

STUYVESANT

ALUMNI SPECTATOR

FLASHBACK FEATURE: STUYVESANT'S JOURNEY TO 345 CHAMBERS



The old school on East 15th Street



Principal Abraham Baumel 1983-1994



One of the rooms for shop class

This school year marks the 25th anniversary of Stuyvesant's move from the old building on East 15th Street to its new campus in TriBeCa. The Alumni Association would like to remember this important moment in Stuyvesant history and honor the man, Principal Abraham Baumel, who was instrumental in making this happen.

The 15th Street Building

The old building on 15th Street, which housed Stuyvesant students from 1907 to 1992, was emblematic of the Industrial Age. The facilities included sawing machines, wood shops, and metalworking shops.

Even though the building was advanced for its time, no one expected Stuyvesant to remain there for the next 85 years. Over the decades, numerous principals tried to improve the facilities, including a significant renovation to expand the building's capacity in 1957. However, no amount of renovations could change the fact that the building housed nearly double its 1,500-person capacity.

When Abraham Baumel became principal in 1983, he was well aware of how outdated the facilities had become. "The general focus of the

school at its founding was that of a manual training school, but long before the time I became principal the focus had changed to math and science." Recalling the machine shops on the third floor, Principal Baumel marveled that "you could power a city with the control panels in those rooms. But the courses were no longer part of the curriculum." He wanted to convert those rooms into more classrooms instead.

In the 1980s, Principal Baumel, along with a group of students, faculty, parents, and alumni, formed the Stuyvesant Coalition. Together, they went through numerous ideas for improving the school's physical facilities, but when they realized that none of those would work, the only alternative was to move to a new site.

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Message from the President, Soo Kim '93

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Stuyvesant's move from 345 East 15th to 345 Chambers. My Class of 1993 had the fortunate distinction of having spent three years in the old building and one in the new. We were the first graduating class in the new building.

Frankly, I found the shiny hallways of the new building disorienting. Just when our senior class had finally figured out our favorite positions in Stuy Park and the Auditorium, we were cast into a new environment where we were essentially all freshmen. I missed the Old Stuy.

There was something so authentically New York about the hopelessly outdated "technology" labs and the running track that required something like 40 laps to reach a mile. It was our badge of honor: it made sense for Stuyvesant to be housed in an overcrowded building that was amongst the oldest of NYC high schools. Stuyvesant was defined by its students: selected amongst the top test takers in the city to learn and grow together. Like New York herself, we didn't need fancy optics to define ourselves as the best.

Abraham "Abe" Baumel was our principal then. I didn't know him, but I grew up with the misguided notion that the only time you speak to the principal is when you were in trouble, so I spent my time avoiding him and the rest of the administration. Sadly, Abe passed away in 2015, but we in the Alumni Association have been recently spending time catching up on his rich legacy with the help of his grandsons, **Matthew Baumel '09** and **Aaron Ghitelman '09**.

Abe Baumel became Stuyvesant's principal in 1983. He had previously chaired the Physics Department and been a teacher at that other high school in the Bronx. Now for some sacrilegious trivia that many of us may not know: **Stuyvesant was not always considered the top public school in NYC.** Actually before the school went co-ed in 1969, Stuy was not the consensus choice amongst those choosing between the specialized high schools. For decades, students with the highest test scores regularly chose to attend that other high school in the Bronx.

So with that perspective in mind, Abe set out to make sure that Stuyvesant would always be considered #1. Our current building is just one lasting element of his work. In retrospect, I cannot fathom the effort to navigate the politics and bureaucracy to plan, much less fulfill the vision of finding a new location befitting the top school in the city. **The beauty of his legacy is that we take it for granted that we are the top public school in the city, if not the country.** We don't question it.

Abe helped us to believe. And that created the virtuous cycle where, due to that belief, we succeeded, and due to our success, the following generations wanted to exceed. **All of what Stuyvesant is and represents today is due to this legacy.**

Given that the 25th Anniversary of the move to the new building is upon us, this is a great time to celebrate Principal Abe Baumel's legacy. We are announcing a campaign to raise funds to dedicate the pedestrian bridge over the West Side Highway in his honor and hang a plaque at the school entrance to the bridge to memorialize all of Abe's achievements.

The fund will be used to help our current principal, Eric Contreras, accomplish his own Baumelian mission to upgrade the current Stuyvesant technology curriculum (unchanged since before either principal) to be relevant to our times: replacing Mechanical Draft, Metalshop, and Woodshop with Robotics, Nanotechnology, Renewable Energy, Hydroponics, and CS Programming. Yes, gritty is cool and authentic, but let's get real: our kids deserve better. So many come from families where public schools are the only choice, and Stuyvesant as a school gets the same per capita funding as any other public high school in the state. We know that Stuyvesant students can achieve even in an outdated building from 1907, but what are the possibilities if we alumni can come together to help them achieve their potential?



Flashback Feature: Stuyvesant's Journey to its New Campus

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The Beginning of 345 Chambers



First floor entrance of 345 Chambers Street

In the Coalition's search for a new site, they came across the Battery Park City Authority, which offered Stuyvesant a 1.5-acre lot on Chambers Street. Back then, Battery Park City, built on the landfill from the World Trade Center construction site, was still relatively underdeveloped. The offered space was generous, but the Coalition was worried about the location of the site west of a busy, multilane highway (West Street). The Coalition knew Stuyvesant students all too well and feared that some would foolishly run across a busy highway to avoid being late to class.

Principal Baumel and the Coalition pressed hard for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the highway and only agreed to the move when the city authority promised to fund the construction of the TriBeCa Bridge. The original plan also called for the bridge to only be open during school hours. But Principal Baumel knew that most Stuyvesant students' days do not end with their last class. He fought to ensure that the bridge would be open 24/7 so that students leaving the school after a late practice or club meeting could still safely traverse West Street.



Students practice for theatrical productions in the new building's state-of-the-art auditorium.



Installing the TriBeCa Bridge

With these agreements hashed out, the Coalition started planning for the building design. Two architecture firms - Cooper Robertson & Partners and Gruzen Samton Steinglass - collaborated on the design. Coincidentally, one of the firm partners, **Peter Samton '52**, happened to be a Stuy grad himself. For months, architects came to Stuyvesant to interview students and faculty and observe how the building was being used. Principal Baumel also visited a number of schools in the city and throughout the country, including Thomas Jefferson in Virginia, to gather ideas and designs for the new building.

Principal Baumel and the Coalition pressed hard for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the highway... and fought to ensure that the bridge would be opened 24/7 so that students leaving the school after a late practice or club meeting could still safely traverse West Street.

Construction began in 1989, took three years, and ended up costing \$150 million. The new facilities included 65 classrooms, 12 labs, a theater to seat 866 people, and a dining hall for 700. Principal Baumel and the Stuyvesant Coalition were there every step of the way, from initial ideation to the final opening of the new school.

Principal Baumel was so proud of the building and felt that this new facility was finally befitting of the brilliant students it housed. He originally intended to retire in the summer of 1993, a year after the move, but he was so invested in the completion of the building innovations that he stayed for another year. Even though Principal Baumel retired in 1994, his legacy and work has impacted every student who has walked the halls of 345 Chambers Street since then.

Look on Page 15 for details on our new campaign to honor Principal Baumel.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Annual Return to Stuy Day

Over 400 alums came back to visit Stuyvesant for the Annual Return to Stuy Day! Co-hosted by the school and the Alumni Association on Nov. 22, this event formalized the tradition of recent graduates coming back to visit their teachers and friends on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Some visitors were alums from the old school who were excited to see the new building for the first time.



Left: Alums of Speech & Debate came back to visit Ms. Sheinman and the team. Right: Students line up to enter Stuy.

Alums Go Back in Time to 1776

The Alumni Association organized a viewing for Stuyvesant Theater Community's fall production, *1776*, a play based on the events surrounding the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The cast included one Stuyvesant student who hails from a long line of Stuy grads who attended the play to support her.



It's a family affair! Stephanie Golob '83 (left) brought her brother Paul Golob '81 (middle) and daughter Rebecca Yuste-Golob '15 (right) to support her younger daughter, Clara Yuste '21. Clara is an Assistant Cast Director and plays Joseph Hewes in *1776*.



Principal Contreras (middle) watching *1776* with Michael Hartig '72 (left) and Board Member, Hal Diamond '78 (right)

Alumni Healthcare Speaker Panel

On Feb. 5, the Alumni Association hosted a Healthcare Speaker Panel that discussed the challenges and potential solutions for the future of healthcare. The event, organized by **Hal Diamond '78** and hosted by **Ling Wu Kong '01**, was attended by 70+ alumni and current students. We thank the moderator, Yale University Professor, **Howard Forman '82**, MD and MBA, who deftly engaged six accomplished alumni panelists. Panelists were: **Adam Blumenthal '78** (Managing Partner at Blue Wolf Capital Partners), **Nicholas Bavaro '85** (Orthopedic Surgeon), **Kathie-Ann Joseph '87** (Associate Professor of Surgery at NYU Langone), **Richard Park '90** (Founder and CEO of CityMD), **Charlene Ngamwajarat '01** (Digital Health Specialist), and **Deep Parikh '06** (Ophthalmology Resident and Co-Founder of MD Lingo).



The Alumni Healthcare Speaker Panel

Stuyvesant in LA!

The Alumni Association hosted a brunch in L.A. on Saturday, Dec. 23. The event was attended by 25 alumni who all live in the same city, but most of whom had never met. The group included alums from class years spanning 1955 thro 2010.



Stuy alums meet up at LA brunch.

Help our Speech & Debate Team Go to Nationals!

Since 1984 when Principal Baumel hired Julie Sheinman as an official coach for Stuyvesant's Speech & Debate Team, the team has slowly solidified its standing as a Stuyvesant institution. **The Stuyvesant Speech & Debate team is perennially ranked in the Top 10 of Speech & Debate teams from around the country.** This achievement is made possible through the hundreds of hours of practice and preparation put in by students and coaches. But regardless of their effort and talent, **there is tremendous financial cost required for the team to be successful.** To maintain their competitive edge and qualify for the Tournament of Champions (TOC), students must travel to major tournaments around the country. For our most successful debaters, these costs easily add up to thousands of dollars over the course of a season.

The team has been particularly budget-constrained this year. Despite help from the Alumni Association,

the team has already cancelled four tournaments that they have previously competed in due to the lack of funding. Despite the adversity, our students performed better than ever. **For the first time, the team had 13 debaters qualify for the Tournament of Champions,** the premier debate tournament in the country. In most years, this number is around 5. No other school in the country comes close to Stuyvesant's success across so many categories.

Sadly, a few students have already come to Ms. Sheinman with the fear that they can't attend. For many of these students, the cost of traveling and lodging is too much for their families to support.

These students have already put in hundreds of hours of practice. They qualified for the Tournament of Champions against thousands of other talented debaters — an achievement that money can't buy. It would be heartbreaking if we let finances prevent them from going.

SPEECH & DEBATE BY THE NUMBERS

Since 1984, the Stuyvesant S&D Team has produced:

- ❖ **Eight** National Team Championships
- ❖ Over **10** individual National Championships
- ❖ Over **50** individual State Champions

Some other facts:

- ❖ An active debater practices between **5 – 15** hours/week and competes at **10 – 20** tournaments/year
- ❖ **50%** of the tournaments require some form of travel costs
- ❖ Average annual travel cost for active debaters: **\$1,500**
- ❖ Average annual travel cost for the team's best debaters: **\$5,000**

CAN YOU HELP OUR TEAM TRAVEL TO THE TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS?

Read about the impact of Speech and Debate on Zachary Ginsberg '17, current freshman at Columbia University:

Debate was the highlight of my high school experience. I made all of my closest friends there. I loved every minute of it and spent hours every night researching. On the weekends, I met with my partner to practice and strategize. I have gained more through speech and debate than I have from all of my classes at Stuyvesant combined. **I learned to express myself coherently, persuasively, and passionately, and I gained a love for public speaking.**

In Junior year, my family was going through a rough time. My mom made a lot of sacrifices so that I could travel for debate. She saved up for months to pay for me to attend the Tournament of Champions, which is the most prestigious tournament of the year. **Without Alumni Association funding, it would have been impossible for me to compete at all the tournaments that I qualified for.** In Senior year, I was able to attend and place in the Top Ten of the Tournament of Champions, the National Catholic Forensics League Championship and the National Speech and Debate Association Championship. I remember being at the NSDA national championship and sending out notices to our friends and family every time we got a round closer to winning the tournament. That experience will be something I remember for the rest of my life.



Zachary Ginsberg '17 (left) and Abie Rohrig '18 (right) were ranked #1 nationally in Public Forum for their consistent performance in the 2016 – 2017 season.

Help more students like Zachary compete and represent Stuyvesant at the national tournaments. Donate now!

Four Stuyvesant Students Selected as Regeneron Semifinalists!



The seniors at Stuyvesant's Second Annual Regeneron Research Awards Ceremony

Regeneron (Westinghouse/Intel) announced its results. Congratulations to our Stuyvesant semifinalists: **Tiffany Chen '18** on her research project, "The Cost of Living: Using Machine Learning Algorithms to Predict Gentrifying Neighborhoods in New York City"; **Jenny Gao '18** for her research on "Quantifying the Impact of Nitrogen Use on Photosynthetic Rates by Live Imaging"; **Benedict Ho '18** on researching the "Characterization of N-Myc Downstream Targets in Novel Patient-Derived Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer Organoid"; and **Julian Rubinfien '18**, for his research on the "Amplification of Human Telomeric DNA Sequences in Outer Space via Polymerase Chain Reaction and Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification".

Stuyvesant Places First in Robotics Competition for International Space Station

Stuyvesant is Co-Champion of the Zero Robotics High School Competition, a competition for SPHERES (Synchronized Position Hold Engage and Reorient Experimental Satellites) robots inside the International Space Station. The 2017 game challenged student teams to write code to control the SPHERES satellites to search for life on a moon of Saturn by drilling in the icy surface, avoiding geysers and returning samples to a base station for analysis.

Stuy Senior and Entrepreneur Hopes to Bring Space Access to the Masses

Senior **Sihao Huang '18**, Founder and CEO of startup company Aphelion Orbitals, announced a partnership with Stuyvesant that allows students and faculty to develop an experiment to launch on his next mission spacecraft in 2018 – 2019. Aphelion Orbitals, founded in 2016 while Sihao was still a sophomore at Stuy, is focused on the development of an orbital launch system that will dramatically reduce the cost of getting to space for nanosatellites. Aphelion has received venture capital funding, hired six employees, and is in active NASA contracts since 2017. The company is based in a 2,000 square-foot research and development facility in New Jersey.

An Appeal for Support from a Previous Westinghouse Finalist



Vanessa Liu '92

Help Stuyvesant revive its research program! Stuyvesant has doubled the number of Regeneron semifinalists from last year but our current count of four semi-finalists is still way below our historical peak of 15+ semifinalists in the 1990s/2000s. One of the reasons is due to the increasing difficulty of junior students to get matched up with laboratories and professors. We are hoping fellow Stuyvesant alumni can help. If you are a scientist or researcher in the tri-state area in biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, economics, math, or social sciences, and have the ability to take on a high potential Stuyvesant junior as an intern researcher ASAP, please contact me at: vanessa_liu@post.harvard.edu. Together, we can give all Stuyvesant students the opportunity to experience advanced research.

The Stuy Community Shares Their Coding Expertise

The Alumni Association helped fund StuyHacks' Local Hack Day on December 2. Over the course of 12 hours, Stuyvesant alumni and seniors helped 250 middle-school and high-school students from across the city brainstorm and execute coding projects.

Class Trip to Broadway!



*Mr. Sandler's Jewish History class watched *The Band's Visit* on Broadway.*

The Alumni Association sponsored a class trip to the Broadway show, *The Band's Visit*. The show is about an Egyptian band that is stranded in an Israeli town in the middle of a desert. This opportunity was not only the first time many of these students watched a Broadway show, but also allowed Mr. Sandler's Jewish History class to learn about Israeli and Egyptian culture through art!

Inventor of Connect 4 Visits Stuy



Stuy students challenged Dr. Wexler to a game of Connect 4!

In November, the Alumni Association hosted a visit to Stuyvesant by Dr. Howard Wexler, the inventor of Connect 4. During the visit, he took on some Stuy students at the senior bar in the game of his creation! Dr. Wexler sponsors two \$10,000 scholarships for graduating seniors that he has pledged to give in perpetuity.

Stuy Cheerleading Heads to Nationals



Stuy Cheerleading comes in 9th at Nationals!

For the first time ever, Stuyvesant's Cheerleading Team qualified for the National HS Cheerleading Competition. From Feb. 10–11, they competed against much more experienced teams in Orlando, FL, coming in 9th in the nation! What an incredible accomplishment for their first year at Nationals!

Chess Team Dominations at Nationals



The Stuyvesant Chess team at Nationals in December

With the support of the Alumni Association, the Chess team traveled to Orlando, FL to compete in the U.S. Chess Federation National Championship in December. Our team dominated on the national stage! Our ninth-grade team came in first in the nation and our tenth-grade team and the 12th-grade team also took second place in their respective divisions. On top of that, Stuyvesant had the best ninth-grade chess player in the country (**Justin Chen '21**) for the second year in a row!

Stuyvesant Participates in Two Sigma's High School Internship Program

Stuyvesant had 24 computer science students chosen by Two Sigma, a NYC hedge fund that applies cutting-edge technology to its investment decisions, for its inaugural high school internship program. For ten weeks, students attended weekly sessions taught by Two Sigma employees. At the end of the program, the students worked on a group project that showcased the tools they learned.

Mentoring Highlight — First-Ever Life Skills Workshop



Bill Weiss '80 and Richard Liang '04 presented their own elevator pitches to a group of eager students.



Flora Ng '06 presented on the importance of tracking your spending and saying "No" to credit card debt.

On Saturday January 6th, one of the coldest days in recent memory, almost 100 students and alumni mentors showed up to BlackRock in Midtown to attend the Alumni Mentoring Program's first-ever Life Skills Workshop.

Every year, the Mentoring Program receives great feedback from students for assistance in drafting their first resumes and preparing for interviews. But many students have asked for the Program to expand to include the development of other life skills ranging from networking to budgeting. This year, Program Directors, **Eleonora Srugo '04** and **YanJie Hou '06**, decided to do just that. At the end of 2017, with the help of a dozen other alumni mentors, Eleonora started brainstorming topics and modules for the Mentoring Program's first Life Skills Workshop.



Students practice their newfound networking skills with Justin Christopher '03.

The Life Skills Workshop on January 6th covered a dozen different topics over four hours. Students were divided into two groups. Group A sat in a series of lectures on:

- Email and calendar management (Eleonora)
- Corporate culture and etiquette (YanJie)
- Financial Planning - Budgeting (**Flora Ng '06**), Student Loans & Credit Scores (**Michael Loebel '05**), Saving, Investing, & Taxes (**Gary Chalik '06**)

Group B students rotated in 15-minute increments to work with different mentors who led interactive modules on:

- The Elevator Pitch (**Bill Weiss '80** and **Richard Liang '04**)
- Handshakes (**Bo Xu '05** and **Ikram Hoque '11**)
- Small Talk (**Michael Stern '01**)
- Networking (**Justin Christopher '03**)
- General Q&A (**Andrew Wong '85**, **Wilson Chen '05**, and **Jessie Wang '06**)

The workshop was a tremendous success — the students learned so much and had great fun practicing their new skills. The Alumni Association would like to thank all the alumni mentors who make this workshop and the Program possible. We would like to especially thank **Stuart Spodek '88** and **Jay Glickman '06** for helping us secure the BlackRock office to conduct these sessions.

If you believe in the mission of the Mentoring Program, please donate to the Stuy Fund! Your support helps us provide mentoring to hundreds of students every year.



Gene A. Jarrett '93

Gene A. Jarrett '93 was appointed as Dean of New York University's College of Arts and Science (CAS) last June. Before his return to New York, Dr. Jarrett was in Boston for the last decade. He joined Boston University as a Professor of English and African American Studies in 2007 and was named Associate Dean of the Faculty in 2014. Specializing in African-American literary history from the eighteenth century to the present, Dr. Jarrett has published two books and edited/co-edited eight other works and has received acclaimed academic fellowships for his work.

Dr. Jarrett attributes his accomplishments to his upbringing. His parents are first-generation

“At Stuyvesant, there were a lot of people who excelled in their studies and it made me appreciate how important it was to bring a certain degree of intellectual intensity and energy to whatever I did.”

Jamaican immigrants who instilled in him strong values of hard work and education. “They were always talking about how education is a pathway toward opportunities,” Dr. Jarrett said. “My father used to say to me: the harder you work, the luckier you get.”

Stuyvesant, with its rigor and competitiveness, reinforced these values. At Stuyvesant, Dr. Jarrett explored his dual academic interests of English and Mathematics. The long commute (Dr. Jarrett traveled from the Bronx) and challenging curriculum were obstacles that “you just had to persevere through.” Despite them, Dr. Jarrett remembers Stuyvesant fondly. “[At Stuyvesant], there were a lot of people who excelled in their studies and it made me appreciate how important it was to bring a certain degree of intellectual intensity and energy to whatever I did,” he said.

After graduation, Dr. Jarrett went to Princeton where he received a minor degree in computational

mathematics but ultimately decided to pursue his love for literature by majoring in English. It was at Princeton that Dr. Jarrett was exposed to African-American studies. A series of lectures that he heard there riveted him. “Because I am a person of African descent, the issues regarding race and culture interested me in terms of understanding the world in which I lived and gave me a chance to learn more about myself,” Dr. Jarrett said. Through reading books written by African-American authors about what it means to be American and his own research, Dr. Jarrett found a long history of African-American culture, politics, and intellectual exchange that inspired him to write his own works.

In his current position as Dean of CAS at NYU, Dr. Jarrett works hard to put students in a position to succeed. When students enter NYU, Dr. Jarrett guides them on how to navigate through college and, eventually, through their careers and the rest of their lives. He finds it rewarding to interact with students and faculty from different backgrounds. For Dr. Jarrett, it is important to be compassionate to the different experiences of his students and to be true to who he is and where he came from. To Stuyvesant students, Dr. Jarrett advises studying widely, and to young writers, to practice writing daily. He is currently working on a biography of the poet Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Dr. Jarrett’s parents are first-generation Jamaican immigrants who instilled in him strong values of hard work and education. His father used to say to him, “the harder you work, the luckier you get.”

STUY LOVE STORIES

We are celebrating Valentine's Day this season by featuring Stuyvesant couples who have found love! ♥



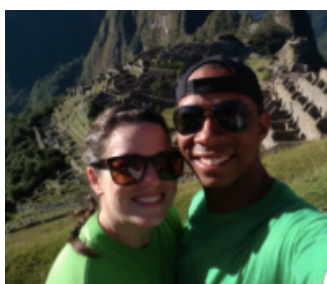
Fran Shapiro '86 and Sam Shapiro '86

Sent from **Fran** and **Sam Shapiro, both Class of '86**: We both had other dates, but did share the last dance at our senior prom in 1986. We were definitely part of the same social circle at Stuy, but were not in touch at all after graduation. We first saw each other again in the summer of 1996 while planning our 10-year reunion, and have been together since the party in November of that year. We were married in June 2000, and have two daughters, Ella (16) and Tess (13).



Serena Chew '89 and Brad Reisner '89 at their senior prom.

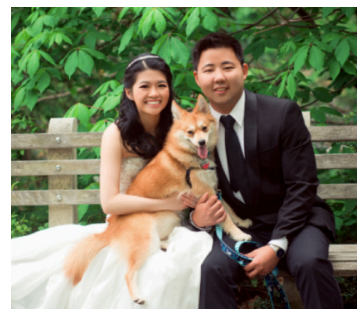
Serena Chew and **Brad Reisner, both Class of '89**, aspired to be doctors when they first met senior year at the New York City science fair for one of their Westinghouse research class entries. They went to prom and graduated from the University of Vermont together. This year marks the 22nd anniversary of their marriage and also the start of their Internet consulting company. Serena and Brad live in Forest Hills and have two kids, Josh (14) and Dara (10).



Marina Lvova '06 and Sean Roker '05 at Machu Picchu in June 2016

Sean Roker '05 and **Marina Lvova '06** met at Stuy when they were both part of Stuy Squad's hip hop dance crew. They were friends for many years but didn't start dating until a few years after college, when they were both back in NYC. Since then, they've traveled the world together. They now live together in Queens.

Duo Xu and **Winnie Du, both Class of '06**, met sophomore year through a mutual friend. But Duo's skinny boy looks weren't enough to charm Winnie (yet). It wasn't until sophomore year of college that they started falling for each other. Now they are married and the proud parents of @wafflestheprancingdog!



Duo Xu '06 and Winnie Du '06 with Waffles

Noah Weiss '04 and **Monica Desai '07** started dating in November 2013, after reconnecting through mutual Stuy friends. After two years of "medium" distance while Monica defected to Boston to study at Harvard Business School, they now live together in Nolita in an apartment too small to house the Bernese Mountain Dog they plan to adopt in the future. They just got engaged on the eve of a trip to Myanmar at the Gagosian Art Gallery.



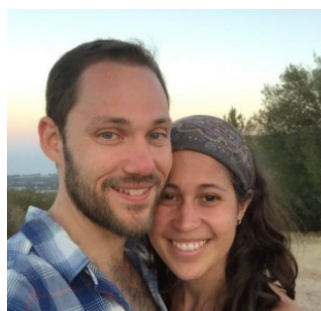
Noah Weiss '04 and Monica Desai '07

Sent from **Sulin Yao '86**: I first saw **Alvin Ong '86** in the hallway of Stuyvesant outside of Physics class. I still remember it like yesterday — he was wearing a muscle tee and cargo pants. Very soon after, we met through mutual friends. Alvin started carrying my books for me between classes and we would hang out in the stairwells. Two weeks later in the Stuy auditorium, he told me that he loved me. I told him he was crazy. We are now married with three kids living in New Jersey.



Sulin Yao '86 and Alvin Ong '86

Brandon Ruben '02 and **Lianna Gomori-Ruben '04** met at Stuyvesant in 2002. They had some mutual friends, but barely knew each other at the time. Even then, however, one of these friends, quite presciently, told Lianna that she thought they would be a good match! Several years later in 2006, Brandon and Lianna bumped into each other on the F-train in Brooklyn and struck up a conversation. It turned out they were both English majors who loved the same writers. They went their separate ways until 2008, when fate reunited them. Soon enough, they found themselves on a first date around



Brandon Ruben '02 and Lianna Gomori-Ruben '04

Drummer's Grove in Prospect Park. In August 2014, they were married at Brooklyn's Ethical Culture Society, across the street from that same park. This summer will mark their ten-year anniversary as a couple and fourth anniversary of their wedding.

Do you have news or updates that you would like us to share with the Stuy community? If you do, email us at updates@shsaa.org and it might be your pictures and news that you see in our next edition of *The Alumni Spectator*!



Bernard Been '35 with his wife, Mildred, on their 74th wedding anniversary

1935: Bernard Been turned 100 on January 24 and also celebrated his 74th wedding anniversary with his wife, Mildred, the following weekend! Bernard speaks often of the great education he received at Stuyvesant and how it was a wonderful foundation to build his life on. Bernard went on to work for the city of New York and later United Artists in the computer field. He is a WWII vet. Bernard and his wife relocated to California 9 years ago but he still has *The New York Times* delivered and reads it cover-to-cover daily.



Milton Fechter '38 in his East Broadway apartment

1938: Milton Fechter lives in the same building on East Broadway as Mr. Sandler's father! Despite the generational difference, Mr. Sandler and Milton always have much to converse on when it come to Stuy!

1952: Charles 'Chuck' Prentiss was recognized by the International Association of Who's Who for exemplary achievement in the arts.

1955: Ron Demer was honored by Cornell for his outstanding services to the university, receiving the 2017 H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Services Award.

1955: Richard Miller's nonfiction book, *Psychedelic Medicine: The Healing Powers of LSD, MDMA, Psilocybin, and Ayahuasca* was released by Simon and Schuster in print and online formats.

1959: The Bronx Opera recently performed **Mark Herman** and Ronnie Apter's English translation of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* and will also perform their English translation of Weber's *Der Freischütz* in May. Mark and Ronnie are happily married and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The family keeps growing, with newest grand-daughter Josephine Pearl Herman now almost a year old. Herman continues to write the Humor and Translation column for the online edition of *The Chronicle*, the Journal of the American Translators Association.

1961: Dave Bushman is the Northern New Jersey Outreach Coordinator for FORCE — Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered - whose mission is to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by hereditary cancers. He is a carrier of the BRCA1 genetic mutation, a trait that runs throughout his mother's side of the family. Dave speaks at symposiums on hereditary cancer and runs work-

shops and panels at the annual FORCE Conferences. Dave was inspired by his mother's death of breast and ovarian cancer when she was only 42 and his daughter learning at age 34 that she too had the BRCA1 genetic mutation. He is concerned that too many people with a history of cancer in their family don't know that the cancer can be passed down by both fathers and mothers. "Knowledge is power" is the mantra that motivates him to spread the word.

1962: Wayne Block is now retired and living in Arizona. He is still working part-time in his chosen profession, college athletics, at Mesa Community College. In 2014, he received the highest honor possible in his area, sports information. He was inducted into the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) national Hall of Fame. Wayne previously received the same honor from the university from which he retired after spending 27 years, Christopher Newport University in Virginia, and from the athletic conference for which he served for 18 years on a part-time basis, the USA South Athletic Conference.

1963: Eric Maisel published two books in 2017— *Overcoming Your Difficult Family* and *Humane Helping*. He has a new book coming out in the spring, *60 Innovative Cognitive Strategies for the Bright, the Sensitive and the Creative*. This newest addition will bring his total count of books published to 50!

1964: A note received from **Neil Marmor**: I have concluded 74 is not young. Fortunately, I still remember much of my prior life. I am thankful

CLASS NOTES

for three things: My good health (relatively speaking), my ongoing ability to pay my rent (etc), and enough remaining IQ to function reasonably well (as best I can tell). With that good fortune — I invest some of my time helping situationally homeless people, reading aloud to young kids, and providing free financial check-ups for college student veterans. In a more selfish vein, I continue to work out, attend performances, museums, galleries, and “live at the Met simulcasts”. I also make use of the local library, one of the few government agencies I wholeheartedly endorse. Keeping up with family and friends has become easier thanks to the internet. I’ve done more travel than a kid from Jackson Heights, Queens, ever dreamt of.

With warm greetings to all my Stuyvesant classmates. If only Stuyvesant were co-ed when I attended, I would be a different man today. Let’s connect — nian0219@aol.com. I’m in San Diego.

1968: From **Dr. Eric Treiber:** I am currently in private practice in Rye New York along with my wife of 40 years Ruth Treiber, MD. We have two grown sons, two daughter in laws, and two granddaughters. In addition to my Westchester private practice, I am a Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons where I voluntarily teach physicians in training and medical students.

For the past several years, I have participated in the Alumni Mentoring Program at Stuyvesant. Current Stuyvesant students are an amazing group of people, and helping them to succeed has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I would encourage any interested alumnus to consider participating in this great program.

1965: While participating in January 20’s Women’s March, **Mitchel Cohen** ran into a group of five women who are current Stuyvesant students. Mitchel filed a news report on the Women’s March for the radio channel WBAI, whose local board he used to chair.

1984: **Laurie Shapiro’s** nonfiction book *The Stowaway*, the true story of a scrappy teenager from the Lower East Side who stowed away on an expedition to Antarctica during the Roaring Twenties, was released by Simon and Schuster.

1986: **Deborah Schneiderman’s** nonfiction book *Interiors Beyond Architecture* was released by Routledge in print and online formats. She held a design symposium in conjunction with her book publishing at the Pratt Institute.

1986: **Raj Choudhury** was representing one of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) owner companies during a settlement relating to transportation rates when he discovered that **Judge Larry Brenner ‘63**, who was mediating the settlement, also attended Stuyvesant.

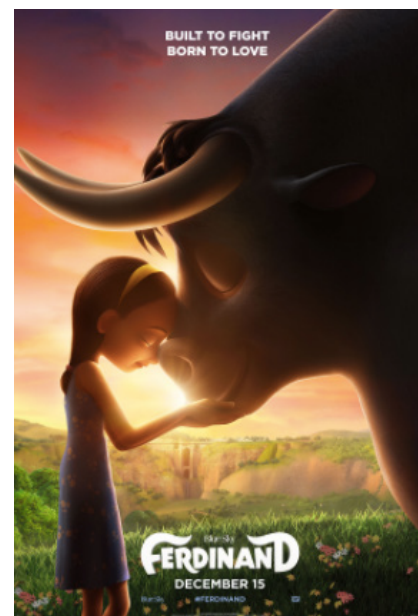


Raj Choudhury '86 with Larry Brenner '63

1988: **Mohamad Ali** attended the January 30 State of the Union address as the guest of Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.). Mohamad is current President & CEO of Carbonite, which provides cloud and hybrid data protection solutions for businesses. Previously, Mohamad was the Chief Strategy Officer of Hewlett-Packard.

1990: **Racheline Maltese’s** fifth novel, *A Queen from the North* (co-written with Erin McRae), was named Library Journal’s Best Indie Ebook in 2017.

1994: **Elvis Au** grew up on the classic “The Story of Ferdinand” and is proud to announce that *Ferdinand*, a family-friendly animated movie that he’s worked on as technical director for the last couple years, has received a 2018 Oscar nomination for Best Animated Feature Film!



2000: Juventas New Music Ensemble released a new album of Composer **Oliver Caplan’s** music, entitled *You Are Not Alone*, this past December. Oliver is the ensemble’s new Artistic Director.

2006: Janice Jang married Jona Kim on September 23 at the Harold Pratt House. Janice is a third-year resident in internal medicine at NYU Langone and Jona is a lawyer for FactSet. Janice's maid of honor was her sister, **Aenny Chung '00**. There were also several '06 Stuy classmates among the attendees including **YanJie Hou, Wai Ling Cheung, Dening Kong, Sha Lu, and Xiaotian Chen**.



At the wedding of Janice Jang '06 and Jona Kim

2012: Lena Wu and **Vicky Gong**, two founders of the toy company Flip'N'Check, met up with Dr. Howard Wexler and entrepreneur Pam Chmiel. Dr. Wexler is the founder of Connect 4 and has 3 newly published books, new geometric art pieces, 9 recently sold toy inventions, and a perpetual scholarship fund at Stuyvesant!



Lena Wu '12 and Vicky Gong '12 met up with Connect 4 inventor, Dr. Howard Wexler and entrepreneur Pam Chmiel.

The Alumni Association has received the following obituary notices:

1945: Jack Bergstein
1965: William Bockhold
1972: Lawrence Hammer
1978: Felina Moses Solomon

1939: Albert Foray passed away on March 6, 2017. Proud WWII and Korean Veteran who participated in atomic testing in the Pacific and the Grumman Lunar Module Project. Beloved husband of the late Ethel. Loving father of Robert (Jacqueline) and Laurence J. Cherished grandfather of Caroline and Haleigh.

1940: Richard Farber passed away on May 2, 2017. Beloved husband of Elaine. Loving dad of Dr. Martin (Susan), Andrew (Rabbi Joan) and Sheryl Magaziner (Robert). Fun-loving grandpa of Jennifer Sandler (Matt), Aaron (Leanne), Rabbi Miriam Wajnberg (Rabbi Beni), Sarah Magaziner, Adam, Alison Magaziner and Yael. Cherished great-grandpa of Leo and Micah Sandler and Shai Wajnberg.

1945: Harold Ottobri of Natick, MA passed away on November 27, 2017 at the age of 89, while vacationing in South Carolina. From his niece, Robin Guzzo: He will be deeply missed by all those who were lucky to have known him. He introduced me to many new things — sports, skiing, sailing, history and the arts. He was well-educated, fun, and full of stories. I hope my donation in my memory of my uncle will go toward the youth and help develop students with strong character as it did for my uncle Harold in attending Stuyvesant High School. One person can touch another person's spirit and heart and lead them towards the trails of goodness as my uncle did for so many.

Ergi Pesiri passed away on November 19, 2016 at his home in Melville. He was 88. Dr. Pesiri was born on June 24, 1928 and was raised in Middle Village. Dr. Pesiri attended St. Johns University, followed by medical school at Marquette University. After serving seven years in the US Coast Guard, Dr.

Pesiri worked in New York in radiology before joining Dr. Jerome Zwanger in 1958. Founder and partner of the Zwanger-Pesiri Radiology Group, Dr. Pesiri retired from practice in 2001. Dr. Pesiri leaves his wife of 63 years, Nancy, a nurse who he met while studying at Marquette, a son Thomas (deceased), two daughters Evelyn Pesiri and Ann Swanson, son-in-law Eric Swanson (Annapolis MD), as well as three grandchildren, Taylor and Sky Swanson and Josie Pesiri, his sister Carol Harrigan and her husband Richard and two nieces.

1946: Edward Gilbert Sisson, 89, of Dundee, passed away on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at the Penn Yan Manor. Edward was born March 10, 1928 in New York City, the son of Edward Bellamy and Elsie Lorenz Sisson. After graduating from Stuyvesant High School, he studied commercial art at Cooper Union in New York. Edward served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 to 1956 in Amarillo, TX. He then worked for New Jersey Bell Telephone Company for 26 years un-

MEMORIALS

MEMORIALS

til he retired in 1982. He married Lois Marie Williamson on July 21, 1951. Edward and Lois resided and raised their family in Berkeley Heights, NJ, where he proudly designed and built the family's home. Upon retirement, he fulfilled his dream of owning a farm when they moved to Dundee. He is survived by two daughters, a son and five grandchildren.

Dr. Stanley Blumenthal, of Flossmoor, IL, passed away on December 4, 2017. After Stuyvesant, Stanley continued his education at City College and NYU College of Medicine. He interned at Mount Sinai Hospital and took a residency at Montefiore Hospital. Following this, he joined the Navy and later opened a private practice in internal medicine in New York. After several years, he left private practice to enter academic medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and later moved to SUNY in Syracuse, where he was a professor of medicine and specialized in endocrinology. Nineteen years later, he came to Christ Hospital in Oaktown, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago) and held a professorship at the University of Illinois. He remained in this position until his death.

1947: Peter Jurtshuk Jr., Ph.D. passed away on July 9, 2017 in Webster, TX. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Rebecca Jones, his son, Peter Jurtshuk III, and his daughter, Larissa Jurtshuk. Peter graduated from Stuyvesant in 1947 and NYU Washington Square College with a BS in 1951, Creighton University with a MS in 1953, University of Maryland College Park with a PhD in Microbiology in 1957. He did a Post Doc at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He taught microbiology at UT - Austin from 1963 - 1969 before joining the faculty at University of Houston in 1970. He retired in 2011 and was granted emeritus status in 2012. Many students he taught have gone on to teaching and research positions around the world.

1949: Edward Cohen passed away December 18, 2017, after a struggle with lung cancer. He is survived by his adored wife, Elly Kempler Cohen; daughters Diana (Richard) and Wendy (Barry); and grandsons Jordan, Jeremy, Sander, and Asher. He met Elly Kempler in college, and they married in 1952. After being stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army, Ed became a Foreign Service officer. Over 39 years, he served in Niagara Falls (Canada), Bermuda, Greece, Ecuador, Sweden, and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). In retirement, he became a published and regarded paleolinguist. He also pursued his lifelong passion for early jazz and recorded several original and acclaimed compositions.

1949: Walter Jallins of Newhall, CA was a retired real estate broker who passed away on October 4, 2017.

1950: John Balash passed away on February 2, 2017.

1951: Alex Strasser, MD passed away on September 10, 2017, at the age of 83. Survived by wife, Helga; son, Dr. Stephen (Dr. Susan Emerson); grandchildren, Tristan and Eric; and brother, Joseph.

1952: Joseph Domonkos passed away on June 24, 2017. Joseph is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Paula (Harwood) Domonkos, and cherished children Mary, Julie, Joseph, Pamela and Andrew. Beloved Papa to Frank, Deborah, Asher, Antonio, Lucia, Charlie, Monica, Caroline, Drew, Jack and Avery. He retired after a lengthy career with the General Electric Company. He was a lover of the NY Mets and the NY Jets. He loved gardening, fishing, an ice cold martini, summers on Cape Cod, and spending time with his family. He was an ardent devotee of *The New York Times* crossword and enjoyed bringing birds to his backyard feeders.

1954: Carlos Ortiz passed away on May 1, 2017. He is survived by his loving wife Alice (Mulrane) of 55 years. He is affectionately remembered by his son Andrew (Julie) and grandchildren Drew and Kevin, son Kenneth; and daughter Carla (Roy) and granddaughter Danii. Mr. Ortiz moved to New City, NY in 1965 with his wife Alice and raised their family. He was an avid golfer and enthusiastic supporter of the Yankees, Giants and Knicks. He enjoyed spending free time with his family at their vacation home in Gardiner, NY. He will be lovingly missed by his wife, children and grandchildren as well as his extended family of cousins and relatives.

Ivan Hametz of Massapequa, NY passed away on August 12, 2017. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, and brother. Retired attorney; long-time host of WBAI's "Through the Opera Glass;" served his Massapequa community at Temple Sinai, as school board member and soccer coach, and is on the Massapequa Historical Society honor roll.

1956: Dr. Robert A. Moss of Metuchen, NJ passed away on November 27, 2017. Rutgers chemistry professor, husband, father, grandfather, scholar, teacher, friend. 53-year career in chemistry at Rutgers University. After his marriage to Sandra Wolman in 1967, the couple moved to Metuchen, NJ, and raised two sons. Bob wrote several books and over 400 scientific articles, winning many awards for his work. Outside the lab, Bob devoted himself to lifelong loves: classical music, Sherlock Holmes, baseball, stamp collecting, travel, poetry. Above all, he cherished his family: his wife, Sandra, his sons, Kenneth and Daniel and their wives, Anne and Lindsay, and his grandchildren, Isaac, Aaron, Celia, and Shoshana.

1962: William Hagenlocher passed away in August 2017.

Make A 100% Tax Deductible Gift Today!

YES! I would like to donate to the Abe Baumel Legacy Campaign and help our current principal preserve Abe's legacy of constant innovation and improvement.

- \$10,000 - Principal's Circle
- \$5,000 - Partner
- \$1,000 - Patron
- \$500 - Benefactor
- \$250 - Friend
- Other: \$ _____

I want to pay my membership dues!

- \$50 for General Membership
- \$25 for students/seniors

I want to donate to the General Fund (The Stuy Fund).

- \$10,000
- \$5,000
- \$2,500
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- Other: \$ _____

Donations: \$ _____ + Membership Dues: \$ _____ =

Total Gift: \$ _____

Thank you so much for your support! Please make your check payable to the "Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association." Please also include this slip with your check and mail it to:

Stuyvesant High School
Alumni Association
PO Box 3531
New York, NY 10008-3531

If you would like to donate by credit card, please donate directly via our website:

www.stuyalumni.org/donate

JOIN US IN HONORING PRINCIPAL ABE BAUMEL

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Stuyvesant's move to the new school, we are unveiling a new campaign to honor Principal Abraham (Abe) Baumel and his legacy.

THE LEGACY

Principal Baumel always believed that Stuyvesant deserved the #1 ranking for NYC's best high school and he dedicated his career to ensuring that this held true. Over the course of a decade, he made numerous improvements to the school's facility, class curriculum, and student activities.

In addition to leading Stuyvesant's move to 345 Chambers, Principal Baumel bolstered Speech & Debate by hiring Julie Sheinman, who has led the team to eight national championships. Under his tenure, Stuyvesant's presence at Westinghouse (later renamed Intel and Regeneron) Science Talent Search program grew to produce more finalists and semifinalists than ever before.

These are only a few examples of Principal Baumel's lasting contribution to the school and community. His legacy goes far beyond the years he was Principal and for that we would like to take this opportunity to honor him.

Honoring Principal Abraham Baumel

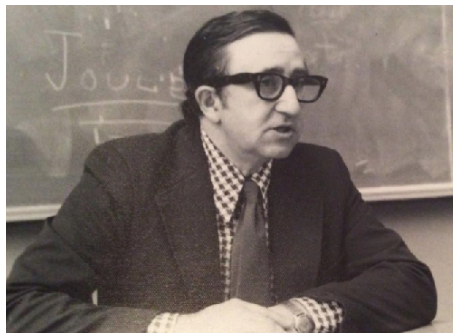
Principal's Cabinet: \$10,000+

Partner: \$5,000+

Patron: \$1,000+

Benefactor: \$500+

Friend: \$250+



Before he became principal, Abe taught physics for decades at both Stuyvesant and Bronx Science.

THE CAMPAIGN

To commemorate the 25th year anniversary of the new building, we are raising funds to dedicate the pedestrian bridge over the West Side Highway to Principal Baumel. At the end of the Campaign, we will hang a plaque at the School's entrance to the bridge to memorialize Abe's legacy.

For a limited time, we are also offering alumni the opportunity to have their name featured in the campaign. **All donors will have their names displayed by giving tiers on our website. Donors who give \$250 or more will have their names inscribed on the memorial plaque.**

This fund will be used to support our current principal, Eric Contreras in his endeavor to upgrade Stuyvesant's curriculum. The Campaign launches today and will end in June 2018 with the conclusion of the school year.

Donate today!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! We are collecting stories and memories of Abe Baumel to publish during the Campaign. If you have fond stories of Abe that you would like to share, please email us at updates@shsaa.org.

Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 3531

New York, NY 10008-3531

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the latest updates on Alumni Association events, check out our website at www.stuyalumni.org/events

Stuy Alums in Tech

Wednesday, March 21

The Stuyvesant Alumni Association is pleased to organize an event for Stuyvesant alumni in technology. Over 50 alumni working in the technology space, from founders to product managers to investors, will gather March 21st to discuss tech in NYC and beyond. The event will include an industry panel followed by a reception and time to network. The event is organized by **Brett Lewis '02** and **Peter Boyce '08**. If interested, please register your interest at www.stuyalumni.org/events for this and future tech events.

Parent Association Spring Feast

Friday, April 20

The Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association invites you to join the 15th annual Stuyvesant High School Spring Feast. This special evening -- the school's biggest social and fundraising event of the year -- will be held at Jing Fong Restaurant on Friday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. Buy your ticket at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stuypa/135749/r/shaa>

Stuyvesant Football's 35th Annual Awards Banquet

Sunday, May 6

It takes incredible dedication and hard work to be both a Stuyvesant student and a football player. Join the football team as we support and celebrate the student-athletes of the Stuyvesant Peglegs at this year's football awards banquet. The banquet will take place at Clyde Frazier's Wine & Dine from 1PM - 4PM. You can email stuyfootballpa@gmail.com for more information or buy tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/35th-annual-awards-banquet-tickets-42744588214>

PSA for the Stuyvesant Community - WTC Health Program

For classes of '02-'05 or alums who lived, worked, or attended school below Houston Street after 9/11:

The Zadroga Act offers health care and compensation to people who attended school, lived, or worked below Houston Street on or right after September 11th. If you suffer from respiratory, gastrointestinal, or mental health issues, or if you've been diagnosed with cancer, StuyHealth, a resource created by Stuy alums, can help you access care and compensation. While the health program is permanent, the Victim's Compensation Fund will close in 2020 so even healthy Stuy alums from the classes of '02-'05 should register immediately to preserve their right to file a future claim. You do not have to be sick to do so.

To find out what the 9/11 survivor programs do and how to apply, check out www.stuyhealth.org or email info@stuyhealth.org.