

the **Bulldog Banner**

Alumni Newsletter of the Baton Rouge High School Foundation

Spring 2019

The Baton Rouge High School Hall of Fame



Robert Armstrong
Class of 1966



Peggy Bullion
Class of 1967



John Engquist
Class of 1972



Sherri Hammond LeBas
Class of 1980



Dennis Lorio
Class of 1969



Pam Miller Perkins
Class of 1965

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Board of Directors

Mimi Barnum Riché '64 *President*

Norma Woodman Rutledge '66 *Vice President*

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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

Thank You!

In 2018, we launched our annual giving program and so many of our alumni and friends answered the call to give. We will publish and mail an annual report with a donor recognition list this summer. However, we wanted you to know that your generous gifts will enable us to fund the AP Spring Board program, Robotics and needs in the Arts.

2019 Hall of Fame

We are so excited about this year's Hall of Fame class. Representing education, law, U.S. defense civilian service, public service and science, the men and women being inducted are inspirational and exemplary role models for our students - the future leaders of our communities.

Speaking of future leaders, we encourage you to join us on May 21 for the Hall of Fame dinner and ceremony. The evening will not include the annual member meeting; that event is now being held annually in November.

We have a very special guest speaker for the evening, BRHS Sophomore **Jay Iyer**. Jay is one of BRHS's top science students, placing in the top tiers in science competitions on the local, regional and statewide levels. He is also the *only* 10th grade Advanced Placement Scholar for 2018.



Introducing Jay will be **Nan McCann, EBRPSS High School Principal of the Year**. Mrs. McCann will share how your support has been instrumental in the outstanding achievements of our students to date and what is in store for the future. We've included the reservation form in this issue for your convenience and also on the website. Deadline for making your reservations is May 15, 2019.

The Future Is Waiting For Them

We have been inspired by the unprecedented achievements of our students and faculty this year. If you receive our Banner news emails, follow our website posts and social media, you know we can hardly keep up with the pace of the news items. Perfect ACT scores, science competition winners, Principal of the Year, Teacher of the year, and arts awards are just some of the accolades. We've had the pleasure of getting to know a handful of some of the students featured in those stories as well as others. Their goals and dreams after they graduate high school created an 'Ah Ha!' moment for us. Even now, as they attend class, compete on the athletic fields, and perform on the stage, these student are planning their futures for college and career. They want to make a difference, solve problems, and create a better world for everyone.

At BRHS, students embrace the value of becoming global citizens.

The future is waiting for them and we are committed to the present, providing the support they need while they are BRHS students. Investments in the award winning science department is top of the list for the fundraising goals ahead of us, as well as funding for Advance Placement curriculum and other needs.

Soon you will be receiving our appeal brochure profiling some of these outstanding 'future leaders.' We ask that you make a member donation and encourage your fellow classmates to join you. As we celebrate graduates and their outstanding achievements at the upcoming 2019 Hall of Fame ceremony, let us continue to make sure that students today are well prepared for success.

Visit our website www.brhsfoundation.net to make your donation via credit card or to access the pledge/donation form.

"When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for; and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say, as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them, "See! This our father did for us." John Ruskin.

This is inscribed on a bronze plaque at BRHS.

BRHS Retirements 2019 - Thank You and Job Well Done!



Coach Kevin Nee joined the BRHS faculty in 1979 and will retire this May as the gymnastics coach and Athletic Director. We asked him to share his thoughts as he prepares to leave BRHS, a championship gymnastics program he has devoted so much to build, and the colleagues he also calls friends.

BRHSF: Looking back on your first year, what were some of your personal goals and expectations? How have you met those goals?

KN: Expectations were high when I first started. I took over for two coaches. Smo DiDomenica, the Godfather of Louisiana gymnastics coached the girls and Steve Bonham, an All-American from LSU, coached the boys. Who was I to come in and take those two spots? The rest is history.

BRHSF: How has BRHS changed over the last 40 years?

KN: They say the more things change the more they stay the same. We have always had great students to work with. I do believe that earlier students devoted themselves to one or two things where now students have a lot more irons in the fire. I'm not sure whether that is a good thing or bad.

BRHSF: What has your time at BRHS meant to you?

KN: It has meant everything to me. I am so blessed to have had the chance to work 40 years in one school. I feel I have a position, not a job. I haven't worked in 40 years, and they pay me for what I do. Awesome.

BRHSF: What are some of the most significant moments you remember as a faculty member at BRHS over the last 40 years?

KN: Having had friends like Robert, Thom, Robbie, and Leslie.

BRHSF: What are you looking forward to in your retirement?

KN: Travel, play, bicycling, my grandbaby, and having a purpose for waking up each morning.

"It has been an honor to have been here 40 years and have all the opportunities I've had. The administrations, my cohorts, the students, past and present, everyone has made this an enjoyable ride. Thank you to everyone along the way." Kevin Nee

Thoughts From More Retiring Faculty:

Fred Aldrich ~ Media Arts, 36 years

"I can't imagine a better place to enjoy my chosen career than the Castle on Government Street. Concentrate on your faith, your family, your friends, and your future and you can't go wrong."

George Fisher ~ Computer Science, 37 years

"Honor the alma mater, "Raise your standards high." Do not accept less from yourself than you are capable of achieving.

Leola Mitchell ~ Teacher, Librarian, 28 years

"Although I had worked in other school systems, I will say to anyone, that teaching became real to me when I started here. This quotation from Anton Chekhov reflects my opinion of teaching: "The teacher must be an actor, an artist, passionately in love with his work."

Patricia West ~ English, 20 years "BRHS is an experience like no other school. Once you get use to it, you will never want to leave."

Also retiring at the end of the 2018-2019 School Year:

Staff:

Deana Blankenship ~ Attendance

Susie Sowell ~ Junior Guidance Counselor

Faculty:

Mark Berry ~ Science

Coaches:

Bill Bofinger ~ Wrestling, Phys Ed.

George Newport ~ Swimming, Golf, Phys Ed.

Robert Armstrong Class of 1966

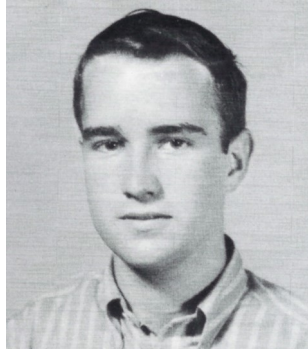
How will the global community meet the rapidly increasing energy demand needed to improve and maintain standards of living while reducing carbon emissions and creating a cleaner planet? This is the question that Robert “Bob”

Armstrong has been working to answer for much of his professional life. In 2013, Bob became the director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Energy Initiative (MITEI, pronounced “mighty”), which links science, technology, and policy to transform the world’s energy systems. Under Bob’s leadership, MITEI has become the world’s largest academic center focused on developing and implementing transformational low-carbon energy technologies. He has been instrumental in raising over \$750 million to facilitate this work, engaging roughly 35% of the faculty from MIT’s five schools.

Bob’s high school years were successful too. He was voted “Most Intellectual” in his senior class. He was a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Engineering Fellowship 1965, and graduated second in his class, summa cum laude. But it was not all work and no play in high school: Bob played in the BRHS High band achieving All State honors and played the drums in a local rock band. He earned his B.S. in chemical engineering at Georgia Tech and a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. After receiving his doctorate, he joined the faculty of MIT, where he taught in chemical engineering and served as department head for 11 years before taking over as MITEI’s director. Among other honors, he is the recipient of the DuPont Young Faculty Award twice, University of Wisconsin’s 2001 Distinguished Service Award, and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2008.

Bob is married to Debbie Armstrong (née Reese), also a BRHS ’66 grad and the class valedictorian. They have two sons, David and Eric.

As said by Dr. Francis O’Sullivan, former director of research at the MIT Energy Initiative, “He has deep empathy for his students, the struggles and challenges they face...He looks to spread the recognition and to lift up those around him at every opportunity.”



Peggy Bullion Class of 1967

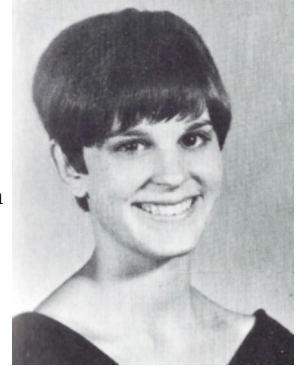
Peggy’s commitment to a strong work ethic and bettering her community through service began in high school at BRHS. She was voted “Best Worker” for her senior class. She served as senior class secretary, organizations editor on the Fricassee staff, and a delegate for Pelican Girls State. Later while earning her B.A. and master’s degrees in Education at LSU, she was active in leadership roles for Delta Gamma, Mortar Board and the SGA Legislative Liaison Committee, just to name a few. Peggy holds a Doctor of Education in Program and Staff Development from Vanderbilt University.

Peggy’s career path in education went from the classroom as a teacher to the LA Dept. of Education, where she was instrumental in creating and coordinating curriculum guides and conferences for principals on instructional leadership, to the US Dept of Defense. As a civilian education leader, Peggy was the Dept of Defense’s Chief of the Pacific Education Division, providing leadership in development and implementation of curriculum for military connected schools.

In June of 2011, Peggy was selected as the Curriculum Chief for the Dept of Defense Education Activity, providing top level education leadership for over 164 military schools worldwide. In April of 2013, she was awarded the Defense Civilian Career Service Award by the US Dept. of Defense for providing 28 years of exemplary civilian service to DoDEA.

“Dr. Bullion mentored hundreds of educators and served as a role model for professionalism and commitment.”

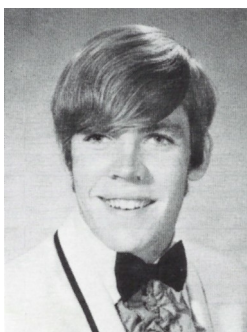
Dr. Stephen R. Bloom, Superintendent DoDEA, Pacific East District.



Hall of Fame

John Engquist Class of 1972

It is a well-known fact that a number of graduates of BRHS have built Baton Rouge – both metaphorically and literally. John Engquist has done both. As the Executive Chairman of H&E Equipment Services, Inc. and a real estate developer, John has overseen the growth of a highly successful company, developed prominent neighborhoods in the capital region and employed thousands, many in Baton Rouge.



As a high school student, John was a member of Key Club, a three-time letterman in basketball and was All District and All State in basketball. He attended LSU and played basketball for two years before leaving school to join his father's company. H&E was founded in 1961 by his father, Tom, and originally named Head and Engquist Equipment. John bought the business from his father in 1995 and the company has since grown into a billion dollar publicly traded enterprise, operating in 22 states out of 96 branches. As committed as he is to building structures, John also is deeply committed to helping people, specifically children with critical health needs. John and his wife, Marty, have made a significant gift to Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital. The donation is directed to the children's oncology and hematology floor for the purpose of giving critical treatment to children with cancer and other blood diseases. John is a member of the Leadership Council of the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and serves on the Board for the OLOL Regional Medical Center.

In 2018, The Capital Area YMCA presented him with the Green Award, promoting youth development and healthy living; and this year, the Baton Rouge Business Report recognized John as the Business Person of the Year. John Engquist has lived his entire life in one place; building a successful company and working to build a better Baton Rouge for everyone.

John and Marty have two sons and six grandchildren

"His (John) philanthropic work has been conducted without great fanfare or personal attention...he has brought great honor to Baton Rouge High School."

Jay Dardenne, Class of 1972

Sherri Hammond LeBas Class of 1980

If Rosie the Riveter was the icon depicting strong women in the industrial workforce during WWII, then Sherri LeBas can certainly be the modern-day inspiration for women in the field of engineering. Sherri was the very first woman in Louisiana to serve as the Secretary of the LA Department of Transportation and Development. Chosen by Governor Jindal in 2010, her historic appointment broke through the proverbial glass ceiling for women in public service in the civil engineering arena, a field dominated by men.



At BRHS, Sherri was a member of the Band, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta and an honors student in math and science. After graduating LSU with a degree in Civil Engineering, Sherri interned in the Geotechnical Lab at the LA DOTD. She continued in the department serving as Project Manager, moving to the Division of Administration and finally back to the LA DOTD where she served until her retirement from state service in 2016. While Secretary, Sherri led the department in the development of the Louisiana Transportation Plan, 2015 – 30-year multi-modal plan and policy to create a well-connected, community friendly transportation system. She has served on numerous professional boards and was inducted into the Louisiana State University Civil and Environmental Hall of Distinction in 2011. Currently Sherri is the Sr. Vice President for Business Development for G.E.C. Inc.

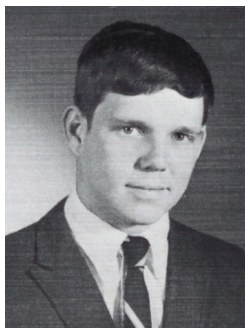
As much as she has devoted her professional life "helping people move", she also helps to make our community better; serving in the Junior League, Zeta Tau Alpha and active in the parish of St. Aloysius. In 2018, Sherri was selected by the Baton Rouge Business Report as one of the Influential Women in Business.

Sherri is married to William Firnberg and together they have four sons and a daughter-in-law.

"Sherri's overall vision is about improvement...she served my administration admirably and excelled as a member of my cabinet." Gov. Bobby Jindal '88.

Dennis Lorio Class of 1969

For over 44 years as a coach, athletic director, and mathematics instructor, Dennis has devoted his professional life to inspiring thousands of high school students in Louisiana. He instilled in his players and students the value of a strong work ethic, being gracious in both victory and defeat and learning to be a team player – on the field, in the classroom and in life.



As a student at BRHS and later a coach, he has the distinction of being a part of state championships in the Big Three sports; football, basketball and baseball. Dennis, along with fellow Hall of Famer and classmate John Brantley, was among the last of the Big Three sport lettermen at BRHS. Dennis also did well in the classroom. He credits his math teachers with preparing him well for the ACT; scoring a 32 out of 33 in 1968 which placed him in the top 5% nationwide. While at LSU, he played baseball for the Tigers, earned a degree in Kinesiology and later a Master of Arts degree while serving as a graduate assistant for the football team.

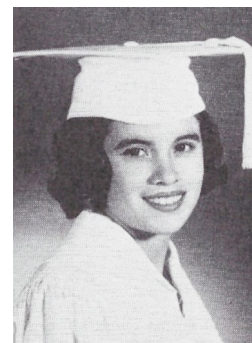
In 1991, Dennis was voted 5-A Coach of the Year by the LA Sports Writers Association and named Coach of the Year by the Knights of Columbus. He gave of his time and talents to serving as a guest instructor for Skip Bertman's summer baseball camps, he served as co-Director of the Red Stick Bowl for 14 years and in 2008 he was honored by the NFL and the New Orleans Saints as the Coach of the Week for outstanding football coaching performance and dedication.

Dennis has been married to 1970 BRHS alum Annette Raggio Lorio for 44 years and they have 3 children (Craig, Renee', Thomas) and 5 grandchildren.

Kevin Mawae, former LSU offensive lineman, retired NFL Hall of Fame offensive lineman says it best; "Coach Lorio has been a great influencer of young men, a role model any parent would be glad to have for their child... His career as an educator and coach is a testament to what Baton Rouge High School is all about."

Pam Miller Perkins Class of 1965

As a BRHS bulldog, Pam took every opportunity to serve others. She was in the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Vice President of FTA, member of the Boosters and served on the Executive Council of the SGA. Pam attended LSU and continued to serve and also make effective change in areas she felt were lacking. As the Coed Vice President of the SGA, Pam was instrumental in making significant policy changes on behalf of female students. Fighting for equality in wardrobe choices and housing regulations, she worked tirelessly to eliminate these unequal policies.



After graduating LSU with honors, she moved to Washington DC, where she began her lifelong commitment to public service and the law. She graduated from the George Washington School of Law, was admitted to the DC bar and worked for REP. John Breaux, Sen. Russell Long and was a lawyer/lobbyist for Pres. Jimmy Carter. But to Pam, Louisiana was always home and the pull to return was strong. In 1982, She and her husband Jay moved back to Baton Rouge where she took Napoleonic code classes at the LSU School of Law and was admitted to the Bar. Pam served the citizens of Louisiana as General Counsel to the Division of Administration under three Governors, from 1995 until her retirement in 2011. During Pam's tenure, she was a part of the monumental recovery from Hurricane Katrina and effectively negotiated with federal agencies for funds to rebuild Charity Hospital and other critical institutions that were rendered uninhabitable by the storm. Pam's compassion for people was never more evident in the pro bono work she did for University Methodist Church in setting up a legal columbarium on behalf of grieving families.

Pam and Jay Perkins have two children, Christian and McKenzie.

"Pam was constantly trying to make a positive difference in her community...always treating everyone with respect, always passionate about getting the best possible result for Louisiana." Felix Weill '65

(Pam Miller Perkins's induction is posthumous.)

2019 Events and Reunions

APRIL:

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.

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

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

BRHS BASH: Thursday April 25 at Ralph and Kacoo’s. Cost is \$25 per person, paid at the door. To make a reservation please email brhsbash@gmail.com.

JUNE:

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, Mixer 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

JULY:

Class of 2009 has scheduled their 10th reunion Saturday July 13, 2019

SEPTEMBER:

The 20th Reunion of the Class of 1999 is scheduled for the weekend of September 28, 2019. There will be a tour of BRHS Saturday at 10 am. More information will be posted on our website as it becomes available.

NOVEMBER:

Annual Member Meeting Wednesday November 13, 5 pm at BRHS

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
Dinner and Ceremony
Tuesday May 21, 2019
The City Club of Baton Rouge 355 North Blvd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Cocktail Reception at 5 pm
Dinner and Ceremony at 6 pm

\$55 person
Premium Cash Bar
Please choose an entrée

Name _____

Grad Yr. _____

Entrée (check one) Pork ☐ Fish ☐

Name _____

Grad Yr. _____

Entrée (check one) Pork ☐ Fish ☐

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ Please reserve a full table of ten (10) for \$550. Please include the eight (8) guests on second page.

Make check payable to BRHS Foundation and mail form with payment to:

BRHS Foundation
Attn: Hall of Fame Dinner
PO Box 80454
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
Ph.: 225-456-6733
Email director@brhsfoundation.net

Reservations must be received by Wednesday May 15

For Office Use Only:

Check # _____ Total _____ Date _____

Receipt Sent ☐ Member ☐

Additional Guests

Name _____

Grad Yr. _____

Entrée (choose one) Pork ☐ Fish ☐

Name _____

Grad Yr. _____

Entrée (choose one) Pork ☐ Fish ☐

Name: _____

Grad Yr. _____

Entrée (choose one) Pork ☐ Fish ☐

Name _____

Grad Yr. _____

Entrée (choose one) Pork ☐ Fish ☐

Name _____

Grad Yr. _____

Entrée (choose one) Pork ☐ Fish ☐

Name _____

Grad Yr. _____

Entrée (choose one) Pork ☐ Fish ☐

Name _____

Grad Yr. _____

Entrée (choose one) Pork ☐ Fish ☐

Name _____

Grad Yr. _____

Entrée (choose one) Pork ☐ Fish ☐

Lora May Barrow Cross '37
Mildred Strahan Hopper '38
Florence Ann Auter '44
Richard Cointment '44
Donald Chaney '45
Darrel Thompson Tate '46
Mittie Pilcher Gillen '47
Patsy June LeBlanc '48
Jackie Barillier Bailes '51
Hilda Landry Pennington '51
Jeanne Pierce Shipp, '53
William "Bill" Adams '54
Lillie Messina Neely '54
Alton Lionel Stafford '54
Marjorie Wilkinson Raborn '53
Marvin Henderson '55
Stephen "Steve" Bonfanti '56
Murphy Neal Jones '56

Daniel "Skip" D'Amico '59
Karen Quarles Hull '60
Ann Buquet Mika '60
Louis Coleman Christian III '61
Charles Thomas (Tom) Miller '62
Emilie Steffek Rainey '62
Lawrence Walock '65
Joseph Beaver Brantley '66
John Hamilton '66
Janet Cohen Grouchy '66
Marian Thomas Odom '71
Harold Landry '74
Mia Zebouni '83
Charles "Chuck" Spillman '88
Gerald Augustus '99

Faculty

Robbie Giroir, Choral Teacher
Harold Menard, Principal

So that we maintain 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 family, email or written. Please submit notices of death to Stephanie Webb at sgriffin@brhsfoundation.net



BRHSF now has a volunteer program in place. Many of our members have expressed a desire to volunteer in different ways. We have a form on the website where you can register, list your areas of interest, expertise and days/times of availability. We will contact you for a visit and to learn more. On the website, click **Alumni Class Resources** to access the registration form.



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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 and click on the **Contact** button.

If preferred, send an email with your updates to Stephanie Webb at sgriffin@brhsfoundation.net