



# The 13th Corner

Engaging alumni in preserving the Brighton legacy of educational excellence

June 2020

## 2020 alumni hall of famers represent politics, public service and international scholarship

In its 15th year, the **Brighton Schools Alumni Association (BSAA)/Brighton High School (BHS) Alumni Hall of Fame** recognized the contributions of BHS graduates from three decades and varied professions, even though the coronavirus pandemic meant not being able to hold a **Recognition Gala** to honor the new “hall of famers” in person.

Between them, this year’s honorees represent the fields of politics, public service and international scholarship. There is even overlap with the profession of education.

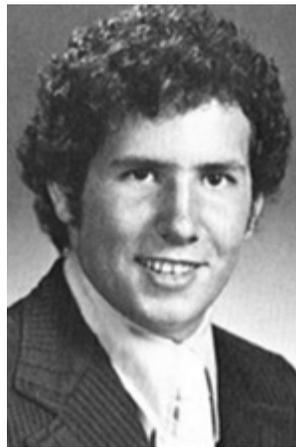
• **Wayne Berman**, BHS’74, is the senior managing director and head of global government affairs at the Blackstone Group, a public company involved in finance and investments. The business has more than 2,300 employees, annual revenues of \$8 billion, and offices throughout the United States and in several other countries. Before that, he was vice chair of the public relations firm Ogilvy and Mather.

Berman joined the corporate sector after many years in public service. He was appointed as assistant secretary of commerce by President George H.W. Bush and held leadership positions in nine Republican presidential campaigns. He is also a national director of the Republican Jewish Coalition.

Berman, his wife Lea and their family are active supporters of charitable, historic and cultural activities in the nation’s capital. They funded the nonprofit group Creatures Great and

*Continued on next page.*

*New BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame members,  
as BHS grads (left)  
and as adults (right).*



*Wayne Berman '74*



*Danette Campbell-Bell '92*



*Fred Eidlin '60*



## 2020 Hall of Fame, continued

Small, which works to strengthen anti-animal cruelty laws and was instrumental in helping the Protect Animal Cruelty and Torture Act, H.R. 724, receive bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House.

According to nominator **Peter Lovenheim**, BHS'71 and a member of the BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame, "Wayne came from a family of modest means and at BHS was — in his own words — 'a B student—not a spectacular academic record.' But after graduating from the University of Buffalo, he was fortunate to find a mentor — a local elections commissioner

in Rochester — who gave Wayne the opportunity to find his calling." Berman had, again in his own words, "no allergy to work."

Berman was admitted to Georgetown University and then "began working his way up the competitive ladder of politics, business and governmental service, eventually becoming a leader of a worldwide financial businesses firm, a key aide to nine presidential candidates and a frequent advisor to presidents," Lovenheim said.

Lovenheim nominated Berman to demonstrate that "whatever one's political leanings, we ... can see that

in honoring him, we offer a valuable lesson to other 'average' BHS students: that even without straight A's, but with hard work, optimism and service to the larger community, you, too, can achieve the highest levels in your chosen fields."

• **Danette Campbell-Bell**, BHS'92, is a youth development practitioner, consultant, trainer, instructor, coach, mentor and speaker with more than 20 years of experience in developing, implementing and managing creative, quality youth programs with a track record of high-performance outcomes. "She is a champion, advocate and voice for children and youth — she is known as the Seed Planter," said nominator **Alan Ziegler**, BHS'58 and a member of the BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame.

As the owner of Campbell-Bell Consulting in Rochester, Campbell-Bell provides strategies and creative solutions for a variety of organizations at the local, regional and state levels. She is also a managing partner of Strings for Life, LLC, as well as project founder and director of the award-winning Strings for Life Music Project, a collaborative, youth-driven partnership with her brothers.

Campbell-Bell is also co-chair of the steering committee of the African American Leadership Development Program of the United Way of Greater Rochester, serves on the Leadership Team of the Love Fellowship Worship Center and is chair of the ETHIE Program of the Rochester Area Business Ethics Foundation Board (RABEF). In 2019, she and her brothers were the first family to be inducted into the Monroe Community College Alumni Hall of Fame.

Campbell-Bell and her husband serve on the PTO Board of Hillel Community Day School, and have hosted a student from China.

• **Fred Eidlin**, BHS'60, was a philosopher; policy expert; and regional specialist on Russia, the Baltics and Eastern Europe. According to nomina-

*Continued on page 6.*

## BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame members

2006: **Jacksel M. Broughton** '42\*\*/**Frederick Trost** '53/

**David Kearns** '48\*\*/**William F. Scandling** '40\*/**Pauline Yu** '66

2007: **Brad Berk, MD** '71/**Arthur Lonnie Lane** '57/**John Shoemaker** '60

2008: **Daan Braveman** '65/**Karen Noble Hanson** '61\*\*/

**Robert A. Weisbuch** '64

2009: **Christine Gleason, MD** '71/**Jim Gollin** '76/

**Sandy Gradinger** '54\*\*/**Alan Shestack** '56\*\*

2010: **Hank Appelbaum** '58\*\*/**Irene Taylor Brodsky** '88/

**Laura L. Carstensen** '71/**Tom Richards** '61/**Tom Scalea, MD** '69

2011: **Richard Appelbaum** '60/**Jim Crawford** '54,

**Hank Greenwald** '53\*\*/**J. Allan Hovey, Jr.** '60\*

2012: **James Allison, MD** '60/**Jeffrey Levy** '59/

**John Milliman** '56/**Jerry Stahl** '57

2013: **Caroline (Caren) Breese Hall** '56\*/**Nancy Gong** '74/

**Stuart L. Hart** '70/**Bruce Laumeister** '52

2014: **Robert Goldman** '77/**Roger Friedlander** '72/**Cass Balch Morgan** '63/

**William W. Pinch** '58\*\*/**Susan Salitan Robfogel** '60

2015: **Burt August** '33\*\*/**Gary Berger, MD** '60/

**Tina Monshipour Foster** '93/**Pete Heinrich** '55\*/**Joe Klein** '68

2016: **Stephanie Weinstein Dodson** '79/**Michael Gollin** '74\*\*/

**Karen Eckberg Gottovi** '58/**Amy Shuffelton** '88

2017: **Alan Lefor, MD** '73/**Peter Lovenheim** '71/**Alan Ziegler** '55

2018: **Steven Marx** '65\*/**Doug Rutzen** '83/

**Jaime Wemett Saunders** '94/**Samir Shah, MD**, '84

2019: **Myron "Flint" Beal, MD** /**Lynn Astarita Gatto** '70/

**Tom Hamburger** '70/**Bob Lambrix** '68

*\*Honored posthumously \*\*Deceased since honored*

### 2020 BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame Committee

**Brendon Fleming** '00, **Cathy Anthony** '68, **Bob Farrell** '71, **Steve Gaudio** '63 (*chair*),

**Peter Lovenheim** '71, **Maryjane Kimmell Link** '58, **Marcia Loomis** '64,

**Susan Salitan Robfogel** '60, **Kay Salerno** '56, **Ruth E. Thaler-Carter** '71;

*non-alumni:* Tom Hall (Brighton Central School District), Jody Siegle (Brighton Education Fund)

# BSAA awards two scholarships to 2020 graduates

As a bright note at a difficult time, the BSAA presented scholarships to two BHS graduates this year.

## The 2020 recipients

• For **Yesha Patel**, who plans to undertake a five-year program at Le Moyne College to become a physician assistant, BHS was the road to defining a career.

Her extracurricular activities have covered a wide range of interests, from the arts to sports to volunteer work to empowering women. She was active in the Ceramics Club and Girl Up; played field hockey; and volunteered as a Brighton Fire Department Explorer, an Emergency Medical Service Explorer with the Pittsford Ambulance Service and at the Jewish Senior Home. She also has worked at Salvatore's Old-Fashioned Pizzeria.

"Community service has been an integral part of my BHS experience," Patel said in her scholarship essay. "I began volunteering at the Brighton Fire Department during the summer of 2017. When I first began as a Fire-fighter Explorer, I was one of the only females on the team. The underrepresentation of females didn't worry me; instead, it made me want to promote the program and encourage other young women to join."

That interest in increasing opportunities for girls and women included participating in the Phoenix Fire Camp, a one-week summer camp in Utica that brought young women together who were interested in working for the fire service. "I attended training and had open conversations about being a woman in a field dominated by men," Patel said. "Open dialogue is key to a strong community of women who can take on obstacles that stand in the way of their success."

Through her involvement with the Brighton fire community, Patel found the Pittsford Ambulance Explorer program, through which "I learned more



about the importance of first responders and how I can be an informed member of my community," Patel said. "My volunteer experiences have guided my interest in medicine [and my understanding that] healthy citizens contribute to the growth of their communities socially and economically."

Patel earned an Outstanding Delegate Award from the World Health Organization for her participation in the Model United Nations and a Graduation Award for Completion of Curriculum and Training at the Utica Fire Academy. She also was named a Top Prosecuting Attorney in Youth and Government (District One).

"Overall, my dedication to service work has taught me a great deal about teamwork, open dialogue and citizens," Patel said. "I plan on applying these lessons to a future career in medicine — one that's committed to providing reliable health care and pushing [past] barriers for all citizens."

• **Christopher Wihlen** credits his BHS experience with encouraging him to become a scholar-athlete and expand his ability to make friends. He is heading to Penn State University and plans to major in engineering.

Wihlen has been captain of the Brighton Varsity Swimming team and also played varsity soccer and golf. To round out his involvement in extracurricular activities, he was also in the BHS orchestra.

Wihlen has been a volunteer with AutismUP and Students Transitioning Youth to Adolescence, and in altar service at his church. He has worked as a counselor at Camp Stella Maris, student lifeguard and laborer at Ry-Gan Printing Company.

As testimony to his success as a scholar-athlete, Wihlen received an American Chemical Society Award-Regents (2018); AP Scholar Award (2019); and Monroe County Public School Athletic Conference Sportsmanship Award and Scholar Athlete Award, both for varsity swimming (2020).

Being at BHS opened doors and expanded confidence. "I feel that my Brighton High School experience has been defined by the amount of opportunities offered in extracurricular activities," he said in his scholarship application essay. "When I entered the high school as a freshman, I was unsure about where I would be able to fit in ... through the sports I have participated in, I have been able to extend my small friend group to several groups of people [who] help me get more involved in every aspect of my life."

*Continued on next page.*

## Scholarships, continued

Wihlen's sports participation was a major factor in adapting to high school and expanding his social connections, he said. "Swimming was my first major step into the high school world ... an environment that I had no idea about. However, over the year, I realized that high school is the place where new bonds could be forged. The cohesiveness of the team and ties I formed last with me to this day and have allowed me to become more friendly."

Being on the swim team taught Wihlen about the value of "consistency in effort" in areas of life beyond sports. "In a sport so taxing, I learned that the best thing to do is consistently put in effort to improve techniques and training will help my skills grow," he said. "The swim team has allowed me to take that idea and apply it to the classroom, my work and my volunteering experience in my community. I have been able to pay attention to small things like smiling and showing up on time while making sure I constantly work hard and have a positive influence on people's lives, no matter where I go in the future."

### About the scholarship

The BSAA Scholarship originally was \$1,500 a year to be used to purchase textbooks or other required academic materials. The amount has increased thanks to generous support from BHS alumni — the BSAA Schol-

**T**he **BSAA Scholarship** is a great way to remember BHS classmates, teachers and staff, as well as a meaningful use for class reunion gifts. The **BSAA Scholarship** has provided significant financial aid to 22 BHS graduates to date, including several times to two students in the same year.

Since the **BSAA** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, all gifts are fully tax-deductible. *Every* gift counts, no matter how large or how small! Send your contribution to: BSAA Scholarship, 2035 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618, or use **scholarship@brightonalumni-rochester.org** for PayPal.

arship provided each of this year's recipients with an award of \$2,500 per year.

"We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of BHS alumni in making it possible for the BSAA to provide this scholarship," said BSAA president **Steve Gaudio**, BHS'63.

The award is based on a combination of need, academic performance, and extracurricular and community service, and will be renewed for three additional years as long as the recipient remains in college on a full-time basis.

To be considered for the BSAA scholarship, a student must be a college-bound graduating senior at BHS in Rochester, NY, with a grade point average of at least 3.0; complete a FAFSA application; and submit an essay about "What aspect of your BHS experience (academic, extracurricular or community service) has had the

most impact in shaping your future direction and why?"

A panel of two BSAA **Scholarship Committee** members, two BHS faculty members and one student selected five finalists this year. Finalists were interviewed online.

"The BSAA is proud to support these talented BHS students in their higher education plans and looks forward to seeing how their lives and careers take shape after college," said BSAA vice president/treasurer and Scholarship Committee chair **Mary-jane Link**, BHS'58.

Although the pandemic meant that the BSAA could not hold a 2020 **BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame Recognition Gala**, which usually raises funds for the scholarship and introduces recipients to attendees, contributions may still be made for future awards (see box, above).

The **Brighton Schools Alumni Association (BSAA)** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Contributions are tax-deductible under IRS law and may be sent to:

**BSAA**  
2035 Monroe Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14618



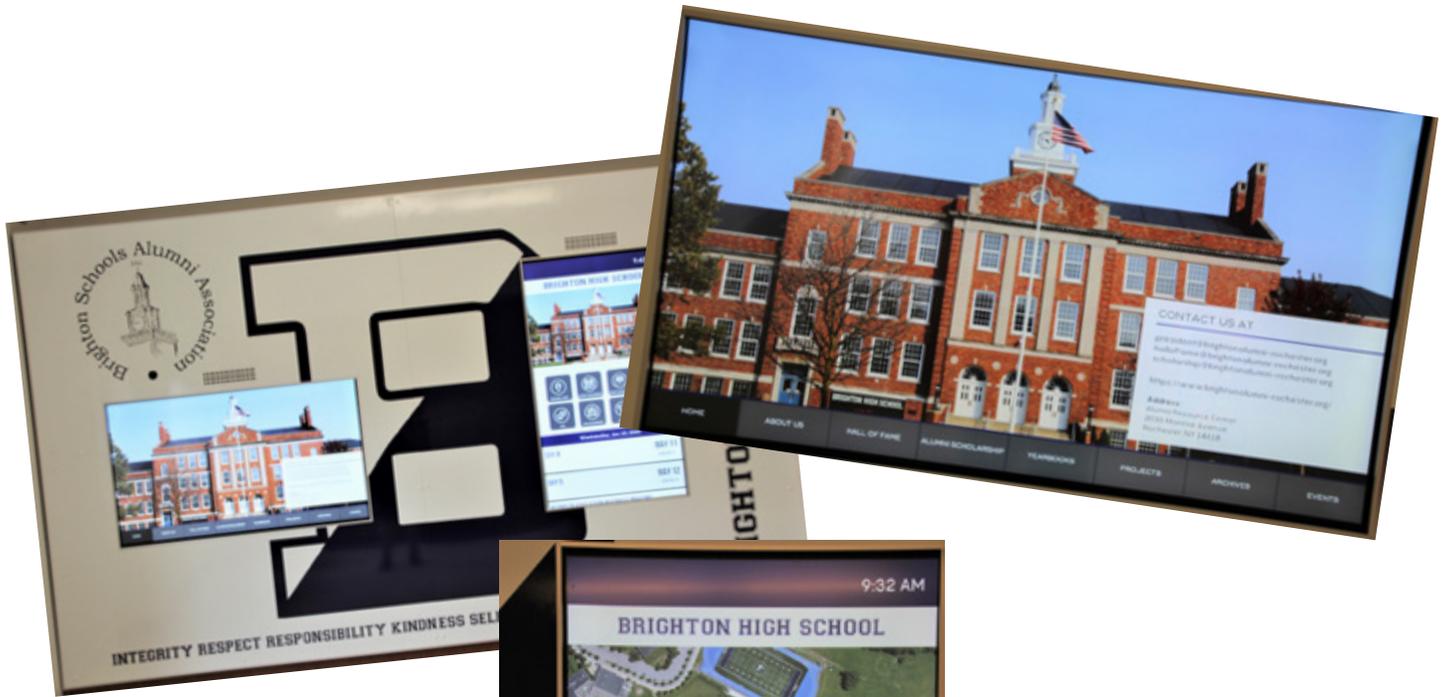
Founded in 1999  
Celebrating  
service to BHS alumni  
and the Brighton schools

The **13th Corner**  
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newsletter@  
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**Ruth E. Thaler-Carter**  
(BHS'71), Writer/Editor.

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# BSAA donates digital display to BHS



The BSAA has donated a state-of-the-art interactive digital display to **Brighton High School** (BHS) that will provide a wide range of information about BSAA programs and events, Brighton schools history, and BHS activities and resources. The display has been installed and will be officially unveiled and dedicated when school resumes.

Designed by **Empire Digital Signs** of Rochester with material provided by the BSAA, the primary goal of the display is to feature videos of **BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame** members as a way to inspire current, former and future students to become “hall of famers” themselves, and encourage nominations to the hall of fame from classmates, friends and family members.

The display takes the place of cabinets at BHS with static plaques and photos of hall of fame members now that there are too many honorees for that space, and lets viewers “meet”

honorees through the videos that they make for each year’s Recognition Gala.

“We are thrilled to provide this resource for students, faculty and staff,” said BSAA president **Steve Gaudio**, BHS’63. “We have long wanted to make our hall of fame videos accessible beyond the one-time event of a Recognition Gala, as well as to make the activities of the BSAA more visible to BHS and the **Brighton Central School District** community on an ongoing basis.”

Plans call for adding material to the display on a continuing basis, including

BHS yearbooks, to keep the information it provides current and fresh.

“Words cannot express how grateful I am to the BSAA for this incredible donation,” said principal **Tom Hall**. “It enables all of us to take a BHS journey back in time with just the tap of a finger. From viewing yearbooks from the 1930s to the present day to seeing past hall of fame members, to viewing a concert or athletic competition from just the night before, the BSAA has truly given us a gift that benefits the entire BHS community. Thank you!”

“This is an incredibly kind and generous gift from the BSAA,” said Brighton Central School District superintendent **Kevin McGowan**. “It not only speaks to their ongoing support of today’s students, but also to their desire to impart a lasting legacy of excellence for all future generations. This gift gives everyone instant access to years of the memories, experiences and accomplishments that today’s success is built upon.”

The BSAA wants  
you!  
To join our board of  
directors, send a message to  
president@  
brightonalumni-rochester.org

## BHS reunions may be on hold

The current health crisis has put most reunions on hold this year. For information about current plans, go to <https://www.brightonalumni-rochester.org/upcoming-reunions.html> or the Facebook page for your graduating class.

To add your reunion to the BSAA website and future BSAA newsletters, send class year, reunion date(s), and contact information to [newsletter@brightonalumni-rochester.com](mailto:newsletter@brightonalumni-rochester.com).

To arrange reunion tours of BHS, contact principal **Tom Hall** at [tom\\_hall@bcsd.org](mailto:tom_hall@bcsd.org).

## Hall of Fame, continued

tor **Richard Appelbaum**, BHS'60 and a member of the BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame, he was devoted to educating students, academics and policy-makers in the U.S., Canada, Russia, the Baltics and the Czech Republic about their differences and similarities, "in the hope of creating an Open Society where mutual understanding would lower tensions and create a more-just world." His focus was on the dynamics and developmental tendencies of Soviet-type regimes, and problems of their transition. He also "had a profound interest in what makes people think the way they do."

After earning his BA in international relations from Dartmouth, Eidlin studied German at the Freie Universität Berlin and Czech in Prague,

## Put your Brighton "likes" in stone



If you always wanted to leave your mark on the BHS campus, there's a way to do so: Buy a paver in the **Courtyard Garden**.

The **BSAA** created the Courtyard Garden in an area formed by additions to the high school. Students participated in the design process under the leadership of the late **Scott Miller** (BHS'54), and BHS staff and the BSAA helped construct the garden. Several benches and a "Baron's Walk" of pavers woven into a brick pathway honor classes and individuals.

You can use a paver to recognize yourself or a graduating student, your

BHS or other BCSD class, students of all ages, families, faculty and staff, friends, sports teams, or a reunion class (no commercial sponsors).

Bricks are 8x8-inch fired clay pavers, laser-etched with text you provide — up to three lines of copy at a maximum 14 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation.

For an order form, go to [www.brightonalumni-rochester.org](http://www.brightonalumni-rochester.org). Funds from the purchase of pavers support courtyard maintenance and other BSAA projects.

For more than one paver, please fill out a separate box for each one.

and earned an MA in political science from Indiana University before working as a policy assistant for Radio Free Europe–Munich in 1968 and 1969. After earning a PhD in political science from the University of Toronto, he began his academic career at the University of Guelph in Canada.

After retiring in 2010, Eidlin had visiting professorships at the Institute of International Studies; Charles University-Prague; and the Euro College, University of Tartu, Estonia.

According to his nominator, Eidlin studied "life's greatest questions." He directed the InterUniversity Centre and the Waterloo-Laurier-Guelph Centre for East European and Russian Studies; edited a newsletter about the philosophy of Karl Popper; served on the editorial board of the journal *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*; and was the

author of dozens of publications in many languages, with several works in progress when he died. One of his last requests was for his laptop computer so he could continue that work.

## To learn more

Information about the 2020 honorees' achievements is at the BSAA website: [www.brightonalumni-rochester.org](http://www.brightonalumni-rochester.org). Videos from honorees are accessible at the new digital display at BHS (see page 5 for details).

Nominations for the 2021 BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame are now open and may be submitted through **December 15, 2020**.

The **BSAA** regrets to announce that "hall of famer" **Alan Shestack**, BHS'56, has died.

# New scholarship honors impact of two Brighton schools teachers

A new scholarship managed by the BSAA honors the memory of **Louise Thomas**, a sixth-grade teacher at 12 Corners Middle School, and **Elizabeth Hart**, an AP English and Critical Reading & Writing teacher at BHS.

“Miss Thomas instilled a lifelong understanding of, respect for and ability in grammar, punctuation and usage in her students, and Miss Hart’s influence on BHS students was a substantial contribution to a lasting standard of excellence in thinking and writing,” said **Ruth E. Thaler-Carter**, BHS’71, who launched the **Hart-Thomas Scholarship** as an annual award of \$1,000 to be presented through the BSAA.

The first recipient is **Victoria Malomo**, who plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh with a major in mathematics, and to receive a certificate in American Sign Language (ASL).

In recommending Malomo for the first Hart-Thomas Scholarship, the English department said, “Victoria is perhaps this semester’s most impressive leadership student. Her writing is excellent, she is always positive and she hasn’t missed a step since we left school (because of the coronavirus). An excellent choice!”

Thaler-Carter credits the Brighton school system in general, and these teachers in particular, with providing skills and confidence that have been key to her professional success as a writer, editor and proofreader.

“I had lots of good teachers in the Brighton system, but I use Miss Thomas’s training literally every day, and I still have all the papers I wrote for Miss Hart,” she said. “Her comments are a course in how to think and write clearly. She expected us to learn



the basics, but she also encouraged original approaches to assignments.”

That lasting effect is important to BHS. “It is truly amazing to experience the power that a teacher’s influence can have on our students years after they graduate from Brighton High School,” said BHS principal **Tom Hall**.

“As someone who has pursued a life-long career in science, I feel great gratitude to Miss Hart, not only for teaching me how to write clearly, but also for instilling the critical thinking skills that have been so valuable to me,” said BSAA president **Steve Gaudio**, BHS’63.

The award goes to a graduating BHS senior who has demonstrated initiative, originality, creativity, independence, critical reading and writing skills, and overall excellence in written materials.

“I’d like to see recognition for students who find their own paths,” said Thaler-Carter. As an example, she started her own literary magazine after being turned down for *Galaxy*, and earned her first freelance income by writing a column for the *Brighton-Pittsford Post* newspaper while at BHS.

“Victoria exemplifies what I had in mind for this award,” Thaler-Carter said. “Elements of her writing samples that stood out are:

“... many of the instances when I

have found myself growing and achieving, all happen when I push myself beyond what may be familiar to me. When we can take leaps of faith into the unknown and believe in our own abilities, that’s when we can really experience progress’;

“We don’t all have to feel pressured to follow a ‘cookie-cutter’ and identical path of life’; and

“I know how to adapt and pick right up where I left when things go off course. There are multiple paths to the final destination and sometimes it’s okay if I take a different course than I planned to.”

Malomo’s extracurricular activities include Model UN; the BHS orchestra (violin); sports (track and field); and leadership in the BHS chapter of Friends of Rachel, a national group that aims to “empower students to create and foster a school culture marked by kindness and compassion,” based on the writings and life of Rachel Scott, who was the first student killed at Columbine High School in 1999.

Malomo also has been a volunteer in Welcoming Services; the Mom, Baby unit; and the Book Cart at Highland Hospital and Strong Orthopedics through Friends of Highland and Friends of Strong, and is active in her church and the Christian Student Union at BHS.

The scholarship is a one-time award per recipient. To support the scholarship, send checks made out to the BSAA, with **Hart-Thomas Scholarship** in the memo line, to:

BSAA c/o BCSD  
2035 Monroe Avenue;  
Rochester, NY 14618

Donations are fully tax-deductible because the BSAA is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

# Scenes from the 2019 BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame Recognition Gala



BSAA vice president/treasurer *Maryjane Link '58* (above) congratulates 2019 BSAA Scholarship recipients *Nolanvit Belachew* and *Kristan Nall* (left and right).



The 2019 honorees: journalist *Tom Hamburger*, BHS'70; business and philanthropy leader *Bob Lambrix*, BHS'57; educator *Lynn Astarita Gatto*, BHS'70. Fellow honoree *Myron Flint Beal, MD*, BHS'68, was unable to attend in person but participated through video.



Vice principal *Mike Pincelli* (left) and principal *Tom Hall* (second from left) with students at BHS table.

*Jody Siegle*, Brighton Education Fund representative to the BSAA, and BSAA/BHS Alumni Hall of Fame member *Joe Klein*, BHS'68.

Students helped set up nametags and table decorations at the Recognition Gala.