



# The Bronx High School of Science Alumni Foundation

## Alumni Newsletter | May 2020

Celebrate the Class of 2020, learn about alumni in the news and how you can stay connected with Bronx Science.



### Meet Zoe Cooper '20, Valedictorian and Lily O'Sullivan '20, Salutatorian

We are honored to share that **Zoe Cooper** was named the Valedictorian of the Class of 2020. She will be attending Harvard University in the fall.

*My name is Zoë Cappella Cooper and I live in lower Manhattan with my parents and younger sister (and two cats). Throughout my four years at Bronx Science I've been a part of the cross country and track teams, as well as the congressional debate team. I love to run (I'm a distance runner), and I've been the captain of my team for the past two years. I'm also involved with the Bronx Science Holocaust Museum, and I am a Big Sib for this year's freshman class. My academic interests are numerous. I'm mainly interested in the STEM subjects, especially chemistry and physics, but have also always enjoyed my history classes at Bronx Science. In the future I want to work in either biomedical or environmental engineering. This past summer I completed research with an environmental engineer at NYU's Tandon School of Engineering, and it was an amazing experience. Next year, I will be continuing my education at Harvard University.*



Zoe Cooper '20  
Valedictorian

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**Lily O’Sullivan** was recognized as the Salutatorian of the Class of 2020. She will be attending Yale University in the fall.

*I'm Lily, and I'm the salutatorian for the class of 2020. At Bronx Science, I was one of the heads of programming on the Iron Maidens, the all girls robotics team. I also volunteered twice a week as a tutor for elementary school students at a community center in Harlem. I worked at Harvard Medical School's Psychiatry Neuroimaging Laboratory, and co-authored a paper about my work with my mentor for the most prestigious imaging conference in the world. In the fall, I am going to Yale University, and I am planning on majoring in Biology and minoring in English.*

Congratulations to Zoe and Lily!



Lily O'Sullivan '20  
Salutatorian

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## Celebrating the Class of 2020

The Bronx Science Alumni Foundation is working closely with the school to honor the Class of 2020. We are committed to marking the meaningful milestones and significant achievements of the Class of 2020—virtually for now, and in person when we can. We can't wait to honor all these talented students and welcome them into the community of Bronx Science alumni. The Bronx Science Alumni Foundation has provided the school with the essential financial support to make all these reimagined milestones happen.

- **The Bronx High School of Science 92<sup>nd</sup> Commencement** – We will be holding graduation for the Class of 2020 on June 26, 2020. The ceremony will be hosted virtually and each student will be featured through an individual slide and the opportunity to share a brief video. The ceremony will also feature a keynote address from Hall of Famer **Dr. Wanda Austin '71**.

*Wanda M. Austin is an American businesswoman who is internationally recognized for her work in aeronautics and systems engineering. She is co-founder of MakingSpace, Inc., a systems engineering and leadership development consultant, and a motivational speaker. She is the author of Making Space: Strategic Leadership for a Complex World. She served as interim president of the University of Southern California for the*



**Dr. Wanda M. Austin '71**  
Bronx Science Hall of Famer  
Commencement Speaker

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*2018-2019 academic year, and led the institution through a crucial transition period. She is the former president and CEO of The Aerospace Corporation, an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the application of science and technology toward critical issues affecting the nation's space program. From January 2008 to October 2016, Dr. Austin led the organization's 3,600 employees and managed annual revenues of \$950 million at 17 U.S. locations. She retired after 37 years of service.*

*Dr. Austin served on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology until January 2017, advising the president of the United States in areas where an understanding of science, technology, and innovation was key to forming effective U.S. policy. She is an honorary fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, a counselor of the National Academy of Engineering, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She sits on the Board of Directors of the Chevron Corporation, Amgen Inc. and Virgin Galactic Holdings. She has served on the USC Board of Trustees since 2010. USC has awarded her its Distinguished Alumni Award, an honorary doctorate, and its highest honor, the Presidential Medallion.*

*Dr. Austin was born in New York City. She graduated from the Bronx High School of Science in 1971 and was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2018. She earned a B.A. in mathematics from Franklin & Marshall College, M.S. degrees in systems engineering and mathematics from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Ph.D. in industrial and systems engineering from USC. Dr. Austin and her husband Wade have two adult sons, two daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren.*

We encourage all alumni to help us celebrate the Class of 2020. We will share the link to watch the ceremony in June.

- **Class of 2020 Prom** – Students are quite disappointed that their prom must be postponed but the Bronx Science Alumni Foundation has offered to host a prom for them when we are able. We promised the class that they won't be forgotten and that they will have an epic prom when we can. The Bronx Science Alumni Foundation will sponsor the prom so all students can attend at no cost to them.

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- **Yearbook** – The yearbook is an important memento and helps students commemorate their four years at Bronx Science. Together with the Parents Association, the Bronx Science Alumni Foundation has arranged for the printing and mailing of the yearbook individually to all seniors as our gift to them. When we can, we will also host a yearbook signing party for the Class of 2020.

The Alumni Foundation is also working with the school to host virtual celebrations for the National Honor Society Induction (formerly known as ARISTA), Senior Awards, Speech & Debate Convocation, Sports Awards and more. It is important to us that the Class of 2020 feels recognized and supported for their accomplishments by the Bronx Science community.

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## Bronx Science Alumni in the News

As the world looks for solutions to fighting the global pandemic, we are so proud of our fellow Bronx Science alumni who are making headlines for their incredible work.

- Bronx Science Hall of Famer and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals co-founder, president, and Chief Scientific Officer **Dr. George Yancopoulos '76** is making rapid progress with his teams to test coronavirus treatments that could save lives. Learn more [here](#).
- Concentrating on elderly patients, **Dr. Ofer Levy '84** has been helping develop a coronavirus vaccine tailored for people over the age of 65. Learn more [here](#) about this scientist's journey from Bronx Science to head of the Precision Vaccine Program at Boston Children's Hospital.
- **Dr. Rubina Malik '85** (and Bronx Science parent) works in geriatrics at the Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. She is calling for our help as doctors and nurses prepare to make home visits to help especially vulnerable and often homebound communities. There is a particular need for portable pulse oximeters, which are especially effective in testing and monitoring coronavirus in older patients. Thanks to those alumni who have already responded to this call. Please get in touch with



**Dr. George Yancopoulos '76**  
Bronx Science Hall of Famer

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us at [alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu](mailto:alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu) if you have pulse oximeters to donate or can make introductions for Montefiore to buy them at a reduced cost.

We want to say thank you to all alumni who are first responders and essential workers, who are doing what is necessary to help make the world better, safer and stronger. Thank you also to all the alumni who have helped make and coordinate distributions of masks, gowns and even parts for ventilators.

If you know a fellow alum who is making a difference, please share their story with us at [alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu](mailto:alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu) so we can recognize them!

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## Stay Connected with the Bronx Science Alumni Community

We wanted to highlight some of the ways you can stay connected with your fellow Bronx Science alumni and the ways you can lend your expertise to help current Bronx Science students.

- **Shop Bronx Science** – We have many Bronx Science alumni and families who have their own business. They could use our support more than ever. Next time you order food or shop, please consider patronizing your fellow alumni.

### [Bronx Science Alumni & Family Businesses](#)

If you would like to have your own business or that of a fellow alum added to the list, please email us at [alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu](mailto:alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu)

- **Hire Bronx Science** – There is a tremendous amount of talent available among Bronx Science alumni! Whether you need to hire for a full time position or have the ability to take an intern, hiring a Bronx Science alum can bring impressive analytical, communications and technical skills to your organization. In person and virtual positions welcome. Please share your opportunity [HERE](#) or by emailing [alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu](mailto:alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu) and we will be sure to get it out to the community.
- **Connect with your fellow Bronx Science alumni** –



*Toy Terrace, owned by Sanford James '20, is just one of the many Bronx Science Alumni & Family Businesses!*



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There is no better time to reconnect with old friends, make new Bronx Science alumni friends or help your fellow alumni. Bronx Science's online community [Atom Link](#), provides alumni with a platform for valuable networking but also a full class directory so you can find your friends. We encourage all alumni to sign up [HERE](#).

Our **Alumni Recommendations** series is currently being featured on social media, but you can still make a recommendation [HERE](#). We plan to launch our **Alumni Experts** series in June, so if you have an expertise to share with our fellow alumni, please sign up [HERE](#). A special thank you to the hundreds of alumni participating in our first ever **Student-Alumni Mentor Program** that launched earlier this month.

If you have an idea, please be sure to let us know at [alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu](mailto:alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu).

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## Support Bronx Science

**Alumni ensure Bronx Science excellence.** Alumni fund the wide-ranging programs that equip our talented students with a transformative education. **Alumni close the gap:** with the NYC Department of Education granting only \$300 per student for academic enhancements, Bronx Science relies on alumni generosity to offer thought-provoking electives and labs, extracurricular activities, college and career preparation, and more. With more than 44% of Bronx Science students living below the poverty line, alumni donations also provide all our gifted students access to resources they need to thrive. **With rising unemployment and significant impact on small businesses, we know that even more Bronx Science students will need our help.**

We know that investment in science education is more important than ever. The dire budget projections for New York State mean that the school's budget will be cut drastically. The school will need support from the Alumni Foundation more than ever – especially for urgent needs such as student aid for struggling families and investment in remote learning initiatives.

Our goal is to raise **\$2 million** to help provide Bronx Science students with all the resources they need to thrive.

Please [make a donation](#) TODAY to help support our talented



Bronx Science award-winners in the New York City Science and Engineering Fair

[Donate Online](#)

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students.

All alumni who donate **\$2,500** or more this year to the Green & Gold Fund or Capital Improvements will have their names listed on the cafeteria's **Wall of Honor** as part of our multiyear plan to renovate our student cafeteria into a student center.

**Donate by:**

**Phone:** 718-817-7800

**Mail:** Please make checks payable to the Bronx Science Alumni Foundation, and mail them to [75 Bronx Science Boulevard Bronx, NY 10468](#)

**Online:** [www.bxscience.edu/give](http://www.bxscience.edu/give)

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**Thank you to all alumni for your generosity and support. Please consider ways you can help Bronx Science students and stay in touch.**

*The Bronx High School of Science Alumni Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 and all donations to the foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our Tax ID number is 13-376-3299.*

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**The Bronx High School of Science Alumni Foundation**

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