# THE BRONXVILLE SCHOOL FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 18, Spring 2013

# **Bronxville:** A Hotbed of Recruiting



According to the NCAA, a high school athlete has less than a five percent chance of competing in college athletics. Depending on the sport, the odds are as low as one percent. So how is it that Bronxville High School is able to consistently graduate student athletes capable of competing at the next level? There are currently over eighty Bronxville High School athletes participating in collegiate sports which include Football, Field Hockey, Baseball, Basketball, Lacrosse, Squash, Swimming, Golf, Tennis, Crew, Fencing and, of course, Track.

Consistent with Bronxville High School's top notch academic preparation, BHS graduates do particularly well in the Ivy League. The combination of academic rigor and Division I athletics is a strong draw for Bronxville High School student athletes who want to work hard in the classroom and on their chosen sport. Bronxville has thirteen graduates playing sports at Ivy's right now and five recruits from the class of 2013 were accepted to play in the Ancient 8 next year.

The class of 2012 graduated twenty-four student athletes who are playing college sports, seven at the Division I level. With graduating classes averaging only one hundred five students, that means over 20 percent of the class is playing sports in college.

#### SO WHAT GIVES?

The answer: a combination of top-notch athletic facilities, a passionate Athletic Director in Karen Peterson, excellent coaching staffs, and motivated kids who hone their skills from an early age.

Peterson sees how and why this is happening: "Our school is unique in that we are a K-12 campus. And given our relatively tight real estate, not only do athletes from different sports interact on the fields, but within the same sport, we see different levels practicing alongside one another." It is certainly not uncommon to see Modified (7th and 8th grade) practicing alongside JV and Varsity teams in the same sport. "This is a huge motivating factor" according to Peterson.

### IS IT THE TURF?

If there was a turning point for the recent success of Bronxville's programs, it is hard not to consider the investment the community

made in the new track and turf field. In 2006, the Bronxville community, with some help from the Foundation, raised private funds for a new synthetic turf on Chambers, the main athletic field. Peterson says "the turf has made a BIG difference in our programs. There is increased practice time and days - even for teams that do not use the turf for competition." Peterson notices a major difference between schools that do and do not have turf. For Field Hockey, all sectional and post-sectional play is on turf. The turf played a large role in the team's success winning Section titles in 2008 and 2011 and attending the state championships in 2011. The new turf may also have been instrumental in the success of several other sports. Since its installation, Bronxville Boys Lacrosse has won three sectional titles and has made it to the State semifinals three times. This year, Boys Lacrosse became the first Section I team since 2007 to make it to the State Championship. And post-turf, Bronxville has secured State Championship titles in Boys Soccer (2008), Girls Soccer (2010) and Girls Cross Country (2008 to 2012). In 2009, Football made it to the State Championship, finally winning the State title in 2010.

Coincidental to the turf, the Girls' Soccer program took a leap when it switched its season to the fall (from spring) in 2005. There are more competitive teams playing in the fall and Bronxville was able to qualify for regional titles (regional and state championship competitions are in the fall not spring) leading to three sectional titles; attending the State semifinals two times and winning the Class B State title in 2010!

#### OR IS IT THE YOUTH PROGRAMS?

With the addition of the turf field and the new track, Bronxville has been able to "host" more of a youth

program, allowing Bronxville kids access to different sports at a younger age. Year after year, elementary school kids have eagerly participated in the evening Spring track clinics, which not only teach young runners basic skills, but also help the varsity coaches (namely Jim Mitchell) scout out future talent. This strategy has produced phenomenally successful teams, particulary for the girls.



Donate Now!

Bronxville's recent success in lacrosse, winning three consecutive back-to-back Sectional championships and losing in the State semifinals two years in a row, can be traced directly to the rise of the Bronxville Youth Lacrosse Association. The recent run of success was led by a handful of players who were among the first few classes of the BYLA youth program which started in the early 2000's just after lacrosse was first introduced in Bronxville as a varsity sport.

For the longstanding sport of football, the opposite was true. According to Coach Jeff Napolitano, the Bronxville youth football program sprung out of the success the Varsity program started to enjoy in 2007 when it made the Sectional finals for the first time in many years. The first official 5th and 6th grade youth program finally came together in 2009, spearheaded by a few dynamic parents including Jim Purdy and Bob McCann. The Broncos' undefeated regular season that same year sparked a rebirth for football in Bronxville. Since that time, the 5th and 6th grade programs have thrived; last year there were 60 players and two teams. And this June, for the first time, there will be a mini camp held for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders coached by the JV and Varsity coaches. This camp is intentionally held in the late afternoon, right before the start of the Varsity and JV camps, so that the older players can attend and lend support to the younger ones.

### OR IS IT JUST GOOD COACHING?

Peterson feels BHS's programs are so successful because of the programmatic approach -- our varsity coaches consider themselves the head of each of their programs. They work with the JV and modified coaches (and sometimes athletes) to establish expectations for the JV and Modified programs as well as skill sets expected at every level. We are lucky to have a dedicated coaching staff, many of whom are tenured teachers with strong player relationships developed in the classrooms and on the playing fields. Anyone who has attended Bronxville School over the last thirty-five years knows how invaluable Jim Mitchell has been to the Girls Track program. He started in 1979, but you might not be aware of some of the other dedicated teachers who have been coaching for decades. If you make it back to BHS for homecoming this fall, you will see former High School science teacher, Phil Kuczma, prowling the sidelines of the football field as he has for the past thirty-two years as an assistant coach. Tim Horgan, a dedicated special education teacher at the High School took over the Lacrosse program in 2007. Don Cupertino and Donny Lucas have a combined thirty-eight years of coaching at Bronxville High School running the Boys and Girls Soccer program. Other veteran coaches include Steve Klurfeld (Boys Tennis), Jim Agnello (Cross Country and Skiing), Jeff Napolitano (Football) and our Field Hockey and Swim Team coaching staff has been in place for over ten years.

While great facilities, engaged coaching staffs, strong youth programs and excellent teachers all create a positive environment for student athletes, it's really up to the kids to put the work in if they want to succeed at the next level. The class of 2013 looks to be as accomplished as any of the recent classes of athletic Broncos with commitments from student athletes to play sports at Brown (3), Johns Hopkins (2), Harvard, Yale, Georgetown and Marquette in addition to a number of offers still under consideration from

excellent Division III schools.

Bronxville High School is lucky to have such a rich tradition of student athletes contributing both on the field and in the classroom.

### **One Hot Runner**

By Lucy Kohlhoff '15

From headlining several New York Times articles to gracing



the cover of the March issue of Track & Field News, the spotlight has been shining brightly on the recent success of Mary Cain, a member of the Class of 2014. Not that success is anything new for this Bronco.

In the first years of Mary's high school

running career, as a member of the Girls Cross Country team, she captured the 2010 and 2011 Class C New York State Championship title and the 2011 Federation title. In her sophomore track and field seasons, Cain took both the indoor 1500-meter State Championship and defended her crown as the outdoor 1500-meter state champion.

Competing on the national level last year, Cain took second place in the New Balance Indoor Nationals 800-meter, behind national standout, Ajee Wilson. Cain was also victorious in the USA Track & Field 1500-meter Junior (under 20) Race. The summer was an especially busy time for Cain. In June, Mary was the second youngest competitor in the 2012 Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon. Running against some of the highest ranked elite runners in the nation, she placed 18th. And in July, competing as the only American at the International World Junior Championships in Barcelona, Spain, Cain placed sixth in the 1500-meter, setting a new national high school record of 4:11.01.

This October, Mary and her parents enlisted legendary Alberto Salazar, three-time New York City Marathon Champion, as her personal coach. Salazar, the head coach at the Nike Oregon Project, recently led two competitors in the 2012 Olympic Games to victory—Mo Farah, to gold in the 5000 and 10000-meter races and Galen Rupp, to silver in the 10,000. Based on Mary's results this winter, one cannot help but wonder where Salazar's coaching will take Cain. Rio de Janeiro in 2016?

While running enthusiasts have closely followed Mary's career for several years now, Cain's recent success has earned her widespread national attention-and for good reason. She kicked off the winter season in Seattle at the Washington Indoor Preview Meet. Cain ran the fastest 3000-meter race ever, placing first with 9:02.10, making her the unofficial national record-holder for both the indoor and outdoor 3000-meter race. (The record was only "unofficial" because the track was oversized.) Cain's time at the meet earned her the honor of being named USA Track & Field's Athlete of the Week on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Two weeks later, after a morning spent taking the SATs in Scarsdale, Mary headed to the 168th Street Armory to run in the New Balance Games. She shattered the 41 year-old high school mile record set by Debbie Heald in 1972, running 4:32.78. Her wintertime success continued in February at the New Balance Grand Prix in Boston, where Mary's time of 9:38.68 established her as the new high school two-mile record

holder, surpassing the previous record by an impressive 17 seconds. During the Wanamaker Mile at the 106<sup>th</sup> Millrose Games held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, Cain broke her own national high school indoor record, running a 4:28.25. Most recently, on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Cain won her first senior level U.S. indoor title clocking in at 5:05.68 in the women's mile.

The question is no longer about Cain's abilities as a runner; it's whether she will go to college or turn professional. With a year and a half left of high school, she has plenty of time to consider her many options. For now, however, Mary continues to do her part ensuring that Bronxville is not only the fastest square mile in the country, but that it's getting faster.

# **Farewell to Faculty**



**Denise Valentine** has been teaching for 37 years; 33 of those years have been at Bronxville. Prior to coming to Bronxville, she taught Special Education at the Pleasantville Cottage School.

At Bronxville, Ms. Valentine has been teaching Physical Education to 6th through 12th graders and has enjoyed

being a coach to field hockey, volleyball and girls' basketball teams at a variety of different levels. Ms. Valentine embraced the different personalities at each grade level in class and coaching. She enjoyed interacting and connecting with students during class as well as outside class when she chaperoned class trips. Because of the connections she has made with her students, many come back to visit her. In addition, Ms. Valentine has enjoyed the opportunities provided by the administration for academic and professional development.

To sum up her experience, Denise says she would not change a thing and has had a "great time and a great ride at Bronxville" but "it is time to do something different. I have been working since I was 15 and will not miss the commute and the deadlines." Ms. Valentine looks forward to some travel and catching up on her reading.



**Margo Lorber** has been teaching in the Bronxville Schools since 1998. She began her career here as the technology coordinator and during this time has taught computer classes to both High School and Middle School students. In June, she will be retiring after over forty years in education.

Dr. Lorber's job has changed over the years at Bronxville as the world of technology has continually grown. For the last ten years, she has taught computer classes in the Middle School. During her tenure, Dr. Lorber has been very involved in developing many aspects of our school and student progams. She has been the MS and HS Yearbook advisor for many years. She was instrumental in forming the Habitat for Humanity club ten years ago and organizing the spring service trips to New Orleans starting in 2007. She has watched over the years as our students (and society) have become progressively more attached to all facets of technology. The administration has continually challenged her to learn and

grow and she has loved passing on this knowledge to the students and staff.

Retirement for Dr. Lorber will not mean slowing down. She plans on continuing to promote technology in education by working with various adult education programs and also by working with disadvantaged students.



**Kathryn Hanson** has served as the elementary school librarian for just over 16 years.

Among the changes she has seen during her tenure are the expansion of the library (its holding more than doubled since 2006), its increased emphasis on non-fiction reading, and the new online

computer catalog systems.

Ms. Hanson also has seen a change in students being less willing to "take a chance" with their deeper thought processes, and seeking answers to questions rather than thinking a problem through. She observes: "My wish for all young students is that they be given time to daydream, ponder and enjoy experiences and that adults and the clock not always run the experience. Children are afraid to make mistakes, and are very worried about adults wanting them to excel at everything. Children don't want to disappoint..."

In retirement, Ms. Hanson will miss her "exhilarating" interaction with all the K-5 students and the joy of working with library assistant Rosemarie Mumby.

She plans to travel, take courses at the New York Botanical Garden and the Metropolitan Museum and, not surprisingly, to spend lots of time with her grandchildren.



**Terry Barton** will be stepping down as principal of the Bronxville High School and retiring this June. Mr. Barton came to Bronxville High School in 2006 and has enjoyed seven fulfilling and successful years as our leader. He spent most of his career in the Chicago and Milwaukee suburbs, but chose to move back east (he lived in Rye as a child) for his final years

in school administration.

Mr. Barton is proud of many things that have happened at the Bronxville School under his tenure. Great strides have been made in technology. Every room is equipped with up to date technology and the staff is well educated in using these tools to teach. He has seen broadened course offerings such as upper level Calculus, AP Art History and Computer Programming and has implemented new courses of study, including electives, on-line courses and independent study. Some of the biggest challenges have been in scheduling and continuing to be able to offer a wide selection of courses in a small high school. Despite these restrictions, the strong collaboration of faculty, students and community have made it all work. He has truly enjoyed being a part of the High School's many successes in all areas from academics to sports and the arts.

After forty-four years, Mr. Barton is looking forward to retirement and being with his family full time in North Carolina.

# **BHS Alumni Reunions**

2012 Reunions were a big success this past year. In July, the Class of 1967 gathered in Stowe, Vermont while the classes of 1962, 1972, 1982 and 1987 gathered in Bronxville for fall Football and fun. The Reunion activities included the traditional Friday night informal gatherings followed by nostalgia-filled Saturday morning school tours as classmates reminisced through the old BHS hallways. After taking in a few Bronxville sports during the day, the culminating event was the Saturday night gathering. This year was particularly special in that the Class of 1982 opened their gathering at Siwanoy to other reunion classes so that all could enjoy the classic '80's sound of NRBQ!

# Class of '62 - 50th Reunion



### Class of '72 - 40th Reunion





65th Reunion Class of '48 - May 2013 60th Reunion Class of '53 - October 11-13, 2013 50th Reunion Class of '63 - October 17-19, 2013 20th Reunion Class of '93 **BHS 2013 Homecoming Weekend - October 17-19, 2013** 

# Class of '82 - 30th Reunion



Class of '87 - 25th Reunion





Connect with us on Facebook! Bronxville School Foundation Alumni Group Page 5

# And A Blast From the Past ...



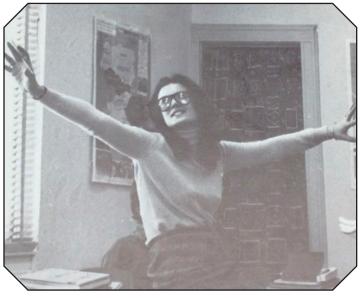
**Virginia Babcock** "WATCHING THE FLOWERS GROW." 40 Years at BHS:1933-1973



**Richard Perdew** "UP TO THE LIBRARY COMMANDO STYLE." 39 Years at BHS:1936-1975



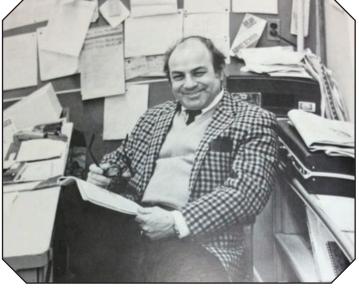
Michael Saltman "CONTRARY TO THE CURRENT RUMOR, I AM NOT INFALLIBLE." 33 Years at BHS:1959-1992



**Delia Grogan Selby** "IT'S NOT NICE TO FOOL MOTHER NATURE." 40 Years at BHS:1966-2006

# Did you know Gramatan Village is here to help?

Gramatan Village is a charitable organization serving older adults in the greater Bronxville community. If you have parents living here in the area, whether it is assistance with a small chore or support during a life-changing event, Gramatan Village is there. Please visit us online at www.gramatanvillage.org to learn more about our programs and services.



James Block "GENTLEMEN, 'ASDF SPACE JKL;'." 29 Years at BHS:1959-1988

### **Bronxville School Alumni Walk**

The Alumni Walk, created in 1994, has been enthusiastically built by donations

from graduates of all ages, entire classes, as well as families and friends wishing to honor former students. More than 1500 bricks grace the path at the entrance to the Bronxville School. Add your brick today by completing the enclosed card or calling the Foundation Office at 914-395-0515.



# It begins with an idea ...

ACTION

RESULT



RESULT

Faculty member Chris Doyle would like to teach his students how to produce videos. He requests a Mac desktop for editing video, a video

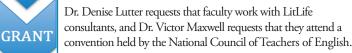
camera, microphones, and support equipment.

Students learn how to create stories, produce films and run a news show for the High School.

Media Class, Film Club and Bronco TV are thriving at the Bronxville School. The Class of 2012 dedicated its yearbook to Mr. Doyle.



English teachers want to collaborate with the best teachers and consultants in the country.



Teachers align units of instruction and are better able to

help students develop their personal voice, use secondary critical texts, and support their research writing.

Bronxville School's literacy curriculum and instruction improve. Our students become better critical thinkers and writers.



To see a list of grants, visit www.BronxvilleSchoolFoundation.org.

### 2012 Alumni Donors

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Ms. Mary Liz Mulligan '68





# Auditorium and Science Lab Plans on Target

We have many exciting updates to report on the renovation of the High School auditorium and the Middle School Science labs. In our last newsletter, http://bronxvilleschoolfoundation.org/PDF/BSFAlumniNewsletter2012.pdf, we were pleased to report that the Bronxville School Foundation awarded an \$850,000 grant for the renovation in February 2012. This was the Foundation's single largest grant ever and served as a catalyst for future fundraising for the project.

After that, the funds poured in! In May 2012, a generous anonymous "Final Act" supporter pledged a 2:1 match for every gift up to \$2,500. For gifts above \$2,500, the supporter added \$5,000 to the gift. The objective of the matching gift program was to draw widespread support from the community. In addition to these private funds, in May 2012, the Board of Education agreed to commit a construction reserve of \$2 million to the projects and approved borrowing up to \$5 million. On June 4th, the Final Act announced that it had raised over \$1.2 million from more than 350 families. Once all of the pledges were fulfilled, the anonymous donation exceeded \$600,000. The Final Act campaign completed and exceeded the private fund raising goal of \$3 million for the School's \$10 million capital plan. As noted by Peggy Williams, the Bronxville School Foundation Director, "The widespread participation was remarkable and says so much about the generosity and commitment of our community."

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Bronxville residents approved a \$4.5 million bond referendum. The voter turnout exceeded the showing in any recent school budget election!

At the January 2013 Board of Education meeting, the assistant superintendent, Dan Carlin, reported that KG&D Architects and the associated design team had completed the design development

phase of the District's capital plan. Mr. Carlin presented a preliminary construction schedule, calling for submission of plans to the state in April, the awarding of bids this coming fall and substantial completion by December 2014. Finally, at the February 2013 meeting, the Board of Education accepted an \$875,000 donation from the PTA in support of the planned renovation. The sum represents the single largest grant in the entire history of the PTA since 1953. Board President David Brashear thanked the PTA and the parent community for their "great generosity and phenomenal contribution."

While we have been warned that the state approval process can take many months, the enthusiasm for this exciting project is palpable. Through their donations and time, the school community and the entire Village of Bronxville have lent critical support. If you would like to make a donation to the project, please contribute to the Foundation at: <u>http://www.bronxvilleschoolfoundation.</u> <u>makeADonation.html</u> and clearly mark that the donation is for the Auditorium and Science Lab Project.

#### In Memoriam

Gifts in memory of an alumna/us, parent, or friend of the Bronxville School have a very special meaning. These thoughtful remembrances contribute to the Foundation's programs and perpetuate the memory of the individual.

In Memoriam David W. Foster '78 Gerry Goold '55 Jeremiah O'Connor, Jr. David Roberts '55 Harold McLeod Turner '72 In Honor Of

The Bond, Epley and Warble Families Christine Higgins John Roberts '49 Dr. Rachel Kelly Dr. Martin Roth Sue O. Kulason '09 Holly Rudd '09 Georgiana Stewart

The Alumni Newsletter was compiled with articles by: Beth Taylor Aherne '80, Lucy Kohlhoff '15, Sue Kelty Law '78, Joella Lykouretzos, Laura Flannery Pettee '87, Sandy (Briscoe) Smith, Steven Thomas '82, Brennan Warble, Peggy Williams '75.



Katie's Run has become a Thanksgiving tradition for the Bronxville community. The run is in honor of Katie Welling, a 2002 Bronxville graduate, and established by her classsmates. The memory of Katie's wonderful sense of humor, her infectious laugh, and her love of life, still shapes and colors our lives and keeps us all forever connected with her. This was evident all morning long as over 400 participants, BHS alumni and current school families, enjoyed the event this past November 2012.

For a list of donors and pictures, visit www.BronxvilleSchoolFoundation.org.



Save the Date! 7th Annual Katie Welling Memorial Run/Walk Saturday, November 30, 2013 -- We'll See You There!