



July 18, 2010

Nelson receives Distinguished Alumnus Award

At the 17th Annual Brother Rice Senior-Alumni Luncheon last month, Jim Nelson (Class of 1985) was presented the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus award by former teacher and wrestling coach John V. Major and close friend Mark Rottenberk (also Class of 1985).

A crowd of 250 gathered at Oakland Hills Country Club April 30 to honor Nelson, as well as the graduating Seniors and Distinguished Senior Kyle Galli of Troy.

Nelson has been an active member of the Alumni Association since the early 1990s and an Association Board member since 1999. He served as Board president in 2000-01. He and Rottenberk, the 2003 Distinguished Alum, have been the driving force behind Alumni Boxing Night, the Association's marquee event which is held each winter and raises proceeds for the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Nelson and his wife, Suzanne, are the parents of three future Warriors - Ryan, Charlie, and Luke - whom he collectively considers his greatest accomplishment.

"I have a unique sense of responsibility to give back to the Brother Rice community that has provided so much for me and my family," said Nelson, who has had a successful career in high tech sales, most recently as EMC2 Corporation's Global Account Manager for General Motors.

"My father (Peter) passed away suddenly at age 46, during my freshman year at Rice," He said. "If the Brother Rice Dad's Club had not stepped in and supported my family, I would have never had the opportunity to continue, let alone graduate. That is a debt I will never be able to repay, no matter how long I live or how much I give. Brother Rice changed my life forever."

Nelson is the 31st recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Galli, the eighth recipient of the Distinguished Senior Award, was chosen by his classmates.
