



Blue Devil Bulletin

September 2019

IN THIS ISSUE: A former U.S. diplomat, a retired documentary producer/director, a recent theater graduate, and an anthropology professor studying primates in faraway forests. Plus Reunion News and other *Class Notes*, a new section entitled *Connections*, and much more.



Pirates of Penzance - 2003

Please encourage WHS alum who haven't done so to SIGN UP to receive future newsletters. And keep those story ideas and *Connections* coming to alumni@westfieldnj12.org.

ATTENTION MCKINLEY SCHOOL ALUM

Calling all current and former members of the McKinley School community. The McKinley PTO is selling customizable "Hearts and Minds" bricks to help pave the way for the many activities and programs provided by the PTO. Deadline to submit an order form with payment is **September 30**. Read more about this important fundraising initiative [HERE](#).

Snapshots

ERIN VOGEL, '91

Dr. Erin Vogel has been bitten by centipedes, undergone surgery after a thorn pierced her eye, suffered parasites and worms, and battled forest fires. "I have worked in the tropics for over 20 years," she says, "so I experience a lot of the amazing and a lot of the dangerous aspects of field



work."

Vogel studies orangutans in the wilds of Indonesia, specifically how they acquire the food resources they need for survival and the factors that influence food acquisition and diet selection.

"I have always been fascinated with animal ecology and the adaptations animals have to survive in challenging environments," says Vogel who studied diet, nutrition, and health in white-faced capuchin monkeys for her PhD in Ecology and Evolution from Stony Brook University.

Much of her field research takes place at the Tuanan Orangutan Research Center on the Indonesian island of Borneo where the supply of energy-rich fruit consumed by Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and other frugivores (fruit-eating animals) widely fluctuates. Energy intake for the primates is lower, she says, during periods of low fruit availability. As a primate dietary ecologist, Vogel is interested in "how primates have adapted to maximize energy intake, in face of variable environments."

Vogel's official job title at Rutgers University is Professor of Anthropology, Henry Rutgers Term Chair Professor, and Graduate Program Director, Anthropology. In addition to her doctorate degree, she graduated *magna cum laude* from Colby College with a B.A. in Biology and held postdoctoral positions at University of California at Santa Cruz, the University of Zurich, and the George Washington University, studying aspects of the nutrition and diet of wild orangutans.

As for her time at WHS, Vogel says she loved her classes and playing soccer, adding that her AP Biology teacher, Mrs. Pasteur, and Physics with Dr. Stoneback "greatly influenced where I am today." She is married to a fisheries ecologist who is also a professor at Rutgers University in Ecology and Evolution; the couple has "two amazing children."

Vogel also runs an NGO (non-governmental organization) entitled **CORE Borneo** (Conserving Orangutans Through Research and Education). She advises high school seniors to "follow your dreams and do not settle for a career you are not interested in just because you can make more money. You will be content in life if you are doing work that you love."



Photo by Tim Laman



Photo by Tim Laman



Photo Courtesy of
CORE Borneo

BAMBI (EDDY) ARELLANO, '63

As part of the United Nations



Volunteer Program, Bambi Eddy was working with women's groups in poor rural communities in Peru and Bolivia when she met Jorge Arellano. The couple married in 1975 in Austin, Texas, returned to Bolivia and began a family and busy careers. "From 1975 to 1987, I worked for the UN, the World Bank, and the Organization of American States (OAS), traveling to 14 countries in Latin America and managing local development programs in very poor communities," says Arellano.

In 1987, Arellano joined the U.S. Foreign Service, working for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). For the next 26 years, she would serve in Ecuador, Guatemala, Bolivia, Hungary and Eastern Europe, Peru, Iraq, Egypt, Afghanistan, and Washington, D.C.

"Always lingering in the back of my mind was President Kennedy's challenge to my generation: 'Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,'" says Arellano who, as motivators, cites an enduring love of history; active, well-traveled parents (WHS Class of '32) who read the New York Times and discussed current events; and her siblings (both WHS graduates) – one a naval officer, the other a linguist.

She also gives credit to experiences while at WHS, including Mr. Ladenberg's social studies class during which students were divided into groups to debate current events of the time. "For example, we had to attack or defend the idea of the Berlin Wall or civil rights events or the Cuban Missile Crisis," says Arellano. "This was all very controversial, but as I look back, it was where I first learned that people see things differently depending upon their specific life experience and geography."

For modeling teamwork "as the key to getting the job done and making sure it was clear that no one person could succeed if they go off on their own," Arellano, a WHS cheerleader, gives a shout out to Coaches Kehler and Lay and her yearbook homeroom teacher, Mr. Scott.

Arellano earned a B.A. in Government from Cornell University and two master's degrees – one in political science from the University of Texas at Austin, the other in teaching from Antioch College. She taught for three years in Connecticut and Vermont before joining the UN Volunteer Program. She and husband Jorge, an archeologist, live in Washington, D.C. and have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.





JULIAN MAZZOLA, '18

During his years at WHS, Julian Mazzola received acclaim for his performances in WHS theater productions. So it's not a surprise to find Mazzola, who begins his second year at the School of Drama at The New School in NYC this month, in a [new music video](#) for the 80's boy band, New Kids on the Block.

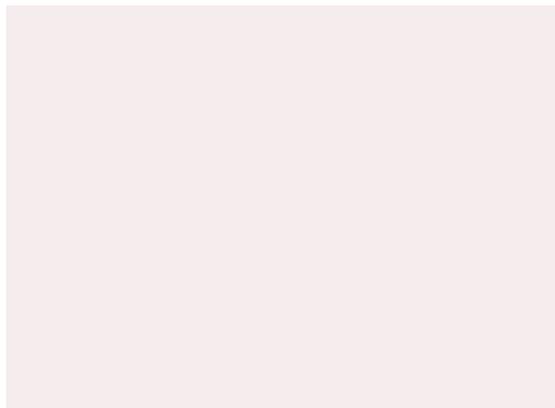
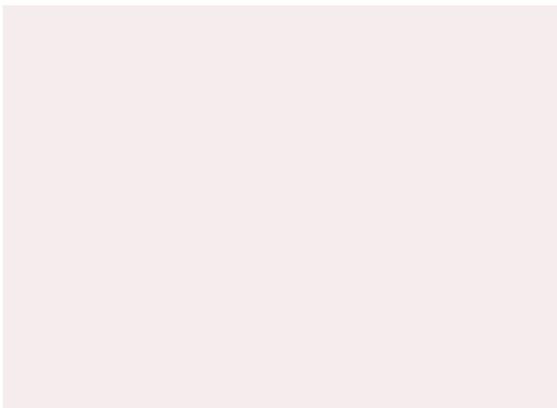


"It was a 12-hour day, which is not at all unusual for the film and TV industry," says Mazzola who says a friend with a family connection to the music video invited him and other students in the acting program to be extras. "The workdays are long and consist of a lot of waiting in between the actual filming. I would say they did about 5-15 takes for each segment as they set up for different camera angles and revised their dances."

There was a lot of ["fun chaos" during the production](#), says Mazzola, with members of the band donning extravagant costumes, dancing, and bantering. The song performed in the music video -- "Boys in the Band" -- is one of three new tracks that appears on the band's 30th anniversary re-release of their 1988 album, *Hangin' Tough*.

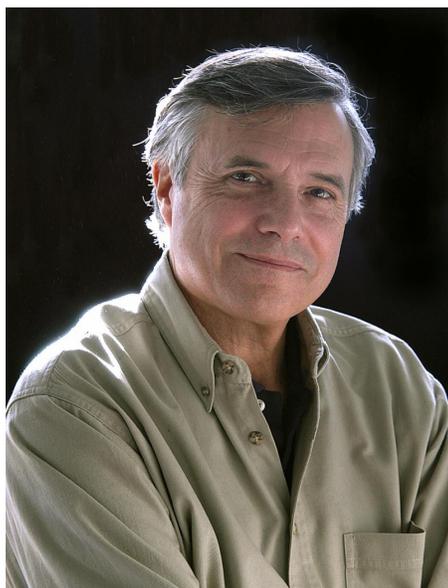
This summer, Mazzola starred in a short film entitled *Affliction* while working on a prop crew for the television series *High Fidelity*. He continues to audition and attend The New School.

"So who's to know what opportunities may arise in the future," he says. "Both the music video and the short film exemplify how you never know where opportunities are going to stem from in the entertainment business. One thing leads to another, so I'll have to wait and see what happens this year."





Click photo to view music video.



PETER VOGT, '59

With the 35mm camera his parents gave him as a WHS graduation gift hanging around his neck, Peter Vogt was strolling across campus during his junior year at Colby College when he came across a professional film crew. He asked to snap a few photographs and struck up a conversation with the cameraman, who had made films for the Air Force for 20 years. Vogt was hooked.

Enrolled in the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program at Colby, Vogt graduated with a B.A. in American Literature, married his college sweetheart, and headed to Orlando where he was assigned to the Air Force 1365th Photographic Squadron as an Air Force Motion Picture Officer.

"I was gone a lot of the time, all over the United States covering everything the Air Force was doing, including long joint force military exercises," says Vogt whose documentary assignments also took him to Vietnam, the Philippines, and the Dominican Republic.

In 1967, with his service obligation concluded, the young captain left the Air Force. Vogt joined the Academy Award-winning documentary filmmakers, Guggenheim Productions in Washington, D.C. where he would work for the next 8 years as a field producer, production manager and, ultimately, vice president. In 1975, Vogt left to produce documentaries as Peter Vogt & Associates and subsequently, Vogt Productions, Inc.

"It would be nearly 30 years of fascinating, varied and award-winning productions for institutions, organizations, campaigns, causes, museums, and clients who needed to inform and motivate audiences," says the documentarian whose education includes a post-graduate film program at New York University.

Vogt's favorite project was a film that took viewers into the foundries and boiler, machine and blacksmith shops of Altoona, Pennsylvania, where the steam locomotives, freight and passenger cars of the Pennsylvania Railroad were built and repaired from the 1920s to the 1940s.

Now retired, living in North Carolina, and "still restlessly creative and curious," Vogt directed and co-produced a [documentary for the Class of 1959](#) entitled "It Was Quite a Time."

"I loved Grant School, Wilson School, Roosevelt and Westfield High School," he says, telling current students to "embrace the world around you."

"Westfield has always been devoted to giving its young people the best education and experiences possible," adds Vogt. "Let yourself grow and take that model with you wherever you go... and Keep Going!"



Class Notes

1964 & 1967 – Mark C. Taylor, '64, and Beryl C. Taylor, '67, report that last spring marks the 70th anniversary of Westfield High School varsity baseball as state champions with their father, Noel A. Taylor, as head coach. "In addition to coaching, our father taught biology and physics, was head of the WHS science department, and created Saturday Science and the Photography Club," says Mark Taylor. "Our mother, Thelma Taylor, taught English for many years."

1971 - In February 2019, Barry Cohen celebrated 40 years in advertising and media, the last 20 co-running AdLab Media Communications in Fairfield, New Jersey, which offers services that include advertising, public relations, audio-visual production and publishing consulting. Cohen has authored/published two business books and has helped to launch two dozen books for other authors.



Clipart courtesy of ClipartPanda.com

1959 - The Class of 1959 will hold its 60th reunion from October 11-13,

2019 at the Kenilworth Inn in Kenilworth. Contact Reunion Chair Eleanor Hahn Lowery at elkit@msn.com.

1969 - It's 50 years for the Class of 1969 to be celebrated on October 12, 2019 (Columbus Day Weekend) at the Shackamaxon Country Club. Visit www.1969whs50.com/ to register and/or email janis.weinstein@gmail.com for more information.

1979 - The Class of 1979 will celebrate its 40th reunion with class alum featured in bands at Crossroads in Garwood at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2019 and a gathering at Ferraro's from 7-11 p.m. on Saturday, October 19. Other activities are planned. Follow the Class on Facebook at **'79 WHS 40th Reunion Group**. Contact Randi Nathanson-Berger at rberger@centra360.com or (917) 744-0289.

1999 - The 20th reunion of the Class of 1999 is approaching on October 5, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Ferraro's. Connect on Facebook at **Westfield High School Class of 1999**. Contact Shara Resende at whs1999nj@gmail.com.

in Memoriam

Dr. Bruce L. Malcolm, Sr., '43

Dr. Bruce Leslie Malcolm, Sr., 94, passed away on February 26, 2019 at his home in Easley, South Carolina. [Read more](#) about this WHS graduate who practiced dentistry in Westfield for 40 years.



Charles "Chick" Coate, '64

Judy Coate Wright reports that her brother, Charles "Chick" Coate passed away on April 24, 2018 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina as a result of glioblastoma multiforme IV.

Janis Hackmann Beall, '68

Janis Hackmann Beall, a resident of Virginia Beach, Virginia, passed away on July 12, 2018. [Read more](#) about Mrs. Beall who graduated from WHS in 1968 and met her husband Clay in Westfield.

Connections

This segment aims to connect Westfield High School graduates seeking jobs or internships with other WHS alum whose companies may have open positions.

Send employment news and postings to



Yearbook Memories



Exhausted
1944



Hi's Eye Editors
1986



Enjoying Class
2017



Student Council
1974



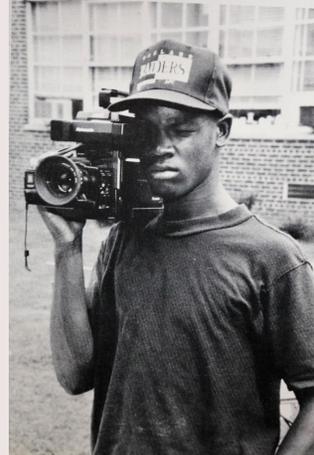
Physical Education
1959



Cheerleading
1938



**Hurdling
2003**



**Broadcast
Journalism
1991**

From the Archives

The Old Brick Academy

Excerpt from *History of Town of Westfield* by
Charles A. Philhower, M.A. (1923)

"The citizens of the town assembled and decided to build a two-story structure in its [the previous log school house destroyed by fire] stead. The upper story was to be used for prayer meetings, town meetings and public gatherings, and the first floor for a school room. The site was a little to the north of the building that burned, and adjacent to the cemetery. The foundation was made of dressed stone, and the walls of red brick. Maple and elm trees were planted along the roadway in front for shade. It was completed in 1819 and was used until 1869."



Courtesy of the
Westfield Historical Society

Have news or a story to share for
the next newsletter?
Email alumni@westfieldnj12.org.