

## **2009 Inductions:**

**Kenneth Riegel** is a world-renowned tenor who has appeared in opera, concerts, and recitals all over the world. He began his career in 1965 at the Santa Fe Opera and has since performed frequently at the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Opera as well as operas in Chicago, San Francisco, Vienna, Salzburg, Rome, La Scala in Milan, Florence, Bologna, London, Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Madrid, Barcelona, Athens, Moscow, Geneva, and Brussels.

Mr. Riegel has appeared in the film versions of *Don Giovanni* and *Boris Godunov* and has won several Grammy awards for his recordings as well as other international music awards. He has given master classes in voice in the United States and throughout Europe.

Ken Riegel began his musical education at West Chester and continued his studies at the Manhattan School of Music and the Metropolitan Opera Studio. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from Saint Bonaventure University in 2008

**Patrick Gelsinger** heads EMC Information Infrastructure Products as its President and Chief Operating Officer. Previously, he held various executive and technical positions for Intel Corporation, including Senior Vice President and Co-General Manager of Intel's Digital Enterprise group, Chief Technology Officer, and head of Intel's Desktop Products Group. He was first ever CTO, the youngest Vice-President in Intel's history, and he holds six patents in the areas of computer architecture and communications. He led seminal programs for Intel including the 80386, 80486, Pentium Pro and most recently the Nehalem micro-processor.

During his years at Conrad Weiser, Mr. Gelsinger attended classes at the Berks Career and Technology Center and concentrated his study on electronics. Mr. Gelsinger earned an associate's degree from Lincoln Technical Institute, a bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University, and a master's degree from Stanford University in electrical engineering. William Jessup University awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in 2008.

## **2010 Inductions:**

**Colonel Thomas M. Schnee** served in the Air Force for 28 years, retiring in 2007. As a Distinguished Graduate of navigator training in 1980, he began his career as an F-111 Weapons Systems Officer. In 1983 he was selected for pilot training and again was a Distinguished Graduate. By the end of his career he was a command pilot with over 2,900 flight-hours in the F-111, F-15, AT-38 and A-10; had flown several armed reconnaissance missions over Iraq; and had served as an operations officer, squadron commander and operations group deputy commander. He also served on several headquarter staffs. While assigned to 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force, he coordinated airlift and sealift for 20,000 people after the catastrophic eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. As an Air Force Crisis Action Team Director, he established an alternate command center following the Sept. 11 attacks ... and during the 2002 Iraqi War, he directed NATO's "first-ever" Article IV defense of a country. After retirement, he became the Chief of Current Operations for 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force Headquarters.

Colonel Schnee graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1975 where he wrestled, played football and baseball. He went on to Grove City College, graduating in 1979 where he also played baseball, was the captain of the wrestling team and was a member of the AFROTC.

**Harvey B. Manbeck**, a registered Professional Engineer, is a nationally and internationally known authority in Agricultural Engineering and Wood Structural Engineering. His primary areas of expertise are agricultural building systems and wood structural design.

He began an engineering, teaching and research career that would span 40+ years in the 1970s at the University of Georgia and The Ohio State University. In 1980 he joined the engineering faculty at Penn State University, and he was named a Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Engineering in 1996. While at Penn State he taught numerous undergraduate and graduate engineering courses including engineering mechanics, agricultural building design, design of wood structures, and research methods in engineering. Dr. Manbeck is known for his research in building energy efficiency, structural loads in grain storage facilities, timber bridge design, post-frame building systems, and ventilation of agricultural buildings. He has published over 100 refereed articles in professional engineering journals plus 240 other technical articles on his teaching and research projects. His outstanding teaching and research has been recognized by Penn State University, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, the Forest Products Society, and the National Frame Building Association. In addition to teaching at Penn State, Dr. Manbeck served as a visiting professor in China and Canada, and most recently as Technical Advisor for the National Frame Building Association.

Harvey B. Manbeck graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1959. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Penn State and his PH. D. in Engineering from Oklahoma State University.

## **2011 Inductions:**

**Andrew H. Knoll** is an internationally recognized scientist who is the Fisher Professor of Natural History at Harvard University. His research focuses on the early evolution of life, Precambrian environmental history, and, especially, the interconnections between the two.

Dr. Knoll taught for five years at Oberlin College and has been a professor at Harvard University since 1982. In addition to many published articles, he wrote the book, *Life on a Young Planet*, which received the Phi Beta Kappa Book Award in Science in 2003. He was recognized by *Time Magazine* in 2001 as one of the top scientists in America.

Professor Knoll has served on the board of the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution), the United States Board of Earth Science and Resources, the U.S. Space Science Board, and the Advisory Council of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. He currently serves on the science team for NASA's MER mission to Mars.

Professor Knoll's honors include the Schuchert Award of the Paleontological Society, the Walcott Medal of the National Academy of Sciences, the Moore Medal of the Society for Sedimentary Geology, the Paleontological Society Medal, and the Wollaston Medal of the Geological Society of London. Andrew Knoll is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society.

Andrew H. Knoll graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1969. He received his bachelor's degree in Geology from Lehigh University in 1973 and his PhD, also in Geology, from Harvard in 1977.

**El Roy P. Master** was an officer in World War II and was distinguished for his service in the Army in Africa and Europe. From 1957-1968 he was President of Textile Machine Works, which for part of the time was the largest manufacturer of knitting machinery in the United States.

Mr. Master earned a bronze star, World War II Victory Medal, European-African Middle Eastern campaign medal with three bronze battle stars and a bronze arrowhead for his service during World War II. He served briefly in Germany, was assigned to Ft. Bliss in Texas to train troops, and then worked in the office of the Assistant Secretary of War in Washington, D.C. He retired with the rank of Major.

El Roy Master worked for 22 years at Textile Machine Works (TMW) and served the last 11 years as president (1957-1968). In 1958, Textile Machine Works turned its educational department, the Wyoming Polytechnic Institute, over to Penn State University. It eventually evolved to become Penn State Berks. Mr. Master retired from TMW in 1968, when the business was sold to North American Rockwell. He served on the board of American Bank and was a trustee of Kutztown State Teachers College. He and his family have generously supported the community, as he felt a strong devotion to Robesonia. An avid golfer, he shot eight holes-in-one during his lifetime. He also enjoyed traveling, hunting, and fishing. He died in November of 2008.

El Roy P. Master graduated from Robesonia High School in 1935 and the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1942.

## **2012 Inductions:**

**Earl W. Ibach** is a renowned local historian for the Womelsdorf area and author of several books on the region. He is a native of Womelsdorf who demonstrates his civic pride and civic responsibility based on a profound respect for local history. He is without peer in terms of his quest, concern, labours, and loyalty to the Tulpehocken area.

Mr. Ibach has been very involved in local community organizations including serving on the Womelsdorf Borough Council, Planning Commission, Swimming Pool Association, Optimists Club, Church Consistory, VFW, Cemetery Board, and Womelsdorf High School Alumni Association. Mr. Ibach spent three years serving in the military during WWII.

Mr. Ibach founded the Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society in 1969 and has served as president, treasurer and curator of the Society which now has over 450 members residing in 35 states. The library is visited by people from around the world to research the genealogical records and local artifacts. Mr. Ibach also was the editor of the newsletter, "The Tattler", for 25 years.

Mr. Ibach is also a popular speaker who has addressed many groups on local history.

In 1976, Earl Ibach published his first book on local history, *The Hub of the Tulpehocken*, and later followed that with *Marching Through the Tulpehocken* (1989) and *Tulpehocken Cigarama* (2006). He also published a history of Zion UCC Church in 1997.

**Dr. Steve Miller** is a neuropsychologist whose research career has been based on the assessment and treatment of developmental language and reading disorders.

Dr. Miller was a co-founder of Scientific Learning Corporation, a neuroscience-based education technology company. He is now the Global Director of Neuroscience for Nielsen NeuroFocus, a California-based subsidiary of the Nielsen Company, which combines research in neuroscience with marketing and consulting practices. Some of his company's clients include Coca-Cola, Proctor & Gamble and CBS. He has conducted research studies in more than 60 countries around the world.

Dr. Miller is an author or co-author on more than 100 publications including 17 commercial software programs and 43 U.S. patents. His work was recognized in 1996 by Discovery Magazine in their annual Awards for technology innovations. In 2000 he was a recipient of the Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award in medicine. Dr. Miller has worked with several research projects examining the impact of reading and language arts curriculum on academic achievement within public schools. He's currently working on neuroscience-based evaluation and remediation programs to improve our understanding of human perception, learning, and decision-making.

Dr. Steve Miller graduated from Conrad Weiser in 1981 where he wrestled, and played football and baseball. He was involved in numerous service clubs and organizations at Conrad Weiser as well. He completed his undergraduate education at Bloomsburg University, his master's degree at the University of Hartford, and his doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. Miller attended Rutgers University for his postdoctoral training at the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience.

## **2012 Inductions (continued):**

**Burt D. Webber, Jr.** is one of the world's leading experts on search and recovery of historic shipwrecks of the Spanish Colonial period in the New World. His most significant find occurred in 1978 when he led the expedition that discovered the Spanish galleon "Nuestra Señora de la Concepcion," lost in 1641. The recoveries, worth 50 million dollars today, are housed in the national museums of the Dominican Republic.

For the past 50 years, he has participated and led expeditions in quest of historic shipwrecks in Florida, as well as in Bahamian and Caribbean waters.

Besides the Concepcion discovery, 13 other shipwrecks were found and their locations plotted out on the Silver Bank, and three early 16<sup>th</sup> century caravel "impact" sites discovered off of Isla Saona and Catalinita Reef. Overall, Webber's explorations in the Dominican Republic have resulted in the discovery of no less than 32 shipwreck sites that have been recorded, plotted, dated and turned over to the country's Submarine Archaeological Recovery Commission.

Webber's search and recovery operations revolutionized historic shipwreck exploration and salvage. He introduced sophisticated new underwater magnetometer systems and housings, and earned a reputation as a meticulous researcher and generally brought shipwreck exploration and salvage to a high new state of the art. Still very active in historic shipwreck pursuits, Webber is also in demand as a lecturer and authority on at-sea search and recovery methods. He is considered a leader of a new generation of seagoing historians, part adventurer, researcher and "technologist". Webber served as technical consultant and innovator in the development of new proto-type diver operated G-858M and G-882 Cesium Magnetometers with Geometrics, Inc., the world's leading manufacturer of cesium and proton magnetometers.

Burt D. Webber, Jr. graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1960. He graduated from the Diver's Training Academy in 1961 and has been involved in maritime archeological work since that time

## **2013 Inductees:**

**Mr. Robert “Bob” Gerhart** is an entrepreneur, newspaperman, public relations executive and politician.

Mr. Gerhart was a journalist for *The Reading Times* for ten years, editor of a weekly labor newspaper, *The New Era*, for almost thirty years and did public relations for AAA including producing its publication *On the Road* for fifty-six years.

Bob created his own public relations firm, Roberts & Company, in the early 1940's and serviced prominent businesses and labor unions in the Reading area as well as candidates for local and state political office. He managed campaigns for Congressman George M. Rhodes from 1948 to 1968 and served as his Berks County representative in 1949. He also was public relations director for the City of Reading. Bob served as a vice president of the International Labor Press Association for 10 years.

Bob embarked on his own political career serving as State Representative for one term (1966-1968) and one term as State Senator from 1968 to 1972. In the Senate he was elected Secretary of the Democratic Caucus. He was appointed by Gov. Milton J. Shapp as executive director of the State Public School Building Authority and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Facilities Authority for eight years. In the latter position, Bob was credited with salvaging Point Park College (now University) in Pittsburgh from bankruptcy. He received honorary doctorates from Point Park College and Albright College.

As a multi-tasker, Bob owned the Diamond Beach Resort at Wildwood, New Jersey for 20 years. He built the Tahiti Motel and Owned Crest Tavern, plus three dance clubs—Playpen, Oasis, and Cheers. He also built a club in Naples, Florida and owned two more entertainment centers in New York state. He is co-owner of Sierra Grille, a restaurant in Jacksonville, Florida.

Bob created Suburban Cable TV Co. in 1967, bringing cable to communities around Reading. He later expanded his company into the city of Reading and eventually sold it to a subsidiary of Time-Life, Inc. In addition he was a co-founder of Birdsboro Blacktop Co.

Robert Gerhart graduated from Robesonia High School in 1937 and Albright College in 1941. In 2004 he and his wife donated 1.5 million dollars to Albright College to endow a faculty chair in communications.

**Mary Jane Fogal Ferrell** is a nurse educator who has developed programs for educating nurses in Ghana, New Mexico, Texas and Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ferrell served as a nurse/missionary in Ghana for three years and at a mission school in New Mexico for four years, teaching residents to become nurses. From 1975-1980 she headed a project in New Mexico to articulate nursing education.

After working at the University of New Mexico while completing her doctorate in adult education, Dr. Ferrell spent a year as Chairperson of the Department of Nursing at the University of Albuquerque. She moved to El Paso, Texas and was the Director of Continuing Education at the College of Nursing and Allied Health at the University of Texas at El Paso. In 1990, Mrs. Ferrell returned to Pennsylvania and was Director, Nursing Staff Development, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Assistant Dean for Continuing Education, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania. After retiring in 1995 she has continued as a consultant in Nursing Education.

Dr. Ferrell served as President of the New Mexico Nurses Association for two years and as Chairperson of the American Nurses Association Council of Continuing Education and Staff Development. She received an Honorary Award from the New Mexico Nurses Association in 1978 and received a Legend of Nursing Award from New Mexico in 2004. She was also named Delaware Nurse of the Year in 1998.

Mary Jane Fogal Ferrell graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1956. She received her nursing degree in 1959 at Lankenau School of Nursing; her BSN from Wilkes, her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania, and her Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

## **2014 Inductees:**

**Dr. Amy J. C. Cuddy** is a social psychologist and Hellman Faculty Fellow at the Harvard Business School in Boston.

Dr. Cuddy's area of expertise is in Social Psychology and she studies how we perceive and are influenced by other people. Her research has been published in top academic journals such as *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* and *Science*.

Dr. Cuddy has appeared on national TV including the Today Show and CNN discussing her research. Her inspirational TED talk (an intellectual and motivational online speech ) was one of the most viewed TED talks of all time. Her research has been covered in leading news outlets such as the New York Times, TIME, Boston Globe and the Wall Street Journal.

Her honors include being named as a *Young Global Leader* by the World Economic Forum in 2014; listed as one of *50 Women Who Are Changing The World* by Business Insider in 2013; listed by TIME Magazine as a Game Changer in 2012; and receiving the Rising Star Award from the Association for Psychological Science in 2011.

Amy Casselberry Cuddy graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1990, received her BA from the University of Colorado in 1998, her MA from Princeton University in 2003 and her PhD from Princeton University in 2005. Prior to her current career at Harvard University she also taught at Rutgers University and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

**Michael Firestine** is a farmer as well as a banker who specializes in agricultural interests.

Mr. Firestine is the chairman of the Pennsylvania Farm Show committee. Thanks to his work on this committee, the Pennsylvania Farm Show has become the largest agriculture show under roof in the United States. He has also held various other agriculture leadership positions including the following: Beef Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman of the Friends of the Farm Show Foundation, Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation, and Treasurer of the Keystone International Livestock Exposition, the largest livestock show in the Eastern United States. He is also a commissioner on the Pennsylvania Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission. In 2003, he was inducted into the Pennsylvania Livestock Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Firestine has also been active in state and national banking committees. He served as chairman of the Ag and Rural Bankers Committee of the American Bankers Association and of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association. For three years he was the Master of Ceremonies for the National Agriculture Bankers Conference. This honor has led to many engagements as a motivational speaker.

His other volunteer work includes service on the Penn State Extension Board, the Penn State Ag Business Oversight Board, and the Pennsylvania Agriculture Land Preservation Board. He has also served as an instructor for Agriculture Banking at Penn State, Delaware Valley College and Cornell University.

Mr. Firestine graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1968 and earned his bachelor of science degree in marketing from Robert Morris University in 1972.

## **2014 Inductees (continued):**

**William “Bill” Gruber** is an author as well as a professor of English and Theater at Emory University.

Dr. Gruber is the author of several books including *On All Sides Nowhere: Building a Life in Rural Idaho*, which received the 2001 Katherine Bakeless Nason Prize for creative nonfiction from the Bread Loaf Writers Conference at Middlebury College. The book is a report of his experience homesteading in Idaho.

His book *Comic Theaters: Studies in Performance and Audience Response* was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Book in 1986. His other books include *Missing Persons* (1994) and *Offstage Space, Narrative, and the Theater of the Imagination* (2010). He has written numerous scholarly articles and personal essays as well.

Dr. Gruber teaches courses in drama, the history of drama, creative nonfiction, and the history of baseball. Before beginning his academic career, Dr. Gruber served in the US Marine Corps and worked as a journalist.

Dr. Gruber graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1961. He received his BA from Yale University in 1965, his MA from the University of Idaho in 1974 and his PhD from Washington State University in 1979.



## **2015 Inductees:**

**Ellen Rissinger** is currently on the music staff of the Semperoper in Dresden, Germany. Besides her duties at the Semperoper, she also teaches at several opera study programs throughout Europe in the summers. Prior to her appointment in Dresden, Ms. Rissinger spent several months with Oper Frankfurt, four years on the music staff of the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf, two years as head coach for the Stadttheater Pforzheim and coached for the Mainfranken Theater in Würzburg, Germany.

Ms. Rissinger has also worked with many opera companies in the United States, including Opera Company of Philadelphia, Glimmerglass Opera, Baltimore Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Kentucky Opera, Knoxville Opera, Utah Festival Opera and Harrisburg Opera, and was Music Director for Opera Iowa and Glimmerglass Opera's 25th Anniversary Tour. She has coached and given Master Classes and worked with many outstanding conductors. She has appeared in recital as a collaborative pianist in both the US and Germany with such artists as Jane Henschel, Mirko Roschkowski and Kenneth Riegel.

An avid student of language, Ellen is fluent in English and German, conversant in French, Italian, Spanish and Modern Greek, and continues to work on her conversational ability in Russian. In 2010 she started the podcast [The Diction Police](#), to bring the sounds of foreign languages to voice students and young opera professionals throughout the world. As a trendsetter in the art of lyric diction, The Diction Police has since grown into a thriving business, with a growing repertoire and an international following.

Ellen Rissinger graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1987, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Piano Performance from Carnegie Mellon University and obtained a Master of Music in Accompanying from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music; she also attended the Young Artist training programs of Florida Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera and Aspen Opera Theater Center.

**Corey Gruber** currently serves as the Deputy Associate Administrator in the Office of Response and Recovery (ORR) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He is responsible for coordinating FEMA activities for major disaster or emergency activations, and the management and administration of ORR's 6,000 employees.

Prior to joining ORR, Mr. Gruber served on the White House National Security Council (NSC) as the Senior Director for Preparedness Policy, Acting Special Assistant Resilience Policy, and Senior Director for Response Policy. Before joining the NSC, Mr. Gruber's service to the Federal Government included: Assistant Administrator, National Preparedness Directorate, Acting Assistant Secretary of Grants and Training in the Department of Homeland Security's former Preparedness Directorate, Executive Director of the National Preparedness Task Force, and leading the implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8 (National Preparedness).

Before joining the federal government in 2001, Mr. Gruber worked in the private sector, where he supported planning, training, exercise, and continuity needs for public and private sector clientele. He oversaw conduct of over 250 training exercises for 120 major metropolitan areas to help those areas prepare for response to terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction.

A retired U.S. Army officer, Mr. Gruber also served as Chief of Plans for the Department of Defense's Director of Military Support, where he was responsible for Military Support to Civilian Authorities, including planning and response to more than 50 major disasters and emergencies, and management of classified continuity of operations programs.

Mr. Gruber is the recipient of the President's Meritorious Senior Executive Award in 2010 and the 2006 Secretary's Silver Medal, which is awarded for exceptionally meritorious service to the department and the federal government.

Corey Gruber graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1972, Pennsylvania State University and has a master's degree from Chapman University.

**2015 Inductees (Continued):**

**Bill Huyett** is a Director with McKinsey and Company, an international management consulting firm.

Mr. Huyett advises global clients in biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, technology and industrial sectors on business portfolios, and corporate strategy and organization. He has worked with some of the top pharmaceutical and medical device companies in the world to improve their performance in developing new therapies. He spent four years in Zurich working with European health care firms. He is also a leader in the firm's corporate finance and strategy practice.

Mr. Huyett is very active in educational, scientific, social service, and community-minded organizations. He serves on the board of The Greater Boston YMCA, the Concord Museum, Rockefeller University, the Engineering Leadership Advisory Board of Boston University, the Darden School of Business Foundation at the University of Virginia, and the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Bill graduated from Conrad Weiser High School in 1973. He received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and MBA from the University of Virginia.