entrepreneur, Scott continues to touch the lives of numerous individuals.