



The Bronx High School of Science Alumni Foundation

Alumni Newsletter | December 2020

Hear from Bronx Science students, support Bronx Science alumni businesses this season, enjoy another installment of Bronx Science Alumni in Politics and more in this month's newsletter.



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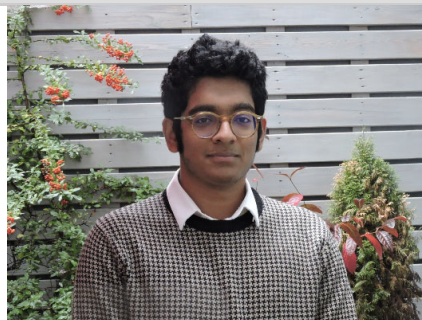
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Student Spotlights: Arjun Mazumdar '21 and Julia Sperling '21

The Bronx High School of Science has more than 3,000 extraordinary students who are broadening their horizons every day with our support for academic and extracurricular opportunities. We are delighted to share with you what two Bronx Science seniors have to say about their experiences.

Meet Arjun Mazumdar '21.

Arjun is a proud Wolverine who has grown dramatically as a learner and leader through his engagement in Bronx Science activities. His primary extracurricular commitment is to the Bronx Science Speech & Debate Team, where he is serving as Captain of the Congressional Debate squad for the second consecutive year. He has been ranked as high as 7th in the nation and 1st in New York State. His participation in Bronx Science Speech & Debate has exposed him to a network of like-minded high schoolers across the country and the vibrant community of Bronx Science debaters at school while teaching him valuable skills like collaboration, argumentation and leadership within a diverse group. Arjun has also taken advantage of the 3-year math research sequence at Bronx Science and works at the Microsoft Research Lab to study the proliferation of "fake news" on social media using AI techniques.



"The research program honed my academic interests, showing me the value of civically-minded scientific research and allowing me to make valuable connections with industry leaders. I have tried to give back to the Bronx Science community by serving on Student Government in two capacities: as a co-director of the Big Sibbs program and vice chair of the Judicial Board. These extracurricular activities have allowed me to serve the student body by creating a welcoming learning environment for first-year students and fostering equity in student government elections. The school community has left a meaningful impression on my character, providing me with crucial opportunities and long-lasting friendships. I am proud to call Bronx Science my home."

Meet Julia Sperling '21.

Julia is a Senior Editor of *Dynamo Literary Magazine* and works on *The Observatory* as well as *The Science Survey*. She is a member of the student initiative Project FIRE and an editor of their new publication, "Free to Be We." Julia received a Scholastic National Medal for her poetry and has been published in *Canvas Literary Magazine*, *The Daphne Review*, and *WeWriteHere.com*. She has been selected to participate in multiple writing conferences, including the Sewanee Young Writers Conference, Sarah Lawrence Writer's Week, and the 2019 Writopia Essay Conference, where she was a presenter on the Gender Studies panel. Outside of school, she spends her time writing, dancing, and teaching students in Hebrew School at The Village Temple. She dances at Peridance Center in the Senior Ensemble of their pre-professional program and has been a selected participant in numerous dance intensives.



"My interests — creative writing, dance, humanities — may seem far from our school's name and

specialty, but Bronx Science has provided me with many avenues to pursue them. I am grateful to have been selected to receive a Brunner Award from the Bronx Science Alumni Foundation, which I used to pursue an independent research project on physically integrated dance. I was able to make connections in the dance world and meet and dance (virtually) with professional dancers with disabilities. If not for the support of Bronx Science, I would have never felt encouraged to take on this research project.

As I work with peers on creating 'Free to Be We,' a publication focusing on gender equity, we are continuing the tradition of student-driven change. And in my work on Dynamo, I am proud to contribute to one of the oldest, continually running publications at Bronx Science and extend the work of alumni before me. The drive of Bronx Science students is infectious, and I am glad to have a school experience where students with similar goals come together to create."

Arjun and Julia are just two examples of our outstanding students. We look forward to sharing more Student Spotlights to highlight the wonderful things students are doing at Bronx Science!

Bronx Science Alumni Businesses You Can Support This Season

There's plenty of Bronx Science alumni whose businesses you can support this season! We are delighted to highlight some of them here for the Bronx Science community. If you have a business you would like us to highlight, please share with us at alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu.

Bronx Science Store

The Bronx Science Alumni Foundation recently added a variety of new merchandise to our online store. We encourage Bronx Science alumni to browse the store and to show off your Bronx Science pride!

Elliott Landy Photography

Elliott Landy '59, the photographer behind hallmark images of Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and other legendary musicians in the 1960s, has fine art pigment prints for sale as well as compilations such as *Woodstock Vision: The Spirit of a Generation* and *The Band Photographs, 1968-1969*.



My Software Tutor

Steve Bradbury '76 has recently launched My Software Tutor, where visitors can learn three levels of Excel from fundamentals to intermediate (and coming soon, PowerPoint) in a real-time, online environment with a live instructor. My Software Tutor is offering fellow Bronx Science alumni 30% off all class registrations with discount code SCIENCE30.

Neil deGrasse Tyson on Amazon Fashion

Wear your favorite quotes from renowned astrophysicist and Bronx Science Hall of Famer **Neil deGrasse Tyson '76** to promote science literacy! Proceeds from Dr. Tyson's Amazon Fashion shop will help fund science literacy initiatives in the US and around the world.

S. Axelrod Co.

Find embellishments for scrapbooking, decorations and more in this extensive inventory of products supplied by **Harvey Axelrod '79**.

Nuts4Nuts

The iconic roasted nuts vendor co-founded by **Cliff Stanton '81** offers a variety of seasonal gift packs including honey-roasted peanuts, cashews, almonds, hazelnuts and more.

Boogie Down Grind Cafe

Established by Bronx Science Hall of Famer **Majora Carter '84**, this Bronx-based coffee shop and community hub is featuring distinctive Bronx-themed apparel and accessories in its online store.

Yoga Loka

This yoga studio operated by **Bonnie Pariser '84** offers online classes tailored to new yoga practitioners, seniors, private self-study and more. New students can also enjoy discounts on yoga necessities including antibacterial mats.

Roq Innovation

From founder and CEO **Raquel Graham '86**, Roq Innovation is a leading brand of distinctive activewear. Among Roq Innovation's popular accessories are Headlightz for night jogging and Face Maskz designed for easy breathing. Headlightz has been featured in Oprah Winfrey's *The O List*.

Tour Your Own City

Michael Morgenthal '89, vice president of the Guides Association of NYC (GANYC), the association of professional tour guides in New York City, has launched tourneyourowncity.com to give locals a resource for finding the best tours in NYC while supporting the hard-hit local tourism industry.

Just Burlap Bags

With Just Burlap Bags, **Maria Varkaris '89** aims to reduce waste

and encourage natural use. You can find finely made pie totes, wine bags, shoulder bags and more, or send someone an e-gift card.

Hanjan

Master Chef **Hooni Kim '91** (the first Michelin-starred chef specializing in Korean cuisine) is offering heat-and-serve family meal kits for pickup or delivery from his restaurant in the Flatiron District. The meal kit menu changes every week.

Tidal Tea

Owned and operated by alum and Bronx Science parent **Daniel Chen '92**, Tidal Tea serves bubble tea with online and to go pick-up.

Amali & Calissa

Run by restaurateur **James Mallios '92**, Amali and Calissa serve an outstanding selection of Mediterranean cuisines from their Manhattan and Hamptons outposts. They offer delivery plus gift certificates.

Streetwise New York Tours

Founded by local historian **Andrew Silverstein '99**, Streetwise New York Tours enables small groups and corporate/educational entities to create private, customized walking tours in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx.

Peter McManus Cafe

Owned by **Justin McManus '99**, Peter McManus Cafe is one of the oldest family-run bars in New York City. In addition to their award-winning burgers, you can find McManus gift certificates as well as apparel with new mottos for these times, such as "Keep Calm and Carry Out."

Seasoned Vegan

Aaron Beener '02 and his mother Chef Brenda Beener own and operate this Harlem restaurant serving up "the food you love, veganized." Order online for delivery or pick-up.

G+Co. Apparel

Helmed by creative director **Naeem Holman '07**, G+Co. Apparel offers a variety of fashion accessories. Holman's work has recently earned recognition in *Gear Patrol's* list of "Black Designers and Black-Owned Style Brands to Know and Support."

Taskade

First launched in 2017 by tech entrepreneur **John Xie '07**, Taskade provides individuals and teams with a robust platform to stay focused and collaborative.

Hubble Contacts

With **Ben Cogan '08** as co-founder/CEO and **Dan Rosen '08** as creative director, Hubble Contacts aims to deliver the most

affordable, quality contact lenses.

PersistIQ

Entrepreneurs growing the reach of their business or organization might want to take advantage of this affordable, easy-to-use sales email automation and analytics program from founder and CEO **Daniel Ahmadizadeh '10**.

Toy Terrace

Co-founded by **Sanford James '20**, Toy Terrace features toys from such brands as LEGO, Hot Wheels, Rilakkuma and more. With new locations in Westbury, Woodbury and Massapequa, Toy Terrace is offering safe curbside pick-up in addition to its shipping options.

We're wishing the entire Bronx Science community a happy and healthy holiday season! Please let us know if you have an alumni business or product we can promote.

Upcoming Events

College Supplements Help 2020 – Regular Decision Applications

Register by: December 14, 2020

Matching date: December 15, 2020

Feedback date: December 22, 2020

Help Bronx Science students with their college supplements! These are the application questions that are specific to each school; compelling answers can help our students distinguish themselves.

Each student will be matched with an alum who attended the college they are applying to. We ask alumni to read the supplements and offer individualized feedback to help students refine their writing and tailor their responses to best express their interest in the schools of their choice.

All supplement reviews will be DONE REMOTELY.

This is a great way to help Bronx Science students navigate the college process. You can participate from anywhere!

[Register](#)



When: Spring 2021

Where: Virtual

The newly founded Anti-Racist Coalition (ARC) at Bronx Science needs you! The student organization has put together a mentorship program in which Black/Latinx seniors and alumni connect virtually for personalized guidance on making the transition from high school life to college and adulthood.

The ARC welcomes all Black/Latinx alumni to participate, no matter what year you graduated. The only requirements to be a mentor are your time and a willingness to help.

Thank you for your consideration. The students look forward to working with you this year!

Register

If you have any questions or ideas for an event, please contact us at alumnifoundation@bxscience.edu.

Bronx Science Alumni in Politics: Part II

We recently explored some of the major roles Bronx Science alumni have held at various levels of government. It was so warmly received that due to popular demand, we are highlighting even more alumni!

Bronx Science alumni have long served on the judicial bench. We count two Senior US District Judges in the Southern District of New York alone! The Honorable **Alvin Hellerstein '50** has presided over high-profile cases pertaining to the September 11th terrorist attacks, the "Hope" poster from President Barack Obama's campaign, the trial of film producer Harvey Weinstein and the house arrest of President Donald Trump's former attorney Michael Cohen. Likewise, Judge **Victor Marrero '60** has issued decisions pertaining to the USA PATRIOT Act as well as President Trump's tax returns. The Honorable Marrero '60 joined the Southern District when President Bill Clinton nominated him to replace Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Previously, the Honorable Marrero '60 served in city and state agencies as well as the United Nations. He is also the co-founder of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund.

In the local courts, judge **David Saxe '59** has served New York in many capacities, from the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs to a 14-year term as a Justice of the Supreme Court, First Judicial District. The Honorable Saxe '59 is one of the most-cited



judges in the state judiciary, with about 900 decisions to his name and numerous articles in top legal publications. Judge Saxe '59 has received such accolades as the Meritorious Service Award from the New York County Lawyers' Association and the Benjamin N. Cardozo Award from the Jewish Lawyers Guild. The Honorable **Carol Feinman '71** served as a senior attorney for the NYS Insurance Fund and then as Administrative Law Judge for the NYS Office of Temporary Disability and Assistance before she assumed the office of Judge for Manhattan's 1st Municipal Court District. On Election Day 2020, Judge Feinman '71 was reelected to this seat!

In local government, **Harrison Goldin '53** held the office of NYS Senator before serving as NYC Comptroller from 1974 to 1989. Goldin's post-political career has primarily been in the realm of financial advice. In addition to starting a financial consulting firm and teaching both law and accounting, Goldin '53 cofounded the Council of Institutional Investors and is presently a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.

Alumni have also held key positions in Washington. While representing Pennsylvania's 15th District from 1979 to 1993, **Donald L. Ritter '57** was known on Capitol Hill as the "scientist-congressman" determined to bring more scientific expertise to energy policy. From 1997 to 2001, **Bill Lann Lee '67** served as Assistant US Attorney General in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, becoming the highest ranking Asian American in the Justice Department. Among other priorities, he vigorously enforced hate crime laws and statutes against discrimination in housing. Today, Lee '67 serves on the board of the Advancement Project, a racial justice nonprofit organization in California. Meanwhile, **Alan Grayson '75** represented Florida in the House of Representatives from 2009 to 2017. He participated in the Committee on Science, Space and Technology among other assignments.

This highlights only a few more of the ways Bronx Science alumni have gotten involved in public service and politics. We are so proud of all our alumni and their contributions! Please share with us any other alumni who are making a difference.

Class Notes

Disabled persons advocate **I. William "Bill" Stone '46** passed away at the age of 91. At Bronx Science, Stone '46 was involved in student publications including student newspaper *The Science Survey* and our yearbook, *The Observatory*. A lifelong resident of the Bronx, he served on the Borough Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities through four Bronx borough president administrations. "His goal, whether in the community or citywide,

was always to make locations barrier-free, long before it was an issue in society at large," his family writes. "It was his persistence that pushed agencies and government to develop programs that would accommodate people with physical as well as cognitive needs." Learn more about Stone's life and career [here](#). **Robert Barnett '47** has passed away as well. "Robert enjoyed a full life of study, music, and adventure," his family writes, noting he was particularly proud of auditioning for the trivia game show *Jeopardy*. Read more [here](#). Following "a life well-lived with no regrets," **Sheldon Glickman '47** has also passed away. Among other achievements, Glickman '47 was an accomplished dentist as a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry as well as Chair of the Dental Division of the United Fund. Learn more [here](#). We are also remembering **Louis Solomon '47**, a mathematics professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for more than 50 years, who passed away in November. Learn more about his life [here](#).

It is with a heavy heart that we share **Richard Dorf '51** passed away in October. Dorf '51 made his career as an educator. A Ph.D. in electrical engineering, he not only wrote a defining engineering textbook (*Modern Control Systems*), but also co-founded the Graduate School of Management at UC Davis. "Dick was a teacher at heart," his family writes. "He loved inspiring his students." Learn more about Dorf '51 [here](#). **Susan (Gilbert) Levine '58** is sad to report the death of her friend **Mel Lechner '57**, who lived in Lake Worth, Florida. Lechner '57 is survived by a loving family and will be remembered by his many friends as always having a smile on his face.

We have unfortunately learned from **Donald Thorn '61** that **Gerry Klein '62** died suddenly. Not only were Thorn '61 and Klein '62 cousins, but they also lived in the same apartment complex – and traveled together to Bronx Science. Thorn '61 recalls how he and his cousin "rode the train to school together every day." Klein '62 had a law practice in Croton-on-Hudson and was a 6-term local judge. He was also a member of the Croton Volunteer Ambulance Corps, active in the Lions Club and was greatly loved and respected in the Croton/Cortlandt community.

Nan Eileen (Capel) Mead '90 was appointed Interim Executive Director of Sustainable Progress and Equality Collective (SPEC), an organization whose mission is to empower individuals to become globally-minded change agents by helping them learn the essential skills required to build sustainable careers and make a positive impact in their communities. SPEC merges the tenets of DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) to offer internships, mentoring, training, micro-credentials, and host events. To learn more, visit speccollective.org. Mead '90 also continues to represent the 1st Judicial District, which includes Manhattan, on the New York State Board of Regents, to which she was appointed in 2016.



Submit

After working as Deputy Communications Director for Energy and Environment in the executive chamber for Governor Andrew Cuomo, **Jordan Levine '06** has embarked on a new role as head of transit, bike and scooter communications at Lyft.

Please share your news with fellow Bronx Science alumni by submitting a [Class Note](#) for the next newsletter.

Support Bronx Science — and Join Our New Giving Society!

[Click here to make your year-end gift TODAY!](#) Your tax-deductible donation helps Bronx Science provide world-class academic and extracurricular opportunities to outstanding students.

More than ever, there is an urgent need for a science-based education. We are counting on all our alumni to make a donation this school year to ensure that Bronx Science has what it needs to thrive.

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 anticipated budget cuts, rising unemployment and significant impact on small businesses, we know that even more Bronx Science students will need our help.**

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

We encourage all alumni to join our Bronx Science 1938 Society. The 1938 Society recognizes our most supportive alumni, family and friends. Graduates from the past ten years are invited to join the 1938 Society's Young Alumni Circle. Learn more about the 1938 Society [here](#).

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

Donate by:



[Donate Online](#)

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

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.

The Bronx High School of Science Alumni Foundation

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