

# *the* **Bulldog Banner**

Alumni Newsletter of the Baton Rouge High School Foundation

Winter 2018



**A BANNER YEAR**

Top Ranked Advanced  
Placement School

# CONTENTS

## Features

4 ~ Spotlight On

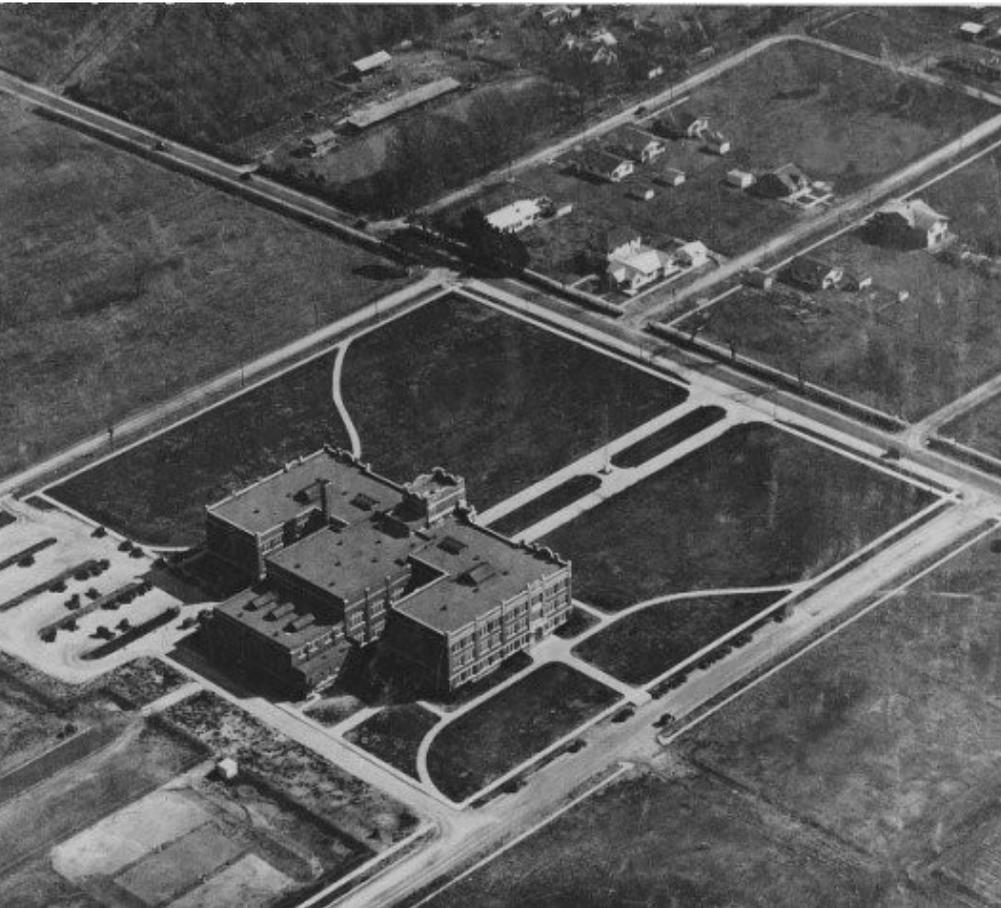
6 ~ 2019 Reunions and Hall of Fame

## In this Issue

3 ~ Annual Meeting, Lifetime Achievement Award

5 ~ BRHS Achievements, Recognitions

7 ~ In Memoriam, Corrections



*Overhead view of the newly built BRHS campus on Government Street, circa 1926. Photo from the EBR Parish Library Digital Archives.*

## Board of Directors

Mimi Barnum Riché '64 *President*

James O. Harp, Jr. '78 *Vice President*

Norma Woodman Rutledge '66 *Secretary*

Brent Evans '87 *Treasurer*

Matt Robinson '89 *Past President*

## *Directors*

Hannah Koch Amoroso '95

Alfreda Sellars Diamond '72

David Fabre '75

Bettsie Baker Miller '73

Tom Pertuit '64

John Underwood - Faculty Member

Mukul Verma - Parent of Student

The Baton Rouge High School Foundation's mission is to encourage philanthropy and fellowship of alumni, families of students, faculty and the community so that Baton Rouge High School will continue to advance in educational excellence, student achievement and national prominence.

## BRHS Administration

Nanette McCann, BRHS Principal

Shaun Feinberg, Associate Principal

Louis Moore, Associate Principal

The annual member meeting was held for the first time at Baton Rouge High School, Wednesday November 7. At 5 p.m. members and guests enjoyed a short social in the Harp LaSalle Lobby adjacent to the Auditorium. Refreshments were served by BRHS Beta Club students and entertainment provided by members of the BRHS Orchestra under the leadership of orchestra teacher Chris Frazier, Class of 1996. Felix Weill '65 gave the invocation and Matt Robinson, Past President led the pledge. Matt will conclude his service to the Foundation at the end of 2018. He told the assembled that it has been a special honor and privilege to serve and to support the school he loves. The Board of Directors were elected with the addition of our newest director Warren Byrd, Class of 1968. The highlight of every annual meeting is the State of the School Address given by Nan McCann, principal. She remarked that she is very happy to be the principal of 'one school now' (she served as Head Principal for both BRHS and the newly established Lee Magnet High School for several years.) and thanked the Foundation members for their support. Mrs. McCann emphasized that each year, the goal for BRHS is to provide a four year college readiness experience; preparing the students for every available scholarship opportunity, regardless of where they attend. She announced that there are new curriculum opportunities in the science programs and asked for the Foundation's alumni members help by providing financial support for the advancement of those program needs.

### The Reine Alexander Lifetime Achievement Award Inaugural Recipient, Norma Ford Gerace

Following the conclusion of the business meeting, Bettsie Baker Miller took to the podium to introduce the newest recognition instituted by the Foundation - **The Reine Alexander Lifetime Achievement Award.** This award will be to honor those individuals who have made a significant and meaningful impact on Baton Rouge High School as an educational institution.

**Jay Dardenne** served as the master of ceremonies, and spoke how good it was to be back. He remembered fondly the great principals and faculty that have served the students of BRHS. Jay (pictured with Norma above) presented the award to former BRHS Biology teacher Norma Gerace. Norma taught biology for 27 years, dedicating herself to advancing the Biology studies at BRHS and to the betterment of all her students. To read the full story about Norma Gerace, visit our website <https://brhsfoundation.net/news/>



## Spotlight On - Joy Lui, Class of 2019

College - the subject that is on the minds of every high school senior is second only to graduation. With so many college and universities vying for the top achievers from high schools just like BRHS nationwide, the task of making the best choice can easily become confusing, overwhelming and very stressful.

**Joy Lui** contacted the BRHSF staff to ask about a collaborative effort in creating a college experience survey to send to alumni and current college students. She thought that a direct link to those who have 'been, there, done that' would be the best source of great information for her peers. And she was right! With over 200 respondents to the survey among our alumni, she and her club colleagues are still sifting through the data and are excited to share it with her fellow Bulldog classmates. We visited with Joy recently about the story behind the newly formed **College Prep Club** at BRHS.

**BRHSF: What made you decide to start the College Prep club? What is the mission of your club and how do you hope to achieve that mission?**

**JL:** My friend Abby and I always had conversations about the future, and generally our conversations ended with us being more confused than when we started. I began to realize that a lot of the general student population were in the dark about college information. So I started the **College Prep Club** in order to provide information to the student body. I want our club to help students be less stressed about the unknowns of college. At every club meeting, we cover a topic related to college and the college admission process. Thankfully, with the help of the Foundation, we can provide a connection between the current student body and the alumni. Students who are unable to travel or take tours can read real testimonials by alumni, thus making them more informed. We are also trying to bring in those involved in the college admission process to speak on areas of their expertise, allowing students to ask face to face questions.

**BRHSF: Besides the College Prep Club, What classes and extracurricular activities are you involved in at BRHS?**

**JL:** Currently, I am taking Chinese II Honors, AP Biology and AP Biology Lab, AP Research, AP Literature, AP Statistics and AP World History. I am President of the Chinese club, and participate in Mu Alpha Theta.



*Joy posing underneath one of the College Pennant walls in the Netterville Career Center.*

**BRHSF: What do you consider your major accomplishments as a BRHS student?**

**JL:** My ability to maintain personal relationships with my friends and family, as well as starting College Prep Club and maintaining and improving Chinese Club through more active members. Watching Chinese Club grow and develop through excited and active members and such innovative officers has been a real privilege.

**BRHSF: You clearly have great leadership skills and can recognize opportunities to solve problems - very valuable assets. Now, what have been your biggest challenges at BRHS so far?**

**JL:** Honestly, I think it has been maintaining a balanced life. Personally, I believe that high school should be more than just academics so I try not to get too caught up in competition and just be the best I can. Let's just say stress and time management is a really important skill that you exercise a lot at BRHS.

**BRHSF: Do you have any favorite teachers? Which ones and what makes these teachers stand out?**

**JL:** BRHS has an amazing staff and having the privilege of getting to know them over 4 years has been wonderful. I am especially grateful for Ms. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Donald, Ms. Bumgardner, Ms. O'Dell, Ms. Willis, and Mr. Borders. I've taken Ms. Kirkpatrick's class 3 out of 4 years and she is one of the kindest people I have ever met. She's altruistic

## Raising Banners

genuinely cares for her students' wellbeing. She's also one of my club sponsors. She always councils me on my next club meeting, using her off period to talk to me. Mr. Donald engages students even out of class and accepts everyone for they are. He emphasizes the importance of community and volunteering, and always pushes us to be the best we can be.

Ms. Bumgardner is so dedicated in everything she does and her lesson plans are so detailed; she puts so much thought and effort in all of her classes, really making an effort to engage students. As Chinese club sponsor, she motivates us because she cares as much as we do. Ms. O'Dell is such an inspiration. Not only is she extremely intelligent, but she's so much fun to talk to. She's accomplished so much and she has a lot of wisdom to offer.

Ms. Willis improved my writing but she also improved my thought process. She taught me how to view issues from different perspectives all the while strengthening my writing and rhetoric skills.

Mr. Borders (Senior Guidance Counselor), although he isn't a teacher he still has a big impact on my life here. I go to him constantly, he genuinely wants to help.

**BRHSF: Sounds like you have had some wonderful support among our teachers and staff. What do you plan to major in once you get to college? What career do you hope to have post-college?**

*JL:* I plan to major in Psychology as well as Economics. I would like to be involved in International business.

**BRHSF: Joy, we commend you on your work to help Juniors and Seniors make the right college decisions. Do you have any tips for underclassmen and prospective students on how to be successful at BRHS?**

*JL:* Being compassionate, kind, dedicated, being a good person speaks volumes over a good GPA. BRHS is a great place to connect with amazing people so treasure your friendships. Talk to the faculty- they're amazing people. Try to live a balanced life, it's ok if you don't have the highest GPA or the most honors. Your mental and physical health are extremely important.

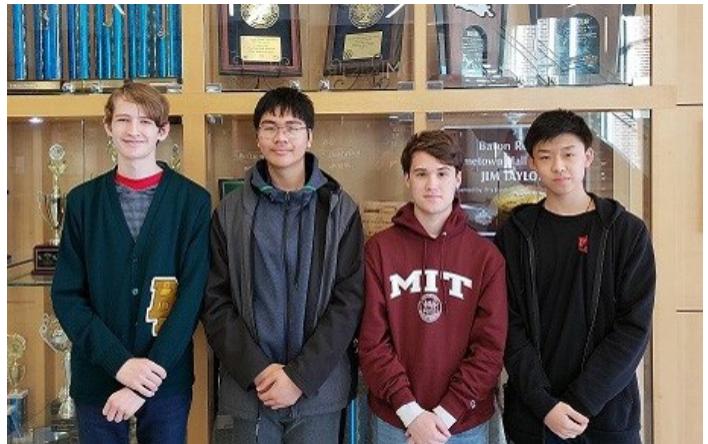
- ❖ **Top Ranked Advanced Placement High School**
- ❖ **School Report Card = A**
- ❖ **State Top Gains Honoree**

Top Gains schools are those demonstrating exceptional student progress earning an for "A" for student progress, ensuring that students meet or exceed their learning goals each year.

- ❖ **State Equity Honoree**

Schools on the equity honor roll are demonstrating excellence in serving economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and/or English language learners.

### Perfection!



From left to right: Marcus Schafer, Khanh Pham, Jonathan Poss, and Steven Guo each scored a perfect 36 on the ACT.

Senior Jonathan Poss scored a 36 on the ACT and a 1600 on the SAT. According to PrepScholar.com, out of the 1.7 million students who take the test every year, only about 300 get the highest possible SAT score. Only 1 tenth of 1 percent of students score a perfect score of 36 on the ACT.

**Congratulations to these Bulldogs!**

## 2019 Events and Reunions

**The Class of 1957 - 62nd Reunion, 80th Birthday- "80 Cheers for 80 years!"** will be held Saturday April 27, 2019 10 am til 4 pm at the home of Donna Saurage. Cost is \$25 and registration is due March 1, 2019

**Friday 4-26:** Dutch Treat Dinner at Drusilla Seafood Restaurant, 3482 Drusilla Ln, Baton Rouge 6 pm til.

**Sunday 4-28:** Breakfast at Lod Cook Hotel. If staying at hotel, breakfast is included in hotel stay. If local, or staying elsewhere, breakfast is \$9 "Dutch Treat." Please RSVP to both events. Registration information can be found by clicking the **1957 Yearbook** at the bottom of our website or Email [mjocampbell@cox.net](mailto:mjocampbell@cox.net)

**The Class of 1959** will hold their 60th reunion on Saturday March 2 at the Lod Cook Center on the campus of LSU. Cost of the reunion is \$68. More information can be found by calling (225) 925-9905 or by visiting the Class Facebook page.

**The Class of 1964** is hosting their 55th reunion at the annual BRHS Bash Thursday April 25 with a visit to BRHS Saturday April 27th. The BASH is held at Ralph and Kacoo's from 4 til 9 pm, cost is \$25 per person at the door. For more information contact Sandy Davis via email [shdavis07@bellsouth.net](mailto:shdavis07@bellsouth.net)

**The 20th Reunion of the Class of 1999** is scheduled for the weekend of June 21-22. There will be a tour of BRHS Saturday at 10 am. More information will be posted on our website as it becomes available.

**1969 THE BIG ONE - The 50th "Good as Gold"** is Saturday June 29 beginning with a tour of BRHS at 10 am. The evening's events as follows at the Baton Rouge Marriott:

5pm – 7pm: Mix and Mingle Catered Reception

7pm – 11pm: Dance w/DJ, Food & Drink Service

Visit our Upcoming Reunions at the bottom of our homepage, choose **1969** to print out the reservation form.

Cost is \$80 in advanced, \$90 at the door.

**The Class of 1989** will hold their 30th reunion the weekend of June 29:

Friday June 28, at Tsumani 6pm

Saturday June 29, tour of BRHS 1 pm; Saturday Night, Watermark Hotel 7 pm

Sunday June 30, Lava Cantina 11 am downtown location. Cost for the weekend's events is \$100 per person. For more information email [brhsclassof1989@gmail.com](mailto:brhsclassof1989@gmail.com)

**The Class of 1979** will host their 40th reunion the weekend of November 29 - 31st. Details are still pending.

### **Baton Rouge High School Hall of Fame - Induction Ceremony May 21, 2019**

**The nomination period for the 2019 Hall of Fame opens December 15, 2018 and runs through March 15, 2019.** The packet can be obtained one of two ways: download the pdf file by visiting the website and click on Hall of Fame tab at the top or email [director@brhsfoundation.net](mailto:director@brhsfoundation.net) to request a packet.

#### **Notes about submitting a nomination:**

- ❖ Please read the entire instructions carefully as some requirements have changed.
- ❖ Your submitted nominations packet must include all of the support documents for your nominee, i.e. photos, news items (clippings or website screenshots), testimonial letters, etc. Do not have third parties send these items to our office, either by email or direct mail. They will not be acknowledged and will be discarded.
- ❖ You must sign and date your nomination packet before submissions. Packets not signed and dated will not be considered until done so.
- ❖ Deadline for the BRHSF office to receive your nomination packet is **Friday, March 15 at 3 pm.**

## In Memoriam

---

Millicent Hennigan '37  
Mary Maher James '37  
Juanita Windham Matherne '40  
Dr. Malcolm Denley '41  
Ruth Childress Murray '41  
Jane Kling Wilson '41  
John LeJeune '43  
Glynn "Buddy" Riffel '43  
Margaret Cotton Heath '44  
Michael "Mickey" Montalbano '44  
Helen Oldham Cangelosi '45  
Colleen Stockwell Collier-Fields '47  
William Rehn '47  
Dr. Harold Voss '47  
Gladys Reynolds Brown '48  
Marrin Lilley Espy '48  
Letha Austin Smith '48  
Barbara 'Sue' Berry '50  
Ellen Kaiser Grant '50  
Charles Lane '50  
Barbara Pylant Parker '50  
Erma Paul Mitchell '53

Donald Byrd '54  
O. Fred Loy '54  
Howard Phillips '54  
James "Jimmy" Taylor '54  
Dr. George Knight '55  
Marguerite Matassarin '55  
Dr. John Melton '55  
Daniel Boone "Dan" Barnum '56  
Robert "Bob" White '56  
Elizabeth Coleman Becker '59  
Emilie Steffek Rainey '62  
David Dupuy '64  
Lawrence "Larry" Smith '60  
Judy Bolan Touger '60  
William "Billy" Heflin '61  
Maurene Loup Bourque '67  
John Boudreaux, '68  
David Gelpi '69  
**BRHS Faculty**  
Lesli Wood, Piano Teacher

In order that we maintain the highest level of accuracy and sensitivity to our BRHS deceased graduates' families, we accept the following as confirmation of death: link or print version of a published obituary or note from the immediate family, email or written. Please submit notices of death to Stephanie Webb [sgriffin@brhsfoundation.net](mailto:sgriffin@brhsfoundation.net)

### Summer Newsletter Corrections:

- \* Sylvia Iskander graduation year is 1957, not 1958 as originally printed.
- \* Judy Phillips Hernandez '67 was inadvertently left out of the 1967 Class Years for Classrooms donor list. We apologize for these errors



PO Box 80454  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-0454

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID

Baton Rouge, LA  
Permit No. 2079

Change Service Requested



You can now notify us with changes to your address, preferred phone or email with the click of a mouse!

Visit our website [www.brhsfoundation.net](http://www.brhsfoundation.net) and click on the **Contact** button.  
If preferred, send an email with your updates to Stephanie Webb [sgriffin@brhsfoundation.net](mailto:sgriffin@brhsfoundation.net)

✧ Notification by letter will be on or before **April 10, 2019**.