

1910

2022

Southern Dinner Banquet

HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION
CEREMONIES

Sunday, May 15, 2022

IATSE BALLROOM by
**ANTHONY'S
CATERERS**

2401 S. Swanson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148

267. 861.0391
1:00 to 5:00 pm

ATHLETIC

John Baxter '84
Robert Romano '75
Tim Witherspoon '76



CULTURAL

Gene R. Alessandrini '55
Queen Mother Falaka Fattah '49
Joseph Marrella '61

REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.sphsalumni.com

Purchase memberships, tickets & yearbooks! Stay in Touch!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS/REUNIONS

- **March 18, 2022** - 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm- Class of 1976 - 45th Reunion (NEWDATE)!
Lazaretto Ballroom, Essington, PA
- **October 9, 2022** - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Class of June 1960 – 80th BIRTHDAY BASH
IATSE Ballroom, Philadelphia, PA
- **November 5, 2022** - 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Award of Excellence Luncheon
Waterfall Room, Philadelphia, PA
- **October 21, 2023** - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Class of 1968 - 55th Class Reunion (SAVE THE DATE)
Swan Caterers-Waterfall Room, Philadelphia, PA
- **June 12, 2026** - 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm - The Bicentennial Class of '76 - 50th Reunion

PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

SPHS ALUMNI ATHLETIC HALL-OF-FAME 2022



JOHN BAXTER
Class of 1984

John Baxter is a proud member of SPHS's class of 1984. He entered SPHS as a member of the Motivation Program in 1980. At that time, as a 9th Grade Student, John joined the Junior Varsity Football team. In his junior year of high school, John split his time between the Varsity and Junior Varsity football teams and played both the offensive and defensive lines. He was selected as the Most Valuable Player on the JV Football team during his junior year season. In John's senior year, he was a starting lineman, and named Tri-Captain along with Scott Farnesi and Joe Micali for the Rams. He participated in the annual Thanksgiving Day game against St. John Neumann and had the special privilege of playing in the 50th Anniversary game at Philadelphia's Veterans Memorial Stadium. After graduating from SPHS John studied finance at CCP and then a lifelong career with the Internal Revenue Service in 1986. He continues to be a valued employee at the IRS and currently as a software tester. In addition to John's athletic career and vocation, he is passionate about travel. He has traveled extensively to the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, The Netherlands, Ghana and South Africa. When appropriate John plans to continue his travel to Portugal and British Columbia. Further interests include jazz music and "the oldies" John is a BIG Sports Fan, of our Philadelphia home teams!



ROBERT ROMANO
Class of 1975

Robert Romano graduated Southern in 1975. He was a varsity athlete all 3 years he attended school. As a sophomore, Robert played football on the Junior Varsity and Varsity teams. He was a running back, safety and he returned punts and kickoffs on special teams. Robert also played varsity baseball. He was the starting left fielder, and batted fifth in the order. In the 1972/1973, Robert's varsity baseball team advanced to the public league championship game. In his junior and senior years, he would continue to play football as corner back and running back. He also would play selectively at quarterback where he led the public league in passing touchdowns. Robert had a high level of recognition in baseball as the varsity's starting outfielder and had strong performance at the plate. This helped the baseball team win two city championships in his junior and senior years at Southern. Additionally, Robert was the Captain of the varsity baseball team, played centerfield and batted cleanup having a .485 batting average in his senior year. Robert graduated West Chester University with a Bachelors' degree in Criminal Justice. He is now retired after a 34-year career working for the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.



TIM WITHERSPOON
Class of 1976

Tim Witherspoon, class of 1976 was a member of the Varsity Football and Baseball teams at Southern. His contribution as right fielder and at the plate, helped propel Southern's Baseball team to the playoffs in 1975. Tim's play along with Scott Nash and Jackie Manfredi made the baseball season one for all to remember. After graduation in 1976, Tim became an amateur boxer and had several bouts with such notable greats as Marvis Frazier. He later entered the professional ranks and became known as Terrible Tim Witherspoon in the boxing profession. Tim's professional boxing career spanned 9 years and is recognized as a two time heavyweight boxing champion winning the heavyweight WBC title in 1983 and the WBA title in 1985. He fought Greats such as Larry Holmes, Greg Page, and Floyd Jumbo Cummings. Tim's boxing career statistics are very impressive having 69 fights, winning 55 of them. He also had 38 knock out wins and only 1 draw. Tim stays active in the gym developing young Boxers and coaching them on the skills necessary to be successful. Tim also travels the world and is a notable boxing legend who is publicly recognized on media outlets at professional boxing events.

SPHS ALUMNI CULTURAL HALL-OF-FAME 2022



Gene R. Alessandrini
TEACHER
Class of 1955

Gene taught in eight decades starting as a math teacher at Southern in 1958. He was head of the Math Dept at Germantown and Southern High Schools. Gene has been an adjunct professor since 1993 at Camden County College. At Southern, Gene sponsored the Student Assoc and the Class of 1965. He trained many teachers from Temple, Penn, Penn State, and the Peace Corps. He received a \$100,000 grant for many students and coordinated with Drexel Univ to send Southern's best there for free calculus classes while they were students at Southern. Gene taught calculus to those students and helped them and others to prepare for the SAT. He also created a math team that won competitions in Phila and the suburbs. As a member of SPHS Alumni Exec Committee, Gene chaired the Cultural Hall of Fame and Award of Excellence Committees where he presented the recipients at annual dinners. With two classmates, Gene created audio-visual presentations of *The Singers of Southern High* and *The Musicians of Southern High*. The presentations have been requested often and received well in the Phila area. Gene co-authored books by Dr. Anthony Evangelisto, et al: *South Philadelphia High School: School of the Stars*, Amazon 2021. *South Philadelphia High School, The Campus History Series*, Arcadia Publishing, 2018. He is the recipient of the SPHS Alumni Award of Excellence, the CCC Teacher Excellence Award, and the CCC Impact Award. Gene is "rewarded by the success of thousands of students through 64 years of teaching. Priceless!"



Queen Mother Falaka Fattah
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST
Class of 1949

Queen Mother Falaka Fattah was born Frances Ellen Brown in Phila, PA, 12/28/31. After graduating from SPHS for Girls, she studied writing at Temple Univ, Phila, PA. She worked as writer and editor for the Phila Tribune, the Phila Independent, the Phila Afro-American, The Bulletin, and the national magazines. She and her husband David took the name Fattah in the late 1960's. Queen Mother Fattah founded the house of UMOJA as a publishing company in 1968, and in 1969, she welcomed delinquent youths into her home. She has received over 100 national and local awards for community service and journalism and two Presidents have praised her work: Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Queen Mother Fattah is the CEO of the house of UMOJA. In recognition of her expertise in working with youth, she has served as an Urban Youth Consultant to Arthur D. Little, the office of Juvenile Justice. She is Co-Founder of the Black United Front; on the Exec Comm of the Greater Phila Partnership; Commissioner for the Mayor's Commission on Women and Drug and Alcohol Exec Commission. She has served on countless task forces and Exec Boards. Queen Mother Fattah received public recognition for her work as the Coordinator for the No Gang War in the "74" Campaign credited with achieving significant decline in gang deaths. This influenced the lives of 50,000 youth.



Joseph Marrella
MUSICAL PRODUCER
Class of 1961

Joseph Marrella has been selected to 7 different Drum Corps Halls of Fame. Because of his exposure to creating different competitive musical productions, Joe developed an interest and desire to be involved in live Theatre. He began directing both plays and musicals and was nominated for Best Direction twice by Perry Awards of NJ. His specific background qualified Mr. Marrella to apply and become a Barrymore Awards voter, which is sponsored by the Phila Theatre Alliance. Because of his varied theatrical experiences, Joe was engaged to create a summer program at West Chester University titled "How to Create an Entertaining Production". It was presented to music educators where they earned graduate credits. Joe also created, designed, and presented communication courses at Harvard University Cambridge, MA - Saint Joseph University, Phila., PA - West Chester University, West Chester, PA - Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ - Lafayette College, Weston, PA. Joe also presented seminars on "Overcoming Adversity" to all 22 Sport teams, (both men and women) at St. Joseph University and 300 different high schools throughout PA, NJ and Maryland. He created a musical and video segment for NFL Films entitled "This is the Moment". This segment has been shown on National Television on Super Bowl Sunday for the last few years. Joe has been published several times, and most recently, he wrote an interesting story that was published in a new book "Bandstand Diaries". This is in its second printing. Joe is also the co-author of the upcoming book, "Your New You After 65".

PLACE AN AD IN OUR 2022 PROGRAM BOOK

On the afternoon of our Hall-of-Fame Ceremonies copies of the program are distributed to everyone in attendance, plus all advertisers.

One (1) full page (7.5"x4.5") of Advertisement costs \$100.00

½ page = \$65. ¼ page = \$35. 1/8 page = \$25.

PATRON ADS (Name & Class Year) \$10 (ONE LINE)

Please send your copy and company logo, clearly marked (in JPG Format) and mail to :

Tarez Williams, 14 Montpelier Court, New Castle, DE 19720 –

EMAIL: ifthatsyourstory2@yahoo.com (Due no later than 5-5-2022)

Name _____

Phone Number _____

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed, made to "SPHSAA" (South Philadelphia High School Alumni Association) – (Online Payment Available)

BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER IN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In The Name of _____ Class of _____

Send a check for \$25 payable to the SPHS Alumni Association to

Willie Pollins, P.O. Box 54700, Philadelphia, PA 19148

Or at www.sphsalumni.com you can order a membership by credit card or paypal.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

PLEASE INDICATE IF MEMBERSHIP IS IN MEMORIUM YES NO

BANQUET RESERVATIONS

I'd like to make ___ reservations (@\$50.00) for Southern's Annual Dinner and Award Banquet

Children under 12 ___ @ \$20.00 (chicken tenders with fries)

Send a check to Liz Olivieri, 1709 Packer Ave. Phila., PA 19145

Make checks payable to SPHSAA – (Online Payment Available)

Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Name of guest/Any seating preferences _____

Indicate number of Pasta Primavera _____ Chicken Parmigiana _____ Mahi-Mahi _____

Dietary platters can be accommodated

Deadline for banquet reservations is May 5, 2022

For More Information Contact Liz Olivieri at 267-278-2837 or SAL88LIZ@MSN.COM