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Blazing a Trail
TOWARD HONORING
& GIVING

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
2015 GALA

TO HONOR OUR
HALL OF FAME

&

COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR
INDUCTEES



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Jon LaRochester, Assistant Principal

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Blazing a Trail
TOWARD HONORING
& GIVING

Welcome to the 2015
John F. Kennedy High School
Hall of Fame
&
Cougar Nation Wall of Honor
Induction Ceremony and Dinner

Saturday, March 7th, 2015

Coral House Caterers
Baldwin, NY

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

Blazing a Trail TOWARD HONORING & GIVING

Dear Friends of Kennedy High School:

Welcome to the 2015 John F. Kennedy High School “Hall of Fame/Cougar Nation Wall of Honor” Dinner and Induction Ceremony. We are truly pleased that you have taken the time to join us for this wonderful event!

Tonight, the administration of Kennedy High School has the honor of inducting eight new members into the Hall of Fame. These eight individuals have all demonstrated success in both their personal and professional careers. Additionally, each one of them has given back to the local or global community, thus following the mandate of President John F. Kennedy:

“To those whom much is given, much is expected.”

It is our hope that the educational foundation they received at Kennedy High School helped them achieve their dreams, goals and successes. They are role models for our students and we are proud of all of their accomplishments. Congratulations to them and to their families on this special recognition.

This evening we also have the honor of bestowing recognition on two retired/retiring staff members, whose combined years of service to the Bellmore-Merrick communities have influenced thousands of graduates who have walked our halls since the opening of Kennedy in 1966. We are grateful for their service and for the role they have played in shaping the lives of so many Kennedy students.

Tonight is a wonderful celebration of the past, present and future of Kennedy High School. Thank you for sharing this evening with us.

Sincerely,

*Eileen Connolly
Assistant Principal*

**The administration of John F. Kennedy High School
proudly announces the 2015 inductees into the
“Hall of Fame” & “Cougar Nation Wall of Honor”**

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

(Alumni)

Steven Baronoff '78 - Chairman of Global Mergers & Acquisitions for Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Stephen B. Cavayero '76 - President, Lafayette Electronics/ 2X National Champion Wrestler

Steven H. Chassman '88 - Executive Director of Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

Terrence Clark '78 - Superintendent of Schools, Bethpage School District

Lt. Tony Giorgio '78 - Commanding Officer, NYPD Ceremonial Unit

Fern Berman Karhu '71 - Founder/Owner of Realty Connect USA

Dr. David Tener '04 - Doctor of Chiropractic/JFK Scholar Athlete

Dr. Harry Tsotsos '82 - Doctor of Dental Medicine (Wantagh Orthodontics)/Trustee, JFK Alumni Association

COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR

Judy Nicoll

Guidance Department, Wall of Fame, Cultural Arts

Madeline Donahoe

Teacher, Chairperson of Mathematics, Advisor, Student Advocate

Thank you to our Hall of Fame Helpers

Chair of Hall of Fame Committee

Eileen Connolly, Assistant Principal

Hall of Fame Committee Advisors:

Lorraine Poppe, Principal

Madeline Donahoe, Math Chairperson

A special thank you to...

- Mr. Ronald Steiger (Alumni Association Trustee) for his support, advisement and expertise in the publication of this journal, and for his willingness to always “step up to the plate” whenever anything is needed.
- Mr. Mark Melillo (Kennedy Librarian) for his assistance in compiling materials, scanning and being willing to support the cause.
- Dr. Gary Morganstern (Alumni Association President) for his constant support of all things “Kennedy High School.”
- Mr. Howard Kaden (Alumni Association Vice-President) for his love, support, and courage.
- The Kennedy High School PTA, Music Boosters and Sports Booster Associations.



John F. Kennedy High School History



John F. Kennedy High School opened in September 1966 with grades 10 and 11. It became the third high school in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District #3 was one of only three central high school districts in New York State.

The district at that time was comprised of Wellington C. Mepham and Sanford H. Calhoun High Schools, Jerusalem Avenue, Merrick Avenue, Grand Avenue and Brookside Junior Highs. Boundaries of the newly established Kennedy High School would include south of Sunrise Highway between Meadowbrook Parkway and east to the Wantagh border, including the towns of South Merrick and South Bellmore. Boundaries were to shift as the population changed and demographics over the years forced the closing of Jerusalem Avenue and Brookside Junior Highs.

The 9th graders were then added to the three high schools, changing the junior high schools to middle schools for 7th and 8th graders. Today, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District consists of two middle schools that feed into the three high schools. Kennedy is the only high school that draws students from both Grand Avenue and Merrick Avenue Middle Schools.

Population Changes: Class sizes have varied from the 400's in the early 1970's, to 500-600 in the 1980's, and has declined to the low 200's in the 1990's due to demographics. In 1966, with grades 10 and 11, Kennedy's population was over 980 students. By the late 1970's it rose to 2200 students in grades 10, 11, and 12. In 1996, the population for all four grades totaled 830 students. Today, Kennedy High School boasts and enrollment of 1175 students.

In the forty-eight year history of John F. Kennedy High School, there have only been four building principals. The current principal is Lorraine Poppe, holding the distinction of being the longest serving principal in the history of the school (twenty years):

Anthony Yeneralo – September 1966- June 1972

Morten Tannenbaum – September 1972- June 1984

Fredrick Cohen - September 1984- June 1995

Lorraine Poppe – September 1995 – Present

Excerpts taken from The John F. Kennedy Alumni Directory-1994.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Steven Baronoff

Class of 1978



A 1981 graduate of Brown University, Steven Baronoff continued his education by earning a Juris Doctor degree from Yale University Law School. A renowned leader in the banking/financial industry, Steven has distinguished himself as a major force in both corporate America and on Wall Street.

- Chairman of Global Mergers and Acquisitions, Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Investment Banker/ Juris Doctor

Steven began his career at the prestigious law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, working in the field of investment banking. He eventually went to work for Merrill Lynch, where he now Chairs Global Mergers and Acquisitions. Steven has handled some of the biggest mergers in corporate America and was influential in helping to stabilize the American economy during the financial crisis in 2008. Steven is a recognized financial expert, a visiting lecturer and a philanthropist. His ability to lead, his keen financial sense and his strong work ethic are the basis of his success, and he embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Stephen B. Cavayero

Class of 1976



A 1980 graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton, Steve Cavayero went on to continue his education at UCLA (University of California Los Angeles). Steve has distinguished himself as an athlete, inventor, business executive and electronics distributor.

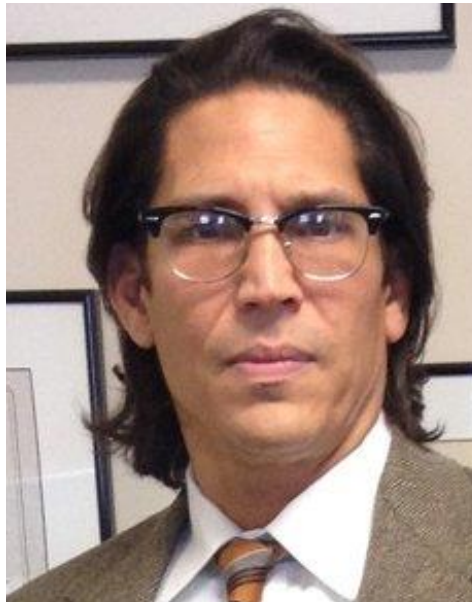
- Two-time NCAA Division III National Wrestling Champion
- Founder & President, Cavaco Sales, Inc.
- Founder & CEO, United Wireless Technologies, Inc.
- Founder & President, Lafayette Electronics, Inc.
- Founder & President, iDVDBOX, Inc.

Steve's pursuit of excellence on the wrestling mat and in the business world of electronics and technology, have taken him from the hallways of Kennedy to around the world. Steve has demonstrated that persistence, perseverance, innovation and a strong work ethic are the basis of success, and he embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Steven H. Chassman

Class of 1988



A 1992 graduate of New York University, Steven Chassman continued his education at the University of Pennsylvania, earning a master's degree in Social Work. He is the ultimate advocate to those individuals living with substance abuse issues, HIV/AIDS and mental health conditions.

- Executive Director, Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- NYS Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor
- HIV/AIDS Advocate
- Human Rights and Healthcare Advocate

Steve's personal commitment to helping others and his dedication to providing to the welfare of those who strive to live with social, medical and substance abuse issues is exemplary. Steve's continued effort to be the voice and advocate for the often forgotten and neglected embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Terrence Clark

Class of 1978



A 1982 graduate of Cornell University, Terry Clark continued his education by earning a Master's degree from New York University. Terry is a published author, nationwide speaker and one of the most respected educators in New York State. As the Superintendent of Schools for the Bethpage School District, he leads an award winning district with a student body of 3,000 and over 500 employees.

- Superintendent of Schools, Bethpage School District
- BOCES Educational Partner Award
- March of Dimes "Golden Apple Award"
- National Cable TV "Leaders in Learning Award"
- Nassau School Library System "Innovative Educator of the Year"
- First and Foremost- "A Teacher"

Terry Clark is a teacher, administrator, mentor and role model. As a twenty-nine year educator in Bethpage, he has proven to be a dynamic leader, and his success can be attributed to the rapport he has with students, teachers, parents, staff and administrators. As one whose commitment to education is seen in his every action and word, Terry Clark embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Lt. Tony Giorgio *Class of 1978*



A 1982 and 1985 graduate of C.W. Post College (B.F.A. /M.S. degrees), Lt. Tony Giorgio is the Commanding Officer of the N.Y.P.D. Ceremonial Unit. Under his leadership and direction, Lt. Giorgio is responsible for all of the police department's special events, parades, promotion ceremonies, memorials and funerals.

- Graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy (Quantico, Virginia)
- Founder and Musical Director of NYPD Police Band
- President of N.Y.P.D. Running Club
- Licensed Funeral Director
- CEO Giorgio Associates, Inc.
- Accomplished Marathon/ Triathlon Runner

As one of the most recognized and respected officers of the New York City Police Department, Lt. Tony Giorgio has well served the City of New York and his colleagues in "Blue". He is truly one of New York's "Finest" and embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Fern Berman Karhu

Class of 1971



Fern Berman Karhu attended Nassau Community College and San Diego State University. She is well recognized as one of Long Island's top tier of women real estate leaders and business owners, founding a start-up company that now employs over 600 sales professionals and twelve offices in less than five years.

- Owner/Broker Realty Connect USA
- Senior Housing Advocate
- Radio Host (16 years) of "Seniors on the Move"
- Past President, Long Island Board of Realtors
- Long Island Business News "Top 50 Women in Business"

As a tireless advocate for senior housing, Fern has been a radio show host, noted lecturer and television analyst in this crucial area of real estate. Her advocacy and philanthropic endeavors embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Dr David Tener

Class of 2004



A 2008 graduate of New York University, David Tener continued his education at the Life University College of Chiropractic. As a Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine, David has distinguished himself as a professional, engaging in post-graduate training in clinical nutrition and Epidemiology. David continues to be regarded as one of Kennedy's most celebrated student-athletes.

- Associate Doctor at The Goldberg Clinic for Chronic Disease Reversal
- JFK's First All-County Athlete in Three Sports
- Two-time JFK "Athlete of the Year"
- Senior MVP in Soccer, Basketball and Volleyball
- "1000" Points – JFK Basketball
- News 12 Scholar-Athlete

As a student-athlete and as a professional, David has demonstrated that hard work and perseverance are the trademarks of success as he embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Dr Harry Tsotsos

Class of 1982



A 1986 graduate of Stony Brook University, Harry Tsotsos then studied at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine ('90) before completing his education at New York University Dental School ('93). As a Doctor of Dentistry, Harry has distinguished himself as a orthodontist, as a mentor to countless students and as a philanthropist.

- Practitioner/ Owner of Wantagh Family Orthodontics
- Trustee of John F. Kennedy High School Alumni Association
- Mentor - JFK Senior Experience Program
- Participant in JFK Health Fairs
- Volunteer for Medical Missions

Harry's commitment to volunteerism and to mentoring countless students from Kennedy High School will impact their lives forever. His selfless efforts on behalf of our alumni and his generosity of time, talent and spirit embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.



Many thanks are extended to

Eileen Connolly

*for her dedication to Kennedy High School
and the*

Bellmore-Merrick School Community.

Her commitment to students and their success has made a difference in their lives.

*We congratulate Eileen on her retirement; it is now time to investigate new hobbies,
revitalize dreams and embark on a new way of life! Best wishes!*

COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEE

Judy Nicoll



Judy Nicoll was a member of the “original” faculty at Kennedy High School, serving as a member of the Guidance staff from 1966-1994. She has been involved in the creation and establishment of so many traditions that are still active at both Kennedy High School and the Bellmore-Merrick community. In her twenty-seven year career at Kennedy, she has demonstrated her deep commitment to the students and families that she served.

Judy was a creator of the initial Bellmore-Merrick Cultural Arts Scholarship Program, which since the mid 1970’s has recognized the outstanding musical and artistic talents of our students district-wide. Additionally, Judy represented the BMCHSD on the initial BOCES Cultural Arts Committee. In 1992, Judy (along with Alan Fleischman) inaugurated the first JFK Hall of Fame, seeking to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of early Kennedy graduates. Her impact on these two programs serves as a basis to what continues to this day. Originally certified as a physical education and dance teacher, Judy served as the choreographer for many of the Kennedy musicals.

As an original member of the JFK Guidance staff, Judy ran the District College Fairs at Kennedy for twenty-four years and initiated the Junior College Planning Night for parents beginning in 1969.

Well recognized for her achievements in Kennedy High School, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District and throughout the Long Island guidance community, Judy has been the recipient of the JFK Outstanding Professional Award (colleagues), the Bellmore-Merrick Board of Education-Community Service Award, the New York State Teachers Association Community Service Award, Nassau County Community Service Award, Town of Hempstead Community Service Award and the Bellmore-Merrick PTA Award.

Judy served on the Board of Directors of both the Long Island Personnel and Guidance Association and the New York State Personnel and Guidance Association.

As a counselor, club advisor, mentor and role model, Judy Nicoll is recognized for her commitment to the students of Kennedy and is deserving of her placement on the Kennedy Cougar Nation Wall of Honor.

COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEE

Madeline Donahoe



Madeline Donahoe's career as an educator has been both diverse and enriching. She began her work as both a special education and mathematics teacher at Kennedy High School in 1988. Teaching primarily mathematics, Madeline quickly became regarded as an outstanding classroom teacher, influencing students across the spectrum, from those who struggled to those in advanced placement coursework. In 2002, Madeline was appointed chairperson of mathematics, a position she has held for the last twelve years. Her influence has been extensive, working with students, teachers and administrators to improve instruction and ensure that all students are given every opportunity to succeed.

An ardent supporter of the co-curricular program, Madeline was the advisor of the Kennedy yearbook, *Forevergreen*, from 1991-2002. Even after becoming a supervisor, she continued to volunteer her service as co-advisor of the Long Island Challenge (2006-2012) and continues to co-advise the annual Trivia Challenge event, which raises money for cerebral palsy.

The consummate professional and cheerleader for Kennedy students, Madeline is a member of the Senior Awards Committee, the Cougar Pride Selection Committee, the Site Based Team and assists with Class Night every year.

Her contributions to the students of Kennedy, as both a classroom teacher and as a chairperson of mathematics, has been well recognized. As a teacher, she was recipient of the "Teacher of the Year Award" (students) and BMUST Outstanding Professional Award (colleagues). Additionally, Madeline has been recognized by the Kennedy High School PTA, receiving the PTA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Madeline Donahoe is thanked for her commitment to the students and staff at Kennedy. As a teacher, supervisor, advisor and volunteer, she has been an incredible role model and deserves her placement on the Kennedy Cougar Nation Wall of Honor.



Bellmore JFK Alumni, Inc

Congratulates

The Inductees to the

Hall of Fame & Cougar Nation Wall of Honor



Please support the Bellmore JFK Alumni, Inc the official alumni association of John F. Kennedy High School. It was these strong roots that created your paths in life and put you on your road to success.

Standard Membership Dues: \$20.. Annually

Special Membership Levels: \$50., \$100., \$250., \$500., will be acknowledged on the alumni website and in our newsletter.

Benefactor Levels will be acknowledged permanently on our website, and on a plaque in the high school.

Checks May Be Made Payable & Mailed to:

Bellmore JFK Alumni, Inc. 3000 Bellmore Avenue Bellmore, NY 11710

Copper Benefactor \$1,000.00 Bronze Benefactor \$2,500.00 Silver Benefactor \$5,000.00

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To join on the web, go to: http://www.bellmorejfkalumni.org/membership_registration

www.bellmorejfkalumni.org



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Fern Berman Karhu

On Her Induction Into The John F. Kennedy H.S. Hall of Fame.

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Congratulations
2015 Kennedy High School
Hall of Fame
and
Cougar Nation Wall of Honor Inductees

Steven Baranoff '78
Stephen B. Cavayero '78
Steven H. Chassman '88
Terrence Clark '78
Lt. Tony Giorgio '78
Fern Berman Karhu '71
Dr. David Tener '04
Dr. Harry Tsotsos '82
Judy Nicoll
Madeline Donahoe

Rona and David Weiss

Congratulations

Dr. Harry



To laugh often and much; to win
the respect of people and the affection
of children...to leave the world a better
place.... to know even one life has breathed
easier because you have lived.



This is to have succeeded.

Love,

your girls at Wantagh Family Orthodontics

Allara, Rebecca, Erin, Jenn, Leah,

Carol C, Iris, Sandy, Amel,

Nancy, Carol M., Patricia

Congratulations Madeline

Mathematics of Life

$$\text{Life} + \cancel{\text{Love}} = \text{Happy}$$

$$\text{Life} - \cancel{\text{Love}} = \text{Sad}$$

$$\frac{2 \text{ Life}}{2} = \text{Happy} + \text{Sad}$$

$$\therefore \text{Life} = \frac{\text{Happy} + \text{Sad}}{2}$$

$$\therefore \text{Life} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ Happy} + \frac{1}{2} \text{ Sad}$$

We are so happy for you and all you have accomplished throughout your career at Kennedy High school. However, we can't help it that we are a little sad that we will no longer have you as our chairperson.

Thank you for everything that you have done and for always doing it with a smile.

Much Love,

Adriana, Allen, Amber, Carla, Christine, Dan, Jessica, Jim, Julie, Keri, Lisa, Sara



“ Do not go where the path may lead;
go instead where there is no path and
leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



CONGRATULATIONS
DR HARRY !

YOUR FRIENDS @ THE
OFFICE OF
DR ANDREW PACINELLI

ANDREW PACINELLI
DMD/Prosthodontist

3402 Park Ave. | Wantagh, NY 11793 516.804.5955
373 Route 111 | Smithtown, NY 11787 631.265.6900

dmd@andrewpacinelli.com
andrewpacinelli.com

☐ Andrew
PACINELLI DMD
PROSTHETIC DENTISTRY



We proudly support

John F. Kennedy High School

and congratulate

all the honorees this evening.

STEVEN H. CHASSMAN, LCSW, CASAC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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*The Cougar Wrestling Club
Congratulates*

Stephen B. Cavayero

2 Time National Wrestling Champion

On Your Induction Into The

John F. Kennedy High School Hall of Fame

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Financial Adviser

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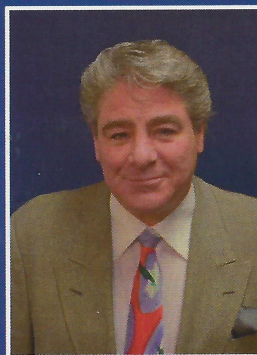
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Congratulations

Fern Berman Karhu

and to all the honorees this evening

The Steiger, Imber & Delouya Families



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