

Alumni of the Month - Dr. Janet E. Stout



Year of Graduation

1975

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

Dr. Janet E. Stout is president, CEO, and owner of Special Pathogens Laboratory, a Pittsburgh-based firm that provides laboratory and consulting services for Legionnaires' disease prevention. A clinical and environmental microbiologist, Dr. Stout is recognized worldwide for more than 30 years of pioneering research in Legionella—the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease. Her seminal discovery that linked Legionella in hospital drinking water to the disease was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1982, while Dr. Stout was a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh.

Since then Dr. Stout has gained international prominence for pioneering research in detection, control and prevention strategies for Legionnaires' disease. In 1982, the American Legion honored her with the Distinguished Research Award for Legionnaires' disease and in 1999 she received the Water Technologist of the Year Award from the Association of Water Technologies. One of her many accomplishments includes developing the first Legionella prevention guideline in the United States that serves as a model for prevention and is used by national and global health agencies and organizations.

An invited speaker to national and international conferences, Dr. Stout is also a research associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She holds a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health in infectious disease microbiology and a bachelor's degree in microbiology from Clarion University. In 2012, Dr. Stout was honored with Clarion University's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Where do you currently live?

Verona, Pa.

Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

Two fabulous English teachers: George Petrisik and Judy Kimmins. They taught me the love of learning. Carolyn Caskey was my coach and taught me how to compete and be a good sport.

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School

Being co-captain of the women's basketball team. I'm grateful for the great education I received at Port Allegany High School.