

1910 **Southern** 2016
Dinner Banquet

**HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION
CEREMONIES**

Sunday, June 5th 2016

**ADELPHIA
RESTAURANT**
1750 Clements Bridge Rd
Deptford Twp. NJ
1 • 856 • 845 • 8200
1:00 to 5:00 pm

ATHLETIC

Eroy Brown '70

Isaiah "Bunny" Wilson '67

Woody Woodson '63



CULTURAL

Dr. Elaine Camerota '57

Thomas McCurdy '58

Dr. Peter Nocella '62

REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.sphsalumni.com> Purchase memberships, tickets & yearbooks! Stay in Touch!!!

**South Philadelphia High School
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
PO Box 54700
Philadelphia, PA 19148

**PLACE
STAMP
HERE**

**RETURN MAIL
REQUESTED**

SPHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|---|-----|
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SOUTHERN ALUMNI
215-468-3377
FAX: 215-546-9712
WEB SITE: SPHSALUMNI.COM



President's Message

Dear Fellow Alumni,

The SPHS Alumni Association is dedicated to:

- awarding deserving graduating high school students scholarships to institutions of higher learning
- furthering the fellowship and comradeship among SPHS graduates
- advancing the betterment of home, school, and faculty relationships
- fostering scholastic achievement programs
- coordinating and correlating the activities of the graduate class organizations, and
- recognizing the outstanding achievements of our graduates as well as the service of outstanding Southern High teachers, members of the Executive Committee, and distinguished members of the community.

The extent to which we're able to achieve our objectives is primarily dependent upon the support our organization receives from individuals who attended South Philadelphia High School. This support is provided to the association in many ways. The most common form comes from those who opt to become Lifetime Members of the SPHS Alumni Association. For a mere \$25.00, former students are able to join the ranks of an exclusive organization comprised of thousands of members who are proud of their affiliation with Southern High. Others demonstrate their support by attending functions sponsored or endorsed by the alumni, enlisting new Lifetime Members, serving on our Executive Committee, or making donations to the alumni that are to be used for specific initiatives. Regardless of how you choose to be associated with the alumni, please know that your involvement is welcomed and appreciated.

On behalf of the SPHS Alumni Association Executive Committee, I would like to thank you for your support and encourage you to enlist others who can help us expand our resources and refine our work. Please visit our website regularly and use it to keep informed and/or communicate with the organization. Together, we can make the phrase "Southern High for evermore" a reality.

Respectfully,
Tom Sebastian



2015-2016
REPORTS FROM OUR
COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE



The Membership Committee continues to request your support in locating other graduates who have slipped through the cracks and have not yet become Lifetime Members. When you interact with other Southern graduates, ask if they received this year's Newsletter. If not, encourage them to become a lifetime member for the one-time cost of just \$25.

Lifetime (or Memorial) Memberships make a great gift for the Southern graduate who has not yet become a Lifetime Member. Perhaps your mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, or other relative graduated from Southern. Surprise them on their birthday or anniversary with a gift of a lifetime - a Lifetime Membership. Lifetime Memberships may be conveniently purchased online at www.sphsalumni.com for the one-time cost of just \$25 (please specify in the Notes section if the membership is for a different person than the purchaser. Thank you.).

Remember, only Lifetime Members are eligible to receive a copy of his/her yearbook for the price of just \$15 (which includes shipping). We will be introducing the ability to receive a digital copy for those years where we only have a Reference copy available.

Finally, we ask that you remember to let us know when you re-locate. If you live in an apartment, **REMEMBER TO INCLUDE THE APT. NUMBER.** The Postal Service, will not deliver to an apartment, without an apartment number in the mailing label. In the past, we have received several Newsletters returned to us due to a lack of an apartment number.

Membership Committee

Willie Pollins, Esq. - Class of '84

Tarez Williams - Class of '84

TREASURER JOYCE GAROZZO '70 REPORT 2016

The alumni association awarded over \$ 34,000 in scholarship and book funds during the 2015-2016 school year. We have awarded over 1.95 million dollars to deserving SPHS graduating seniors over the last twenty-six years. Students attended many area universities and colleges including Temple, Penn State, LaSalle, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford, Culinary Institute of America in New York and the Community College of Philadelphia.

REUNION CORNER

If you are planning a reunion, your Alumni Association is here to give you advice on event planning including financial assistance. We are here to help! **Contact us at info@sphsalumni.com.**

EROY BROWN



Class of 1970

Eroy attended Southern from 1967 to 1970. During his time at Southern, Eroy showed his athletic talents by competing on several teams: varsity football, JV basketball, Track and Field (shot put), and Baseball. His honors included recognition not only for his performances on the baseball diamond but on the football field as well. In 1968, he was named All-Public for play as a guard on the football team. In 1969, Eroy was honored as All-Public and All-City for play as the catcher on the baseball team. In his senior year, 1970, Eroy was named All-Public, All-City, and All-State in baseball, with the highest batting average, homeruns, and RBIs in Southern's history at that time. Eroy's legacy as a Southern athlete is well-established and one that has done our school proud.

ISALAH "BUNNY" WILSON



Class of 1967

Isaiah demonstrated his athletic talents across a number of sports as a competitor for Southern. Notably, he played basketball at Southern and made Honorable mention All-public in 1966. At Southern, Isaiah also participated in track and Cross-Country and played sophomore baseball. He went on to play at Temple Prep and then went to Baltimore University where he made All-American in 1969-1970. He was one of the top scorers in the nation. Isaiah is a former professional basketball player who played in the NBA and ABA. He was drafted with the twelfth pick in the second round of the 1971 NBA draft. He played in 48 games for the Detroit Pistons in the 1971-1972 NBA season and averaged 3.5 points per game, 0.9 assists per game and 1.0 rebounds per game. He also played one season in the ABA for the Memphis Tains and averaged 6.3 points per game, 2.4 assists per game, and 1.3 rebounds per game. At the University of Baltimore, Isaiah averaged 28.9 points per game over his 4-year career.

WOODY WOODSON



Class of 1963

Woody Woodson [James E. Woodson] played basketball at Southern in the early 1960s and graduated in June of 1963. As a senior, he was named to the third team All-Public in basketball. At Southern, Woody ran track and Cross-country and participated as a freshman on the soccer team, displaying a remarkable range of talents across different sports. Woody placed second in the High Hurdles at the track and field championships at Franklin Field on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in 1963. His performances on the basketball court and in track and cross country are in addition to his excellence in the classroom. He achieved Academic All-America status for his basketball play in college at Philadelphia Textile and played for eight years in the NBA with the Los Angeles Lakers and other teams. He coached in the NBA as well.





DR. ELAINE CAMEROTA

Class of 1957

At Southern, Elaine Cajano served as co-president of the student council and co-editor of the yearbook. Graduating first in the class, she won the history and Italian awards. Awarded a full scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania, she was on the Dean's List, the Distinguished List and president of the Italian Club. She was elected to Pi Gamma Mu, the social studies honor society and to Phi Beta Kappa. Graduating with Honors, she later served on the Phi Beta Kappa Advisory Board at Penn. After earning a doctorate from Rutgers, she taught courses in its Graduate School of Education. At the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Medicine, she was director of the Creative Arts Therapy program as well as a trainer for the PDOH Office of Drug and Alcohol programs. She served as director of the tenth anniversary conference of the National Assoc of Drama Therapy. At Cincinnati VA Med Center she directed the group psychotherapy and psychodrama programs and trained interns and residents to use arts and actions methods with veterans with psychiatric problems. She narrated and edited a documentary about PTSD in which she interviewed former POW's from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. In South Korea she conducted trainings for Korean mental health professionals on action methods in group psychotherapy. A long-time Director on the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociodrama and Group Psychotherapy, she traveled to mainland China and Taiwan to evaluate candidates for certification.



THOMAS R. MCCURDY

Class of 1958

After graduating, Tom attended Temple University before joining the US Air Force. In 1962 he matriculated at Penn State in the 5-year Architecture program, working summers as an Assistant Architect in New Hampshire and Harrisburg. He graduated with a B.Arch. in 1967, and then obtained a Master's degree at Penn State in Regional Planning in 1969. He then worked for the Lehigh-Northampton Joint Planning Commission in Allentown, advancing to being the Chief Environmental Planner. Tom was responsible for planning regional sewer/water and county recreational systems. Tom received a 2-year fellowship in the University of North Carolina's Ph.D program. Tom got a job at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Durham NC where he worked on a number of environmental and transportation projects and analyses of new national air standards that affect everyone in the U.S. He specialized in human exposure modeling. Every air standard in this country since 1980 that used exposure modeling has used models that Mr. McCurdy developed or led. Tom quit EPA in 1984 to manage a hospital-waste incineration company only to find the work intellectually unsatisfying. He returned to EPA as a Research Scientist, from which he retired in 2014, and stayed on as an unpaid guest researcher until November 2015 to finish two projects that he started before retirement. He is an author or co-author of over 100 publications and 60 presentations at national or international conferences.



DR. PETER NOCELLA

Class of 1962

When Dr. Peter Nocella attended SPHS, known for its exceptional music program, he was concertmaster of the All-City Orchestra. Nocella won a Philadelphia School Board Scholarship, and won a fellowship to the prestigious Tanglewood Music Center. After receiving his Bachelors in Music in composition/viola, he pursued his Masters and Doctorate at Temple U. Nocella's numerous commissions include American Ballet Theater, Pennsylvania, Milwaukee, and Cincinnati Ballets, and Philadelphia Orchestra members, Edna Phillips and Anthony Orlando. Notable choreographers for whom Nocella has composed include Mikhail Baryshnikov, Benjamin Harkarvy, Jean-Paul Comelin, Peter Anastos, Robert Weiss, and Lar Lubovitch. Nocella's music is included in the Philadelphia Library Fleisher Music Collection. He has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Philly Pops, Royal, New York City, and Pennsylvania Ballets, Opera Philadelphia, and under such conductors as Stokowski, Ormandy, Leinsdorf, and Boult. 1990's, Nocella composed, among other works, Green Violinist, and Viola Concerto, establishing the Leonard Mogill Memorial Scholarship. He served as the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra's Music Director. 2000's, Nocella composed Missa Brevis for a special Vatican ceremony celebrated by Pope John Paul II, and Eight Candles in the Darkness for the Swedish Historical Museum. Nocella more recently completed two symphonies, two tone poems, and 9th Street Festival Overture, an homage to his South Philadelphia roots. Nocella also composed four string quartets for the Meiravi Quartet. An ASCAP and College Music Society member, Nocella is currently working on Grynspan, an opera based on Krystallnacht. A senior lecturer at Penn State, Nocella also teaches at Nazareth Academy

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS - 2016

JOAN BERGEN

Deceased – Endearing Social Studies Teacher – Miss Liberty Bell 1959



Joan Bergen did not attend Southern High, but had considerable Southern spirit. She graduated from Mount St. Joseph's Academy in 1949, then received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the UofP. After teaching at a Junior High she started the best part of her career at Southern High. Her persuasive diplomacy made her an immediate hit with students, teachers, and administrators. In 1959, she was selected to be Miss Liberty Bell, and traveled to the original thirteen states and Alaska to extend an invitation from Mayor Dilworth to the governors to come to Philadelphia to celebrate the unveiling of the first 49-star flag. This was a climax to Philadelphia's annual Freedom Week, with ceremonies honoring Alaska's admission into the Union. She was Queen of the Bunker Hill Day Ball, with a champagne breakfast in DC, and was introduced to the United States Senate. Joan built constructive relationships with her students and faculty members and was the only female awarded a varsity football letter at Southern - she never missed a game and was the leading ticket salesperson.

PAUL BERGER

Class of 1963



Upon graduation from Southern Paul was awarded a scholarship from the alumni assoc and attended Temple University, where he earned a bachelor's degree. Paul is a distinguished CPA, businessman, and sponsor of the annual Paul

Berger Scholarship for Southern grads at Temple University's Fox School of Business. Paul's pride as an alumnus of Southern led him to establish the Scholarship Fund to benefit Southern graduates attending the Fox School of Business at Temple U. "There comes a time in one's life that it becomes important to give back. The scholarships run approx \$6,500 per year and determined by a committee from Temple." Southern graduates awarded approx \$6,500 through Paul's generosity: Tarik Ryant (2012), Wilbert Castillo (2013), Duong Ly (2014). In addition, at graduation, Adedoyin Otolorin received a Book Award of \$1000 in 2014 from the SPHS Alumni Association with funds provided by the Paul Berger Scholarship Fund. Paul encourages others to set up scholarship funds for Southern graduates and/or partner with him.

ADELE R. CAPOLUPO

Class of 1946 –

Spanish & Italian Teacher and Senior Class sponsor for more than three decades



Adele Capolupo received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the UofP, majoring in Romance languages. In the spirit of Noblesse Oblige, the motto of SPHS for Girls, she taught at Furness, Kensington, and

Southern where she stayed for 31 and ½ years. At Southern, she taught Spanish and Italian, sponsored the classes of 1959 and 1962. At Southern, she taught Spanish at the Southern Magnet School, served as President of the PA Chapter of the Am Assoc of Spanish Teachers, and worked with the Language Curriculum Committee for the School District of Philadelphia. She is remembered fondly by thousands of Southern students over four decades.

THOMAS DiRENZO

Class of 1955

Member of the South Philadelphia High School Alumni Executive Committee



Tom is a former school officer and member of the Mace National Honor Society.

He is a retired marketing executive in the aerospace, information, and specialty chemicals industries and currently a free-lance editor for scientific and technical journals. Tom became VP of marketing and communications at the Institute for Scientific Information. He has lectured on information systems and developed sales around the world. He became the executive VP of International Products Corporation and authored a book entitled Developing New Markets for Information Products. He received the Art Directors' Club Award of Excellence, the Gold Volunteer Achievement Award from the ACS the Bronze Praxinoscope for best script writing, and received a citation from his U.S. Air Force commanding officer for heroism after saving the life of an auto- accident victim. Tom now uses his many talents to serve as a member of the alumni's executive committee, and serves on several committees to help Southern High and the association.

AURELIO PONTARELLI

English teacher and mentor despite living with Polio from an early age-COURAGE,

COMMUNITY and CHARITY



Aurelio was healthy until polio struck him in the 50s prior to the Salk vaccine.

What followed is a profile in courage. He was not permitted to attend Southern, so he went to the Widener School. He earned his bachelor's at Villanova on scholarship and his master's at Temple. When he applied for a position in the School District of Phila as a teacher of English, the district's doctors said, "You can't teach!" they did not know the heart of Aurelio Pontarelli: After a protracted battle with school officials, the vice president of the school board, Southern High graduate Robert Sebastian, said, "Yes, you can!" He completed 32 years of teaching before post-polio syndrome forced him to retire. During those decades he was an undefeated soccer coach at Thomas, received the Rose Lindenbaum Teacher of the Year award, and was a Ruth Hare Cluster Teacher of the Year. While teaching at Southern, Pont worked with students on proms, special assemblies, trips to Fellowship. His current activities include writing his autobiography, Don't Say I Can't. Pont's life is a profile in courage and an inspiration to all who know him.

ALFONSO CAVALIERE MEMORIAL CONCERT



ALFONSO CAVALIERE MEMORIAL CONCERT RETURNS TO SOUTH PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL!

Sunday Afternoon, November 8, 2015, our auditorium was alive with Music! The 23rd Annual Alfonso Cavaliere Memorial Concert was held in our alma mater. The large audience enjoyed a tribute to Rogers and Hammerstein, operatic favorites and Neapolitan songs. The Bel Canto

Lyric Opera Company and Orchestra performed. Two awards in Alfonso's name were given to soprano Marina Costa-Jackson and tenor Dominick Chenes, by Master of Ceremonies, Vincent Corsetti, Esq. SPHS Class of 1945. We hope you will join us in 2016 for another fantastic concert, the cultural jewel of South Philadelphia.

IN MEMORIUM

DAN PODOLSKY



Dan Podolsky, Class of 1939, took great pride that he was the oldest living member of the SPHS Executive Board. Dan passed away on November 16, 2015 at the age of 95. Dan was an accomplished musician who played in many dance bands. For the past

4 ½ years he lived at the Masonic Retirement Village. While on the Board, Dan was very active attending meetings and serving on various committees, especially the Banquet Committee. He will be dearly missed by all.

MARIO TODARO



Mario Todaro, class of 1950 was a champion Gymnast. While at SPHS he won enough honors to ensure a scholarship to Penn State. He was afflicted with Lou Gehrig's disease and passed away October, 6 2015. He was an

Army veteran of the Koran War. Mario served on the Executive Board and was responsible many years for making our Ad book a success. He was married to Dorothy Flacco Todaro '49 who is currently serving on the SPHS Executive Committee.

SAVE THE DATE!

Save The Date!
**The Next Award of Excellence
LUNCHEON**
will be held on November 2, 2016
At The
WATERFALL ROOM
in
SOUTH PHILADELPIA

Save The Date!
SPHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
So. Jersey Chapter
HOSTING ITS ANNUAL BUFFET BRUNCH
Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016 Mays Landing CC
We Welcome All Southern Classmates & Guests
Contact Rita D'Armi ('58) or Sam Chatis ('58)
For Details Call: 215-321-1065

Graphic Design by Southern



Denise Powell

Advertising & Graphic Design
Teacher
South Philadelphia High School

dppowell@philadelphia.edu

PLACE AN AD IN OUR 2016 PROGRAM BOOK

On the afternoon of our Hall-of-Fame Ceremonies copies of the program are distributed to everyone in attendance, plus all advertisers.

One (1) full page (7.5"x4.5") of Advertisement costs \$100.00

1/2 page = \$65. 1/4 page = \$35. 1/8 page = \$25.

PATRON ADS (Name & Class Year) \$10.

Please send your copy and company logo, clearly marked, to PHSAA, c/o Giovanna Cavaliere, 2304 So. 12th Street, Phila. PA 19148

Name _____

Phone Number _____

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed, made to SPHS Alumni Association (SPHSAA) **Deadline is May, 1, 2016.**

BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER IN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In The Name of _____ Class of _____

Send a check for \$25 payable to the SPHS Alumni Association to:

Willie Pollins • 1720 Spruce St • Philadelphia, PA 19102

Or at www.sphsalumni.com you can order a membership by credit card or paypal.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

PLEASE INDICATE IF MEMBERSHIP IS IN MEMORIUM YES NO

I'd like to make ___ reservations (@\$50.00) for Southern's Annual Dinner and Award Banquet

Send a check to Giovanna Cavaliere, 2304 S 12th St. Phila., PA 19148

Make checks payable to South Phila High School Alumni Association (SPHSAA)

Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Telephone _____

Name of guest/Any Seating Preferences _____

Indicate number of Prime Rib _____ Chicken Florentino _____ Stuffed Tilapia _____

Dietary platters can be accommodated

Deadline for banquet dinner reservations is May, 15, 2016.

Any questions, please call Giovanna @ 215-626-7053.