

CENTER COURT

February, 2011

Newsletter of the
Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

A Message from our Executive Director....

As a new year begins and the promise of spring slowly approaches, we pause for a moment to reflect on the progress we have made over the past year. But we stop only briefly because 2011 also brings with it new goals, new challenges, and a renewed sense of purpose.

The updates to our website have been completed and discussions about changes to the Brenda Reilly Gallery at Central Connecticut State University have begun. The Brenda Reilly Scholarship continues to award young girls with the opportunity to attend a summer basketball camp. The outstanding girls' basketball team will again be recognized at our annual banquet. Pamela Moffo, a

2010 CWBHF inductee, was appointed to the executive board and with Tina Gonyea will be working on publicity and promotion for the Hall of Fame. With their guidance, we continue to look for ways to further promote the goals of the CWBHF. Our main goal has always been to recognize those who have brought acclaim to women's basketball in Connecticut and we are more energized than ever to make this happen.

We are very proud of all we have accomplished throughout our 24 years as an organization and a special thank you goes out to all of our members for their help and support. You are always welcome to attend an execu-

tive council meeting or contact individual members of the council for additional information and/or suggestions. Another way to keep up with the CWBHF is by logging onto our website at ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com. We value your interest and support and hope to see you at our annual induction banquet on April 13, 2011 at Cascade Restaurant, Hamden, CT.

As always, we thank you, our supporters, for helping us accomplish all that we have in 2010 and for making tomorrow's victories possible.

Sincerely,

Ann V. Fariss, PhD
Executive Director

Ann V. Fariss,
President/Executive
Director/Founder

Louise Albrecht,
Vice President/Membership
Chair/Founder

Linda J. Wooster,
Banquet Coordinator/
Scrivener/Founder

Tony Candido,
Fundraising Chair/
Founder

Brenda Reilly,
Founder (Posthumous)

Lee Franzman,
Nominating Chairperson

David Strong,
Historian/Archivist

Marge Dolan,
Regional Project Director

Sue Crisafi,
Secretary

Tracey Finer,
Creative Writer/
Newsletter Editor

Tina Gonyea,
Publicity & Promotion

Pamela Moffo
Publicity & Promotion



A New Look For The Hall Of Fame

The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and Central Connecticut State University have joined efforts to put a new face on the Hall of Fame and the Brenda Reilly Gallery. The new display will provide visitors with access to information on a state-of-the-art electronic touch screen kiosk. Prominently located in the lobby of Kaiser Hall, the kiosk will

provide visitors an interactive experience as they navigate through the rich history of the Hall of Fame. The timeline for completion is the spring semester for preview during a very special event to honor Brenda Reilly.

CCSU is working with Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Member Donna Fiedorowicz and alumna Dr. Gale "Gigi" Brown, Jr. on a

fundraising campaign to support an endowed scholarship in memory of Brenda Reilly. The heart of women's athletics at Central for many years, and a founder of the CWBHF, Brenda played a leading role in the national development of women's sports. In honor of Brenda's significant achievements

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And The Honor Goes To.....

CTAHPERD

Ann Fariss, CWBHF co-founder and Board member, and Pamela Moffo, a 2010 Hall of Fame inductee and Board member, were honored by The Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The mission of the CTAHPERD is "to advocate for healthy lifestyles by providing leadership and professional development opportunities that increase knowledge and sound professional practices."

Fariss was the recipient of the Pathfinder Award which recognizes her continuous dedication to the advocacy, recruit-

ment and enhancement of girls and women in sports and sport leadership. Moffo was presented with the High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year award which recognizes her skills, passion and dedication to teaching. The awards were presented at the CTAHPERD Awards Banquet held on Thursday, November 18th, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT.

Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association

Lynn Spagnesi, a 1998 Hall of Fame inductee, and Donald Foust, a 2000 Hall of Fame inductee, were honored at the 48th Annual Norwalk Old Tim-

ers Athletic Association. The award dinner was held on November 9, 2010 at the Continental Manor in Norwalk, CT.

GOODWILL GALA!!!

The 4th Goodwill Gala will be held on Saturday, April 16th, 2011. The Goodwill Gala is a private party fundraiser whose goal is to raise money for important non-profit causes. For more information about the event or to make a donation, please contact Ann Fariss at 203-378-6581 or email at avfariss@sbcglobal.net.

A Piece of History Donated!

The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame recently became the proud and honored recipient of a 1920's basketball uniform. The donation was made by Richard Butler who received the uniform in 2000 from its original and only owner, Rosemary Gannon.



Ms. Gannon was born in 1901 and grew up in Massachusetts. In 1929, she attended Smith College and majored in history. She went on to become a very influential early childhood education teacher at Bennett College, Millbrook, NY. She taught at Bennett College for 49 years and rose to the position of director of the Child Study Department. She was the only one to ever hold this position at Bennett which has since closed.

Ms. Gannon was given the uniform in 1920 to be used as her physical education and women's basketball uniform.

Ms. Gannon attended every Smith College reunion. At her 60th reunion in 1993, she was the only one from her class present. She passed away in 2001 at the age of 91.

Special Recognition

Congratulations.....

The CWBHF would like to extend a special Congratulations to ESPN's **Carol Stiff** who was recently promoted from senior director to vice president of programming and acquisitions. Carol's new responsibilities will include the programming, acquisition and scheduling for a variety of sports on ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPNU. Carol has been a member of the hall of fame for six years (2005 Honorary Inductee) and has hosted the CWBHF award's ceremony four times. We are thrilled to report that Carol will once again be toastmistress at the 2011 banquet.

Congratulations.....

Donna Vavrinec, a recipient for induction into the CWBHF in 2011, has been named the NCAA's softball national coord-

inator of umpires and primary administrator of the Softball Umpire Improvement Program. Vavrinec has umpired at every level of the NCAA softball post-season since 1985.

Welcome.....

The CWBHF is honored to welcome a new member to the Board of Directors. Pamela Moffo, a 2010 Hall of Fame inductee, will assist Tina Goncyea in the position of Publicity and Promotion.

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and pioneering efforts, friends, family, and former players have joined to name the new CCSU softball field in her honor. More on the campaign and how you can be involved is available at ccsu.edu/brenda. Also check the web for upcoming details about Brenda Reilly Day.

In Memory



In honor of Dr. Brenda Reilly, the Associate Athletic Director of Central Connecticut State University and one of the organization's founders, the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame created the **Brenda Reilly Memorial High School Basketball Award** and the **Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship**.

The **Brenda Reilly Memorial High School**

Basketball Award is awarded annually to the most outstanding high school girls' basketball team in the State of Connecticut. The coach and a representative of the selected team are invited as honored guests to the Hall of Fame's annual banquet.

The **Hillhouse Girls' Basketball Team** was awarded the 2010 Brenda Reilly Memorial High School Basketball Award.

The **Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship** provides the opportunity for a young girl to attend a summer basketball camp in Connecticut.

Each year a different Connecticut camp is selected. The recipient and her parents or guardian are invited as honored guests to the Hall of Fame's annual banquet.

Emma Jane O'Keefe from Nayaug Elementary School in South Glastonbury, CT was the recipient of the 2010 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship. She attended Jennifer Rizzotti's Hawk Girls' Basketball Camp in Madison CT.

Congratulations to all the recipients!

Emma Jane O'Keefe Thanks the CWBHF!

Emma Jane O'Keefe, a 4th grader at the Nayaug Elementary School, was the recipient of the 2010 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship. Emma has participated in many sporting activities but has found that basketball is her true passion. She has participated in the Glastonbury Basketball Association (GBA) Girls' Basketball Program for the past two (2) years and received the Sportsmanship

Award both years, an honor awarded to only one member of the team. Emma loves women's basketball and watches every game she can; however, her heart belongs to the University of Hartford Women's Basketball program. The fact that she had the opportunity to attend Jennifer Rizzotti's Hawk Girls' Basketball Camp last summer made this scholarship all the more special.

To show her appreciation for this scholarship, Emma sent the Hall of Fame a very special "Thank You" card.

Thank You, Emma!

Dear Ann Furst,

Thank you for handing me the award. When I saw the award my eyes lit up. I loved being there. I was also very happy to be given the Brenda Reilly award.



From,
Emma O'Keefe

THANK
YOU



CWBHF Will Donate to the Kolinsky Scholarship

The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame will donate half of the proceeds collected in the 50/50 raffle to be held during the 2011 Hall of Fame banquet to the Bohdan Kolinsky Memorial Journalism Scholarship. This scholarship is given to a high school senior pursuing a career in sports journalism.

The scholarship is named after

Bohdan Kolinsky, a longtime scholastic sports editor for the Hartford Courant who died in 2003. "Bo" Kolinsky was a Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Honorary Inductee in 2002. Jill Kolinsky, Bohdan's wife, will be an honored guest at the Hall of Fame's award banquet to accept the donation.

CWBHOF DONATES TO SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE

The CWBHOF donated half of the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle held at the 2010 Hall of Fame banquet to The Connecticut Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The \$500 gift will be used to "help keep the promise: To save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures."



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2011 Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Ceremony

When: Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Where: CASCADE (Hamden, CT)

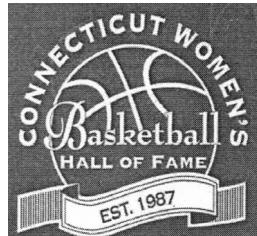
Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Contribution to the Cause....The CWBHOF Committee is determined to provide maximum service to/for Connecticut Women's Basketball. To give you the best we have to give and to keep pace with the increasing demands of our operating initiatives, we would welcome any financial contributions to defray our operating costs. CWBHOF is a Section 501C (3) TAX ORGANIZATION FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. Certain Contributions to CWBHOF MAY BE deductible to the person making the contribution. The CWBHOF recommends that a person consult with his/her legal advisors as to the deductibility of the donation. If interested in donating, please contact Louise Albrecht at 203-256-0930. Thank you.

Don't forget to visit us on the Web.....

www.ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com



The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame seeks to honor those who, in a superlative fashion, have contributed to the enhancement of women's basketball in Connecticut—either through participation, through service, through support, or through achievement.

We Need Your Help!

Archive Information

We are always in search of news clippings, photographs, live action footage, equipment, or any other pieces of Connecticut women's basketball history that we can add to our collection. If you have any such items you are interested in giving to the CWBHOF, please contact David Strong at david.strong@snet.net.

CWBHOF WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out our updated website. We feel the changes and updates that have been completed make the website more appealing to the viewer and easier to navigate. Please let us know if there is other information you would like to see included on the website.

Membership

Please consider becoming a member of the CWBHOF. Your contributions will make it possible for us to continue to honor those individuals who have contributed to the enhancement of women's basketball in Connecticut. The success of the CWBHOF is a testament to the hard work and dedication not only of its founders and board of directors but most importantly, of its members.

Volunteers

If you have some spare time and would be interested in sharing your talents with us, we would like to hear from you. If you are interested in joining our organization, please contact Ann Fariss at afariss@sbcglobal.net.

Updated Addresses

Please help us in our efforts to keep our list of member and inductee addresses current and up to date. If you are aware of address changes, please notify Louise Albrecht at labbz323@yahoo.com.



Please let us know if you are no longer interested in receiving the CWBHOF Newsletter and/or ceremony invitations. We will remove your name from our mailing list. Please notify Louise Albrecht at labbz323@yahoo.com. Thank you.