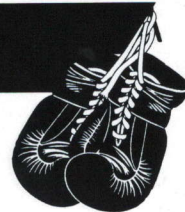


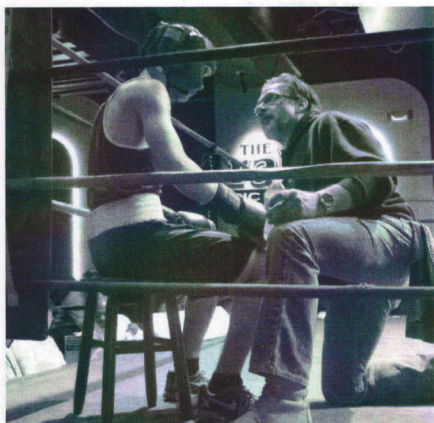


Ring 44 Inductee



DEAN EOANNOU

Coach



As a boxing coach since 2004 at the University at Buffalo, Eoannou stresses that the sport isn't fighting – it's skill and strategy.

The students he instructed ranged from ages 6 to 68 and had never been in a boxing ring before seeking Eoannou's tutelage. "It's more than learning to box," he said. "It's about confidence. The students I teach learn about self-worth and they leave with confidence." Eoannou said boxing has intrigued him since he was a teenager when he trained in the sport. He always felt compelled to teach others about the skills in boxing that he learned at Singer's Gym on Main St. At Singer's in the early 1970's he was trained by Johnny Sudac and Henry Pelow.

After earning a B.S. degree in education from Cornell University, Eoannou worked as a production manager for Ford Motor Company. Upon retiring, a suggestion from a stranger as well as his wife led to his decision to be a full time boxing instructor.

Eoannou taught the students on the U.B. Campus along with others because he turned away no one. He has led U.B. Boxers to over 30 championships, two National Golden Gloves bronze medals, a Northeast Championship, two National Golden Gloves silver medals, two National Golden Gloves gold medals, a Ringside International silver medal, a Ringside International gold medal, a U.S. silver medal, and a U.S. gold medal. He has coached three Ring 44 Amateur Boxer of the Year award winners, two females and one male, winning the award four times in total. Six of the champions Dean has coached are women. Dean's boxing club was so popular that it became a credited course at the University at Buffalo. In 2015, Eoannou was recognized for his achievements being named Person of the Year by Ring 44.

"I take the time to work with each student," he said. "I build relationships with my students and have a great rapport with other coaches in the area. And the students will trust you if they know that you are helping them."

Whether it is a place to spar, a place to work out, a needed roll of tape or help wrapping hands, Dean is there with no questions asked.

Eoannou said his choice to become a boxing coach was one of the best decisions he ever made because it allows him to make a difference in people's lives.

Eoannou decided to stop working with fighters in 2017, but his generosity and dedication did not cease. It was redirected to a new passion, non contact boxing for people with Parkinson's. Eoannou started Parkinsons Boxing LLC, and when he recognized the profound impact he was having on his clients' lives, he knew he needed to put all of his energy into the cause. Eoannou still makes a difference in people's lives, but now he's fighting a more meaningful battle; the fight for quality of life.

Through his unique boxing skill sets, Eoannou has helped his clients take their lives back, one skill at a time. From opening a bottle of water, to getting out of a wheelchair and walking unassisted, Dean has coached people to achieve what was once seen as impossible, and he's just getting started.

Tonight Ring 44 is honored to induct Dean into the Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.