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Alumni & Friends Newsletter

December 2025

Welcome to the December 2025 edition of the Salem Public Schools Alumni & Friends Newsletter

The Salem High School alumni network never ceases to amaze, as you'll see in the articles below:



- A \$5 million real estate deal of the Salem Custom House involving three SHS athletic alumni
- **Evan Northrup '07**, who recently appeared on the CW television show 'Penn & Teller: Fool Us'
- **Rhianna (Jones) Hampton '13**, who published her recent paper on immunology and infectious diseases progress for Duke Surgery
- **Laura Assade '03**, named to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Racial Imbalance Advisory Council
- 14 Inductees into the SHS Athletic Hall of Fame

We've also receive many other updates noted in our Alumni News & Noteworthy section below. As always, we strongly encourage you to share your news with us at publicrelations@salemk12.org.

These are the stories of Salem High alumni. Once a witch, always a witch.

Donate to Salem Public Schools

Salem Public Schools is now accepting donations online and the area of your choosing. Alumni and friends of Salem Public Schools can navigate to the City of Salem donations page and complete the short form to submit a donation.



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Every donation helps Salem Public Schools achieve the four core principles of its Strategic Plan: Elevate learning, empower educators, center belonging and strengthen its foundation.

Donate to Salem Public Schools

The Salem News | Salem High Athletic Hall of Fame welcomes in 14 new inductees

SALEM — The smiles and the laughter came easily, good friends catching up and reliving athletic feats of yesteryear while wondering where their time as Witches had gone. The 21st annual Salem High School Athletic Hall of Fame banquet took place Tuesday night at Veterans Memorial Fieldhouse, where 14 former greats were inducted and at least 10 times as many stories shared.



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VIEW GALLERY | Salem High School 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

They are All-Americans, All-Eastern Massachusetts and Northeast Conference all-stars who once splattered the pages of The Salem News. They are charter members of their sports and multi-sport athletes, several who went on to standout at the Division I and III levels and earned places in their college halls of fame. They are second generation inductees and second-in-their-family inductees. One who spurned college recruiters for the U.S. Navy. One who is a cancer survivor.



Salem High School inducted its Hall of Fame Class of 2025 Tuesday night at the Veterans Memorial Fieldhouse, its 21st induction class.

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The Salem News | Salem-born magician appears on 'Penn & Teller: Fool Us'

Salem native, magician **Evan Northrup** (Salem High School Class of 2007), appeared Halloween night on the television series "Penn & Teller: Fool Us" to showcase his signature style of magic, blending storytelling and illusion. Northrup's magic education started on the streets of Salem, where he was inspired by street performers' abilities to dazzle audiences and hold their attention. This would push Northrup to study abroad in college and travel around Europe as a street performer, learning what it takes to create a trick that keeps audiences entertained.



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Evan Northrup, Penn & Teller Pull Off The Perfect Heist!



CAN THEY PULL OFF A PERFECT HEIST??

Item Live: Halloran '77 makes it a Hall of Fame trifecta

Julie (Ryan) Halloran, Salem High School Class of 1977, former three-sport coach at Swampscott High School, was inducted into the New Agenda-Northeast Hall of Fame on Sunday at Woodland Golf Club in Newton. Halloran, who is also in the Salem High and Swampscott High halls of fame, was recognized for her career as an athlete, coach and official. A three-sport standout at Salem High, where she was among the first female recipients of an Agganis Foundation scholarship, she earned a basketball scholarship from Northeastern University, where she also played field hockey for two years.



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Director of DEI Laura Assade '03 Named to DESE Racial Imbalance Advisory Council

Laura Assade '03, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Engagement at Salem Public Schools, was named to the [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(DESE\) Racial Imbalance Advisory Council](#). DESE announced recently a graduate of the Salem High School Class of 2003, Laura will serve a three-year term with the RIAC, which runs through September 2028.



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NE Real Estate Journal: \$5M Sale of Salem Custom House Connects Three SHS Alumni

The July 4 issue of the [New England Real Estate Journal](#) included an article regarding the sale of the original Salem Custom House and Salem's alumni network at work:

- The seller: **Ted Richard '75**, Vice President, J. Barrett & Co.
- The financier: **Joe McCarran '79**, Senior Vice President, Bank of New England

- The buyer: **Shawn Shea '82**, Principal Owner, Salem Hotel

[Read the Article](#)



College Corner

Three Former Witches on NCAA Rosters This Winter

Junior **Amayah McConney '23** has emerged a starter on Salem State's women's basketball team and has put together averages of 7.6 points and 5.7 rebounds. Ms. McConney has enjoyed season highs of 13 points in losses to Johnson & Wales (76-51) and Emerson College (68-57) and 13 rebounds in a 58-55 win over Nichols College.



Andrea Bertini '92, in her 21st season as the Westfield State University women's basketball coach, has the Owls off to a 7-3 start this season. The Owls won five of their first six games before going 2-2 in December, highlighting with a 75-54 win over Rivier University and a 74-70 win over Sage College.

Miguel Arcila '25, a freshman on the Bridgewater State University wrestling team, earned his first collegiate win Nov. 8 at the Roger Williams Invitational with a 6-2 win over Gavin McKenna of Roger Williams in the 149-pound weight class. Most recently, Mr. Arcila went 2-2 at the Messiah Petrofes Invitational Dec. 5-6 with wins over Seamus Harnett (22-6) of Springfield College and Horatio Bowen (8-3) of Averett College. At the Roger Williams Scott Viera Open Dec. 13, Mr. Arcila went 1-2, highlighting with a 25-10 decision over Tanner Kamuda of New England College.



Amaya McConney '23



Andrea Bertini '92



Miguel Arcila '25

Former Witches Lead Curry Football, Enjoy Successful Fall Season

The Curry College football team improved from 4-6 in 2024 to 8-3 in 2025 with the help of four former witches: sophomores **Shane Field**, **Eli Vasquez-Bastardo**, **Albert Pujolz** and freshman **Javien Ramos**. Named to the All-Conference New England Second Team, Mr. Field led the Colonels

with 86 tackles (58 solo, 26 assisted, 10 for loss) while Mr. Vasquez-Bastardo added 42 (23-19) and Mr. Pujolz 34 (19-15). Mr. Ramos saw action in three games.

Senior **Presley Shairs '22** led the Salem State women's volleyball team in blocks this season with 40 (20 solo), along with 2.8 kills per set as the Vikings went 10-15 overall and 3-5 in the MASCAC. Ms. Shairs highlighted her senior season with a season-high 16 kills and four blocks in a 3-1 win over Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.



Samantha Agno '25 enjoyed a stellar freshman season with the Salem State women's soccer team this fall as she scored two goals in 17 appearances (one start). The Vikings went 8-7-3 overall (4-4-0 in the MASCAC), and ended the season with a 3-2 shootout loss following a 1-1 deadlock against Framingham State in the MASCAC Tournament quarterfinal...**Chris Qirjazi '23**, a junior on the Saint Michael's College men's soccer team, saw action in nine matches with one start for the Purple Knights, which recently capped their season at 8-6-3 overall and 4-3-2 in the rigorous Northeast-10 Conference. Mr. Qirjazi scored one goal in a 7-0 victory over Daemen College.

Junior **Isabella Cunha '23** saw action in 10 games this season for the Wentworth Institute of Technology women's soccer team, which finished the year 7-5-7 overall and 2-5-3 in Conference New England. Ms. Cunha chipped in one goal and two assists this season...Sophomore **Walbee Pierre '22** started six of 13 matches for the Framingham State University men's soccer team this season after transferring from Dean College. The Rams struggled to 5-10-3 overall and 2-6-0 in the MASCAC...Sophomore **Malcolm Edwards '24** made 10 starts in net with the Fitchburg State University men's soccer team, which went 4-10-4 overall and 1-4-3 in the MASCAC...Junior **Jonathan Wasserman '23** highlighted the fall with an 81 to help the Worcester State golf team place fifth (among seven teams) at the Westfield State Brett Williamson Invitational Sept. 23.

[Visit Salem High Schools' full list](#) of former Witches currently on NCAA rosters.



Eli Vasquez-Bastardo '24



Presley Shairs '22



Samantha Agno '25

Alumni News and Noteworthy

SHS alumni were abound at the recent Salem Technical Institute Fall 2025 Cohort graduation ceremony, which awarded entry level certifications in Automotive Technology and Building and

Property Maintenance. **Jayden Bueno '25**, in his first year as an accelerated service technician at Acura Peabody, completed the 12-week Automotive Technology course with perfect attendance and served as the ceremony's guest speaker. He joined SHS alumni **Alex Cepeda**, **Robert Santana Pena**, and **Aiden Nelson** in the automotive cohort while **Brandon Caliri '13** completed the STI Building and Property Maintenance 12-week course.



Rhianna (Jones) Hampton '13, a lab analyst at Duke Surgery in Raleigh, N.C, recently published 'Functional Reprogramming of Peripheral Eosinophils in Lentivirus-Infected Rhesus Macaques' for research that her lab has conducted for infectious disease and immunology at Duke University. Ms. Hampton's paper focuses on eosinophils and a new technique for understanding and isolating them.

Natalie Wessell '22, a senior at the University of Massachusetts, spent her spring semester of her junior year studying in Florence, Italy. A dual major in psychology and biology, Ms. Wessell is an Education Abroad Peer Advisor at UMass. [Find out more about her semester abroad here.](#)

Michael Brickley '00, is currently an executive aide to Rear Admiral **Jacquelyn "Jackie" McClelland**, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Navy Supply Systems Command. Both Mr. Brickley and Adm. McClelland [visited Salem High School in September](#) to meet with more than 30 JROTC students and prospective JROTC students to discuss the many benefits and pathways of military careers.

Nany Medrano '19 continues to make her mark in the community and in cheerleading, currently serving as the coach for Salem Youth Cheerleading as well as the Salem High School Cheer team, where her own journey began. In 2023, Ms. Medrano became the first coach in Salem history to bring her [Salem Youth Cheerleading](#) team to nationals in Orlando, Florida, prior to which it achieved first place finishes at State and Regional Championships before earning the opportunity to compete on the national stage. In addition to coaching, Nany continues to pursue her own athletic career as a member of the NSE Level 4 cheer team, which competes at the World Cheerleading Competition at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Center.

Evan Le '13 is currently the founder and CEO of [Skybound Fitness](#) in Malden, Mass., which he founded in 2024, and works alongside **Cat Twomey '13**. Mr. Le is a 2018 graduate of the University of Southern California.

Submit your news to: publicrelations@salemk12.org



Salem High School Alumni

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