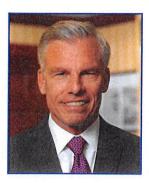
## 2016 Alumni Awards Dinner Thursday, September 22, 2016



## Alumnus of the Year James Metzger, BA, '83

## Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Whitmore Group, Ltd.



James C. "Jim" Metzger is chairman and CEO of The Whitmore Group, Ltd., a leading Long Island insurance brokerage and financial services firm. Mr. Metzger was an All-American lacrosse player at Hofstra University and has given back generously to his alma mater as well as other educational and charitable organizations, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island.

Mr. Metzger founded The Whitmore Group in 1989. The Whitmore Group provides the gamut of insurance products and financial services, including commercial property and casualty, a specialized funeral services program, personal insurance, health benefits, life insurance, estate planning, financial services, real estate insurance programs, specialty transportation industry group and claims services. In 2011 Long Island Business News reported that The Whitmore Group was the

seventh-largest insurance brokerage business on Long Island. The company, located in Garden City, New York, is licensed in 48 states and has more than 70 employees.

Mr. Metzger is a member of the Hofstra University Pride Club Board of Directors and has generously supported Hofstra Athletics throughout the years. In 2012 he committed \$1.5 million to support Hofstra Athletics, marking the largest gift in the history of Hofstra Athletics.

Hofstra dedicated James C. Metzger Hall on April 7, 2015. Metzger Hall, located on the west side of Shuart Stadium on the Hofstra campus, includes The Fried Center (second floor), suites (third floor) and the press box (fourth floor).

Mr. Metzger was inducted into the Hofstra Athletics Hall of Fame in 2015. He received Hofstra University's Alumni Achievement Award in 2012, and Joseph M. Margiotta Distinguished Service Award in 2011.

Mr. Metzger donated the funds to build the Royle-Sombrotto Locker Room to provide a state-of-the-art facility for the men's lacrosse team and to honor his former coach Harry Royle and former teammate at Hofstra, National Lacrosse Hall of Fame member Vinnie Sombrotto. He also donated the funds to enhance the women's lacrosse locker room, which is named in his honor, as well for The Hallways Traditions Project at Margiotta Hall, which showcases the history of the men's and women's lacrosse programs and the football program (the project is named after Hofstra standout athletes Mike D'Amato '68 and Lou DiBlasi '61); The Metzger Capital Fund, which supports all sports; and The James C. Metzger Lacrosse Endowment. Hofstra honored him by naming the men's and women's lacrosse offices after Jim and Kevin Huff '78. Mr. Metzger is equally proud to participate on the academic side of the ledger, where he and his former professor Michael D'Innocenzo created the Metzger-D'Innocenzo Summer Internship for the Center for Civic Engagement. The internship is given to a deserving student based on academic achievement and/or financial need who is majoring in history. According to Michael D'Innocenzo, "Jim's generosity by endowing the Center for Civic Engagement student internship illustrates his own deep commitment to Hofstra, to young people, and to fostering the kind of attentive society in which democracy can thrive."

James C. Metzger Stadium, a new facility at St. Anthony's High School in South Huntington, was dedicated in 2016. Mr. Metzger is not a St. Anthony's alumnus, but has become a benefactor to the school. He said he was raised in the area and it was the epicenter of his world growing up, calling it "A great environment, great history, great legacy both academically and, of course, athletically at St. Anthony's."