

# BROOKLYN TECH DIAMOND CLUB

# NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR BROOKLYN TECH ALUMNI WHO GRADUATED 50 YEARS AGO OR MORE  
MARCH 2023



Get your tickets: **Brooklyn Tech Centennial Homecoming** events will be held Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25, 2023! All Diamond Club members are welcome aboard the Hornblower Infinity yacht for the **Alumni Dinner Cruise for graduates of ALL class years** —with dinner, open bar, dancing and ample gathering spaces to reconnect and reminisce with Tech friends while enjoying panoramic views of New York harbor. The cruise will be followed by the traditional **Homecoming Open House** at Tech on Saturday, March 25 from 10 AM-3 PM, with self-guided tours of Tech's labs, classrooms, gymnasias and an auditorium presentation and special student performances. Register and get more details [here](#).

**Diamond Club members will be gathering immediately after Saturday's Homecoming at Tech events at Fancy Free (71 Lafayette Avenue)**, just down the street from the school, from 3 to 5 PM. Tickets are \$25 per person and include one drink and noshes. Get tickets [here](#). Individual small group dinners can be organized afterwards. Throughout Homecoming Weekend (Thursday, March 23-Sunday March 26), Junior's will offer a 10% discount to Technites wishing to grab a bite with friends (details also on the [website](#).)

# Are You Smarter than an 8th Grader?

See if you can solve these problems below. These are test questions distributed to eighth and ninth graders preparing to take the entrance exam for Tech and the other specialized high schools. The answers can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

1. The perimeter of a rectangle is 510 inches. The ratio of the length to the width is 3:2. What are the dimensions of the rectangle?
2. A box of colored pencils contains exactly 6 red pencils. The probability of choosing a red pencil from the box is  $\frac{2}{7}$ . How many of the pencils in the box are not red?
3. Ryan must read 150 pages for school this weekend. It took him 30 minutes to read the first 20 pages. At this rate, how much additional time will it take him to finish the reading?
4.  $(100(2 + 0.1))^2$  squared minus 100 = ?
5. If  $4x - 3y = 12$ , what is  $x$  in terms of  $y$ ?
6. A ball is selected at random from a box that contains 7 black balls, 14 green balls and 21 red balls. What is the probability that the ball selected is black?

Handwritten mathematical notes and diagrams:

- $\sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$
- $\int (x \pm a)^c$
- $e = 2,79$
- $\phi = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - m)^2}{n - 1}}$
- $\cos x + \tan y$
- $\sin \alpha$  (with a sine wave diagram)
- $\ln \left( x \frac{a - \sqrt{x^2 + a^2}}{x} \right) + c$
- $\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta y} = \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta x + 2}{\Delta y - 1}$
- $8x = 4 - 3y^2$
- $(x + a)^2 = x^2 + 2ax + a^2$
- $(x + 4)^2 = \left(\frac{y}{2}\right)^2$
- $X_{1/2} = \frac{b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
- Diagrams: A sine wave, a right triangle, and a coordinate plane showing a parabola and a point (4,4).

# Where Are They Now?

*This feature of our newsletter highlights information and stories about fellow Diamond Club members.*

If you would like to contribute to one to our future newsletters, email it, preferably in a Word document, to Frank Luszczyk '61: [Fluszczyk@comcast.net](mailto:Fluszczyk@comcast.net)

## **Mike Weiss '57**

In my graduation year (1957), I applied for Brooklyn College and Brooklyn Polytechnic University and was accepted to both. However, due to limited finances, I decided to attend Brooklyn College, where I eventually majored in Physics, receiving a B.S. in 1961.

As my mathematics skills were good but not great, I decided getting an advanced degree in Physics would be problematic and hit upon the idea of teaching. I went back to Brooklyn Tech to see if they might be looking for a Physics teacher and, sure enough, they embraced me and assisted me in getting a teaching license. I began work immediately in January 1962 as a Laboratory Assistant in the Physics Department and started teaching Physics in September of 1962.

I had a great career at Tech, where I worked for 24 years total as a teacher (grade advisor – college advisor – JV baseball coach) and was appointed as a guidance counselor in 1979 and Assistant Principal in 1981. In 1983, When Matt Mandery '61 was appointed as Tech's Principal, he, and I, as alumni, realized that Tech was missing a great resource in that there was no alumni association. It was at that point that we contacted a few alumni, including Achilles Perry '58, and formed what is today the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation. And the rest is history - we have been at it for 40 years since then!

One of the unique features of this journey is that I have experienced Tech at three levels – student, teacher, and alumnus. Each one of them has been a joy and I always relish meeting Tech alums and reminiscing with them about their, and my, experiences. The connections are priceless and the opportunity to give back is very fulfilling.

The rest of my career, after leaving Tech in 1986, at another time.

### **Richard Bertolino '57**

Attending Brooklyn Tech class of 1957 was a life-altering experience. The most important aspect of life I learned was: "If you give a person a fish, you feed him/her for a day. If you teach him/her to fish you feed him/her for a lifetime."

Thanks to Google I have followed some of my classmate's lives, unfortunately sometimes through obituaries. A few notes on my '57 classmates follow below:

**Michael A. Weiss:** A Founder of the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation, a first of its kind in the United States.

**David Groh (1940-2008):** An actor best known for his role on the 1970s TV sitcom *Rhoda*. He starred as the easygoing Joe Gerard opposite Valerie Harper's neurotic Rhoda Morgenstern on the Mary Tyler Moore spinoff. Later he had recurring roles in such prime-time series as *Police Story* and *Melrose Place*. Mr. Groh appeared on Broadway in Neil Simon's *Chapter Two* and in *The Twilight of the Gods* in 1993.

**Frank Domingo (1940-2009):** Forensic Art Discipline in NYC can trace its roots to 1984, when Detective Frank Domingo, retired from the Artist Unit of the New York City Police Department, organized the First National Composite Art Symposium.

**John V. Konior:** Author of *The Secret of Big Pine Key*.

**John Anthony Randell (1939-2021):** I remember when he was so happy to be admitted to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He went on during his 24-year career to proudly serve on ships in the North Atlantic, South Pacific and Gulf of Alaska. After retiring as Captain from the Coast Guard, he had a 15-year career as a mathematics teacher at Broadneck High School in Maryland.

**William Rosenbluth:** I have known Bill since Brooklyn Tech, Brooklyn Polytech, and IBM. He is one of the most creative people I have known. After a long career at IBM, in computer-aided semiconductor design, he specialized in the forensic analysis and diagnosis of computer-related vehicle control systems, and in the analysis of crash-related vehicle electronic data (black Box data).

**Howard Rothman, PhD:** Howard was able to track me down on the internet and contacted me to have a small class reunion sometime in the 1990s. Unfortunately we were unable to accomplish that. I was very happy to learn of his obtaining a PhD and specializing in PCs.

**Louis F. Dell'Osso, PhD:** In looking for a friend and classmate, Leonidas Mantgiaris, at Brooklyn Polytechnic, I found Professor Dell'Osso. I learned he and Lenny were best friends since childhood and best men at each other's weddings. After attending Brooklyn Tech, Louis attended Brooklyn Poly. Both he and Lenny went on to graduate school to major in BioMedical Engineering, Louis at the University of Wyoming and Lenny at the University of Rochester. Louis F. Dell'Osso, PhD, is Professor Emeritus of Neurology and formerly a Professor of Neurology and Biomedical Engineering at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

**Herbert B. Shore, PhD:** A very bright friend at Brooklyn Tech. Herbert went on to become a Professor of Physics at University of California San Diego.

This is just a small group of the 1500-member class of 1957. When you think of how many thousands of successful alumni came out of Brooklyn Tech's 100-year history it is mind boggling on a scale approaching the images of space captured by the James Webb telescope.

**Marvin D. Genzer '58:** I live in Chapel Hill, NC. After graduating Tech, I received a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering in 1963 from the College of the City of New York. I then obtained a Master of Electrical Engineering in 1966 from the New York University followed by a Juris Doctor in 1969 from Pace Law School. You can tell from my degrees that I had an engineering career as well as a legal one. I was a Reliability Engineer at Norden Systems and at EDO Corporation. After receiving my law degree, I became VP, General Counsel and Secretary in 1986 of the Edo Corporation.

I have been an Adjunct Professor of Law at Elon University Law School, North Carolina Central School of Law and Pace Law School. I have written several publications.

## **Milt Feingold '51**

I was prompted by the invitation to submit a class note to find my copy of the Blueprint for the first time in a great many years and to be reminded of its high quality and our habit of asking everyone we knew to sign it. The signatures brought back lots of fond memories. Entering at age 12, I believe I was tied with Paul Abrahams as the smallest member of the class -- my growth spurt coming a couple of years later. Based on size and lack of athletic ability, as well as a 40+ minute commute on the A-train from Washington Heights, my participation in extracurricular activity was trivial.

One special memory is the excellent teaching by Martin Starfield. I can't quite recall the subject, but will never forget his unique manner of expressing praise – to take my head in his hands and brush his beard against my cheek. Above his photo in the Blueprint is written, “For a treat instead of a treatment.” I have no idea whether that behavior was ever discussed among classmates, many of whom were subjected to and/or witnessed it, and certainly NOT with my parents. Also related to age and size and the total absence of female classmates, dating never happened until the surprising invitation to the Senior PROM shortly before graduation. My mother said that I had a very lovely cousin living in Brooklyn who might be willing to be my date for the event, and indeed, Carol was, BUT I had never danced. A crash course allowed me to avoid hurting her. My next stop was Columbia College as a pre-med, then Rochester for med school, then Yale for a year of Surgery, where I met and married Joan Cooley, the gorgeous red-headed nurse in charge of the Recovery Room, who bore David, Emily and Andrew before the sudden rupture of a cerebral aneurysm at age 44. This happened soon after we moved from my position of Chief of Pathology at Bellevue to take the same role at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston in 1979. Now retired from medicine, I am happily serving as a docent at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, with a special interest in paleontology (being a fossil myself), butterflies and insects.

Y'all come,

Milton Finegold

Emeritus Professor of Pathology / Immunology

Baylor College of Medicine

## **Frank R. Luszczyk '61**

Frank R. Luszczyk of Simsbury, CT was born in Staten Island in 1943, the son of the late Frank and Regina Luszczyk. He moved to Connecticut in 1971 after leaving New York City, where he was born and raised. He was President of Highway Safety Corp. of Glastonbury, CT. He spent his career managing manufacturing companies. He held prior responsibilities as President of Fenn Manufacturing of Newington, CT and President of Windsor Manufacturing of Windsor, CT. He was an executive for United Dominion Industries of Charlotte, NC and United Nuclear Corp. of Uncasville, CT.

He entered the manufacturing business after college as a member of the Loop Course Management Training Program with the Bethlehem Steel Corporation of Bethlehem, PA. He holds a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the City College of New York and a Master of Business Administration from Lehigh University.

He was a member of the Young Presidents Organization and various industry organizations. He is active as a class representative with the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation and as a member of the Board of Directors of the City College of New York Alumni Association, Connecticut Chapter.

He has enjoyed golfing, fishing, boating and spending as much time with his wife as possible. Their relationship never got old. His three children and three grandchildren live in the Boston and Baltimore areas. He has always felt proud of his children and felt he and his wife did a good job raising them. His children have become good parents also.

He has two granddaughters and a grandson; the highlight of his year is being with them. His brother Greg is a 1964 Tech graduate.

He and his wife have been together for forty-two years. They met at the University of Hartford, when he signed up to take a course after work, got lost and asked this beautiful co-ed for directions. He noticed the Bronx accent and eventually married her. Staten Island guys didn't date girls from the Bronx. They lived too far away. Meeting in Connecticut solved that.

### **Achilles Perry '58**

I've had a varied and rewarding career. I operated an economic recruiting firm specializing in litigation support. I represented many of the world's largest corporations including GE, Sumitomo, Sharp, and Saint-Gobain Glass. My areas of expertise included anti-trust and international price discrimination. In addition, I spent time as general manager of a pump manufacturing company, Pulsafeeder, and served as adjunct professor at Rutgers University Graduate School of Management. Since the 1980s my principal activities have focused on building apartment houses in New York City, helping to build the BTHS Alumni Foundation, and owning PYLOS, one of the best restaurants in New York City.

I've been married for 50 years to my CCNY sweetheart, Nadia. We have two sons and two grandchildren. We have lived in New Jersey for over 50 years.

### **Don Spencer '61**

At age 79, I have lived 16 years beyond my father or mother's ages when they passed away. I feel fortunate to still be here and in reasonably good health though have experienced some memory issues. I was a shy kid in high school and didn't get close to any of our Staten Island Technites. And my career has not been typical.

I transferred out of engineering and into sociology after my freshman year of college. I had moved to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and never wanted to return to live in New York again. My parents both died while I was in grad school and I had no other relatives on Staten Island.

I am at a stage where I am looking back on my life. I taught sociology for a while, moved to the Berkeley, CA area and continued to teach without an employer. I taught massage around the country, lived simply, and invested in rental property. I remarried and we will celebrate our 25th anniversary this November. I have no children but have my wife's children and grandchildren.

I have done mosaic stained glass for 25 years and my website is [donspencerartglass.com](http://donspencerartglass.com)

We live just outside of Madison, Wisconsin and spend most of the winter in Puerto Vallarta.

### **Jacques Fortier Jan. '59**

I grew up in Queens, NY and graduated in January 1959. Up until 15 years ago, I lived in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Now my wife of 52 years, Diane, and I live in Aiken, SC. We have two sons, James and David, and one grandson.

After receiving my engineering degree I worked for Western Electric, General Foods and Kraft.

My favorite Tech memories are of some of my great teachers, especially Mr. Wood (Geometry) and of the great education that I received there.

I am still in touch with Robert Comparato. We both graduated from elementary school and Tech together! I am also in touch with with Frank Luszcz '61 whom I met a few years ago.

I enjoy reading about current programs and outstanding student achievements in *TechTimes* although I am somewhat disappointed that some of the current 18 majors do not meet the STEM (particularly engineering) mission of Tech.

# Shaping the Future of STEM Education

## Matt Mandery '61

At the request of Frank Luszcz '61, I will be writing an article for the Diamond Club Newsletter. The purpose is to keep you abreast of the great things that are happening at Brooklyn Tech. In each article, my goal will be to share with you examples of how our Alumni Foundation is working with Tech to keep our alma mater in the forefront of STEM education.

Our foundation is unique for a public high school alumni organization in how we work with our school. In 1998 we set forth to form a strategic partnership with the school. We named the project CARETech (Commitment to Assess and Revise the Education at Tech). This effort set us apart by establishing us as a full partner with Tech. We worked with Tech's faculty, parents, and students to create a modernization plan that shaped the direction for Tech's growth.

As a result, our foundation remains an integral part of Brooklyn Tech's success. Realizing the importance of partnerships in broadening Tech's capacity to deliver a world-class education, we have worked with the administration to create many meaningful partnerships. This year's alumni lecture series focuses on highlighting some of our partnerships. Let me share a few examples that have taken place recently. The November 12 lecture made students aware of our new partnership with NYU's Grossman School of Medicine. It will offer several of our students the opportunity to participate in a summer program to introduce them to research and open the pathway to NYU's medical schools PhD/MD program.

On December 10 we held our Future World Vision STEM Pathways Consortium meeting that brought together students, parents, and faculty from our seven consortium middle schools. Brooklyn Tech faculty, students, and alumni participated acting as hosts, tour guides and presenters. A Future World Vision STEM Pathways Consortium Conference will be held on May 20th in which our students and consortium middle school students will share the work that they have been doing. This effort highlights the significance of Brooklyn Tech. It is made possible through the combined support of Brooklyn Tech, our Alumni Foundation and our partnerships with the American Society of Civil Engineers and National Grid.

On January 10 a leadership team from the Brooklyn Queens Office of Con Edison visited Brooklyn Tech. Con Edison has partnered with Brooklyn Tech for over twenty years. They have helped support the building of our Environmental Science/Engineering Lab, the creation of the greenhouse hydroponics lab; sponsor our US FIRST Robotics Team; and develop and sustain an exemplary internship program in which rising seniors are given the opportunity to work with Con Edison managers.

Then on January 12th Con Edison manager Leon Bukhman '01, who was a member of the first cohort of Con Edison interns, gave the second lecture in our series. He discussed clean energy and the internship program.

Lastly some great news: senior Eileen Zheng, an Alumni Foundation Weston Research Scholar, was named one of 300 students nationally and internationally as a Regeneron Scholar. This is our nation's most prestigious and well-known science competition. Her project, Paired Mutational Analyses of RNA-Binding Proteins-Interactome and Overall Survival in Cancer Patients, was the result of research that she has undertaken with her Weston Research Scholar mentors at Tech and her Brooklyn College research mentor. Eileen's work was selected by the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) for a poster presentation.

I will be back in the next issue of our Diamond Club newsletter with more great things that are happening at Brooklyn Tech.

*Diamond Club member and co-founder, Matt Mandery'61, is the only alum to serve as an appointed principal of Brooklyn Tech and is a co-founder of the Alumni Foundation. He serves as the Alumni Foundation's Chief Educational Officer.*

### **Answers to the “Are you smarter than an eighth grader?” questions:**

1. 102 inches and 153 inches

2. 15

3. 3 ¼ hours

4. 44,000

5.  $X = \frac{3}{4}y + 3$

6. 1/6

If you have received this newsletter, you are a member of the Diamond Club, which includes all Tech alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. We are soliciting your input for the next newsletter. Please email an article about yourself for the “Where are they now? Section, as a Word document if possible, to: [Fluszczyk@comcast.net](mailto:Fluszczyk@comcast.net)