



Celebrating Our School Community: Alumni Achievements, Milestones, and More!

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Welcome to the Newsletter of the Roxborough High School Alumni Association

Dear Alumni,

As we reflect on another exciting year at Roxborough High School, we are filled with pride and gratitude for all that our school community has accomplished. From remarkable achievements to heartwarming personal stories, this first edition of our alumni newsletter celebrates not only the past but also the vibrant present and future

of our school. Let's take a moment to honor the milestones, reunions, and inspiring journeys of our alumni, as well as share some exciting updates.

We as alumni are supporting the graduates with over \$25,000 in scholarships each year. We also support the faculty and administration with grants through our Education Fund to help defray the cost of rewards and incentives for outstanding students and encourage innovative programs to help support students.

We encourage you to stay engaged with the school and your fellow alumni. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and be sure to send in any updates or stories you'd like to share in the next newsletter.

If you haven't updated your contact info recently, please take a moment to do so. We want to make sure you never miss a chance to reconnect!

Read on for a look at the latest news, events, and stories from our remarkable alumni community!

Stay In Touch!

With warm regards,
Nancy Brown Matlack, Class of 1969

President of the Roxborough High School
Alumni Association



**Invites you to attend
Blue and White Reunion Night
Saturday, April 5, 2025
Time: 6:00 pm-10:00 pm
Whitemarsh Valley Event Center
493 S. Bethlehem Pike,
Fort Washington, PA 19034
Music and Dancing - Elan Disc Jockey,**

Joe Amoroso

Cash Bar

Cold Spring Catering Services

Buffet Menu

Grazing Tables with Appetizers

Cold Appetizers

Assorted Domestic and Imported Cheeses

Assorted Italian Meats

Fresh and Dried Fruits Nuts & Olives

Savory Crackers (GF) & Bread Sticks

Assorted Fresh Veggies

Filo Cups filled with Artichoke & Mushroom Filling

Assorted Dips (Hummus & Spinach)

Shrimp Cocktail with Dipping Sauces

Poached Salmon served with Dill Sauce and Mini

Pumpernickel Breads

Roasted Fillet of Beef sliced served with Slider Rolls and

Horseradish Cream

Fruit Tray

Hot Appetizers

Eggplant Caponata (GF) served with Pita

Chafing Dish of Swedish & Sweet/Sour Meatballs

Chicken Satay brushed with Assorted Sauces (GF)

Cheese Tortellini with Creamy Pesto Sauce

Assorted Desserts

**ALL CLASSES ARE WELCOME!
\$75 per person
Take advantage of Early Bird Pricing
Register before March 5- \$65 per person**

**For more information: please contact
Nancy Matlack nmatlack2@gmail.com
Lois Trimber 215-487-1698**

**We can accept payment in two ways:
Check by mail or Zelle online**

**Make checks payable to: Roxborough High
School Alumni Assn.**

**Mail to: Roxborough High Alumni Assn.
c/o Lois Trimber 818 Cathedral Road
Philadelphia PA 19128**

**We will also accept a transfer of funds through
the online banking app Zelle.
Within Zelle, the first name box to whom you
are sending funds should be the
Roxborough High School Alumni Association
Use the following email address
to send the funds to:
scholar.roxhs@gmail.com**

**By having a more casual, delicious buffet, we
anticipate that will enable all our guests to move
freely around and catch up with friends and
classmates.**

**We are hoping that some members of the
families of our Distinguished Graduates will be
able to attend. We are planning to have a short
recognition ceremony of the Distinguished
Graduates during the evening.**

**Reservation Form for
Blue and White Reunion Night
Please make your reservation by
March 22
\$75 per person
Reserve by March 5 for Early Bird pricing \$65**

Name _____

Class of _____
Spouse or Guest's name

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Amount sent or enclosed \$ _____

**To reserve a table for 8 guests, please list all
names.**

Roxborough High School Distinguished Graduates Recognition

The Roxborough High School Alumni Association is beginning a yearly tradition of recognizing outstanding graduates of Roxborough High School. The Board of Directors of the Alumni Association has compiled a list of five exemplary graduates. We will be inducting the 2025 inaugural Distinguished Graduates into our Hall of Fame during an assembly program scheduled for April 4, 2025 at 1:30 pm at Roxborough High School. *All alumni are invited to be attend and take a trip back memory lane by touring the school before or after the assembly program.*

The Distinguished Graduates Hall of Fame will be composed of individuals who excel in one or more of the following areas: Academics, Arts, Athletics, Business, Humanities and Public Service. These notable Alumni will serve as examples for current Roxborough High School students as they are making decisions about their futures. **Do you know a Roxborough High School graduate who has been out of high school for at least fifteen years and is doing great things? You can nominate them to be considered for the 2026 induction into the Distinguished Graduates Hall of Fame.**

Each year in the fall, a Distinguished Graduates committee of the Roxborough High School Alumni Association will create a slate of nominated individuals and conduct a voting process. Alumni members will vote to choose those candidates to be inducted the following spring.

Introducing Our Distinguished Graduates for 2025

Class of 1927 Dr. E Fannie Freedman



Fannie Freedman was valedictorian of the very first graduating class of Roxborough High School. She was awarded a Dearnly Scholarship to Temple University. She applied to Temple Medical School. Out of 2000 applicants, 150 students were chosen. She was one of three women accepted.

Dr. Freedman attended three generations of families at her Overbrook medical office. Her practice ranged from delivering babies to the care of the elderly. In the 1960's, she was instrumental along with Dr. Milton Freiwald in discovering the cure of a rare eye fungus disease. She died in 1995.

Class of 1939 Amos "Buck" Taylor, Jr.



Buck Taylor, who grew up on Dupont st. was a member of the Boy Scouts where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He graduated in February, 1939. In 1943, Mr. Taylor enlisted and honorably served his country, during WWII, in the United States Army. He was a Sergeant, Third Platoon, E (Easy) Company, 101st

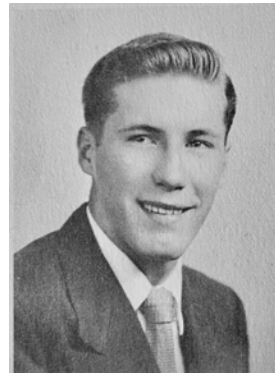
Airborne Division. In 1945, he married his high school sweetheart, Elaine Greenwood '43 and had

two sons and two daughters. He was recognized for his service in the book and the mini-series "Band of Brothers".

During his tour, he was awarded 3 Bronze Stars and 3 Purple Hearts. Buck was later recognized in 2008 for his heroism and was awarded the French Medal of Honor.

In 1950, he began his career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), in Covert Intelligence Operations. His assignment in the Far East required that he and his family live in the Far East in Formosa, Saipan, Burma, Okinawa, Japan and New Zealand. He retired in 1973 as the head of the South Pacific Desk in Langley. He died in August 2011 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Class of 1952 Robert Clayton Ames



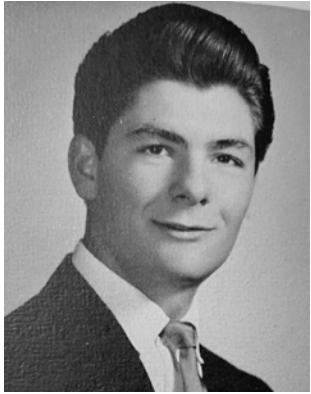
After graduation in 1952, Bob Ames attended LaSalle University. While at La Salle, he was a member of the La Salle basketball team which won the NCAA championship in 1954.

He graduated in 1956 and joined the Army.

In 1960, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), specializing in the Middle

East. Over his twenty-three year CIA career, Ames was posted in Sana'a, South Yemen; Beirut, Lebanon; Tehran, Iran; and Kuwait City, Kuwait. He rose to become the Director of the Office of Near East and South Asia Analysis. Ames was killed on April 18, 1983, when a suicide bomber detonated a bomb at the United States embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. "The Good Spy: The Life and Death of Robert Ames" is Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Kai Bird's compelling portrait of the remarkable life and death of one of the most important operatives in CIA history. CIA director William Casey described the loss of Ames as "the closest thing to an irreplaceable man". Ames is buried in Arlington Cemetery. He was survived by his wife and six children.

Class of 1966 Ralph R. Sposato



Ralph graduated in 1966. As a senior, he represented Roxborough High and was awarded First Place in "Plymouth's Trouble Shooting Contest," the Olympics of Automotive Mechanics, breaking all of the school's and state's records which are still standing today. Ralph also represented Roxborough High in Plymouth's National

Competition held in Detroit, Michigan, where he received "Top Gun" Honors. He served as an apprentice at Sabado's Motors in Roxborough and attended Chrysler's National Training Center.

Ralph matriculated to Temple University, LaSalle University, and Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science. He earned a professional teaching certificate, presented to him by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in May of 1970. Ralph returned to teach at his alma mater in September of 1970 and dedicated 28 years to the School District of Philadelphia.

Ralph had a distinguished career in Auto Racing where he held track records in various classes both in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The building and restoration of show cars are among his interests. He finished in First Place in the "Best Hand-Built Foreign Sports Car Category in America and Canada" at the International Car Show, held in Philadelphia, PA in 1996 and 1997.

Ralph, nominated by Justice Frank J. Montemuro, Jr., on September 29, 1999 was appointed Judge on the Court of Judicial Discipline in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as a non-lawyer. Ralph and his wife have four children. His daughter also was a teacher at Roxborough High School.

Class of 2007 Malcolm Kenyatta



Malcolm graduated in 2007. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in strategic communication from Temple University and a Master of Science in public communication from Drexel University. During college, Kenyatta was also an avid poet and performer. In 2008, with the help of theater professor Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon, he

founded the award-winning poetry collective Babel, which has twice won the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational. Kenyatta completed a Harvard Kennedy School of Government three-week executive education program, Senior Executives in State and Local Government, as a David Bohnett Fellow in 2019. Kenyatta has been engaged in community affairs and politics since he was eleven years old, serving as the junior block captain with the Philadelphia Streets program. Kenyatta has worked as a community activist, specifically around issues of poverty, which he has called "the moral and economic issue of our generation.

In December 2017, Kenyatta announced his campaign for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to replace the long-serving incumbent Curtis Thomas. He won a five-way Democratic party primary election in May 2018 with 42.1% of the vote. Kenyatta won the general election in November against Republican opponent Milton Street with 95.3% of the vote. The win made him one of the youngest elected state representatives in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the first openly-LGBTQ person of color elected to either chamber of the Pennsylvania General Assembly in the state's history.

Now is the time to think about classmates who excel in one or more of the following areas:

Academics

Athletics

Business

Humanities

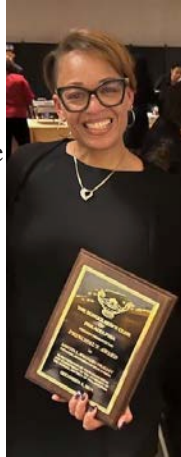
Public Service

The nomination form for the Distinguished Graduates for 2026 will be on our Roxborough Alumni Website when we post our new website in late Spring.

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING AT THE ACADEMIES AT ROXBOROUGH HIGH

Principal Kristin Williams-Smalley Wins Schoolmen's Club Award in 2024

The Schoolmen's Club is one of the oldest professional organizations of educators in Philadelphia. Their mission is to promote the social and professional aspects of educational life in Philadelphia and to aid in the betterment of educational conditions. Every year the Schoolmen recognize two dedicated leaders and this year, Principal Kristin Williams-Smalley is one of the recipients who exemplifies the characteristics of honor, courage and commitment to the schoolchildren of Philadelphia.



Roxborough Students and Teachers visit the White House



Peace Garden Plans Are Taking Shape

Through a partnership with GreenWeaver Landscaping and State Representative Tarik Khan, our school will be undergoing an improvement project to create a Peace Garden on the Pechin St. side of Roxborough High School. As we know, September 27, 2022 brought tragedy to RHS. A young boy who was participating in an after school activity was murdered on our property. In an effort to reframe the space, we are revamping the site of the shooting to become a Peace Garden for the entire school community and neighborhood to enjoy. Representative Khan helped secure a \$10k grant for the initial removal and preparation of the area. The Alumni Association has made a \$1000 donation to be used at a local nursery "The Secret Garden". The nursery owner, local businessman, John Lynch, will be helping to secure native plant material for the project at a reduced cost.



We are hoping to connect the school community, local partners, and our current school population to make this Peace Garden a reality around Earth Day (the week of April 21, 2025)

We are really excited about this project and hope that the community will support our endeavors.

Alumni: If you are willing to volunteer to assist with the Peace Garden Project in the Spring, contact Julian Saavedra, Assistant Principal, Academies at Roxborough High School

T: 215-400-3400

jsaavedra@philasd.org

On December 17, 2024, 12 students, Mrs. Bender (Business Admin teacher), Mrs. Williams-Smalley (Principal), and Ms. Mullen (Assistant Principal & Business Academy AP) had the privilege to visit the White House in Washington D.C. We were in the Eisenhower building enjoying bowling in the Truman Bowling Alley where we had so much fun and enjoyed a lunch that was donated from Jersey Mike's in Radnor PA. Then we met with staffers that included President Biden's speech writers, videographer, & graphic designers, Dr. Jill Biden's

staffers, and Vice President Harris' Personal Assistant. Our stellar students asked amazing questions of the White House staffers and were inspired by their stories and the opportunities available to them in the future. We finished our visit by taking a tour of Vice President Harris' office. The invitation came from a member of President Biden's speech writing team with whom Mrs. Bender has a connection. It was the best day ever!

Educational Grant Winners 2025

Each year, the Roxborough High Alumni Association, will fund a few grant proposals from the faculty and administration. The winning proposals are the following:

Tamara P.O.C. Russell: Revive Radio (Open to all grades)

Paint and Pod emerged as an innovative artistic podcast workshop, seamlessly blending therapeutic conversation with art therapy to nurture emotional intelligence among students.

Christine Arnold: Student Ambassador "Examining Philly Government" Field Experience

A thank you to the Ambassadors for their unwavering support by taking them on a field trip to City Hall and the Reading Terminal Market. They will meet with City Council members and possibly observe council hearings.

Kate Mullen: Attendance Incentives

Attendance is one of our primary school goals at The Academies at Roxborough High School. For this school year, our goal is at least 40% of all students will attend school 90% of days or more. Recently, we received recognition from The School District for continuous increase in daily student attendance over the past 3 years.

Leon Thurlow: Business Academy Fun Day

To celebrate the achievements of all Business Technology and Entrepreneurship Academy students after a successful marking period, we will host "BizFest," an engaging afternoon filled with activities designed to foster teamwork and apply business concepts in a lively environment.

Principal Williams-Smalley: National Honor Society and Administration Grant

Grant #1 centers around student support. The Academies at Roxborough High School's chapter of the National Honor Society is seeking funds to provide encouragement to our Class of 2024 seniors who are attending college away from home.

Grant #2 centers around staff morale and support for the Sunshine Fund. This year the staff has experienced extremely challenging personal losses. There are staff members who have lost parents and experienced extreme medical crises and setbacks. Yet, they continue to come to work and do all that they can to adequately support and nurture the students.

Congratulations to all of our Education Grant Winners for 2025.

2024 Alumni Scholarship Winners

The following students were awarded Alumni scholarships at the Academies at Roxborough High School commencement on June 13, 2024. Christina Talley, Scholarship Chairperson, awarded the scholarships to the recipients at graduation.

Congratulations to these fine students!

From Left: Ronaldo Delpesche was awarded a yearly \$1000 Alumni Scholarship to Drexel University. Aycee Tate was awarded a yearly \$1000 Debra Felton Scholarship and a yearly Alumni Scholarship of \$500 to Pennsylvania State University.

Fousseny Toure was awarded a yearly \$1250 Alumni Scholarship to Temple University. Alana McNally was awarded a yearly \$1250 Alumni Scholarship to Kutztown University. Mikaella Nesbitt was awarded a yearly \$1000 Alumni Scholarship to East Stroudsburg University.





ELMWOOD PARK
ZOO

The zoo's mission is to foster an appreciation for wildlife and the environment that will inspire active participation in conservation.

SAVE the DATE - MAY 17, 2025

Join the Roxborough High School Alumni Association with your family, children, grandchildren and friends on Saturday morning, May 17, 2025, at the Elmwood Park Zoo. We have Stony Creek Picnic pavilion reserved for us from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. You are welcome to bring your own picnic or purchase food and drinks near the pavilion. The Zoo opens at 10:00 am.

This will be a special day for us to recognize Art Smith. He was a very active and beloved Roxborough High School Alumni Association Board member who was involved in a motor vehicle accident and passed away with his wife, Susan, on Labor Day, September 1, 2024. Art was an important member of our Board and was solely responsible for our Webpage and design. Art was also a valued volunteer at the Elmwood Park Zoo.

We will be selling advance tickets to our members. There will be a special discounted ticket price of \$14.95 for adults and for children. The deadline for advance ticket purchases is **May 5, 2025**. You must buy a ticket through us to get the special admission price. You will receive your ticket from us through email prior to the event. Regular admission price that day at the Zoo will be \$27.95/adult and \$24.95/child.

We hope that we have a good turnout to honor Art and Susan and their commitment to our organization and to the Zoo.

Plans are being finalized for the event. Information about plans and ticket purchase will be posted on our website in February.



100th Year Anniversary
1924-2024