

# REFLECTIONS



**IN THIS ISSUE**

Commencement 2019 & 2020 | Annual Report of Donors 2019-2020 & 2020-2021





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

A LETTER FROM  
THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

04

FACULTY FAMILY –  
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

08

ATHLETICS 2019-2021-  
MICHAEL MAZELLA '90

14

WELCOME ALUMNI

20

OUR GRADUATES

28

HALL OF FAME

## MISSION STATEMENT

Successful students – achieving their goals in school and in life – are at the heart of the learning community that is Staten Island Academy. An independent, co-educational, college prep school for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12, the Academy provides an inspiring balance of intellectual challenge, exploration, service, and opportunity. Our students learn to be critical thinkers, ethical leaders, and self-reliant problem solvers, who are equipped to navigate a complex and ever-changing world. We prepare our students to become life-long learners. Academy students find their own voices, develop their talents, and raise their aspirations. Staten Island Academy proudly recognizes, respects, and affirms the dignity and worth of all members of our community.

## DIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Rooted in the belief that diversity creates excellence, Staten Island Academy welcomes a multiplicity of voices and perspectives that includes, but is not limited to, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, family structure and economic backgrounds. We are committed to a program that deepens understanding of our multicultural world and affirms inclusivity in and outside the classroom. We expect members of our community to engage in open and ongoing dialogue on diversity issues to promote awareness, understanding and respect and to use these conversations as catalysts for individual and collective growth. To move beyond tolerance, we support and assist our students, faculty and parents in successfully negotiating and embracing the distinctive heritages, beliefs, and differences that form our common humanity.





# 36

IMPACT OF PHILANTHROPY

# 56

PIVOTAL EVENTS

# 58

THE TIGER CLASSIC

# 64

REMEMBERING MR. BROWN

# 80

RENAISSANCE

# 81

A FRUITFUL TRIUMPH

# 84

HOW A SMALL SCHOOL  
ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING  
SO BIG

# 92

COMMENCEMENT 2020

## 2019-20 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Timothy C. Harrison, President  
Joseph A. Puma, MD, Vice President  
Frank Scarangelo, Treasurer  
Anita W. Laremont, Secretary  
Paul R. Ainslie  
Robert Annicharico  
Angela Ardolic  
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James Barbaria  
Elizabeth Bifulco  
Steven I. Caplan  
Albert R. Cauz ex-officio  
Joan Cusack  
Eric De La Cruz, MD  
Allison Factor  
Julio V. Gambuto '96  
Mark Gladstein, MD  
Robert C. Kleinau '96  
Michelle Ribisi ex-officio  
Michelle Savino  
Bharath Sithian '04  
Damian Slattery '76

## HEADS OF SCHOOL

Anton Methfessel - Founder 1862-1884  
Frederick E. Partington - 1884-1907  
Frank R. Page - 1907-1920  
Dr. John F. Dunne - 1920-1925  
Charles H. Garrison - 1925-1929  
Thomas Burton - 1929-1933  
Charles L. Easton - 1933-1935  
Stephen J. Botsford - 1936-1942  
Dr. Harold E. Merrick - 1942-1962  
Harvey H. MacArthur - 1962-1967  
Dr. Mary E. Meade - 1967-1968  
Peter M. Webster - 1968-1976  
Dr. J. Stevens Bean - 1976-1989  
F. Graham Brown, Jr. - 1989-1996  
Carmen Marnell - 1996-2002  
Diane J. Hulse - 2002-2012  
Albert R. Cauz - 2012-present





# LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

DEAR FRIENDS,

ON MARCH 13, 2020, STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY ENTERED INTO A 14-MONTH PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY; ONE COULD EVEN ARGUE AS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT PERIODS IN ACADEMY HISTORY. DURING OUR MARCH SPRING BREAK, WE WORKED QUICKLY TO PUT TOGETHER A REMOTE LEARNING PROGRAM SO THAT OUR STUDENTS COULD FINISH OUT THEIR ACADEMIC YEAR SUCCESSFULLY.

Moreover, on August 1, 2020, following the New York State guidelines, we were able to hold our 132<sup>nd</sup> Commencement ceremony in person and outdoors. All attendees present (parents, students, and some faculty) wore face masks and practiced social distancing. Throughout that summer, we held several Zoom meetings with all of our faculty and parents to discuss the fall protocols to have full-time in-person learning. Our COVID-19 committee spoke with several different constituencies including, faculty and parents of all the Academy's



programs; Early Childhood, Lower School, Middle School, Upper School, and International Students. We also consulted with medical experts, who are friends of the Academy, concerning best practices and health protocols. While arduous, it ultimately proved to work beyond our highest expectations.

While this year has been one of the most challenging in the Academy's history, it may



be the most successful year compared to any other independent school in the nation during these COVID-19 months. We are genuinely proud of our achievements and accomplishments by being one of the lead Independent Schools in New York City for holding in-person instruction this year. This

“While this year has been one of the most challenging in the Academy’s history, it may be the most successful year compared to any other independent school in the nation during these COVID-19 months. We are genuinely proud of our achievements and accomplishments by being one of the lead Independent Schools in New York City for holding in-person instruction this year. This achievement was carried out through effort, sacrifice, and commitment to our student’s and faculty’s safety.”

achievement was carried out through effort, sacrifice, and commitment to our student’s and faculty’s safety. The Academy will continue to be as vigilant as ever to protect the health and well-being of every member of this community. We will continue to keep our community members safe using our facial recognition and temperature monitors. In order to keep our in-person instruction held safely this past year, we took several steps that allowed us to keep our Academy community healthy. We set up tenting areas for outdoor classrooms on campus to reduce population density on campus. Staten Island Academy also utilized antimicrobial films for all of our door handles, MERV-13 filtration systems for pure indoor air, and a daily health screening service with our RUVNA system to prevent anyone who was ill from coming to campus. Thanks to the generosity of one of our Trustees, we were able to offer free PCR testing to our whole community after extended breaks. Truly exceptional! We are proud to be one of the finest Independent Schools in New York State, and it couldn’t happen without you!

Now, as we approach the 2021-2022 academic year, we are poised, once again,

to re-engage in our Renaissance Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to create a space where our students will develop habits of the mind, grow comfortable solving new and unfamiliar problems, and learn that mastery of material is possible through the study of curated supplemental material developed for any discipline. We hope that our students will come to realize that mastery is more important than an “A,” that failure is only temporary, and that by employing personal resiliency and intellectual dexterity, anything is possible. The Renaissance Campaign is dedicated to creating the space for a multi-purpose room where all sorts of projects can be presented. It would provide flexible spaces for film festivals, one-act plays, dance and multi-media events, just to name a few of the potential activities that our students would enjoy. There will be learning hubs outside of our classrooms, with writable walls and new technology, where our students can obtain diverse information quickly and collaborate easily with one another. Most importantly, the space will provide an area where students and faculty work together to improve problem-solving and writing skills. We would also like to make sure our students can work in differentiation pods where they will master material through curated information and personal tutorials. It is also a place where students can complete their yearlong Senior capstone projects by pursuing any one of their particular passions, one-on-one, with an assigned faculty tutor. Lastly, we are pleased to have reached 60% of our \$10 million-dollar goal for the Renaissance Campaign. Thank you for your continued support in helping to make Staten Island Academy the best educational institution that it can possibly be!

Sincerely,



Albert R. Cauz  
Head of School



# RETIRED FACULTY FAMILY - FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

**STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY** ACKNOWLEDGES THE FACULTY AND STAFF WHO HAVE RETIRED FROM THE ACADEMY COMMUNITY OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS: PATRICIA AUTERI P'15 '16 (6 YEARS OF SERVICE), CATHERINE DUNNING (10 YEARS OF SERVICE), KRISTI PFISTER (13 YEARS OF SERVICE), SUSAN PUTTICK P'96 '02 (32 YEARS OF SERVICE), AND MICHAEL SHANLEY SR. P'90 '99 (46 YEARS OF SERVICE).

THESE FIVE INCREDIBLE PEOPLE WERE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ACADEMY AND HAVE TOUCHED MANY LIVES. THEY WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO OUR STUDENTS AND WILLINGNESS TO GIVE SO MUCH OF THEMSELVES TO THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY. WE ASKED OUR FACULTY TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES.



► Mr. Shanley Sr. and his family

**MICHAEL SHANLEY SR.** instilled a passion for learning in me that I have carried with me throughout my life. The kindness he showed to all is something I strive to emulate in and out of the classroom. As we start our new school year, I am still saddened to no longer hear his voice when I enter Kearns Hall in the morning. Although I miss him terribly, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside him for eight years and wish him the best on a well-deserved retirement!

-Michael Shanley, III



► Mr. Shanley Sr. and Lily



► Mr. Shanley Sr. and Mrs. Mazella





► Susan Puttick

**SUSAN PUTTICK** is the picture of a strong, athletic, intelligent woman and teacher! Her love of children showed in how she taught them and in the relationships that she developed with each and every one of them. She is the ear to listen to and the shoulder to lean on. She is the hand that picks you up when you fall, and the arms that show you love and compassion. Mostly for me, Susan is a mentor and still one of the most loyal friends that I have. She taught me everything she knew about teaching, about working with children, and about being a strong woman. We share a love of family and, of course, Italian food! I grew up alongside her and her children. Susan could never be just any teacher! She was deemed the “Silver Fox” years ago, an iconic member of this community. In fact, so many students and



► Susan Puttick with SIA family

faculty cannot remember a time in their past when Susan was not part of their life at the Academy. There is a very good reason for that. Susan was dedicated and passionate about everything she did here for 32 years. She didn’t just work here. She made this place part of her life, a part that she loved. She was a teacher, coach, advisor, and the biggest cheerleader on the sidelines for her students. Though I wish Susan a wonderful, relaxing, and peaceful retirement, I selfishly wish she was still by my side supporting me, and dancing with me at the Geranium Ball or just meeting me for coffee. She was always just there for me and so many others. I am forever changed by knowing Susan Puttick, and I am so grateful to have shared so many years working side by side with her. She will always be one of the best parts of Staten Island Academy for so many! Susan, you may be the Silver Fox, but you will always be a Tiger to us!

-Jamie Mazella



► Pat Auteri with SIA family

The Academy was very fortunate that **PATRICIA AUTERI** served as our School Nurse for the past six years. She served our school community with her extensive knowledge and ability, with her dedication to Staten Island Academy, and with her

love and kindness. She cares for each and every one of us; students, parents, faculty and staff. While she moves on to the next chapter in her life, to enjoy more time with her family and do the things she loves, Mrs. Auteri will always hold a very special place in our hearts

-Marianne Contini





► Kristie Pfister and Catherine Dunning

Among my favorite interactions with **KRISTI PFISTER** were the many Mondays we would sit together during Middle School lunch, where she would inquire about my weekend and then, had I seen art, proceed to patiently explain to me why what I'd seen was important, why it was art (!), and why it was so cool. She would then ask about and recommend other worthwhile artists and exhibits. Kristi made Monday lunches fun. She asked good questions and was genuinely interested in the responses. She brought that curiosity, deep knowledge, patience and enthusiasm to all of her endeavors at Staten Island Academy, and everyone in her orbit is richer for it.

As an advisor Kristi was kind, thorough and responsive, and we knew we could always count on her to address issues and do what was best. In grade level and school meetings, Kristi was calm and patient, and offered a unique insight into many matters. I for one, always appreciated her artist's perspective that allowed me to see things in different and additional ways. As a teacher she was always willing to talk about her work, but took equal interest in what was happening in other disciplines, and was always willing to lend support. Her classes were interesting and the art her students produced was stunning. The students at SIA were truly fortunate to have had Ms. Pfister, and I am confident that she has left an equally profound mark on them as she has on her colleagues.

-Ed Graban

I can't think of **CATHERINE DUNNING** and not smile. I just can't. A whirlwind of ideas, passion, and incredible humor, Cat made her presence known whenever she entered a room. An artist through and through, Cat brought life and light to the Art Barn and to Staten Island Academy. Cat was and is a generous artist and a generous teacher. She shared her many talents with our students and our community, helping foster a sense of confidence and a desire to explore and experiment as artists. The Art Barn became a place where students of all ages felt welcome. Cat had a unique ability to make every student feel seen and feel valued, both as artists and as human beings. She provided a place for students to feel safe to create, talk and express themselves. Cat and the Art Barn became synonymous with stress relief. Whether throwing a pot on the wheel or collaging banners for the Lower School productions, students found a place to release stress, to laugh and to feel taken care of.



► Catherine Dunning

Many people don't know this, but Cat actually lived across the street from me at my home in New Jersey. Not only was she a fantastic colleague here at the Academy, but she was also a wonderful neighbor and friend. Although she has moved away, there are constant reminders of Cat both at school and in my home. The work she did with her students still hangs in several locations on campus and her own personal work is both in use and on display in my home, and every day when I see Cat's work, I can't help but smile.

- Mark Weissman









# A RENEWED APPRECIATION FOR WHAT I LOVE AND THOSE I LOVE

by Michael Mazella '90, Director of Athletics

SOMETIMES WHEN ALL SEEMS LOST, THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE GAINED. THIS IS CERTAINLY TRUE IN SPORTS, AS THE BEST COACHES WILL TRY TO HELP THEIR TEAMS LEARN FROM MISTAKES AND LOSSES AND PERHAPS EVEN TO BE MOTIVATED BY FAILURE.

After all, a loss is only a loss if there is nothing learned in defeat. If we look at the last year and a half in athletics, we realize that our student-athletes lost a great deal. The pandemic caused the cancellation of the 2020 spring athletic season, and this past calendar year, our volleyball, swim, and basketball teams were denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic competition.

Of course, the loss of an athletic season should never be confused with the tragic loss of loved ones experienced by so many people during this pandemic, but as we saw very clearly, the pandemic disrupted every facet of life, athletics included. The teams that were lucky enough to have a season during the 2020-2021 school year found that their schedules were truncated, and these shortened seasons were unfortunately marked by lengthened road trips to the far



reaches of Long Island to play against the only independent schools in the NYC area whose league did not cancel contests for the year. And at this point, I should credit our administration, our coaching staff, our families, and our student-athletes for having the courage, discipline, and resolve to go forward with the seasons that were permitted. Sure, we had to adjust to wearing masks during practices and games and had to play with our families and fans watching from their cars or the perimeter of campus, but at least we were playing. And, boy, were we playing well, as our 12 regular season and postseason championships over the last two calendar years will attest! Still, our student-athletes and our school community lost a great deal over the last 18 months. Hopefully, though, we will come back stronger than ever because of what we've gained over this same period of time.

Perhaps the most important thing that I've gained from the COVID pandemic is a renewed appreciation for what I love and for those I love. It's easy to take things for granted, and for 26 years, I knew that November would mark the beginning of another basketball season, another chance for me to mold a group of young men into a team, another chance to feed my competitive nature with a full slate of 22 games plus playoffs. Very few things are guaranteed in life, but as far as I knew, death, taxes, and basketball seemed to fall into the small pile of life's guarantees. But then along came COVID in the early spring of 2020. As Director of Athletics, I was heartbroken for our student-athletes who had their spring seasons taken away from them last year, and I was concerned over the summer when the negative reports about the positivity rates were putting the 2020 fall season in jeopardy. I breathed a sigh of relief when the PSAA decided to forge ahead and have a fall season for outdoor sports. While I watched the girls' volleyball teams mourn the loss of their season because it was deemed a high-risk indoor sport, I selfishly hoped that



“SIA's boys' varsity basketball has always been a blue-collar team that is greater than the sum of its parts. We pride ourselves on hard work, toughness, and unselfish play. We have always relished the role of the underdog, and we are a team that plays with great passion and pride. The past 16 months have been very difficult for the boys' varsity team. Basketball is such an integral part of our lives, and having the sport taken away from us has left us hungry to get back on the court and to rebuild the bonds and team chemistry that are unique to our team. I think that we've come to realize that few things in life are as enjoyable as being part of a group of guys with a great work ethic and a common goal. We've missed the hard work that is a hallmark of our practices, and we've especially missed the thrill of competition.”

MIKE MAZELLA '90





the pandemic would subside in time for us to have a normal basketball season. Soon, though, it became apparent that there would be no basketball for the Tigers. I think I experienced the five stages of grief in quick succession, even though my wife probably had a difficult time reaching acceptance of the fact that I was going to be around the house a lot more during the winter months.

Thank God college basketball wasn't cancelled, as I found myself watching an inordinate number of games. For some reason, I thought that the 10:30 PM West coast game between Pepperdine and Loyola Marymount on a Wednesday night was somehow going to help me overcome my personal basketball withdrawal. But the longer I went without being on the court with my players and staff, the more I missed them and the more I missed coaching basketball. What the pandemic took away hurt me, but what it has given me is a renewed appreciation for what I get to do. I know how lucky I am to have the opportunity to be the coach of a boys' varsity basketball team on Staten Island. It's long been said that every fan of high school basketball in this borough thinks they are a coach, but only 13 individuals can claim to have the honor of being a varsity head coach. I think I did take my coaching role for granted, but I will not do so in the future. It's true that you don't know what you have until it's gone. I can't wait to get out there

next year and work with our student-athletes, and I know I speak for the vast majority of our student-athletes who had a season cancelled and who now can't wait to get back onto the courts and fields.

I look back at how I used to tell my players to embrace the grind of the long season, and now I realize that it never was a grind. And playing a sport should never be considered a grind or a chore. It is a pleasure and a privilege every day you get to lace up your sneakers or cleats, to dive into the pool, to step onto the fields of play. COVID has deepened my love for sport, for the thrill of competition, and for the joy of working with others towards a common goal. My hope is that the Tigers will have that elusive "return to normal" in the 2021-2022 school year and that they will play with unbridled joy and enthusiasm, knowing that they are back to doing what they love.

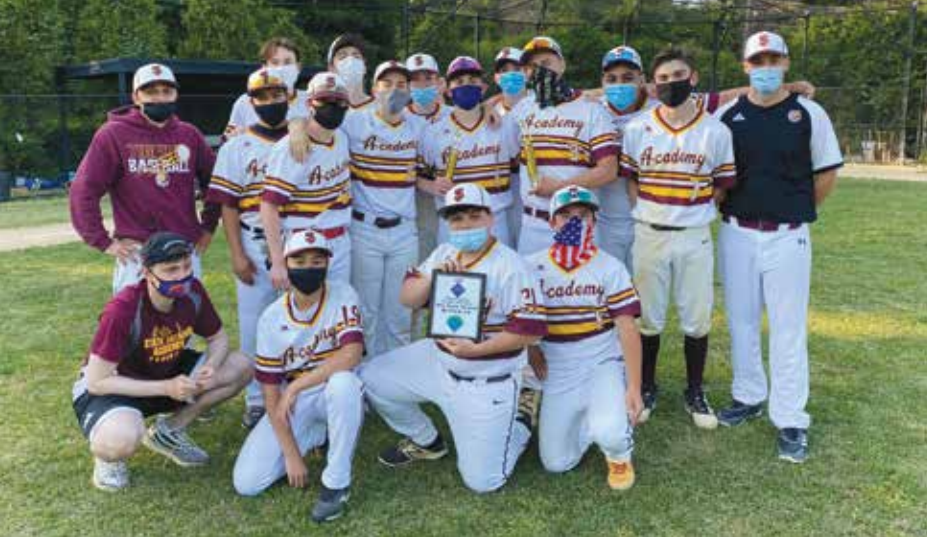


► Coach Acquilano and Coach Crane









## TWO EXTRAORDINARILY CHALLENGING YEARS IN ATHLETICS

### FALL 2019

**GIRLS TENNIS** — CHSAA regular season champions; PSAA regular season and postseason champions

**GIRLS SOCCER** — PSAA regular season and postseason champions; ACIS regular season champions

**BOYS SOCCER** — PSAA regular season and postseason champions

### WINTER 2020

**GIRLS JV BASKETBALL** — PSAA regular season and postseason champions

### FALL 2020

**GIRLS SOCCER** — PSAA regular and postseason champions

**BOYS SOCCER** — PSAA regular season champions

### SPRING 2021

**GIRLS SOFTBALL** — PSAA regular season and postseason champions

## INDIVIDUAL HONORS

### 2020-2021

#### GIRLS TENNIS

##### CHSAA Sportsmanship Award

Yuliya Tarnovetska '23

##### CHSAA Coaches' Award

Nicole Rossilli '23

##### CHSAA Leadership Award

Isabella Marchese '21



### **CHSAA Alternate Singles Champion**

Alisa Shapsis '22

### **PSAA All-Conference**

Isabella Marchese '21 and

Nicole Rossilli '23

### **BOYS SOCCER**

#### **PSAA All-Conference:**

Daniel Saputo '21, Jeremiah Geneve '21,

Kwesi Armah '21

#### **PSAA Postseason MVP:**

Daniel Saputo '21

### **GIRLS SOCCER**

#### **PSAA All-Conference:**

Elizabeth Gallagher '21, Eleni De La Cruz '22,

Allison Gallagher '23, Kelly Gallagher '24

### **VARSITY SOFTBALL**

#### **PSAA All-Conference:**

Ashley Schmitt '21, Hailey Veksler '22, Vanessa

Cascio '24, Olivia Schmitt '24

#### **PSAA MVP:**

Bridget Motley '23

### **VARSITY BASEBALL**

#### **PSAA All-Conference:**

Troy Batelman '23, Daniel Saputo '21,

Daniel Kost '22

### **GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE**

#### **PSAA All-Conference:**

Elizabeth Gallagher '21, Kelly Gallagher '24,

Lanah Wyne '21

### **BOYS VARSITY TENNIS**

#### **PSAA All-Conference:**

Christopher Brogna '21, Joseph Donato '23,

Russel Nour '24

#### **Gold A Awards:**

Meaghan Dicks '21, Isabella Marchese '21,

Jeremiah Geneve '21, Ashley Schmitt '21,

Caroline Crowdell '22, Sean Franzreb '22,

Daniel Kost '22

#### **Huus Award:**

Daniel Saputo '21

#### **Randal Award:**

Elizabeth Gallagher '21

#### **Athlete of the Year Award:**

Elizabeth Gallagher '21











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16



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11



17



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12



13



- 1 ▶ Class of 1982
- 2 ▶ Academy Day 2021, Nicole Carp-Baldino '93 & family
- 3 ▶ Bobby Kleinau '96, Alaric Wollney '96, Angelito Nepomuceno '96, and Jared Siller '96
- 4 ▶ Maxine Veksler '19, Evan Lisitsyn '19, Jason Vosk '19, and Lawrence Skutelsky '19 visiting Mrs. Crane '83
- 5 ▶ Alumni Mid-Winter Gathering
- 6 ▶ Anne Merrick Vosti '54 with granddaughter and daughter
- 7 ▶ Wesley Day '17 and Samantha Trimboli '19
- 8 ▶ Matthew Barouch '12, Shawn Gold '09 far right with Above the Sun band mates
- 9 ▶ Mr. Acquilano visits Kaleigh McDonald '19 on her college campus
- 10 ▶ Faculty supporting Emily LaPointe '19
- 11 ▶ Madison Bulger '15, Angelica Regine '17, Andrew Bilbao '16, and Megan Shkolyar '16 with Ms. Guerriero '93
- 12 ▶ Academy Alumni Tent 2019
- 13 ▶ Joseph Shack '05, "Mystery Reader for the Class of 2031"
- 14 ▶ Faculty supporting Emily LaPointe '19
- 15 ▶ Kaleigh McDonald '19 comes back for the holidays
- 16 ▶ Ms. Guerriero '93 with Sharukh Khan '17, Wesley Day '17, and Ryan Arazi '17
- 17 ▶ Ms. Corigliano and LJ Delfini '15



# THE WHYS AND HOWS THE UPPER SCHOOL ACTUALLY CAME TO BE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE LOWER SCHOOL

by Stuart R. Friedland '65



FOR DECADES, SINCE THE ACQUISITION OF THE TODT HILL PROPERTY IN THE EARLY 1930S, THERE WAS TALK OF CONSOLIDATING THE TWO CAMPUSES. BY THE LATE 1950S, THE MAGNIFICENT ORIGINAL SCHOOL BUILDING IN ST. GEORGE, BUILT IN 1891 FOR \$6,500, WAS OBSOLETE AND

LITERALLY CONDEMNED FOR BEING BELOW THE REQUIRED SAFETY STANDARD.

“Dementor Spirits” descended upon the 45 Wall Street building in the form of the Department of Building and Safety and the Fire Marshals. They issued citations for the wooden floors, no sprinkler system, the wooden roof structure, and open staircases/no fire doors; the list went on. They wanted to close the building down immediately. But not so fast, Jack Friedland (my dad), a builder, attorney, and SIA Board member, was there. He knew most of the B & S department heads on a first-name basis, and his brother, Sam, was a captain with the NYC Fire Department on Staten Island. An accord was negotiated, giving SIA a five-year reprieve to 1965.

The question was how to build the new campus. As with so many other such things, it came down to money. The only thing of value was the St. George property. It could be used to generate some of the capital

needed for the new buildings to fulfill what was no longer an aspiration, but the necessity to unite the Upper and Lower schools. What SIA needed was a fundraising campaign and someone who knew about raising money to “build” a new school. If that wasn’t enough, there was another hurdle that needed to be addressed. Dr. Merrick, the beloved headmaster for two decades, was well into his 60s and believed to be in precarious health. Some thought that he was reaching the limit of his capacities to lead the school, attract large sum donors, and project a new up-to-date educational experience to match the new structures. My mother, Lucille, insisted that Jack seek to become chair of the Search Committee to find a “building headmaster.” That wasn’t too arduous a task, as others were glad to defer. She also requested that every seriously considered candidate be invited to dinner at our new home, which my parents had built the year before on Howard Avenue. With masters degrees in Art and Education and a minor in Psychology, her experience was familiar with teaching, administration, and psychology. Lucille had set in her mind what qualities the new head of the school should have: updated sensitivity to the students’ substantive needs, nurtured high achievement, and an understanding of what had to be accomplished to build a new school.

Each of half a dozen candidates came to our dinner table. My brother, Brian, and I were about 13 at that time and were first to greet the guest. All but one of the potential choices was immediately awestruck and consumed with the unusual design of the house (which is now called mid-century modern), the view of the New York City Harbor, and the skyline from the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge to the Statue of Liberty. Some recognized the art displayed on the walls. We would then proceed to the dining table. My brother and I found the conversations mostly boring; “Can we be excused? We have homework.”

► Linda Thompson '65,  
Headmaster Harvey  
MacArthur, Stuart  
Friedland '65, and  
Ginny Kearns '36

The exception was Harvey H. MacArthur. We greeted him, as was our norm, but he didn't say a word about the obvious extraneous accoutrements. He directed his attention exclusively to my brother and me. "How old were we? What grade were we in? What's your favorite subject? What's your least favorite subject? What sports do you play? Where do you do your studying? Would you show me?" Greeting our parents seemingly came as an afterthought. That evening unlike all the others, we had to be prompted, "Don't you boys have some homework to do?" Finally, when their meeting was concluded, and they were approaching the door, we came out to say our goodnights and how nice it was to meet him. Once the door closed, Lucille turned to Jack and said, "He should be the new headmaster." With Jack's formal endorsement to the Board, Mr. MacArthur was invited to fill the position.

That's how Harvey got the job and he did the job superbly. He led what became a successful fundraising campaign. Time after time, he impressed and charmed donors, the vitally important components to raising the needed funds, and he sealed substantial commitments with a warm, hardy handshake. The Board was very happy with their choice. He was good-natured but exacted high educational standards. He would come to know the school, the students, and the importance of Ginny Kearns as his assistant. He'd roam the hallways at 45 Wall Street quoting lines from the classics. He never said things in a mean, put-down way, but always with a sly smile and a twinkle in his eye. He brought in a much-needed younger faculty with a more progressive, up-to-date understanding of current education. Finally, he took an active role in the new facility's design. The class of 1965 (my class), would be the last one to graduate from the Wall Street building.

I think it's fair to say that both my brother and I flourished during those four years of high school under Harvey MacArthur and Ginny Kearns. (Ginny and our dad became great



friends. When my brother and I got to the upper school, Ginny took us under her wing.) Some of our parents' goodwill may have rubbed off on us, but we loved participating (for our own sake) with everything that went on at the school. For those four years, Brian had a perfect attendance record. It was our routine to arrive at the school every day about an hour early. We'd have a little snack at Mel's, the soda fountain across the street. Then we would go see Al, the custodian (who always wore darkened eyeglasses) with his feet up on an antique roll-top desk, drinking a cup of coffee in his cluttered office next to the furnace room. First, we'd raise the Stars and Stripes, then take his keys, and open all the classroom doors. We liked pitching in. We became Ginny and Mr. MacArthur's "go-fors." Not only did we know almost everything that was going on around the school, we got excused from whatever class we were in when they needed something to be done. We ran the mimeograph machine, which could be quite a messy job, but very informative. And yet, in June at our Commencement Exercise, we were totally surprised when Mr. MacArthur awarded us the Headmaster's Medals.

Unfortunately, it should be noted that the lessons of 45 Wall Street were not well learned. In 1975, fire swept through the Dongan Hall building. Without the impediments of enclosed staircases, fire doors, or a sprinkler system, the fire completely decimated the building, including the unique wide-ranging collection of first-editions and irreplaceable dedicated books stored in boxes on the fourth floor from the Arthur Winter Memorial Library (1887).





## CATCHING UP AND CHECKING IN!

**EJ BURKE '99** - I live in New Providence, NJ with my wife Adrienne and three-year-old son William, and our new baby girl, Ellen arrived in August. I currently work for Bank of America in the Global Banking and Markets CFO Group.

I truly miss my days at the Academy and remember them as some of the best days of my life. I am so happy to see familiar faces remain in place to mentor and teach the current students. This past year I was fortunate enough to participate in an interview with one of Mrs. Crane's students. I was honored to be considered for this project and it brought back so many great memories as I reflected on my time at the Academy.



**JOYCE LOPEZ MASON '60** - I received a B.S. from Jamestown College, North Dakota and taught for many years. After my husband James passed away I stayed in Oneonta, NY. After my sons graduated from high school I became a missionary with the Episcopal Church and went to Honduras to teach English for 10 years. Back home I became the Director of Feeding Ministries for St. James Episcopal Church for 12 years and retired this past March. **I kept the meals and pantry opened through the pandemic!**

My son Peter joined the Marines and is a disabled veteran. He is mentioned in the book No True Glory – A Frontline Account of the Battle for Falluja by Bing West. James, my other son was hurt on the job and is disabled also. He married and separated from his wife after having two children James III and Dyana. James III lives with his father. Dyana with her mother in Arizona.



**MARY RUNYON OBAIDY '54** – I have lived, worked and taught in England, Egypt, and Morocco. I currently teach English via SKYPE, to students in South Korea.

**KHIZAR SHEIKH '91** - I wanted to share with others that the acts of kindness shown to me by faculty members at SIA, Mr. Rapp in particular. I needed to learn how to lead and break out of my shell a bit, and that led to me marrying my beautiful wife Nadia, way out of my league and having two beautiful boys, going to law school and working as a people leader as an in-house lawyer at American Express, and being voted in as a Councilman in my town.

It's been long enough that I have neglected to say thank you, but THANK YOU for taking a chance on me back then. It changed my life and how I viewed myself.

**GAIL WOOD MILLER '60** – Is alive and well in Manhattan. My husband, Peter, and I have seven children (including SIA alums Paul '83, Wendy '84, and Mark Greve '87) and twelve grandchildren between us: most weekends are spent visiting or being visited. ...I'm retired from teaching—English (Mrs. Free left her impact) and humanities at Berkeley College, and English education at Hunter College—but still research/write on learning differences and occasionally present at academic conferences. I'm a health and education/ADHD coach and consultant, focusing on women and children. I also continue to draw and paint, usually watercolors.



- 1 ► Matthew Pelosi '17, Mrs. Mazella '96, and Ryan D'Arco '16
- 2 ► Mr. and Mrs. Crane visit Olivia '21 Madelyn '21 Samantha '19 at Yale
- 3 ► Ms. Guerriero '93 with Luna '19 and Mr. Mazella '90
- 4 ► Faculty and Staff with Valerie Falcone '02, Mr. Shanley, III '99





# TO ALL OF OUR GRADUATES:

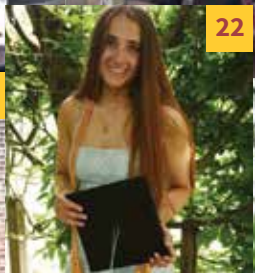
CONGRATULATIONS, WE KNOW THIS HAS BEEN A VERY DIFFICULT COUPLE OF YEARS; YOU HAVE ALWAYS MADE US PROUD!

Here are some photos of our recent grads; some are graduate students, some are student-athletes, and some didn't get to celebrate with all the pomp and circumstance; today we celebrate you all!

- 1 ▶ Amy Ciardiello '13, University of Michigan Law
- 2 ▶ Megan McEwan '17, The College of Staten Island
- 3 ▶ Romy Finkel '17, Lehigh University
- 4 ▶ Julia Knobloch '17, Marist College
- 5 ▶ Vincent Savino '17, University of New Haven
- 6 ▶ Christopher Tommasi '17, Syracuse University
- 7 ▶ Alexa Fodera '15, Moravian University
- 8 ▶ Shannon Motley '16, University of Connecticut
- 9 ▶ Ryan Arazi '17, Swarthmore College
- 10 ▶ Manhal Hussain '17, Penn State University
- 11 ▶ Anjelica Regine '17, Marist College
- 12 ▶ Kelly Falcone '17, Furman University
- 13 ▶ Bridget O'Hara '12 Pace University Graduate School, Physicians Assistant Studies
- 14 ▶ Yvonne Boulay '17, Furman University
- 15 ▶ Sharukh Khan '17, Cornell University
- 16 ▶ Matthew Pelosi '17, Syracuse University
- 17 ▶ Salvatore Trancucci '16, The College of Staten Island
- 18 ▶ Wesley Day '17, Yale University
- 19 ▶ Jahir Hipps '17, Baldwin Wallace University
- 20 ▶ Allison Gibbons '17, Lafayette College
- 21 ▶ Corinn Baggs '16, New York Institute of Technology
- 22 ▶ Clare Mitchell '17, The College of Staten Island
- 23 ▶ Alice Guberman '17 New York University
- 24 ▶ Caroline Puma '15, Duke University Graduate School, Management Studies
- 25 ▶ Daniel (Trip) L. Master, III '17, Stanford University









# DOING BIG THINGS & FOLLOWING DREAMS

## STUART HIRSCHBERG '60

received the Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award in Education.  
Feb. 2019



**ANDREW MAYER '07** was back to performing as soon as the COVID restrictions started to lift; he was seen on two great CBS shows, FBI and New Amsterdam.



## ANDREAS KARELAS '01

authored the book *Climate Courage*. He is the founder and executive

director of RE-volv, a nonprofit organization that empowers people around the country to help nonprofits in their communities go solar and raise awareness about the benefits of clean energy.



## JONATHAN D'AGOSTINO '82

Most folks know Jon as a power-house attorney on Staten Island, but he is also an award-winning songwriter, producer, and singer.



## LAUREN WASHINGTON '01,

four-time entrepreneur, she co-founded and launched Fundr in 2020 with the mission of bringing equal opportunity to the investing world. The

online marketplace automates seed investing by creating portfolios of AI-vetted startups for angel investors and institutional VCs. The company tested its algorithm at the Black Women Talk Tech international pitch competition in 2020 and correctly predicted the winner.



## DEVIN ROSSITER '00

made us proud as a two-time champion on Jeopardy! and hosted

our first of (many to follow) Alumni Jeopardy nights.



## JULIO VINCENT GAMBUTO '96

made his feature film directorial debut with *Team Marco*, a new family movie from Samuel Goldwyn Films.



## JAHIR HIPPS '17

went on the road to perform in RENT 25th Anniversary Farewell Tour.





## THE ARTS



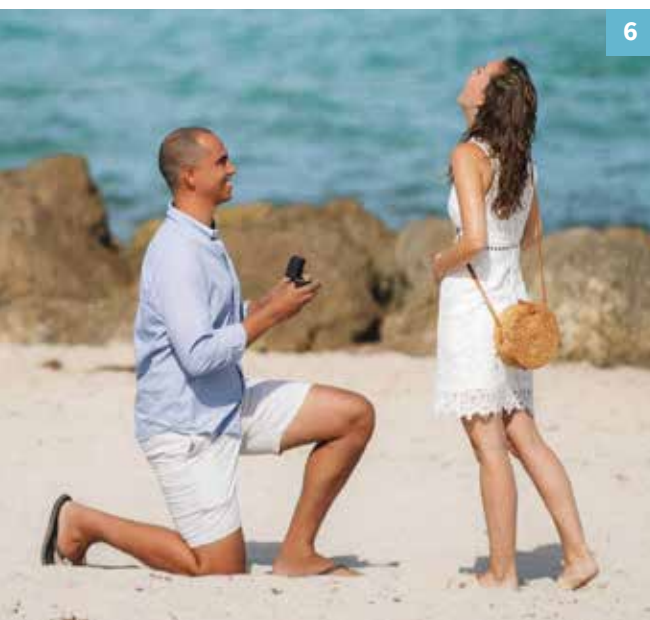


# ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

- 1 ▶ Dylan Bulger '09 and Kristina Abruzzo
- 2 ▶ Emily Prendergast '11 and GianCarlo Hirsch
- 3 ▶ Aimee Marin '07 and Ray Rivas
- 4 ▶ Adrienne Vischio '09 and Antonio Pullano
- 5 ▶ Matthew Smarsch '12 and Gina Nicole
- 6 ▶ Hansae Catlett '07 and Caroline Connolly
- 7 ▶ Shotaro Imazu '08 and Sayuri Fujita
- 8 ▶ Paul Dapolito '12 and Christina Lopez
- 9 ▶ Connor Tobin '12 and Anna Prince '13
- 10 ▶ Casey Bray '11 and Kate Matthews
- 11 ▶ Nandini Rao '02 and Navin Maddela
- 12 ▶ Dominick Tomasuolo '15 and Linda Jean Delfini '15
- 13 ▶ Sarah Paulsen '11 and Cane West
- 14 ▶ Christian Dugan '13 and Andrea Ruotolo
- 15 ▶ Natalie Nicelli '11 and Chris Tippet
- 16 ▶ Krissy Fitzpatrick '99 and Kevin Ryan







9



15



10



13



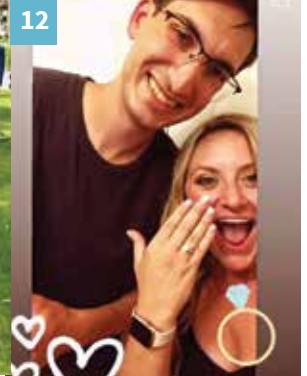
16



14



11



12



# Growing FAMILIES







9



10



11



13



12



14



16



15

- 1 ▶ Alyssa and Christopher Bruno '06 welcomed 3rd child, 1st son, Christopher
- 2 ▶ Andrew Singer '99 and Aniko Singer welcomed 2nd baby, first daughter, Lennon Lexington
- 3 ▶ James Frevola '11 and Dana Frevola welcomed Isabella Maria
- 4 ▶ Maxwell David '08 and Erica David welcomed twins, Harrison Rocky and Perry Blair
- 5 ▶ Angelito Nepomunceno '96 and Shanti Nepomunceno welcomed baby boy number #2 Colin James
- 6 ▶ Jordan Carpenter '07 and Rachel Mansfield welcomed 2nd son, Brody Isaac
- 7 ▶ Ashley Dapolito Schirippa '09 and Michael Schirippa welcomed Gianna Rose with nurse Anna Prince '13
- 8 ▶ Garrett Carpenter '04 and Nicole Carpenter welcomed Hayden
- 9 ▶ Chelsea Aronica Ambrosino '09 and Paul Ambrosino welcomed Hailee Jo
- 10 ▶ Lauren Lioon '07 and Doug Lioon welcomed 2nd daughter Lila Rose
- 11 ▶ Bobby Kleinau '96 and Crystal Kleinau welcomed 2nd baby, first daughter, Shay Roberta Rose
- 12 ▶ Vikram Rao '04 and Lauren Stockli welcomed Madison Hema
- 13 ▶ Christopher Hayes '00 and Maggie Hayes welcomed Connor James
- 14 ▶ EJ Burke '99 and Adrienne Burke welcomed 2nd child, 1st daughter, Claire Ellen
- 15 ▶ Alexa Royce '08 and James Royce welcomed 3rd child, 1st daughter, Elle
- 16 ▶ Benjamin Lenning '07 and Christy Lenning welcomed Emily Elle





2020-2021

**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
OUR 2020 AND 2021  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES.**

**WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE YOU ALL AS MEMBERS OF THE STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY FAMILY!**

## 2020-21 INDUCTION CEREMONY

**Welcome Message** Albert R. Caiz, Head of School

**Program and Introductions** Eileen F. Corigliano, Assistant Head of School

### 2020 Athletic Alumni Presentations

**Jesse Clemente '13** Michael Acquilano, Director of College Guidance, Assistant Director of Upper School

**Danielle Fuller '12** Darlene Crowe, Chair, Physical Education Department

**Amanda Moschella '11**

### 2020 Distinguished Alumni Presentations

**Sarah Kate Ellis '89** Spencer Ellis

**Lizanne Fontaine '73** Pamela Ross '73

**Eric Lenck '65** Joanna Reitz

### 2021 Athletic Alumni Presentations

**Chelsea Aronica-Ambrosino '09** Mike Respe

**Christopher Auteri '15**

## ATHLETIC ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

### 1993

Gilbert Parmele '14  
Hildegard Gross Byrnes '34  
Kennedy Randall '37  
Charles R. Parmele '43  
Deborah Mitnick Redmond '72  
Pamela Deutsch '86  
Edward "Pop" Wiley

### 1994

Harold E. Merrick '50  
M. Peter Rapp '64  
Christopher Agolati '69  
Carl Althoff '77  
Cynthia Vigurs '82  
Marion Eno

### 1995

Virginia T. Kearns '36  
Carlton Ettlinger '37  
Susan G. Nutt '77  
Houshyar Alishahi '82  
Steven McGoy '84  
Bernard Atkinson

### 1996

Jeannette Thompson Stahr '34  
Brian Peoples '51  
Cathy Avis Fischberg '76  
Terrence Garrett '85

### 1997

Marie Louise "Puzzle" Hinricks '34  
Pete Carroll '52  
David Hyman '77  
Lydia Giglio Balzano '82  
David Hind '84

### 1998

Dennis Carlisle '62  
Lee Ann Sottile '78

### 1999

Frank Karpicki '78  
John DeMaio '78

### 2000

Gary Escher '80

### 2001

John Young '90

### 2009

Gilbert Parmele '50  
Damian Statterly '76  
Jonathan D'Agostino '82  
Jennifer Boylan '95  
Santia Konkka '01

### 2011

Percy Duncan Haughton 1895  
Mark Grae '99  
1993 Girls Basketball Team

### 2018

Otto Peter Badenhausen '50  
Jessica L. Catandra '09  
Garrett Carpenter '04  
Harris Hot '91  
Adriaan Lanni '90

### 2019

Bethany Claps '12  
James Morisano '14  
Jeanine Nunez '14



## The 2020 Hall of Fame Class

### **Athletic Alumni**

Jesse Clemente '13  
Danielle Fuller '12  
Amanda Moschella '11

### **Distinguished Alumni**

Sarah-Kate Ellis '89  
Lizanne Fontaine '73  
Eric Lenck '65

## The 2021 Hall of Fame Class

### **Athletic Alumni**

Chelsea Aronica-Ambrosino '09  
Christopher Auteri '15  
Hansae Catlett '07  
Erin Gibbons '12  
Stephen Richter '04



► Mr. Rapp '64, Danielle Fuller '12, Mr. Acquilano, Amanda Moschella '11, and Mr. Crane

► Sarah-Kate Ellis '89



# COMMENCEMENT 2020



AFTER BEING DELAYED TWO MONTHS BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY CELEBRATED THE CLASS OF 2020, AT ITS 132ND COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY, IN THE FRONT CIRCLE OF THE 12-ACRE PROPERTY, ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2020.

The 32 graduates in attendance were not seated on the dais of Hugen Hall as in typical fashion; instead, they were seated in designated pods with their family members. On the dais, spaced six feet apart and

masked, were Head of School, Albert R. Cauz, Assistant Head of School Eileen F. Corigliano, Alumni Keynote Speaker, Lizanne Fontaine '73, Upper School Dean Frank S. Crane, and Franklin Davison, the student-chosen faculty speaker. In order to meet New York City and New York State health guidelines, we limited the graduates' guests and eliminated most of the faculty and all of the underclassmen from attendance.





Despite the necessary changes to the ceremony, the school's leadership team was determined to host this event for these remarkable young adults. The graduates did get to make the traditional walk from Crowe Hall and proceeded to the platform of Haugen Hall for acknowledgment from the guests; they then took their seats in their family pod. Mr. Cauz welcomed the guests and addressed the Class of 2020 by saying, "As educators, we take great pride in recognizing the achievements of our students. The Class of 2020 has

distinguished itself in many ways." He invited Ms. Corigliano to join him in presenting all of the awards.

For the second year in a row, Merrick House was the winner of the House Cup. The Cup was proudly accepted by house leader Nick DiNicola '20. Nina Mahajan '20 earned the Trustees Medal (Valedictorian), and Emmeline Caplan '20 was the recipient of the Head of School Medal for Outstanding Class Leader. Allison Arazi '20 spoke about overcoming the





## THE CLASS OF 2020 AT A GLANCE:

**132**

Commencement  
Ceremony

**5**

Graduates are "Lifers"

**32**

Graduates

**3**

Graduates began  
in Lower School

**29**

Different Colleges

**6**

Graduates began  
in Middle School

**1**

International College



Eileen Corigliano, Asst. Head  
of School, Albert Cauz, Head of  
School, and Lizanne Fontaine '73



obstacles faced during this pandemic and coming out stronger on the other side. “There wasn’t a curse in the world that could break the bond we had spent four years building... We lived senior year to the fullest, with more appreciation for our health and happiness than ever before... We have learned from this experience, we are not cursed, we are blessed, we are strong, and we will never take another hug for granted again.”

Ms. Fontaine ’73 awarded the Alumni Scholarship to the students who had compiled the highest GPAs in four or more courses. The winners were Emmeline Caplan, Xin (Cindy) Li, and YuQian (Lea) Shi. Ms. Fontaine learned at a young age that service to others is most rewarding, and her entire life is dedicated to humbly serving and helping others. Ms. Fontaine has lived in Brooklyn for more than forty years and she remarked on the beautiful physical changes of the school. “From alumni notes and publications, I can see that the school has evolved exponentially, both academically and programmatically.” She asked the graduates to contemplate four random considerations: First, “Fifteen minutes is a very useful amount of time; use it wisely.”

Second, “There is more that unites us than divides us. Focus less on differences and look for the commonalities.” Third, “Don’t worry too much about your career. You will change your direction and change your jobs; each change is like a patchwork square that will later become your favorite warm quilt.” Her final consideration, Ms. Fontaine repeated the only excerpt from an academic address that resonated with her: Dr. Kemeny, former President of Dartmouth College, ended every speech with, “Men and women, all mankind is your brother, and you are your brother keeper.” She continued, “it always intrigued me that Dr. Kemeny, a man of science, repeatedly used his fifteen minutes, or at least the conclusion of them, to issue a humanitarian call to arms. As we create our life’s quilt, I think we all have the opportunity and obligation to keep others less fortunate, more buffeted by life’s repeated blows. I am sure that each member of the Class of 2020 will find their own way to act upon this challenge.”

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
ALUMNI CLASS OF 2020!**







# COLLEGE DECISIONS

THE 32 MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2020 ARE ATTENDING THE FOLLOWING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:



Amherst College  
 Barnard College  
 Binghamton University  
 Brandeis University  
 Bryn Mawr College  
 Bucknell University  
 College of the Holy Cross  
 Drew University  
 Drexel University  
 Fairfield University  
 Fordham University (2)  
 George Washington University  
 Hobart & William Smith Colleges  
 Kean University  
 Lehigh University (2)  
 Marymount Manhattan College  
 Ohio State University  
 Pratt Institute  
 Quinnipiac University (2)  
 Ringling College of Art and Design  
 St. John's University  
 University of Albany (SUNY)  
 University of Alabama  
 University of California – Berkeley  
 University of California – Irvine  
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of Toronto (Canada)  
 Villanova University





# COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## THE MILLS MEMORIAL MEDAL

Giacinto (Nick) DiNicola

## THE NANCY AVIS MEMORIAL MEDAL

Julia Lendel

## HOUSE CUP

Merrick House

## THE DR. ALBERT L. PATRICK AWARD

Xin (Cindy) Li

## THE JACK J. BOIES AWARD

Aaron Dimitri Dorelien

## THE MARIA SOLLITTO MEMORIAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Giacinto (Nick) DiNicola

## THE CONGRESSIONAL CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

Allison Arazi

## THE ROBERT CROOKS STANLEY AWARD

Ethan Peng

## THE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP MEDAL

Emmeline Rose Caplan

Xin (Cindy) Li

YuQian (Lea) Shi

## THE J. STEVENS BEAN FACULTY AWARD

Danninger Feng

## THE TRUSTEE MEDAL (VALEDICTORIAN)

Nina Alexis Mahajan

## THE VIRGINIA T. KEARNS AWARD

Mary Frances Barbaria

## THE HEAD OF SCHOOL MEDAL

Emmeline Rose Caplan

## THE RICHARD S. WOLTER AWARD

Erin Kennedy Ferlisi





# THE IMPACT OF PHILANTHROPY

THE PAST TWO ACADEMIC YEARS' EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGES HAVE BEEN AN EMOTIONAL REMINDER THAT WHAT DEFINES US IS HOW WE RESPOND TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES WITH WHICH LIFE PRESENTS US. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER ACADEMIC INSTITUTION THAT HAS RESPONDED, REACTED, AND EXECUTED NECESSARY CHANGES SO SWIFTLY AND EFFECTIVELY, AS WELL AS STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY.

Staten Island Academy's flexibility during unprecedented times is a product of the entire Academy community's collective efforts. Because we are an Independent school, we are afforded the ability to exercise our resilience for whatever challenge is thrown at us. Our administration and faculty's tireless commitment, integrity, and resolve have led the way. Indeed, there were some missteps and setbacks, but as we instill in our students, failure is temporary, we learn, and we are the better for it.

In March of 2020, we left our beautiful campus for our scheduled spring break, and because of the pandemic, our faculty and students would not be back for on-campus learning until September of 2020. Most of our senior events did occur, but like this academic year, they looked very different. The Senior Tribute luncheon was held virtually, the "Big Chair" was signed on campus by appointment, and the Senior College Sweatshirt Day took place via Zoom. But sadly, one of the most anticipated senior events,

the Geranium Ball, could not occur. However, the Commencement for the Class of 2020 was held in the front circle in August, on a beautiful but sweltering day. Before commencement, we had a drive-by diploma day to celebrate our seniors. The graduates drove their vehicles around the front circle and got out for a photo op by their yard sign that we designed to acknowledge each individual. Mr. Cauz congratulated each graduate with an elbow bump, and Ms. Corigliano handed them their





diplomas with a smile. Additionally, we installed colorful banners along the Todt Hill Road fence, acknowledging each graduate with the name of the college they would be attending later that year.

Fast forward to September 2020, when we opened our doors for the 136th year for in-person learning. Indeed, things looked a lot different, but we were all thrilled to be back on our beautiful campus. One might argue that our students were the happiest, with their parents coming in a very close second!

We were unable to host the traditional Welcome Back BBQ or everyone's favorite - Academy Day. However, the Parents' League did an incredible job by adding an Academy Spirit Week, and kindness

was the theme. It was a terrific fun-filled week for our students, and kindness was shared and felt all around the campus.

Mr. Weissman and Ms. Wheatley did a tremendous job of filming the Twelve Days of Christmas for our virtual Holiday Assembly, and our senior faculty members put on Oscar-worthy performances with the reading of *The Grinch*.

Despite not having a traditional year, our Class of 2021 thrived, and the college acceptances were noteworthy, to say the least. As we entered into the last quarter of this academic year, a vast population of our faculty and staff had been vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus, and we began to plan our year-end ceremonies. Unfortunately, the COVID

infection rates in New York City were still concerning, and we had to host our Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies via Zoom on Saturday, May 15, 2021. It was a really special event, and we look forward to having our inductees back on campus in the fall to celebrate them.

On June 9, 2021, we held the Geranium Ball at the Hilton Garden Inn. The following morning, we hosted the one hundred and thirty-third commencement ceremony on Staten Island Academy's beautiful campus. To say that all at the Academy were thrilled to be able to honor these students with the traditional fanfare is an understatement.

In closing, many of the tremendous successes that transpired between March 2020 and today were because of our donors' humbling and inspirational generosity. Your philanthropy provided essential safety supplies, and technology and supported our faculty and staff in a meaningful way. Moreover, it represents your support for the student experience, which makes each day at the Academy incredibly rewarding.

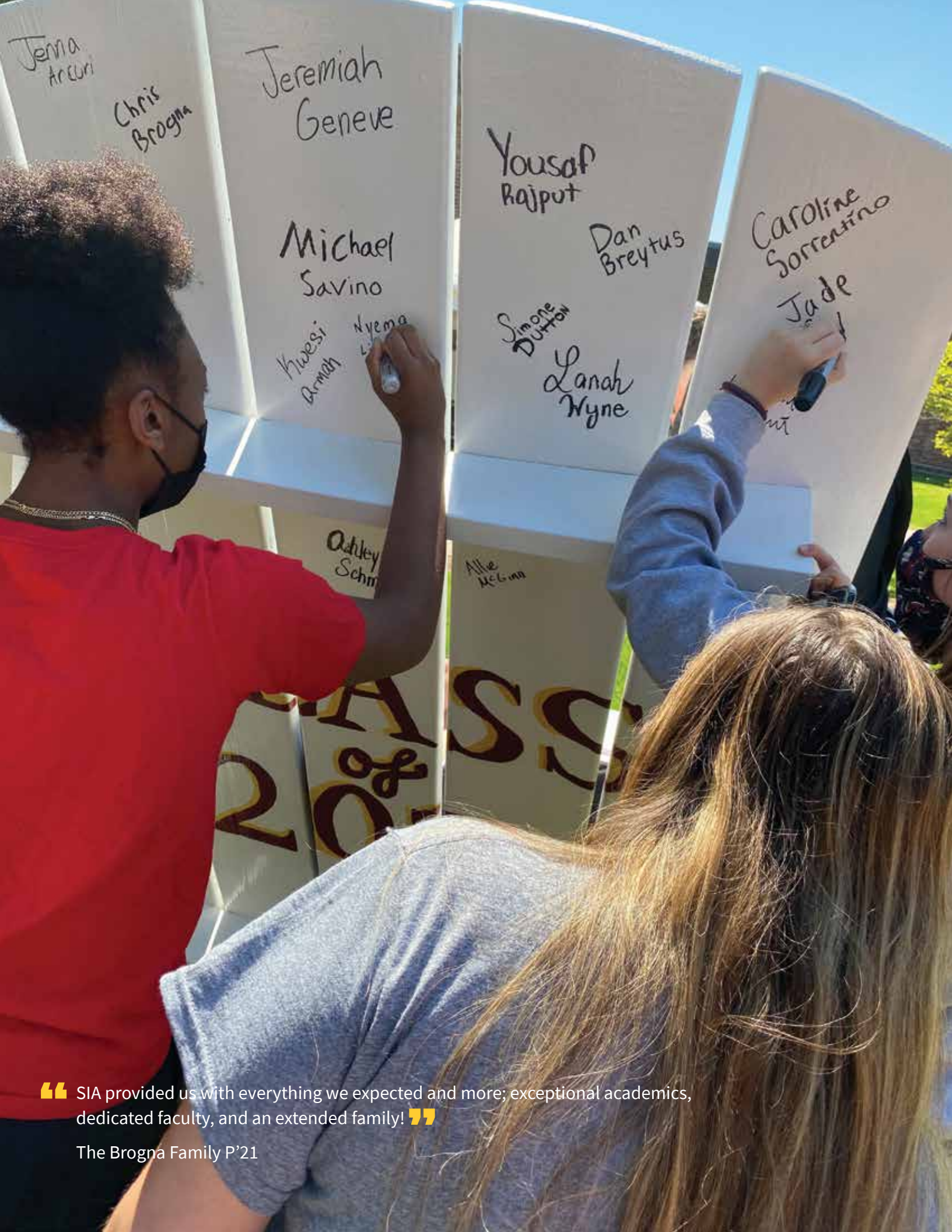
### **WE LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR!**

#### **The Development Team**

Teresa Pelosi  
Laurie Turchiano  
Michelle Savino  
Susan Fiorentino

“Many of the tremendous successes that transpired between March 2020 and today were because of our donors' humbling and inspirational generosity. Your philanthropy provided essential safety supplies, and technology and supported our faculty and staff in a meaningful way.”





“ SIA provided us with everything we expected and more; exceptional academics, dedicated faculty, and an extended family! ”

The Brogna Family P'21





# DONORS REPORT

**2019-2020 AND 2020-2021**





# BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2020 DONORS

## DONORS

Paul R. Ainslie  
Angela Kardel Ardolic  
Victor P. Avis '79, DDS  
Elizabeth Bifulco  
Steven I. Caplan  
Albert R. Cauz - *ex officio*  
Joan Cusack  
Eric De La Cruz, MD  
Allison L. Factor  
Julio V. Gambuto '96  
Mark Gladstein, MD  
Timothy C. Harrison  
Robert C. Kleinau '96  
Anita Laremont  
Joseph A. Puma, MD  
Michelle Ribisi - *ex officio*  
Michelle Savino  
Frank Scarangelo  
Damian Slattery '76



► Joseph A. Puma, MD with Timothy C. Harrison



► Traditional Circle Ceremony led by Eileen F. Corigliano and Albert R. Cauz



# DONOR CATEGORY

Annual Fund 2019-20

358 Donors

Recognition of Consecutive Giving

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF ALL OF OUR  
DONORS AND INCREDIBLY THANKFUL TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN  
CONSECUTIVELY TO THE ANNUAL FUND FOR FIVE YEARS OR MORE.

🥈 SILVER 5-9 YEARS    🥈 BLUE CUP 10-19-YEARS    🥇 GOLD CUP 20+ YEARS



## HEAD'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL - (\$10,000.00 +)

Albert R. Cauz and Bridget K. McCabe  
Timothy C. Harrison and  
Caroline Diamond Harrison '82 🥈  
Joseph and Terri Puma 🥈  
Michelle and Michael D. Savino '88 🥈

## THE BEACON SOCIETY - (\$5,000.00 +)

Anonymous 🥈  
Kimberly Avis and Victor P. Avis '79 🥈  
Walter Badenhausen, Jr. '48  
James and Elizabeth Bifulco 🥈  
Seth and Allison Factor 🥈  
Angie M. Master and  
Daniel L. Master, Jr. '71 🥈  
Sandy and James McNeil '58 🥈  
Susan G. Nutt '77 🥈  
Shan Yi

## THE 1884 CLUB - (\$2,500.00 +)

James P. Molinaro  
Vincent and Teresa Pelosi 🥈  
Samuel I. Newhouse  
Foundation Inc. 🥈  
Paul R. Ainslie and  
Suzanne Stirn Ainslie '72 🥈  
Hedi and Angela Ardolic  
Eileen F. Corigliano 🥈  
Mark and Irene Gladstein  
Barry L. Swick '66 (dec.)

## THE MAROON AND GOLD CLUB - (\$1,000.00 +)

Michael and Giovanna Acquilano 🥈  
Anna and Amir Alishahi '82  
Anonymous  
Vel Belushin 🥈  
Joseph Bronzo '14 🥈  
Alessandra and Michael Bush '87  
Steven I. Caplan 🥈  
Frank and Eileen Corigliano  
Joan Cusack  
Eric De La Cruz and Anna Pavlides 🥈  
Mudar and Rimonda Dalloul 🥈



Elizabeth and Matthew  
DeMarzo '04  
Alice B. Diamond 🏆  
Lizanne Fontaine '73  
Sibyl Gardner '76  
David Gordon and Ruta Shah-Gordon  
Margaret Hornblower  
Scott Hovanyetz and Robin Savino  
Hovanyetz '95 🏆  
James Lang and Electra Weeks  
Anita W. Laremont  
Cecilia Larkin and  
Richard F. Larkin '60 🏆  
Marino and Angela Lorza  
Nelson Minier 🏆  
Michele M. Nicoletta 🏆  
Joanne Robinson and  
Adam Pomerantz '85 🏆  
Igor Rubinshteyn and Yuliya Giyaur  
Marc and Hillary Savino 🏆  
Frank and Kim Scarangelo 🏆  
Janet Peel Schneider '68 and  
Paul Schneider '66 🏆  
Melissa Slattery and  
Damian Slattery '76  
Laurie and Joseph Turchiano 🏆  
Krishne Urs  
Robert and Jennifer Urs

Jianlin Wu and Hua Wen  
Jing Zhong and Yongmei Lu

### **PARTNERS - (\$500.00 +)**

Lorenzo Ansuini and Raffaella Vartuli  
Jacqueline and Luis Anzurez  
Bartholomew and Fafa Armah 🏆  
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Frank S. Crane, IV and  
Caroline Stirn Crane '83 🏆  
Paul and Keri DeVito  
Francesca Diamond and  
Richard E. Diamond Jr. '86 🏆  
Isabella and Peter DiNicola '85  
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Sal DiRusso '53 🏆  
Art and Annette Frevola 🏆  
Alexander Krutiy and Elena Sapon  
Frank Li and Shirley Yuen  
Brian K. Manske 🏆  
Michael Mazella '90 and  
Jamie Savino Mazella '94 🏆  
Vadim and Joann Mostovoy '89  
Craig Patrick '79  
Lea and Scott Prendergast 🏆  
Jayanth and Hemalatha Rao

Martha and M. Peter Rapp '64 🏆  
Vincent and Rosemarie Savino 🏆  
Michael Shanley, III '99  
Anand Sithian '02 🏆  
Remy Smith 🏆  
Jing and Suying Song  
Eric Storberg  
Elise Vetere and Marie Varvaro 🏆  
Qiuna Wang  
Ed and Orly Wiseman

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Grigory and Svetlana  
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Matthew and Tanya Borghese  
J. Hunt Brasfield '60 🏆  
Stas and Irina Breytus  
Martin and Lauriann  
Castrogiovanni 🏆  
Maxwell David '08  
Anthony and Theresa DeFazio  
Thomas and Anne DeMarzo  
Dina Marie Filippini 🏆  
Martin Gonzalez and  
Caterina Rivero







Michael Guerette and Suzanee  
DeJesus Guerette 🏆  
James and Dina Large 🏆  
Catherine Ma and Paul Chu  
Joseph and Aminata Moschella  
Network for Good  
Mary and Shawn O'Hara 🏆  
Agron and Arbana Okshe  
Jiang Peng and Dan Qing Chen  
Frank Pizzolato and Lorraine Bovasso  
Michelle and Jason Ribisi  
Mykola and Svitlana Rudchik  
Robert Sorrentino and  
Colleen Kelleher Sorrentino 🏆  
Daniel M. Turchiano '14 🏆  
U.S. Bank Foundation 🏆  
Mark Weissman and  
Richard Johnson 🏆  
Wayne Wendel '75  
Kaichun Zhou

#### **SUPPORTERS - (\$100.00 +)**

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Ryu and Ayako Aizu  
Amazon Smile 🏆  
Richard and Harriet Annicharico 🏆  
Anonymous

Gus and Gina Arniotes  
Patricia and Paul Auteri 🏆  
Bank of America Foundation  
Dominick and Patricia Barbera  
Paul and Lynn Blanchard  
Paul Blanchard '15  
Christopher J. Bruno '06 🏆  
Madison Kate Bulger '15  
Adrianne and Edward J. Burke '99  
Blerim and Elvira Capric  
Bethany Ann Claps '12  
Allison Cohen '07 🏆  
Irina M. Constantine 🏆  
Kieran Cross '12  
Mark DeFazio  
Paul and Lorraine DeTiberiis  
Deutsche Bank America  
Foundation  
Kevin Donofrio and  
Nicole Shack Donofrio '03 🏆  
Edgar and Bonnie Driscoll  
Chinenyenwa C. Duru '16  
Jane U. Duru  
Denise and Ronald Dutton  
Nancy Brown DuVall '48 🏆  
Joaquin and Michela Elizondo 🏆  
Alexander L. Emanuel '22  
Matthew Emanuel and  
Maria Colonna Emanuel '85

Scott and Colleen Erickson  
Warren and Jacqueline Erickson  
Deborah Falcone 🏆  
Lois Ann Farese  
Chris Ferlisi and Erin  
Kennedy Ferlisi 🏆  
Susan Fiorentino  
James Frevola '11 🏆  
Christopher Giardina '96  
Marc Goodwin and Antonia Young  
Mikhail Grinberg  
Jane and Steven Grinberg 🏆  
Arthur and Lana Grinev 🏆  
Dawn Guerriero '93 🏆  
David and Carol Jacobson  
Xiaoxin Jin and Zhen Huang  
Anne Glazebrook Kehoe '49  
Renee Kinsale-Taitt-Spady 🏆  
Louise Knapp  
Ann and George Hartmann  
Lawrence and Dolores Hayes 🏆  
Donna Griffo Johnson  
Charles Beltz and  
Mary Holland Johnson '78 🏆  
Thomas Kasprowitz and Diane  
Lagomarsino Kasprowitz '79  
Oleg Kiboukevitch and  
Yelena Oumarova  
Gary Klein and Connie  
Reeves Klein '62 🏆  
Kevin and Suzanne Kozlowski  
William Kearney and  
Caryn Land-Kearney '71 🏆  
Yang Liu and Wei Wang  
Valentine and Renee Mancini 🏆  
Daniel L. M. (Trip) Master, III '17  
Tim and Barbara McGinn  
Gail Wood Miller '60  
Timothy and Maureen Motley  
Freya and Harry P.  
Mroczkowski '61  
Nicholas and Marina Cora Mundy  
Michael and Ihenjibuchi Nwuba  
Leslie O'Neal Geneve 🏆  
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Elizabeth Howe and  
Leonard M. Passano '42 🏆  
Marguerite Lorey Peoples '52



Kristi Pfister and James Hill 🍷  
 Alan and Sarah Powell  
 Susan Puttick  
 Carmen Vicente-Quesada 🍷  
 Mike and Kim Quintela 🍷  
 Nandini Rao '02  
 Vikram Rao '04  
 Gautham Rao '96  
 Nicola and Kim Raschella  
 Sally and Greg Rocco  
 Mary Pat Roggenburg 🍷  
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 Anne Finlay Schenck '48  
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 Alphonso A. Scotti '94  
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 James and Emshalom Smith 🍷  
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 Yvette Washington-Wheatley  
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 Maria Vasaturo '07  
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 Eman Aly '96  
 Joseph and Helene Arcuri  
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 Celia Asch  
 Sydney Rachel Avis '10 🍷  
 Samantha E. Avis '13  
 Morgan Avis '15  
 Andrew Mustafu Aydin '11  
 Rasim Azizov and Victoria Azizova  
 Bank of New York Mellon  
 Marissa Barbarino  
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 Angelo and Danielle Bello  
 Gerald and Lorraine Bertone  
 James Bifulco '16  
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Nicholas Borghese '15  
 Kamilah Briscoe  
 Christopher Brogna '21  
 Margaret P. Caplan '18  
 Josephine Carmusciano  
 Christopher and June Carnemolla  
 Keven and Mary Ann Carrion 🍷  
 Carmela and Mark Carter  
 Sebastian F. H. Cauz '22  
 Class of 2023  
 Class of 2027

Class of 2032  
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 Claire R. Crane '15  
 Anthony and Susan Crowdell  
 Darlene M. Crowe  
 Raymond E. Cuny and  
 Nina Garcia Cuny '80  
 James Dawson and Michelle Popolo  
 Michael DeCorato '09  
 Stephen DeVito '21  
 Jenna Nicole Dezio '09  
 Joseph and Denise Dicks



Maria DiNicola '18  
 Marc and Jeanine Donato  
 Simone R. Dutton '21  
 Leslie R. Evans '76  
 Daniel Falcone 🏆  
 Kelly Falcone '17  
 Nicholas J. Falcone '21  
 Qi (Ella) Fan '18  
 Glen Fox '96  
 Connor J. Frascati '16  
 Dorothy Gabbett and  
 Keith W. Gabbett '61  
 Marybeth Gallagher  
 Julio V. Gambuto '96  
 Jeremiah A. Geneve '21  
 Eric and Joan George 🏆  
 Edward Graban 🏆  
 Donald Graves and  
 Carol Nelson Graves '78  
 Ann Greenfield 🏆  
 Jaclyn Grella  
 Tatyana Grinev '15  
 John and Maureen Hannafin  
 John J. Hannafin '16  
 Steven M. Hannafin '19  
 Jeffrey and Laura Hannan  
 Calvin Jia Jiang and  
 Michelle Choy Jiang  
 Danielle V. Johnsen 🏆  
 Jaime Kantor 🏆  
 Jessica Kaskel  
 Suzanna Katz  
 Sharukh Khan '17  
 Crystal and Robert C. Kleinau '96  
 Jonathan Knobloch '16  
 Julia Knobloch '17  
 Charlotte Koniosis '13 🏆  
 Balakumar Krishnarasa and  
 Abhirami Vivekanandarajah  
 Kai Kuo and Genna Kuriakose  
 Donald and Kathleen LaMastra  
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 Jessica Lee  
 Stuart Lewis '52 🏆  
 Sloane and Laura Lipkin  
 Frank and Theresa Lombardo 🏆  
 Joe Luo and Carmen Yu  
 Daniel and Michele Marchese 🏆



Linda and Michael Martin  
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 Christopher J. Morren '61 🏆  
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 Angelito I. Nepomuceno '96  
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 Curtis Sloley '17  
 Joseph Smith  
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 Jacqueline Stevens 🏆  
 Christopher Tommasi '17  
 Mollie M. Torras '51 🏆  
 Louis F. Traficante '18  
 Joseph L. Turchiano '11 🏆  
 Burak Uzun '96 and  
 Ciyo Mikami Uzun '96  
 Minzhi Wang '19  
 Xiaohan (Annie) Wang '19  
 Shyiesha Watson  
 Jerry and Sharon Wirick  
 Danielle Wiseman '15  
 Clayton and Janyce Wollney 🏆  
 Alaric J. Wollney '96  
 Andrew Xu and Sherry Su  
 Alexander and Anna Yavorsky  
 Hanzi Zeng '19



# FAMILY OF FUND, FOUNDATIONS, AND SPECIAL GIFTS



► Sophia Lombardo '22 with  
Donna Griffo Johnson

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Vincent and Teresa Pelosi  
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Sarah Nutt Van Leeuwen '76

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Bank of New York Mellon  
Joseph Bronzo '14  
Deutsch Bank Foundation  
Matthew and  
Maria Colonna Emanuel '85  
Denis P. Kelleher and  
Carol A. Kelleher Charitable  
Foundation  
Network for Good  
NYPD Holy Name Society  
Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation  
Northfield Bank Foundation  
Richmond County Savings  
Foundation  
Stop & Shop A+ Rewards  
The Benevity Community  
Impact Found  
The Parents' League of  
Staten Island Academy  
The Staten Island Foundation  
U.S. Bank Foundation



► Diane Sernerchia from Northfield Bank with SIA Board Treasurer, Frank Scarangello



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Michael and Giovanna Acquilano  
 Ryu and Ayako Aizu  
 Anna and Amir Alishahi '82  
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 Lorenzo Ansuini and Raffaella Vartuli  
 Joseph and Helene Arcuri  
 Hedi and Angela Ardolic  
 Bartholomew and Fafa Armah  
 Gus and Gina Arniotes  
 Celia Asch  
 Rasim Azizov and Victoria Azizova  
 Grigory and Svetlana Baranovsky  
 Vel Belushin  
 Angelo and Danielle Bello  
 Joseph Brogna and Theresa Bolitiere  
 Matthew and Tanya Borghese  
 Stas and Irina Breytus  
 Alessandra and Michael Bush '87  
 Blerim and Elvira Capric  
 Keven and Mary Ann Carrion  
 Steven I. Caplan  
 Christopher and June Carnemolla  
 Martin and Lauriann Castrogiovanni  
 Albert R. Cauz and Bridget K. McCabe  
 Irina M. Constantine  
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     Caroline Stirn Crane '83  
 Anthony and Susan Crowdell  
 James Dawson and Michelle Popolo  
 Eric De La Cruz and Anna Pavlides  
 Elizabeth and Matthew DeMarzo '04  
 Paul and Keri DeVito  
 Joseph and Denise Dicks  
 Peter and Isabella DiNicola  
 Marc and Jeanine Donato  
 Kevin Donofrio and  
     Nicole Shack Donofrio '03  
 Denise and Ronald Dutton  
 Joaquin and Michela Elizondo  
 Matthew Emanuel and  
     Maria Colonna Emanuel '85  
 Scott and Colleen Erickson

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 Martin Gonzalez and Caterina Rivero  
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 Jane and Steven Grinberg  
 Arthur and Lana Grinev  
 Michael Guerette and Suzanee  
     DeJesus Guerette  
 Scott Hovanyetz and  
     Robin Savino Hovanyetz '95  
 Calvin Jia Jiang and  
     Michelle Choy Jiang  
 Xiaoxin Jin and Zhen Huang  
 Danielle V. Johnsen  
 Oleg Kiboukevitch and  
     Yelena Oumarova  
 Renee Kinsale-Taitt-Spady  
 Kevin and Suzanne Kozlowski  
 Balakumar Krishnarasa and  
     Abhirami Vivekanandarajah  
 Alexander Krutiy and Elena Sapon  
 Kai Kuo and Genna Kuriakose  
 James Lang and Dr. Electra Weeks  
 Frank Li and Shirley Yuen  
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 Yang Liu and Wei Wang  
 Frank and Theresa Lombardo  
 Marino and Angela Lorza  
 Catherine Ma and Paul Chu  
 Daniel and Michele Marchese  
 Keith Martorana  
 Michael Mazella '90 and  
     Jamie Savino Mazella '94  
 Nelson Minier  
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 Michele M. Nicoletta

Marc and Nicole Nickley  
 Agron and Arbana Okshe  
 Leslie O'Neal Geneve  
 Eugene and Jennifer Overton  
 Olga Pagieva  
 Jiang Peng and Dan Qing Chen  
 Frank Pizzolato and Lorraine Bovasso  
 Alan and Sarah Powell  
 Mike and Kim Quintela  
 Nicola and Kim Raschella  
 Michelle and Jason Ribisi  
 Bassam and Sahar Rifi  
 Michael and Denise Rossilli  
 Igor Rubinshteyn and Yuliya Giyaur  
 Mykola and Svitlana Rudchik  
 Joseph and Mary Saputo  
 Marc and Hillary Savino  
 Michelle and Michael D. Savino '88  
 Arthur and Tracy Schmitt  
 Maria Elena Selznick  
 Remy Smith  
 Robert Sorrentino and  
     Colleen Kelleher Sorrentino  
 Eric Storberg  
 Robert and Jennifer Urs  
 Elise Vetere and Marie Varvaro  
 Qiuna Wang  
 Shyiesha Watson  
 Ed and Orly Wiseman  
 Jerry and Sharon Wirick  
 Jianlin Wu and Hua Wen  
 Andrew Xu and Sherry Su  
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 Shan Yi  
 Joe Luo and Carmen Yu  
 Jing Zhong and Yongmei Lu  
 Kaichun Zhou





# FACULTY AND STAFF DONORS

“Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting kids to work together and motivating them. The teacher is most important.”

– Bill Gates



Michael Acquilano  
Jacqueline Anzurez  
Patricia Auteri  
Marissa Barbarino  
Paul Blanchard '15  
Kamilah Briscoe  
Christopher J. Bruno '06  
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M. Peter Rapp '64  
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Michael Shanley, III '99  
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Antonia Young  
Ying Yu

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Sydney Avis '10  
Julio Vincent Gambuto '96  
Janet Coles MacDonald '55 (dec)  
Brian Manske  
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Ellen Sheirr  
Wayne Wendel '75  
Nina Garcia Cuny '80



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 Jeremiah A. Geneve '21  
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 Lucas Gonzalez '27  
 Breanna Grinev '27  
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 Sophie Groesser '23  
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 Aiden Jiang '32  
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 GraceAnn Kinsale '23  
 Elizabeth Kondratyev '27

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 Kenao Yu '23  
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 Lingxuan (Steven) Zhang '23





# GRANDPARENTS



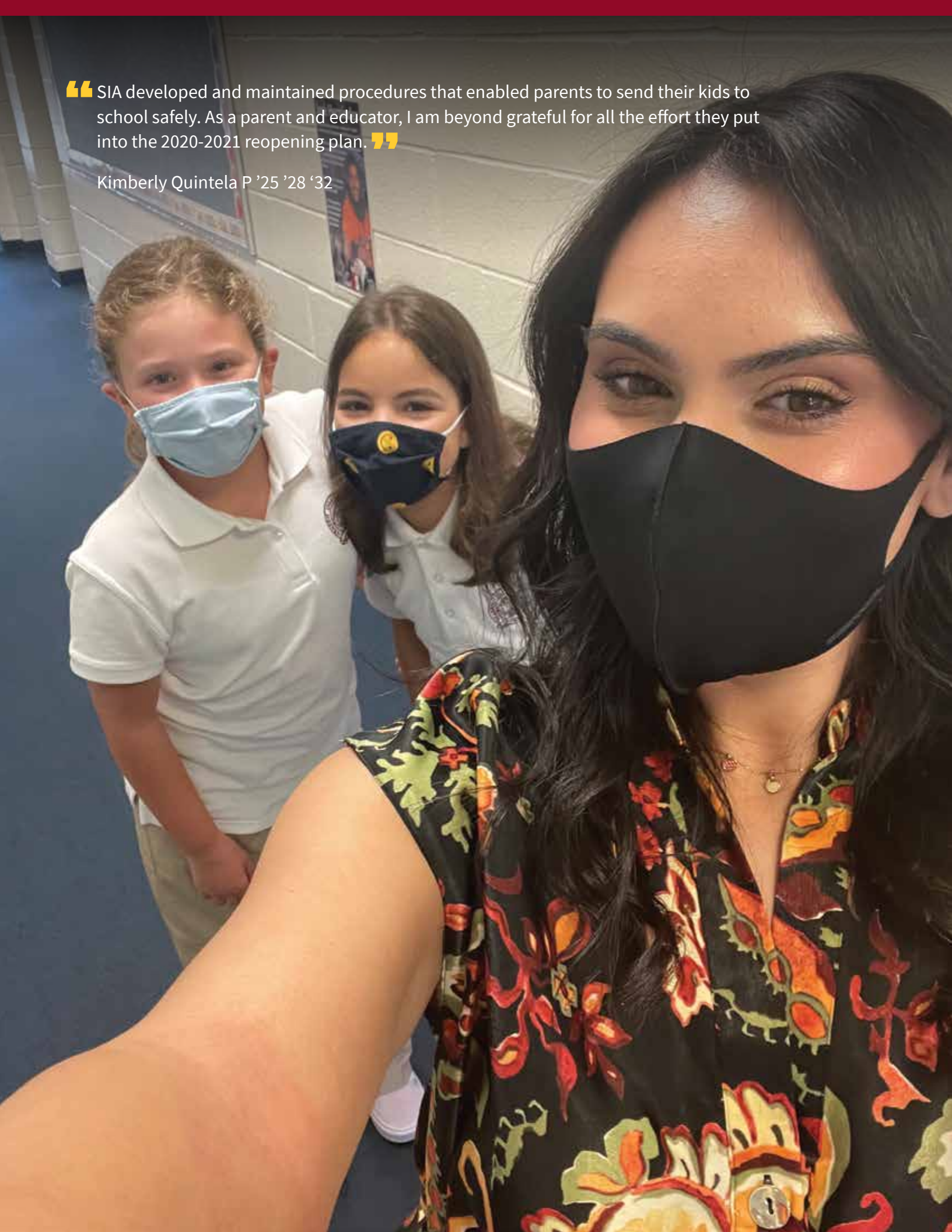
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Vincent and Rosemarie Savino  
Arthur Schmitt  
David and Laura Shack  
James and Emshalom Smith  
Gail Spinelli  
Gerald and Doris Stapleton  
Miguel and Josephine Quintela  
Krishne Urs  
Yvette Washington-Wheatley  
Charles and Lois Wells



“ SIA developed and maintained procedures that enabled parents to send their kids to school safely. As a parent and educator, I am beyond grateful for all the effort they put into the 2020-2021 reopening plan. ”

Kimberly Quintela P '25 '28 '32





# ALUMNI

## A “Class Act”

THIS YEAR THE STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY ALUMNI CLASS REACHED  
A RECORD RATE OF PARTICIPATION OF 11%!

### 1940s

Leonard M. Passano '42  
Walter Badenhausen, Jr. '48  
Nancy Brown DuVall '48  
Anne Finlay Schenck '48  
Anne Glazebrook Kehoe '49

### 1950s

Ann Hartmann  
Anonymous  
John Peoples, Jr. '51  
Mollie M. Torras '51  
Stuart Lewis '52  
Marguerite Lorey Peoples '52  
Sal DiRusso '53  
Barbara Bilow DiRusso '54  
Brian O'Connor '55  
James McNeil '58

### 1960s

Anonymous  
J. Hunt Brasfield '60  
Richard F. Larkin '60  
Gail Wood Miller '60  
Norman Scarpulla '60  
Conrad J. Sidoti '60  
Keith W. Gabbett '61  
Christopher J. Morren '61  
Harry P. Mroczkowski '61  
Connie Reeves Klein '62  
Douglas W. Johnson '64  
M. Peter Rapp '64  
William D. Romaine '66





Barry L. Swick '66 (dec)  
Janet Peel Schneider '68  
Paul A. Schneider '66

## 1970s

Mary Pat Roggenburg  
Caryn Land-Kearney '71  
Daniel L. Master, Jr. '71  
Suzanne Stirn Ainslie '72  
Lizanne Fontaine '73  
Wayne Wendel '75  
Leslie R. Evans '76  
Sibyl Gardner '76  
Damian Slattery '76  
Sarah Nutt Van Leeuwen '76  
Susan G. Nutt '77  
Carol Nelson Graves '78  
Mary Holland Johnson '78  
Victor P. Avis '79  
Diane Lagomarsino Kasprowitz '79  
Craig Patrick '79

## 1980s

Nina Garcia Cuny '80  
Raymond Rapcavage '81  
Amir Alishahi '82  
Caroline Diamond Harrison '82  
Caroline Stirn Crane '83  
Peter DiNicola '85  
Maria Colonna Emanuel '85  
Adam Pomerantz '85  
Richard E. Diamond Jr. '86  
Michael Bush '87  
Michael D. Savino '88  
Joann Mostovoy '89

## 1990s

Marc Savino  
Paul DeVito  
Adriaan Lanni '90  
Michael Mazella '90  
Dawn Guerriero '93  
Henry Scroope, IV '93  
Jamie Savino Mazella '94  
Alphonso A. Scotti '94  
Robin Savino Hovanyetz '95  
Eman Aly '96  
Glen Fox '96

Julio V. Gambuto '96  
Christopher Giardina '96  
Robert C. Kleinau '96  
Angelito I. Nepomuceno '96  
Shawn Norton '96  
Gautham Rao '96  
Catherine Scroope '96  
Burak Uzun '96  
Ciyo Mikami Uzun '96  
Alaric J. Wollney '96  
Edward J. Burke '99  
Brian Nagendra '99  
Sapna Neravanda Astman '99  
Michael Shanley, III '99

## 2000s

Nandini Rao '02  
Anand Sithian '02  
Nicole Shack Donofrio '03  
Matthew DeMarzo '04  
Vikram Rao '04  
Christopher J. Bruno '06  
Allison Cohen '07  
Maria Vasaturo '07  
Samantha E. Adler '08  
Maxwell David '08  
Michael DeCorato '09  
Jenna Nicole Dezio '09  
Ashley Dapolito Schirripa '09

## 2010s

Sydney Rachel Avis '10  
Andrew Mustafa Aydin '11  
James Frevola '11  
Joseph L. Turchiano '11  
Jessica Borghese '12  
Bethany Ann Claps '12  
Kieran Cross '12  
Samantha E. Avis '13  
Charlotte Koniosis '13  
Joseph Bronzo '14  
Daniel M. Turchiano '14  
Morgan Avis '15  
Paul Blanchard '15  
Nicholas Borghese '15  
Madison Kate Bulger '15  
Claire R. Crane '15  
Tatyana Grinev '15

Emma Master '15  
Danielle Wiseman '15  
Jillian Auteri '16  
James Bifulco '16  
Chinenyenwa C. Duru '16  
Connor J. Frascati '16  
John J. Hannafin '16  
Jonathan Knobloch '16  
Kelly Falcone '17  
Sharukh Khan '17  
Julia Knobloch '17  
Daniel L. M. (Trip) Master, III '17  
Matthew Pelosi '17  
Vincent Savino '17  
Izrael Shmukler '17  
Curtis Sloley '17  
Christopher Tommasi '17  
Grace C. Acquilano '18  
Margaret P. Caplan '18  
Maria DiNicola '18  
Qi (Ella) Fan '18  
Robert Sorrentino '18  
Louis F. Traficante '18  
Steven M. Hannafin '19  
Jake Savino '19  
Minzhi Wang '19  
Xiaohan (Annie) Wang '19  
Hanzi Zeng '19



# ALUMNI PARENTS

If your actions inspire others to Dream more, Learn more,  
Do more, and Become more... you are a Leader."

– John Quincy Adams

TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, WE ARE GRATEFUL  
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!

Michael and Giovanna Acquilano  
Anonymous (2)  
Paul R. Ainslie and  
Suzanne Stirn Ainslie '72  
Celia Asch  
Paul and Patricia Auteri  
Kimberly Avis and Victor P. Avis '79  
Grigory and Svetlana Baranovsky  
James and Elizabeth Bifulco  
Paul and Lynn Blanchard  
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Renee Kinsale-Taitt-Spady  
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Daniel L. Master, Jr. '71  
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Gail Wood Miller '60  
Vadim and Joann Mostovoy '89  
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Lea and Scott Prendergast  
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Martha and M. Peter Rapp '64  
Michelle and Michael D. Savino '88  
Vincent and Rosemarie Savino  
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Janet Peel Schneider '68 and  
Paul Schneider '66  
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 Elise Vetere and Marie Varvaro  
 Jing Zhong and Yongmei Lu



# PIVOTAL EVENTS

by Michelle Savino

WE NEVER THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT THE WORD "PIVOT" UNTIL 2020. OUR FUNDRAISING STRATEGY HAD TO CHANGE ON A DIME AS THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) DESCENDED UPON THE UNITED STATES. WE WERE KNEE-DEEP IN PLANNING OUR "GIN & JAZZ" ANNUAL AUCTION AND DINNER PARTY AT ABOVE ROOFTOP AND BALLROOM WHEN THE RUG WAS PULLED FROM UNDERNEATH US.



Navigating the unknown was the most challenging part of the pivot. Days of remote life turned into weeks, and we knew we needed a new strategy to bring our community together during the most

trying time in our lives. In a few short weeks, we created our first virtual event we called **"We Are Stronger Together"**, and hoped we could engage our families and friends to join in the fun. The week-long event of connecting and giving far exceeded our expectations. We raised money for Staten Island charities that were suffering from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and held one of our most successful fundraising events for the Academy. Throughout the week, our community came together to play games, enjoy cocktails together on Zoom, and support the live virtual auction finale. Eileen Corigliano was the voice, the heart, the emcee and the auctioneer of the event, and we couldn't be more thankful for her energy, enthusiasm and for taking the leap of faith with us. We have learned a lot since then!

- 1 ► Making house calls
- 2 ► Past auction, "A Hot Night in Havana" James Molinaro and Joan Cusack
- 3 ► Past Auction, "Roaring Twenties" Michael Acquilano, Timothy C. Harrison, and Caroline D. Harrison '82
- 4 ► Past auction, "A Hot Night in Havana" Angie and Daniel L. Master, Jr. '71
- 5 ► Eileen F. Corigliano our Emcee and host
- 6 ► Virtual guest bartenders, Caitlyn Salensky and Vincent Savino '17
- 7 ► Albert R. Cauz, Head of School
- 8 ► Auction item, "Stick it to Mr. Cauz
- 9 ► "All Together Now" auction item, Lobster Boil, donated by Ruta Shah-Gordon and David Gordon
- 10 ► Albert Cauz congratulates Laurie Turchiano for an incredible job, past auction "Hollywood Glam"



Fast-forward to 2021. We eagerly anticipated the return to a live auction fundraiser, but as the weeks passed, we realized we would, once again, have to plan a virtual event. We wanted to celebrate our faculty, staff, students, and families who rose to the occasion and successfully completed a school year that no one could have imagined! Our 2021 online auction, **"All Together Now"** was similar to the year prior, but with added professionalism and flair. The live-streamed cocktail hour and auction event were full of excitement and surprises. Once again, Eileen Corigliano stole the show as she powered through another successful event.

We can't thank our community enough for the support you have shown the Academy. We look forward to seeing you in person at our next annual auction and dinner party at Above Rooftop and Ballroom, at the Hilton Garden Inn on Friday, April 29, 2022!









# THE 2019 AND 2020 TIGER CLASSIC GOLF OUTING



WE HELD THE 4TH AND 5TH ANNUAL TIGER CLASSICS ON THE BEAUTIFUL LINKS OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY COUNTRY CLUB IN THE FALL OF 2019 AND 2020. MARK ZAWISNY WAS OUR CHAIR AND EMCEE OF BOTH EVENTS, AND THEY BOTH WERE TREMENDOUS FUN AND FISCALLY SUCCESSFUL. GOLFERS WERE THRILLED THAT THE COUNTRY CLUB WAS OPEN FOR GOLFING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CDC AND NEW YORK CITY COVID-19 SAFETY REGULATIONS.



Thank you to all who attended, sponsored, volunteered, purchased a raffle, or cheered for a successful event on behalf of all at Staten Island Academy!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS:

2019 Chris Acquilano, Michael Acquilano, Steve Acquilano, Jesse Clemente '13  
2020 Paul Blanchard, Jr. '15, Brian Del Priore, Brent Frederickson, John Sullivan

Michael and Giovanna Acquilano  
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 Charity Golf International  
 Allison Cohen '07  
 Steve Colin  
 Eileen F. Corigliano  
 Frank and Eileen Corigliano  
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 Caroline Stirn Crane '83  
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 Christine Ansbro Cruz  
 Joan Cusack  
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 Douglas DeCorato and Carolyn Raia  
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 DeSantis, Kiefer, Shall & Sarcone  
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 Carolyn Metz  
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 Nelson Minier  
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 Whisper Electric  
 Ed and Orly Wiseman  
 Joseph Yannaco

**ON A Sadder Note, we would like to recognize Uncle Vic, our Annual "Long Drive" Winner and a staple at our event. He passed earlier this year, and he will be sorely missed at the Tiger Classic.**







# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

OUR SINCEREST THANKS GO OUT TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES, WHETHER WE WERE ON CAMPUS, AN OFFSITE LOCATION, OR A VIRTUAL EVENT, WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU!

Parents' League Executive Committee and Class Representatives

Welcome Back BBQ Volunteers

Concession Stand Chairs and Volunteers

"The Tiger Classic" Chairs and Volunteers

Academy Day Chairs and Volunteers

Movie Night Volunteers

Auction Chairs and Committee Members

Geranium Ball Co-Chairs

Development Volunteers

Thanksgiving Pie Drive Volunteers

Lower School Volunteers and Surprise Guest Readers

Movie Night Volunteers

Theater Production Volunteers

Book Fair Volunteers

Service-Learning Volunteers

Chaperones

Faculty, Student, and Alumni Volunteers

Board of Trustee Members

**"A truly great volunteer is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget!"**

—unknown

## PARENTS' LEAGUE & CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Thank you to our Academy families who generously give their time and their talents to make Staten Island Academy events so special. Thank you to our exceptional Parents' League president and the executive committee members.

We could not do what we do without our incredible Academy volunteers.



## 2019-20

### President

Michelle Ribisi

### Co-Vice Presidents

Danielle Johnsen and Electra Weeks

### Co-Treasurers

Denise Rossilli and Jane Grinberg

### Co-Secretaries

Robin Hovanyetz '95 and  
Leslie O'Neal Geneve

### CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:

**Pre-K3:** Kim Raschella

**Pre-K4:** Nicole Donofrio '03 and  
Jamie Mazella '94

**Kindergarten:** Danielle Bello  
and Jason Ribisi

**Grade 1:** Robin Hovanyetz '95  
and Gleb Stepanov

**Grade 2:** Fafa Armah  
and Rimonda Dalloul

**Grade 3:** Jane Grinberg  
and Erin Kennedy

**Grade 4:** Jennifer Murino  
and Denise Schneider

**Grade 5:** Anna Yavorsky

**Grade 6:** Helene Dalton  
and Theresa Santiago-Dolman

**Grade 7:** Lauren Franza  
and Laura Lipkin

**Grade 8:** Alessandra Bush  
and Charlotte Sciarrino

**Grade 9:** Suzanee DeJesus Guerette  
and Denise Rossilli

**Grade 10:** Tracy D'Alessio  
and Danielle Johnsen

**Grade 11:** Theresa Lombardo  
and Maria Elena Selznick

**Grade 12:** Tanya Borghese  
and Michela Elizondo

## 2020-21

### President

Denise Rossilli

### Co-Vice Presidents

Theresa Lombardo and Electra Weeks

### Co-Treasurers

Ayako Aizu and Jane Grinberg

### Co-Secretary

Robin Hovanyetz '95  
and Leslie O'Neal Geneve

### CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:

**Pre-K3:** Svitlana Rudchyk

**Pre-K4:** Feri Rusi

**Kindergarten:** Jamie Mazella '94  
and Gina Tuzzo-Arniotes

**Grade 1:** Jason Ribisi and Kai Kuo

**Grade 2:** Robin Hovanyetz '95  
and Regina Martorana

**Grade 3:** Natalia Morozova  
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**Grade 4:** Jane Grinberg  
and Erin Kennedy

**Grade 5:** Jennifer Murino  
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**Grade 6:** Yulia Kondratyeva  
and Renee Marchese

**Grade 7:** Ayako Aizu and Keri DeVito

**Grade 8:** Lauren Franza  
and Laura Lipkin

**Grade 9:** Charlotte Sciarrino  
and Christine Cruz

**Grade 10:** June Carnemolla  
and Jeanine Donato

**Grade 11:** Danielle Johnsen  
and Elaina Rios

**Grade 12:** Theresa Lombardo  
and Maria Elena Selznick





# IN MEMORIAM

NO LONGER BY OUR SIDE, FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS!

## WE SADLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE PASSING OF FELLOW ACADEMY MEMBERS:

Carol Pouch Gwynne '41

Gordon Loery '42

Shirley Hunt Chartrand '43

Olga Antonopolus Doerzbacher '44

Faith Quinlan '47

Alice-Jane Race '48

Isabelle Hunt Bailey '50

Gilbert Parmele '50

Roswell Coles '51

William (Brian) Peoples '51

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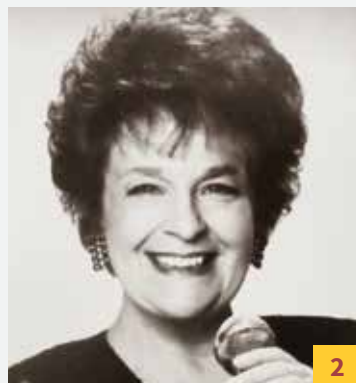
Scott Kolonko '01

Daniel Podvesker '04

Peter Webster, Former Headmaster

F. Graham Brown,

Former Headmaster



## MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS 2019-20

Anne G. Kehoe '49, in memory of Peter W. Webster

Susan G. Nutt '77, in memory of Laura Elliman Patrick '52

Mary Pat Roggenburg, in memory of Janet and Stanly Roggenburg '40

Harry Potter Mroczkowski '61, in memory of Penny Roberts '61

Dr. Jing and Dr. Song, in memory of Wendy Xu Song

Thomas M. Van Leewen and Sarah Nutt Van Leeuwen '76, in memory of Laura Elliman Patrick '52

## IN HONOR OF

Miriam Camara '06, in honor of Rose Joseph

S.I. Newhouse Foundation, on behalf of the Staten Island Advance and SI Live

Dina Large, in honor of Frank Crane, Eileen F. Corigliano, and Michael Acquilano

## MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS 2020-21

Steven Grumbach '73 and Alyson Grumbach Sappington '76, in memory of Lee Grumbach

Susan G. Nutt '77, in memory of Laura Elliman Patrick '52

Mary Pat Roggenburg, in memory of Janet and Stanly Roggenburg '40 and Carol Roggenburg Belcher and the Class of 1944

Bonnie Tompkins, in memory of Janet Coles MacDonald '55

1 ▶ Janet Coles MacDonald '55

2 ▶ Alice-Jane Race '48

3 ▶ Scott Kolonko '01

Vincent and Teresa Pelosi, in memory of Frank Corigliano  
 Lisa Bova-Hiatt, in memory of Frank Corigliano  
 Mary DeLamielleure, in memory of Frank Corigliano  
 Ines Balestrieri-Motalti, in memory of Frank Corigliano  
 Nancy Berrivecchi-Volpe, in memory of Frank Corigliano  
 Joanne LoGerfo-Axelsson, in memory of Frank Corigliano

Joann Sciarra, in memory of Frank Corigliano  
 Thomas M. Van Leewen and Sarah Nutt Van Leeuwen '76, in memory of Laura Elliman Patrick '52  
 Alice B. Diamond, in memory of Mary Kelly  
 Timothy C. Harrison and Caroline Diamond Harrison '82, in memory of Mary Kelly

## IN HONOR OF

S.I. Newhouse Foundation, on behalf of the Staten Island Advance and SI Live  
 Dina Large, in honor of Frank Crane, Eileen F. Corigliano, and Michael Acquilano  
 Mudar and Rimonda Dalloul, in honor of Allisar Dalloul '23

## IN HONOR OF THE CLASS OF 2021

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 The Law Firm of DeVito & DeVito  
 Frank and Theresa Lombardo  
 Marino and Angela Lorza  
 Michelle and Michael Savino '88





# REMEMBERING MR. BROWN

by Caroline Stirn Crane '83

ALMOST EVERY PHOTO WE HAVE OF GRAHAM BROWN IN THE ARCHIVE ROOM SHOWS A SEEMINGLY ALWAYS SUNTANNED MAN WEARING A WORN PAIR OF KHAKI SHORTS, A FADED POLO SHIRT AND SPORTING A THICK HEAD OF SALT AND PEPPER HAIR—THE ENVY OF MANY A MIDDLE-AGER. HIS SMILE WAS HARD TO RESIST. HIS LAUGH DISTINCTIVE AND HIS ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE AUTHENTICALLY, WAS UNDENIABLE. DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS EMERITUS, PETER RAPP '64 REMEMBERS THAT “GRAHAM REALLY ENJOYED BEING AROUND PEOPLE AND APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT WITH FACULTY AND PARENTS ALIKE. EVEN IF HE DIDN'T AGREE WITH EVERYTHING BEING SAID, HE ALWAYS LISTENED AND TOOK ALL OPINIONS SERIOUSLY.”



► Remembering F. Graham Brown Crowe Hall

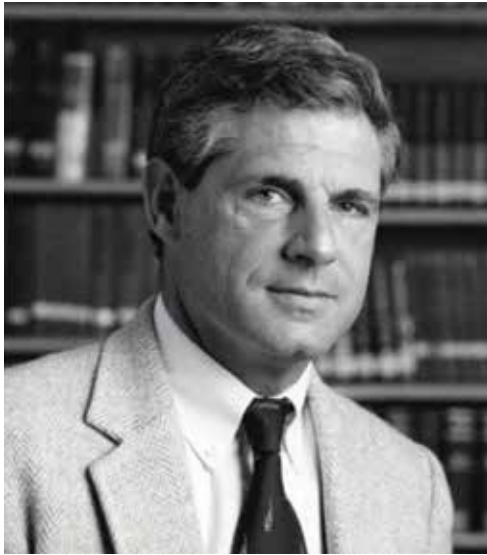
As his youngest daughter Meredith '92 wrote recently, last November “the world lost one of the good ones.” Her father and former Staten Island Academy Head of School, F. Graham Brown, Jr. passed away last fall after a brief illness. Mr. Brown was first and foremost an educator but he had a special affection for those who both taught and coached. A former wrestler and lacrosse player, he was always at home on our sidelines coaching girls lacrosse and reintroducing the sport to a new generation of young women who continue to play every spring.

Longtime coach and friend Darlene Crowe recalls that “he was so enthusiastic about field hockey that one day over lunch he planned out what my lineup would be if the championship game came down to penalty shots. He was always looking ahead with a plan but most of all he loved competition and being around teams on campus, any sport, any season.”

Assistant Head of School Eileen Corigliano recounts meeting him in the summer of 1995, when he hired her virtually just out of college to teach in the Middle School. With his feet propped up on the desk and his hands behind his head, “He wasn’t necessarily sure what I would do but Graham hired me and gave me the space to grow and learn to be a leader—he may very well have seen the leadership in me before I did.”

“Graham really enjoyed being around people and appreciated opportunities to interact with faculty and parents alike. Even if he didn’t agree with everything being said, he always listened and took all opinions seriously.”

PETER RAPP '64



“ He was so enthusiastic about field hockey that one day over lunch he planned out what my lineup would be if the championship game came down to penalty shots. He was always looking ahead with a plan but most of all he loved competition and being around teams on campus, any sport, any season. ”

An independent school graduate, a planner, an optimist and a father of three daughters, Graham was a hands-on believer that doing it all didn't just apply to kids. Most at home on a sun-soaked beach, Graham, and his wife of 53 years Mary, served as partners in school administration together across the United States over a span of five decades. He was often a private person, which may come as a surprise to someone who seeks a position in the campus spotlight but when school closed he took comfort in the safe haven of his family in Connecticut, Colorado and ultimately the beaches of Sanibel in Florida.

I'll always be grateful for his belief in young teachers because when I was assigned the delicate task of taking over for veteran English icon Mr. Wolter, then battling cancer, I relied on his steady reassurance, his stocked bag of stories, and the fact that his daughter was in my class and deemed me reasonably cool. Some twenty years of teaching later and I still think of that first class often and consider my life's trajectory as just another example of Mr. Brown's lasting legacy in education.



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► Victor R. Avis, DDS '79, James Barbaria, Joseph A. Puma, MD, and Michelle Savino



# DONOR CATEGORY

Annual Fund 2020-21

356 Donors

Recognition of Consecutive Giving

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF ALL OF OUR  
DONORS AND INCREDIBLY THANKFUL TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN  
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🥈 SILVER 5-9 YEARS    🥉 BLUE CUP 10-19-YEARS    🏆 GOLD CUP 20+ YEARS

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Gulmar and Denise Parga  
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 Keith Pillarella and Zohara Zagouri  
 Joanne Robinson and  
   Adam Pomerantz '85 🏆  
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# A FRUITFUL TRIUMPH

by Olivia Lombardo '21

IN THE SPRING OF OUR JUNIOR YEAR, THE CLASS OF 2021 BASKED IN ONE OF THE RARE OCCASIONS FOR US HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS--AN EXTRA DAY OF SPRING BREAK. HOWEVER, THAT DAY BECAME TWO, THEN A FEW WEEKS, UNTIL COVID-19 BROUGHT AN END TO IN-PERSON LEARNING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT YEAR. I CAN STILL RECALL PLAYING LACROSSE THAT DAY, SURROUNDED BY THE AFFECTION OF MY TEAMMATES, COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO THE FACT THAT THAT WOULD BE OUR FINAL TASTE OF NORMALCY.

We quickly became accustomed to a new vocabulary--words like COVID-19, coronavirus, pandemic, physical distancing, masks, close contact, and vaccine becoming a part of our vernacular. Our lives changed for us, not solely in the physical sense--maintaining at least a six feet distance from our peers, seeing only our teachers' eyes light up as they smile, and eating behind a plastic barrier--but in a social sense as well.

Our understanding of what, at its very core, community means rose to the surface, confronting us for the first time. It is nearly impossible to imagine the numerous ways our lives transformed throughout the duration of the academic year. Whether that be conducting school remotely, seeing the world through multiple plastic barriers, or, as of late, deciding to get vaccinated and protect one another, our community and its values remained at the center. A desire to keep one another safe, enjoy the better parts of our young adult life, and look ahead to the future with excitement, reflected the hope of this time rather than the anxieties.

We are constantly reminded, then, that we can not only do hard things, but it is within our power to excel both despite and because of difficult and unexpected circumstances. We have thrived as a population due to this inherent need, this inexplicable drive, to fight against the bad actors called fate.

It is the very things we take for granted that seem that much more powerful an undertaking in our lives. The weight of our



accomplishments, both big and small, took on profound new meaning. We proved our ability to win championship games or painstakingly complete a chemistry exam, film and screen three fall productions or turn our cameras on for online learning, organize SAC Day, or maintain full dress code. Our year was far from normal, yet the seemingly unbearable components allowed the possibility of a brighter tomorrow to radiate like a permeating light in our lives.

There is nostalgia from a typical year that I cannot seem to shake. Since the sixth grade, I longed for the moments I could share with my classmates--bus rides with my teammates, senior off-campus privilege, and the penultimate faculty luncheon. Our lives and our academic year changed indefinitely; the past became a foreign place, and, for that very reason, this year became a fruitful triumph. The 2020-2021 calendar year will surpass even our time and one in which we can recall not only what changed but, by the efforts of the entire Academy community, all that was able to remain the same.



# MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS 2021-22

EACH JUNE, OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTS NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN VETTED OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE BOARD MEMBERS THAT HAVE FULFILLED THEIR TENURE, AND THEIR SERVICE COMES TO AN END. A TERM LASTS THREE YEARS, AND MANY MEMBERS SERVE MORE THAN ONE TERM. IN JUNE 2021, THE BOARD WELCOMED TWO ACADEMY PARENTS TO SERVE AS TRUSTEES.

**REGINA PEPE MARTORANA P '28 '31** – Regina is the proud mother of two Academy boys, Lucas and Roman, and a partner at the law firm of Bressler, Amery & Ross. Regina's legal practice focuses on the representation of global-broker dealers and registered individuals in securities litigation and regulatory matters.

**ROBERT URS P '31 '36** – A lifelong Staten Island resident, living on the North Shore with his wife Jennifer and his two Academy children, Kali and Ashley. Robert is a licensed real estate associate broker, practicing at Robert DeFalco Realty.

We also extend our most sincere thanks and gratitude to our trustees that have termed off. We are grateful for their loyal dedication to the Academy for their time served.

Damian Slattery '76  
James Barbaria P '20 '25

A very heartfelt thanks to Timothy C. Harrison P '11 '14 – Board President 2018-21. During the most extraordinary times, his steady hand guided us through the roughest of waters. We are sincerely grateful for his keen leadership. Moreover, we are honored that he will remain as a member of our board of trustees.



► Regina Martorana P '28 '31



► Robert Urs P '31 '36



► Timothy C. Harrison P '11 '14 – Board President 2018-21

“ You simply don't know how unique the Academy is until you have lived it. It becomes your second home, your place of comfort, and you are supported by peers and faculty alike. ”  
Matthew Mikhov '22







# HOW A SMALL SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING SO BIG!

by Eileen F. Corigliano

IN OUR 136-YEAR HISTORY, STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY HAS ALWAYS BEEN RESILIENT; HOWEVER, SINCE APRIL OF 2020, WE REALLY PROVED THAT THIS SMALL SCHOOL COULD DO BIG THINGS! WE CREATED A TASK FORCE TEAM TO EXAMINE THE “WHAT IFS?” SURROUNDING THE COVID-19 VIRUS. BEHIND THE SCENES, THIS GROUP OF DEDICATED EDUCATORS POURED THROUGH THE DIFFERENT TECHNOLOGIES, SAFETY, AND PRIVACY AGREEMENTS FOR THE LIKELY SCENARIO IF FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS PRE-K 3-GRADE 12 HAD TO WORK REMOTELY.

While this group worked tirelessly on the “what ifs?”, the little school on the hill kept going. Our Upper School had just returned from competing in the Model United Nations at Yale University. Many of these same students starred in three fantastic performances of *The Music Man* the following week. We participated in culminating swimming and basketball events with our girls’ team gearing up to once again compete in the New York State Federation Basketball Championship tournament. At this time, the global pandemic started to change from a “what if?” to “how long?” Our plans for the hypotheticals began to take shape. We sadly began to cancel some long-standing traditions, such as our Middle School trips to



► The Music Man

Washington D.C. and Philadelphia, as well as our Grade 10 students week-long integrated curricular experience throughout Manhattan. The NYS Federation Tournament was canceled, and a long-awaited, first-time spring break trip for students and faculty to Peru had to be postponed indefinitely.

Within days, we began to train our faculty, staff, and students and communicated with parents about using the safe network of Microsoft Teams “if” we needed to transition to remote learning after spring break. We would quickly learn that this research paid off, as other video software systems did not prove to be as safe for children and the educational field. On March 12, 2020, we informed our Staten Island Academy community that we would begin spring break a day earlier, allowing everyone to go home and prepare for this possible disruption to our daily lives. This extra day was spent testing technology and supporting faculty for the probability of remote learning.

Following spring break, we met virtually with our community and transitioned to remote learning seamlessly. We followed our 8-day cycle, and every class met “live” each day. Once it was clear that remote learning would be our new normal for the rest of the school year, we kicked it up a notch. We created developmentally appropriate schedules for our students and faculty, modified assessments, and made sure our students had easy access to our school counselors. We carved out social times for students to meet with teachers and administrators to talk as if they were on campus, hanging out informally in their offices. We coordinated game time during the day and in the evenings to keep as much normalcy for our students as possible. We even had different members of our faculty and staff read bedtime stories and sent them to our students and families to enjoy at the end of each day. Academy students are used to being engaged in the life of the school morning, noon and night, so we didn’t want that strong bond of connectivity to change even if we could not be together on campus. Additionally, our community managed to pivot on a dime to pull off a tremendously successful virtual auction, *We Are Stronger Together*, broadcast from the Patrick Commons with a webcam and a box to stand on, like the days of old-time television broadcasts.

We wanted to do all that we could for the Class of 2020. This was the last half of their senior year, the best times of their lives, and they spending it in isolation, away from their home-away-from-home. To keep our Grade 12 students engaged, we held senior virtual get-togethers and game nights with fun prizes and guest appearances from different faculty members. We safely invited our seniors up to campus for socially distant events like the “Big Chair” signing, a lawn sign parade, and a “Drive-In style” Diploma ceremony, all followed by a formal Commencement ceremony





with family and friends in August. We did everything we could to safely celebrate this graduating class during a difficult time. Our Academy family helped spread some positivity into these six months of uncertainty, all thanks to our tremendously strong community of faculty, parents, and students.

While we continued to celebrate our seniors in June of 2020, our COVID-19 Task Force Team shifted from the need for remote learning to getting our community back on campus safely in September. In consultation with experts, we created a comprehensive opening plan that would enable 100% of our students and faculty to return to campus five days a week. This plan included, but was not limited to, installation of temperature scanners in the main entrances of high traffic buildings, hand-held temperature scanners for our little ones, hand sanitizing stations at the entrance and exit of every building and classroom, barriers in the classrooms thanks to the Staten Island Foundation, and safety partitions in our lunchroom, so our community could eat on campus safely. Over the summer, we added detailed signage to all of our buildings, one-way staircases and hallways signs, and

even more importantly, we updated all of our HVAC systems with the safest MERV 13 filtration systems for the buildings with central air and individual air purifiers in classrooms. We once again partnered with RUVNA to provide our community with an easy-to-use pre-screening wellness check prior to entering campus every day.

As September drew near, we met with our community members virtually and communicated through email to keep everyone up to speed on our progress to reopen the campus for in-person learning. We knew it would be a different school year, but we knew we could do it! It was vital for us to provide opportunities for our international students and any students not feeling well or needing to stay home to still engage in learning. With that, we installed cameras and the technology required in all fifty of our classrooms on campus. We wanted to be ready to support every community member regardless of their situation. And just like that, on September 9, 2020, we once again returned to campus for our 136th Opening Day of school. It looked a little different, but you could still see those smiling faces



underneath the masks. Our already small class sizes and the vast amount of outdoor space on our campus allowed us to maximize every inch of our expansive campus. We equipped our maintenance staff with quick spraying disinfecting machines and had cleaning supplies in each classroom to wipe down surfaces after each use. We erected tents for outdoor classes, wore our masks, and sat behind shields.

Outside of those unique differences, it was all still learning, growing, playing, and connecting as usual at Staten Island Academy. The Academy even had the ability to COVID-19 test all of our community members on campus, thanks to Dr. Joseph Anthony Puma and Sorin Medical. This frequent testing allowed us to return to campus safely after extended breaks. Our spring athletic teams resumed their seasons and brought home a number of league championships! Moreover, we recorded and shared three wonderful theatre productions and returned to singing in our modified, safe choir masks.



Although some of our community members needed to quarantine at times, we can confidently say that the Department of Health deemed that we had zero community spread throughout the entire school year. We certainly missed having parents and guests on campus this past year because of our efforts to reduce our density and mitigate the spread of the virus. However, we all know the Academy is a place to do it all, and we did just that; we did it all, on campus behind masked, smiling faces. Science, math, english, history, library, computers, physical education, athletics, art, music, theatre, languages, you name it, we did it. Not only did we survive this unprecedented year, but we also thrived, all thanks to our faculty, staff, parents, students, and board of trustees!



# THE FATEFUL RED LIGHT

by Sahar Rifi P '22 '27 '30

WHO KNEW THAT A QUICK DRIVE TO THE STATEN ISLAND MALL IN THE SPRING WOULD CHANGE MY LIFE AND CAREER? AS MY HUSBAND DROVE ON TODT HILL, I NOTICED AN OPEN HOUSE SIGN FOR STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY AT THE RED LIGHT, AND I TOLD HIM TO PULL INTO THE PARKING LOT TO SEE WHAT THIS SCHOOL IS ALL ABOUT, EVEN THOUGH MY THEN FIVE-YEAR-OLD SON, OMAR, WAS ALREADY REGISTERED IN KINDERGARTEN AT A DIFFERENT SCHOOL. AFTER A ONE-HOUR TOUR OF THE BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS AND CLASSROOMS FILLED WITH HAPPY STUDENTS LEARNING FROM NURTURING TEACHERS, I LOOKED AT MY HUSBAND IN THE CAR AND SAID, “MY HEART IS TELLING ME THAT OMAR MUST BE SITTING IN ONE OF THOSE TINY CHAIRS IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD BUILDING IN SEPTEMBER.”

A few months after enrolling my first child at Staten Island Academy, I was so pleased to see how caring the teachers were to meet the needs of my shy little learner. They helped him shine through his strengths and talents while finding different strategies to improve his areas of weaknesses. Year after year, there were many incidents that I was so thankful for; however, my fondest memory of Omar’s elementary years occurred when he was nine years old. The little shy child who started at the Academy at age five had developed confidence and courage to approach the Head of School, Albert Cauz, and ask why his school was not closed for Eid. The Head of School and everyone at the Academy immediately showed how much they valued and cared for his emotions. The Academy was the first non-religious school in New York to close for Eid, and that would forever hold a special place in my heart. If my son didn’t feel loved, respected, or valued in his learning environment, he would not have had the courage to speak up about his concerns. Coming from a diverse background, my family and I always



felt at home either through International Family Fun Nights, a diverse selection of books displayed throughout the classrooms or through teachers finding ways to create an inclusive environment. There were a million more incidents I, as a parent of three boys at the school, can talk about, but my story would never end.

So, how did deciding to register Omar to the Academy be the cause of my career change? On days that I could escape the corporate world, I would love to volunteer my time at the Academy. The more time I spent on campus, the more I fell in love with its beauty. I just wanted to be on campus full time. When I was offered a full-time position, I didn’t

hesitate, as I was curious to see what it felt like to teach in this school. During my first year working as a teaching assistant, I decided to introduce American Sign Language to the curriculum. I was so pleased to see how flexible the Academy was to enhance their curriculum and immediately allowed me to teach ASL. Since I grew up in the deaf community, it allowed me to integrate the



importance of facial expression, body language, and Sign Language to young students to help them relay their feelings, improve communication, and develop respect for others. But, it wasn't until I started working at the Academy that I completely understood why my kids always were happy to go to school. Working at the Academy proved to me how hard teachers work every day to ensure that their students and classrooms are up to date. I would see

teachers all around campus either providing extra help or challenging the students to a fun sports game. As I became a teacher myself, I finally understood that "strong bond" between teachers and students that I just did not fully comprehend before. I now understand why my sons would get upset at me for picking them up early from school. Let me clarify, early to them meant 4:30! After a long day at work, I just wanted to go home and prepare for the night; however, when I

“As I became a teacher myself, I finally understood that “strong bond” between teachers and students that I just did not fully comprehend before. I now understand why my sons would get upset at me for picking them up early from school.”



waited a long time in the parking lot for my children to gather their belongings and get in the car, I realized that I am absolutely blessed that my children do not want to run out of school right away. They would just chat with their teachers, friends, high-five their friends from the maintenance staff, or check out the latest books from the library.

When I look back, I can't help but be thankful for that open house sign at the red light that lured me in to tour the campus. Now, that same five-year-old boy will be graduating from Staten Island Academy this year as a smart, confident, kind, caring, and mature young man. I owe it to my second family, my Academy family, for helping me raise my children, and all other students, as their own. The importance of family, love, and respect for one another at Staten Island Academy is priceless and I will forever cherish my sons educational experience!



# THE SHOWS MUST GO ON

by Remy Smith P '22

LAST SUMMER BROUGHT CHALLENGES TO BOTH THE MOST STUBBORN OPTIMISTS AND DEVOTED PESSIMISTS ALIKE. THE EVER-CHANGING DIRECTIONS ON MASK MANDATES AND REPORTS OF COVID-19 INFECTION RATES CLASHED WITH THE GRADUAL RELAXATION OF SAFETY PROTOCOLS, AND THE NATURAL URGE TO SEEK SUNLIGHT AND FRESH AIR, ALL CONTRIBUTING TO THE FEARS AND DASHING THE ASPIRATIONS OF MANY IN OUR COMMUNITIES FOR A RETURN TO A LIFE WITH REAL SOCIAL INTERACTION. THESE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS INFORMED THE MANY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SCHOOLS, PARTICULARLY WHETHER MANY WOULD REACH THE GOAL OF FULL RE-OPENING AND SAFELY RESUMING IN-PERSON EDUCATION. NO CONVERSATION ON THIS TOPIC WANTED FOR ANXIETY, WORRY, AND HOPE.



I never doubted that Staten Island Academy, with the devotion and wisdom of its courageous leaders, would open in the Fall of 2021. I was confident that in-person operations would be, at the least, accessible but limited and, at best, fully implemented. As usual, Staten Island Academy strove for and achieved the best. The school opened fully, implementing only minimally invasive and mildly disruptive but effective precautions. While masked and plexiglassed, the students were able to hear each other's laughter, see a classmate's eyes roll at a silly joke, and mentally chart the additional inches grown or hairstyle changed over the summer.

Even more significantly, and in contrast to what seemed like the rest of the pedagogical universe, the moments of learning that might remain unaddressed but certainly not unnoticed were allowed to continue at Staten Island Academy. The nuances of a momentary knitting of the eyebrows in frustration over an unusually difficult Mandarin vocabulary quiz, or the nods and murmurs of understanding a particular interpretation of a Shakespeare dialogue, were once again in the air. Even the secret joy

of having to don a tie and blazer was permitted its expression among the perhaps more sartorially inclined. Staten Island Academy had successfully preserved the learning environment both needed and loved by its students and leaders.

But what about the plays? I did not want to demand or expect more from Staten Island Academy; I appreciated the Herculean efforts of the staff to continue in-person education and all the gifts it offers. That was more than enough. I did, however, know that the students and their families have always relied on the theater department to provide thoroughly spectacular entertainment as well as an outlet for, especially after months of isolation, students' anxieties, frustrations, and need for expression and creativity. I hoped that the students would have some chance to escape into the world of drama and song that had served them so well in the years since my own son Phineas had participated in Staten Island Academy productions many years ago. I did, however, accept that a year of rest might be necessary.



Mr. Weissman clearly did not. As usual, he was, with the help of parents, staff, and the students, able to create both virtual concerts and, as a much-needed and hard-fought experiential apex, two evenings of film. He produced and directed three films over two evenings at Juicy Lucy Drive-In, an homage to an almost-lost, nostalgic pleasure that served to nearly obliterate the notion of limitations and prohibitions to which we all have become so accustomed over the last many, many months. In the medium of film, the first in the years I have been an Academy parent, student filmmaker Brandon Paradise was able to reveal his exceptional talents and skill in cinematography and editing, and the student actors and artists their own respective powers to entertain in a totally different way than onstage. Spectacular singing and dancing were replaced by softer moments of quiet close-ups and innocent intimacy. A minimalist but comprehensive and beautiful set almost insisted that we, as viewers, recognize how different this year had been and how vital the connections of the actors, director, filmmaker, and stagehands were to maintaining the environment the school fought so hard to preserve. Once again, Mr. Weissman's ability to draw emotional maturity and superior skill from his students translated into two evenings of joy and connection for the Staten Island Academy family.

I look forward to next year, hopefully, a reflection of the quotidian operations of the not-so-recent past and with few remnants of this last year, but I will forever appreciate the fortitude and ingenuity of Staten Island Academy; its light shone even brighter in the darkness.



JUNE 10, 2021

# COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

BY MR. FRANK S. CRANE

ELECTED BY THE CLASS OF 2021 TO BE THE FACULTY  
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



A visit with Howard Lindemann '28  
(now deceased) in 2017.

GOOD MORNING AND  
WELCOME TO MR. CAUZ,  
MS. CORIGLIANO, MR.  
KARELAS, MR. HARRISON,  
TRUSTEES, FACULTY, STAFF,  
PARENTS, FAMILIES, AND  
OF COURSE, THE CLASS OF  
2021. BEFORE I START, LET  
ME EXPRESS MY THANKS TO  
THE SENIORS FOR ELECTING  
ME AS THEIR SPEAKER. THE  
HONOR IS NOT LOST UPON  
ME. I AM HUMBLLED BY YOUR

CONFIDENCE IN MY ABILITIES, AND I HOPE I SPEAK WELL ON  
YOUR BEHALF THIS DAY.

That said, we have finished the most extraordinary school year, and despite the tragedies around us, we have been blessed and only inconvenienced by the pandemic, not stopped. Rather, we have risen to the myriad of challenges, and while many schools have shut their doors to students, we have remained open with classes, sports, theater, and an array of activities.

Today is a day for awards and accolades, a day to celebrate what many individuals and what collectively the Class of 2021 has accomplished. However, as an educator, I am most interested in this question: what have we learned?

Well, as a keen observer of the Class of 2021, I have learned quite a few things this year. At times I watched the seniors and likened myself to a scientist watching cells under a microscope. The Cloisters Lounge became a behavioral crucible, and here are some of the things I came to know. First, Frankie should never be a surgeon because he doesn't know how to wear a mask. Leo can turn in a paper on time, but only if Mr. Cauz is looking over his shoulder. I realized that Zivi owns hundreds of t-shirts one size too small and that Ashley and Allie can record TikToks morning, noon, and night. Yousaf is nocturnal; Heather is not as grumpy as once thought. I learned that Madelyn actually did take one class (mine) and that Caroline singlehandedly emptied the Tulane University bookstore of all attire. While I can go on and on, I will finish by saying that I learned that the class had given me the nickname "Air Force One" because apparently, I would swoop in when masks were down, the lounge was too full, or the seniors were late to class. No doubt, the faculty and I were called a few other things as well.

More seriously, what did we really learn? We learned that the Class of 2021 is incredibly accomplished. They earned 160 A's in their senior year, and 64% of the class is attending a college that Barron's ranks as most or highly selective. 53% is attending one of US News & Report's top 50 national or liberal art schools. There were four Ivy League acceptances, and as a class, they earned 4.7 million dollars in merit money. Members of this senior class had starring roles in; She Kills Monsters, Cinderella, Arabian Nights, the Addams Family, Almost Main, Know your Role, and Shakespeare's Macbeth. There are 3 Division I athletes on the stage before you, as well as leaders on sixteen championship teams, playing over only three and a half years. Numerous members of the class have jobs outside school. We learned that this is a truly special group.



This year, we learned that we could build the plane in flight. What do I mean? Well, certainly, we learned, paraphrasing Ms. Corigliano, that we can do hard things. Think for a moment, eighteen months ago RUVNA, Temperature checks, masks, barriers, face shields, blue lines, and pre-ordering were not a part of the Upper School lexicon. In 2019, we could walk in any direction, eat in the Commons, meet as grades 9-12 in the auditorium, and no one thought anything of it. And yet, to be on campus this year, we were compelled to transform our school day. Did we enjoy

remote classes, periodic testing, and all of the protocols? Not really, but we made the needed adaptations because it was necessary and the key to being together. So, in one respect, we learned that we could meet a challenge.

Before I discuss the last thing I think we learned, I want to tell you a short story. In the summer of 2015, Mrs. Pelosi and I drove to western New Jersey to meet with the then 105-year-old Howard Lindeman, Staten Island Academy Class of 1928. At that time, Mr.

🗨️ Strip away the bricks and buildings, the esteemed names behind the Houses and the venerable founding date, and you will find that it is the relational that is at the heart of all things: the student and teacher, colleague and colleague, upper and underclassmen - that is where the true magic lies. 🗨️

MR. FRANK S. CRANE





Lindeman was the Academy's and Lafayette College's oldest alumnus. Although Mr. Lindeman had lost most of his hearing, he certainly had not lost his spirit and his "joie de vivre." As we talked, he smiled frequently and told us his story. Why is this gathering relevant today? Because Howard Lindeman was an Academy student during the last major pandemic, the Spanish flu of 1918-1919. Over a century ago, that pandemic targeted younger patients first, and as a fifth-grader, Mr. Lindeman fell ill and missed a month of school during his first year at SIA. His academic savior? His classroom teacher, Miss Hooper, a bi-speckled, white-haired woman who favored high collar dresses and distinguished herself as an educator. As Howard recovered his health, Miss Hooper made regular visits to his family home on Eddy Place, off the Richmond Turnpike (now Victory Boulevard), to reteach her lessons and prevent him from falling behind.

Today, the Academy still has dedicated educators, but the real lesson here is that

people are at the heart of what we do. Strip away the bricks and buildings, the esteemed names behind the Houses and the venerable founding date, and you will find that it is the relational that is at the heart of all things: the student and teacher, colleague and colleague, upper and underclassmen - that is where the true magic lies. We lost that for five months and periodically thereafter. Denied access to the campus, to the stage, to the playing fields, to the Commons, and to the auditorium, we did our best on Teams - playing games, attending remote classes, and tripping over one another in remote meetings. True, we think of "virtual" in a technological sense today, but historically it has meant "almost or nearly as described," in other words, not the same.

That is why it was so important to return to campus this year. That is why we necessitated masks, barriers, and face shields. The Academy experience was not the same unless we were or are together. People and relationships are at its heart, and without

“That is why it was so important to return to campus this year. That is why we necessitated masks, barriers, and face shields. The Academy experience was not the same unless we were or are together. People and relationships are at its heart, and without extra help, the individual conference about a paper, the late rehearsal, the bus ride to and from Long Island, or the simple “good morning on the way to homeroom, school is not the same unless we are here as one. So, in the end, we have learned that we need one another. The teacher without a class is like a shepherd without a flock, and a student without a teacher is a ship without a rudder. Relationships and our daily interactions are the fuel that drives this engine.”

MR. FRANK S. CRANE

extra help, the individual conference about a paper, the late rehearsal, the bus ride to and from Long Island, or the simple “good morning on the way to homeroom, school is not the same unless we are here as one. So, in the end, we have learned that we need one another. The teacher without a class is like a shepherd without a flock, and a student without a teacher is a ship without a rudder. Relationships and our daily interactions are the fuel that drives this engine.

With that, we must also acknowledge that the Class of 2021 is leaving. Today is their last official day on this campus, and at the ceremony’s end, they move from students to graduates, joining a distinguished and esteemed group of alumni. As Mr. Karelas can attest, the alumni group is less cloistered and larger in size, but it is no less connected and still relational. To the Class of 2021, please know, you are always welcome back here. Why is baseball America’s national game? Because the goal of the game is to go home, and with diploma in hand, the Academy will always be your home, and this audience will always be your family. As Dorothy said in the “Wizard of Oz,” “There is no place like home,” and you will always have a place here; even if the buildings change, the spaces are repurposed, and faculty retire. The Academy

will always be your school, this campus is the home to your exploits and accomplishments, and like Howard Lindeman, your stories will be a part of SIA history.

Those of you who studied with me know that history is not necessarily written by kings, queens, diplomats, or generals; it is often written by the people who lived the events, experienced the surprises, and coped with the unexpected like the Covid-19 pandemic.

And while I do not want to know all of your stories, trust me, your stories will give new life as you reminisce about shared experiences, and through them, you will always be tethered to this place- tied to one another and forever a part of the Academy.

At the center of all things are the people around you today. They inspire, frustrate, and confound you, but they also helped make you who you are and who you have become. They have shaped the Academy that you know and will remember, and believe it or not, they will be the thing that you miss. This is the true lesson of the past year, but it is also the lesson of your four years in Upper School. This is what we have learned.

Thank you.



# COMMENCEMENT 2021



STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY PROUDLY GRADUATED THE ENTIRE CLASS OF 2021, 36 GRADUATES STRONG, AS SCHEDULED ON JUNE 10. THERE WAS CERTAINLY NOTHING ORDINARY ABOUT THEIR SENIOR YEAR AT THE ACADEMY. STILL, THE ACADEMY, WITH ITS EXCEPTIONAL, UNWAVERING, AND CARING STAFF, DID ITS BEST TO MAKE THIS YEAR AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE DURING AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME. THE MASKS WORN DID NOT CAMOUFLAGE THE EXCITEMENT AND LOVE FOR LEARNING AT THE HEART OF THOSE AT STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY.

Once again, the Front Circle was filled with family members, friends, and faculty, who were all so eager to watch their children and students process from the traditional balloon arch at Crowe Hall. All were grateful they could celebrate with each other and cheer on this extraordinary group of young adults who learned much more than foreign languages, science, math, English, or history. They learned that their Academy family will always be there for them, support them through the most challenging times, and be their biggest cheerleaders for every milestone.

This Commencement ceremony was very much like our other traditional ceremonies, complete with all the pomp and circumstance. The graduates were seated on the platform of Haugen Hall with Head of School Albert Cauz, Assistant Head of School Eileen Corigliano, Director of Upper School Frank Crane and the alumni keynote speaker, Gregory Karelak '97. What made this year even more special was the extra joy and gratitude expressed by the graduates and their family members. They knew this milestone occasion and all the other senior events were in jeopardy of cancellation due to the continuing pandemic.

Mr. Cauz welcomed all to the 133rd Staten Island Academy Commencement ceremony. "There is no higher honor a school can bestow upon its students than the award of its diploma, and it is a privilege to welcome all of you to this special and historic occasion."





## COMMENCEMENT 2021 GRADUATES AT A GLANCE

**133RD**

Commencement Ceremony

**36**

Graduates

**28**

Different Colleges

**2**

Ivy League

**3**

Lifers

**4**

Started in Lower School

**9**

Started in Middle School

Madelyn Dawson '21 addressed the class with the invocation, "Class of 2021, I am sure you all remember our freshman physics class with Ms. O'Hara, or at least, remember taking the class. I remember one lesson in particular; one fact; the speed of gravity. All things fall towards the earth at the speed of 9.8 meters per second. I came to this conclusion at the age of 5. I was running, and my flip-flop moved a bit faster than my feet. I fell, skinning my knee, thereby learning the secrets of gravity. For a 5-year-old brain, it was a bit traumatic. But now, standing before you at 18 years old, I am certain that this lesson is the most important one I have learned. In order to learn and grow, we must first fall."





- ▶ 1-Mr. Cauz addressed the Class of 2021
- ▶ 2-The Class of 2021 Geranium Ball
- ▶ 3-Alumni Speaker, Gregory Karelas '97
- ▶ 4-Board President, Timothy C. Harrison congratulates graduate, Caroline Sorrentino '21.

As the cosmic tides inevitably pull us toward the center of the earth, our own drive and dedication must push us forward, despite the fall. As we have failed and fallen and suffered hardship, we have invariably picked ourselves back up and showed the world just how much of an accomplishment it is to stand tall as gravity pulls us down. Today is the day we celebrate this inner strength, this resilience that has kept us going."

Meaghan Dicks '21 proudly introduced Frank Crane to the audience. Affectionally known to the Class of 2021 as "Airforce One," Mr. Crane was selected by them to be the faculty speaker.

Eileen Corigliano presented the awards, and could not contain her excitement as





Methfessel was announced as the House Cup winner. Olivia Lombardo '21, having the highest scholastic average in the class, was the recipient of the Trustees Medal. The Primus Award, the highest recognition at the Academy, is awarded to a Staten Island community member who extraordinarily contributes to the borough of Staten Island through their acts of leadership, service, and compassion. Mr. Cauz presented the award to Dr. Joseph Anthony Puma for his dedication to the entire Academy community. Dr. Puma and his staff generously provided COVID-19 testing after extended breaks so that we were able to safely continue with in-person during the school year.

Kwesi Armah '21 was honored to introduce Gregory Karelas '97, the alumni keynote speaker. While working on an assignment for his English class, Kwesi became friendly with Mr. Karelas and was impressed by what he learned about him.

An excerpt from Mr. Karelas' moving speech: "From this day forth, I implore you: defend the least powerful among us. Speak loudly and unapologetically of the desperation of poverty, of the unacceptability of racism, discrimination, and the violence of injustice. And if you do those things, I promise you, from the bottom of my heart, that you will one day look back and be proud of the lives you've led." As the ceremony continued, the diplomas were awarded, and the newly instated Alumni Class of 2021 left the stage in orderly fashion to a standing ovation from their family and loved ones. The faculty formed a pathway to congratulate and usher the graduates on the way to their promising futures.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
ALUMNI CLASS OF 2021!**



## LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

**STAYING CONNECTED** has never been more meaningful to your classmates

Let your classmates know what you are doing-Marriages, partnerships, additions to your family, new locations, and career moves.

It's simple-just contact our Development Office at Alumni@statenilandacademy.org, call us at 718-303-7812.

or

Go to the Alumni tab on the website <https://www.statenilandacademy.org/>, there is an alumni contact information page.

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!**

## SAVE THE DATE

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022**

Annual Benefit Auction

Above Rooftop & Ballroom

**SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022**

Annual Hall of Fame Induction

Ceremony & Milestone Alumni Reunions

Staten Island Academy Campus

**SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022**

Annual Alumni Mid-Winter Gathering

Osteria Santina, Staten Island, NY

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING YOU!**

All alumni, Hall of Fame members

are encouraged to attend.

## REFER A FRIEND TO STATEN ISLAND ACADEMY!

Refer a friend or family member to Staten Island Academy. We are confident that they will thank you, and we thank you in advance.

Please contact Caroline Crane '83, Director of Admissions via email at [admissions@statenilandacademy.org](mailto:admissions@statenilandacademy.org), or call the admissions office at 718-303-7803.

## STAY INFORMED

[StatenIslandAcademy.org/about/event-calendar](https://StatenIslandAcademy.org/about/event-calendar) and follow us on Twitter, @SI\_Academy Facebook Staten Island Academy Alumni, and Staten Island Academy, and on Instagram @siacademy Please refer to our website for more events and information.

We encourage all alumni to attend all of our events and school performances!



“ I never doubted that Staten Island Academy, with the devotion and wisdom of its courageous leaders, would open in the Fall of 2021. I was confident that at in-person operations would be, at the least, accessible but limited and, at the best, fully implemented. As usual, Staten Island Academy strove for and achieved the best.”  
Remy Smith P '22







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**PARENTS OF ALUMNI:** If your children no longer live at home, please notify the Alumni Office of their current address. Thank you.

“During a year of unknowns one thing was clear, our school and our teachers were determined to give my boys a year just like any other. The new mandates for health and safety didn’t distract from the importance of the school’s main goal, to give our children a place where they could learn, laugh, be supported, feel safe, but most importantly, just be kids.”

**ROBIN HOVANYETZ '95 P'28 '31**

