

# Preston High School CAREER DAY

Friday, April 19. 2024



# Keynote Speakers

Patty Franco is a highly skilled executive coach with over 25 years of experience in coaching, training, talent management and leadership development. She knows what it takes for leaders in high pressure industries to thrive. Her approach to coaching is in-depth and personal. Her key strength is her ability to listen and establish a deep sense of trust and willingness to be vulnerable. This is what enables her to help leaders to go from surviving to thriving in both their careers and personal lives. Using the Energy Leadership and Positive Intelligence/Mental Fitness models, Patty reveals the areas that are preventing the client from achieving his or her goals. She uses assessment tools to help her clients identify the root cause of the habits and thought patterns that are interfering with success and satisfaction so they can develop the capability to navigate those patterns in ways that serve them better. Her unique background includes 15 years of experience in Human Resources functions for Fortune 500 organizations, combined with 10 years as an entrepreneur, trainer, facilitator, and coach. She serves on the Board of Directors for Girls Inc. Westchester and is very active in her local community.



**Patty  
Franco '91**



**Amy  
Soricelli  
RESOURCES**

Amy Soricelli has more than 40 years of experience in the fields of recruiting and career services. She joined Berkeley College in 2009 as Director, Alumni Placement. She was appointed Vice President, Career Services in April 2017. In this role, Ms. Soricelli oversees the Career Services department of 10 committed, and passionate career development professionals. Prior to joining Berkeley College, Ms. Soricelli was Account Manager at Taylor Grey, a staffing firm where her primary focus was the placement of administrative support in New York City, Connecticut, and Long Island. Ms. Soricelli served almost 14 years as Director of Placement at the Katharine Gibbs School. While there, she won the Top Placement Award for eight consecutive years. Amy, a lifelong Bronx resident has a B.A. in English from Herbert H. Lehman college as well as a Masters in Specialized services in Education (Guidance and Counseling) also from Lehman. Additionally, Amy was one of the recipients of the City and State Above and Beyond Award 3/2023.

Julia Gurdak has been involved in the education space for the entirety of career, starting as early as tutoring and working at a summer camp during high school. After graduation, she received her Bachelor's degree in Educational Studies and Biology from Vanderbilt University and a Master's Degree in Secondary Science Education from the University of Virginia. From there, she was hired to teach Biology at Discovery High School, another school in the Bronx. She spent four years teaching 9th and 11th grade biology and helped many of her students apply to college and jobs.



**Julia  
Gurdak**

Most recently, she began working at Level All, an online college- and career-readiness platform that provides students with the tools they need to be successful during and after high school. She works with schools and organizations all over the country to integrate the Level All platform and help her students be more successful. During our Career Fair, she will be showcasing how Level All can help Preston students make strides toward their college and career goals and helping them set up their accounts.

# Meet the Speakers

Stephany, 33, graduated from Preston High School in 2009 and received a B.S. in Psychology from Fordham University in 2013.

After working for a year as an operations specialist for an asset recovery firm in Midtown Manhattan, Stephany went on to attend law school part time and work full time, where she earned her J.D. from New York Law School in 2018. Stephany is currently part of the Broker Management Team at Two Sigma, a top global hedge fund. Stephany specializes in negotiating trade and financing agreements for both the multi-strategy registered investment adviser, as well as the institutional brokerage firm within Two Sigma. Prior to joining Two Sigma in 2021, Stephany was Vice President at Quadrangle Consulting, LP, where she was the lead negotiator of trade, financing, administrative and execution agreements for an array of investment advisers and other buy-side clients.

Stephany, a daughter of entrepreneurial immigrant parents, finds inspiration in her family, friends and traveling. Her advice to any Preston student is this: Do not be afraid to fail or ask questions, for success is no accident or measurable feature. It is a commitment to hard work, perseverance, sacrifice and loving what you do.



**Stephany  
Agovino '09**



**Alexandra  
Kensington  
Almeida**

Kensi Almeida is a second year Physician Assistant student at Pace University in Pleasantville. Kensi graduated in 2020 from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, Health and Society. Go Blue! After graduation, Kensi moved to Chicago to work as a Medical Assistant in a Dermatology practice where she gained many medical skills over a two-year span. Outside of her professional and academic commitments, Kensi actively participates in various volunteer initiatives, including mentoring high school and college students and instructing first aid courses for the Boy and Girl Scouts. These experiences have fueled her passion in education and mentorship, inspiring her to continue mentoring and guiding others in her career as a Physician Assistant. Some of her hobbies include going on hikes with her dog, snowboarding, and travelling/trying new foods.

Laura Andino is a proud Preston alumna (class of 2009) and an experienced Marketing Manager in the commercial real estate industry with over 9+ years of professional services marketing experience. Currently working at Avison Young - Philadelphia, she is responsible for developing and executing innovative internal and external marketing strategies that drive business growth, increase brand awareness, and enhance client engagement. She has a proven track record of delivering successful marketing campaigns for commercial real estate projects across multiple asset classes including industrial, retail, and mixed-use developments. Her expertise includes market research and analysis, branding and positioning, digital marketing, event management, and team development.



**Laura  
Andino '09**





**Dr. Meredith J.  
Aull P'24**

Dr. Meredith J Aull serves as the Director of Clinical Research and Quality and Associate Research Professor of Pharmacology in Surgery at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine Kidney & Pancreas Transplant Program. She obtained her B.S. in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees at St. John's University and then completed a transplant pharmacy residency at the University of Cincinnati. For the first 7 years of her career, she served as the transplant clinical pharmacist at the NYP/WC transplant program, before becoming a faculty member at Weill Cornell Medical College in 2008. Her professional role involves clinical trials, academia, database development, quality assessment/performance improvement, outcomes-based research, transplant regulations and clinical operations.

Mary Anne Aylward received her undergraduate BS from Saint John's University. She graduated from Bayley Seton Physician Assistant Program and received the Allied Health award. She began her career in Critical Care at Jacobi Hospital from 1990 to 1998. In 1998, Mary Anne was the Chief PA and course instructor for North Central Bronx's Critical Care Master's Program for PA's. At the completion of the program in 2000 she remained at North Central Bronx Hospital until 2013 as a critical care PA, as well as first assist in GI and Bronchoscopy procedures. Mary Anne served on many committees including Interprofessional committees for the ICU, Quality and Insurance for the Department of Medicine, and Morbidity and Mortality.

Ms. Aylward became a Clinical Coordinator and Assistant Professor from 2013 to September 2020 at Mercy College Physician Assistant Program. She served as the chair for the Physician Assistant IPE Committee and served on several committees including the curriculum and Accreditation Committees for the program.

In 2020 Ms. Alward left Mercy College and became the Director of Clinical Education at Pace Pleasantville Physician Assistant Program and Associate Professor. She is a member of the College of Health Professions Interprofessional Education task force and teaches in the didactic year to foster critical thinking and decision making.

In 2017 Mary Anne received her Master's degree in Physician Assistant studies from Touro University. Mary Anne was inducted into the Physician Assistant National Honor Society in 2022.



**Mary Anne  
Aylward P'25**





**Evelyn  
Bautista-Miller  
P'26**

Evelyn Bautista-Miller is a bilingual Certified Licensed Social Worker (LMSW) in education with an impressive career in social work spanning over two decades. From working as a supervisor in a New York City Foster Care Agency to working within the education sector as a pre-school program director for general and special education students to educating the next generation of social workers as an adjunct lecturer at the Columbia University School of Social Work, Mrs. Bautista-Miller's commitment to serving New York's most underserved and vulnerable populations is unwavering. A graduate of the State University of New York at Albany the Rockefeller School of Social Welfare, she earned both a Bachelor and Master's Degree in Social Work. Additionally, she attained her Educational Administration license at the Leadership Academy at (MCLA) Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and her bilingual certification from Touro College. She is a 2021 recipient of the PhD fellowship program in the Social Welfare Program at the Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York. In 2014, passionate about using her experience and education to serve her community, Mrs. Bautista-Miller founded Tender Steps of New York, Inc. (TSONY, Inc.). TSONY Inc. is a 501(C) non-profit organization located in Rockland County, New York whose mission is centered on providing direct services to individuals who are struggling with some aspect of their lives.

Madeline Bonsignore, a proud Bronx-ite, graduated from Preston High School in 2016. She went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from St. John's University with her Bachelors degree in Marketing in 2020 and again, a year later, with her MBA in Business Analytics. She currently works at Circana, one of the leading market research advisors, where she turns the complexity of consumer behavior into clarity through advanced data analytics. She was recently promoted to Client Development Manager based on her expertise of the athletic footwear and activewear apparel industry - collaborating directly with the top sportswear brands across the globe, such as adidas, Puma, ASICS, Under Armour, and more. In her spare time, she loves to cook, cuddle with her dog, and watch documentaries on Netflix! She is happy to return to Preston to educate young women about the world of marketing analytics.



**Madeline  
Bonsignore '16**



**Cassandra  
Boone P'27**

My name is Cassandra Boone, and I was born at Union Hospital here in the Bronx. I attended different elementary schools as a child. For high school I attended St Thomas Aquinas and for college Temple University. After college I became a Medical Assistant in which I worked in different specialties from Primary Care where I helped care for families, Cardiology where I focused on heart care, Gastroenterology where we focused on stomach and intestinal problems and Gynecology where we focused on women's health. I found my home in Urgent where I transitioned from the clinical aspect to administration as a Practice Manager for over 10 years at Throgs Neck Urgent Medical Care. In January of 2022 my partners and I opened LuxMed Urgent Care which is located at 3000 Eastchester Road here in the Bronx. The goal at LuxMed is to be able to provide health care experiences that patients don't often receive when going to the doctor's office. I encourage every Preston student to always follow their dreams even when the road may look difficult or even if you must walk the road alone. Sometimes you must go through obstacle courses and challenges to get to your dreams!!!

Christine Bowles (she/they) is a human resource professional with over 10 years of experience working in K-12 education, technology, and nonprofit organizations. Her areas of expertise include learning and development, organizational effectiveness, and performance management. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Boston College and is an Americorps alum.



**Christine  
Bowles**



**Elizabeth  
Brentano**

Elizabeth Brentano is a second year Physician Assistant student at Pace University in Pleasantville, NY. Elizabeth graduated in 2021 from Pace University with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science. During her time at Pace, she began volunteering at Pleasantville Ambulance Corps. as an EMT where she learned a variety of medical skills. Soon after joining the Ambulance Corps., she was asked to join the Board of Directors. This experience has helped her learn to be a leader, especially because she had the opportunity to mentor many new EMTs. After she started PA school, she ran for community outreach chair so she could continue to volunteer in her community and help others. Outside of school, her hobbies include pickleball, reading and traveling.

Rachel Brown serves as Director, Human Resources at GSUSA. Prior to GSUSA, Rachel spent the last 7 years in Banking at Signature Bank as a Human Resources Officer. Rachel has a strong background as a Human Resources Business Partner. She is a graduate of The Ursuline School and Sacred Heart University. She is a proud Girl Scout Gold Award recipient. On a personal note, Rachel resides in Westchester with her husband and her dog.



**Rachel  
Brown**



**Melissa  
Cebollero  
P'23 P'25**

Melissa Cebollero is the Associate Vice President for the Office of Community Affairs at Montefiore Einstein, a premier academic medical center and the University Hospital for the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York State. She is charged with the development and implementation of cross-county community engagement strategies that allow for an informed and participatory exchange between the health system and the communities it serves and that work to support and promote smart community health engagement addressing the social determinants of health working towards health equity.

Prior to joining Montefiore Einstein in 2015, Melissa served as the Director of Health & Human Services for the Office of the Bronx Borough President, helping to shape strategic health policy and engagement directly addressing the Bronx's last place in health designation, or 62 out of the 62 counties in New York state. There she helped found several community-based social impact initiatives like #Not62 Campaign for a Healthy Bronx, the Bronx Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign, known as Bronx DiVA, and the Bronx Food & Farm Tours. These initiatives are still operational today, continuing to provide education and engagement to community members

Hi, I'm Jillian DeLuna with over ten years' experience with the NYPD, growth and the urge to impact my community more has truly been some of the motivating pillars that have navigated me to such a career full of fruitful developments. Impacting my community is what ignited my intrigue in the NYPD back in 2012 as a School Safety Agent. Being able to help develop our future and steer the ones that need guidance was something that warmed my heart. So much so that I wanted to broaden my impact to outside the school system. Leading my decision to attain the Police Officer rank via promotion. While in the role of Police Officer, I capitalized on the fact that I could influence many more people. Often setting up and participating in jurisdictional events such as coat drives, community holiday parties, and safety speeches at schools. This was very fulfilling to me and made me feel wholesome. This led to me becoming a neighborhood coordination Officer. I envision a community invested game plan, day in and day out. One that my voice will be heard and the impact will be widespread. I am also a Mother of two children. I have received my education at Monroe College, Majoring in Accounting and a minor in psychology.



**Jillian  
DeLuna P'27**





**Marissa  
Denner '16**

I began my career in health care four years ago as a nurse's aide at Albany Medical Center. I then obtained my Associate's Degree of Science in Nursing in 2022. After passing my boards, I accepted a position as an Adult Emergency/ Trauma Registered Nurse. I am an active member of my department's Trauma, Resuscitation and Education committee. Part of my professional goal is keeping my BLS, ACLS, PALS, and TNCC certification current as well as being up to date on medical advancements and new research through continuing education in order to provide the best care for my patients. I am currently earning my Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing. In addition to my professional work experience, my academic background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Health Science and a minor in Psychology as well as my ADN. Every job has it's own set of challenges however I can honestly say I love what I do.

Michevi is a Bronx native who took a liking to civil engineering on a Discovery Day trip to the Brooklyn Bridge in 2014. She graduated from Preston in 2016, then went on to study civil engineering at Manhattan College. While at Manhattan College, Michevi was exposed to several other engineering disciplines, but ultimately found great joy playing in the soil and mud while building foundations. After graduating Manhattan in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Michevi started full time at Keller North America working on construction sites. She is eager to share her experiences with you!



**Michevi  
Dufflart '16**



**Amanda  
Farias '07**

Amanda Farias is the Majority Leader of the City Council and is in her second term as the Council Member for the 18th District, representing the neighborhoods of Castle Hill, Clason Point, Harding Park, Parkchester, Unionport, Soundview, and Westchester Square. Farias is the first Latina to serve in this role and marks the first time the top leadership positions of the New York City Council will all be held by women, all of whom are women of color. Majority Leader Farias is also the Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and the first woman, Bronxite, and Latinx person to serve as Chair. As Chair, she has passed important legislation to create a citywide plan for industrial development, provide discounted ferry fares for high school students, codify the NYC ferry discount program, and more. Amanda is a lifelong Bronxite, born and raised in Soundview as a second-generation Afro-Latina of Puerto Rican and Dominican descent. She is a graduate of Preston High School and St. John's University with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics and Master of Arts in Public Administration, where her passion for community service, activism, and empowerment began. Council Member Farias has been recognized by City and State's "Power 100: Women," "Power 100: Economic Development", "Power 100: The Bronx", and PoliticsNY "Power Players Rising."

AnnaRose always knew she wanted to help others. During her high school career, she was a part of the Compassion Connection Club, Preston Players, the Garden Club and the Volleyball Team. AnnaRose completed her Bachelors of Social Work in 2019; as well as the accelerated Master's degree program of Social Work at The College of Saint Rose in 2020. She was very active within the St. Rose Community and is most proud of initiating a continuing tradition the "Sleep Out St. Rose" event, which raised awareness and donations for those facing housing insecurity, after being inspired by the "Cardboard City" event she participated in with Compassion Connection.



**AnnaRose  
Fragale '15**

AnnaRose completed internships at both an elementary school and rehabilitation facility in Schenectady, NY. It was at Sunnyview Acute Rehab that she found her passion for medical social work where she assisted amputee/stroke/TBI patients and decided to continue her career in that field. After receiving her LMSW in November 2020, she began her position as a Social Worker at Montefiore Medical Center in January 2021 and eventually transitioned into the Oncology unit in November 2022 after working on the medicine units. AnnaRose currently works as an inpatient oncology social worker serving BMT/Hematology patients with Leukemia and Lymphoma/Multiple Myeloma and is currently working on receiving her LCSW as well as her OSW-C this year.



**Myisha  
Frazier '95**

Myisha has over 20 years of innovative change with a focus in identity, leading cross Government initiatives and Identity Organizations in the Federal Civilian, Department of Defense and Financial Services sectors. With a focus on Identity Management Policy and industry best practices I have helped craft, manage and lead programs to effectively secure networks. She is currently the Global Director of Identity and Access Management for Deloitte, working with IAM product owners develop and execute strategies for adoption, alignment with firm standards, policies and industry best practices. Prior to her stint at Deloitte she ran the Public Key Infrastructure program for the Joint Service Provider within the Department of Defense providing Identity Management support to Headquarters elements of the Department to include the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense and Headquarter Department of the Army among others. She led the Federal Government's first Identity Federation under President Bush's Presidential Management Initiative called E-Authentication and established the go to market strategy as Vice President for Citigroup Managed Identity Services.

As a proud Preston Alum, Myisha continued her education at Cornell University with a BS in Policy Analysis. Her two children and two furbabies take up much of her spare time along with outdoor activities like skiing, kayaking, hiking and travel

Sydney Freay is a clinical year Physician Assistant student from Pace University, Pleasantville. She graduated from Moravian University in May of 2022, where she studied Health Science and Public Health. Sydney always knew she wanted to give back to her community and that she enjoyed science and math, which is what lead her to pursue a career as a PA. Before PA school, Sydney worked as a Pharmacy Technician and rehabilitation aide to gain patient care hours. Outside of the classroom Sydney enjoys reading, spending time with friends, and going to the beach.



**Sydney  
Freay**



**Alyssa  
Garcia '16**

Alyssa Garcia (she/her) serves as the Coordinator, Talent and Culture at GSUSA. She holds a bachelor's degree from Iona University in Psychology and Sociology and is currently pursuing her master's degree at her alma mater in Industrial Organizational Psychology. Alyssa is a graduate of Preston High School from the class of 2016 and has over 3 years of experience in the human resource field.

After graduating from Preston High School in 2010, Amanda initially pursued a pre-law track before discovering her passion for public speaking and creating opportunities for young women to excel in the corporate world. This led her to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Manhattan College in the Bronx, NY.

Beginning her corporate career as a digital marketing coordinator, her drive to empower women in a predominantly male-dominated industry propelled her through various roles, from client services to sales, always aspiring to leadership and personal growth.

With over a decade of experience in digital advertising, she has specialized in e-commerce, notably focusing on Amazon for the past six years. As the current VP of Customer Strategy at Quartile, she leads a team of 40 individuals in account management, driven by her enthusiasm for both mentorship and operational responsibilities such as establishing processes and structure.

Her dedication and the challenges she has encountered throughout her career journey demonstrate her commitment to overcoming barriers and fostering diversity in the corporate world, serving as an inspiration for others to pursue their goals with perseverance and resilience.



**Amanda  
Gomez '10**





**Megan  
Holz '08**

Megan Holz, R.A. is a Senior Project Architect at H2M architect + engineers with 11 years of experience. Currently, she is working with Gold Coast Public Library to build their new library, which is estimated at over \$8 million in construction. As Project Architect, she manages the architectural team and coordinates all efforts with civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineers. Throughout the course of her career, she has worked with multiple school districts to help them achieve bonds, surpassing \$82 million worth of construction. One project she is looking forward to is the design and construction of a new elementary school building with Wyandanch Union Free School District. Megan graduated from New York Institute of Technology in 2013 with her 5-year degree in a Bachelor of Architecture. In 2021, she received her Registered Architects License. Her greatest achievement in life is being a mother to her son. By working part time at her firm, she is able to achieve her career goals and enjoy quality time with her family.

Stephanie Marie Jennings is a Preston Alum and graduate of St. John's University, where she developed her passion for storytelling and visual media. Since then she has made her way as a Production Assistant, to Production Coordinator and is currently a Freelance Associate Producer for various productions such as Fashion Shows, Branded Production, Music Videos, and Narrative and Documentary Production. Stephanie has also co-founded 1st Films LLC, a production company that specializes in creating original and diverse content for digital platforms and film festivals. As a Freelance Associate Producer and Co-founder of 1st Films, she has been involved in all aspects of production, from pre-production to post-production, managing budgets, schedules, crews, locations, equipment, and talent. Stephanie is motivated by the opportunity to collaborate with talented and diverse professionals. She enjoys contributing to the creation of impactful and engaging stories that reflect the voices and experiences of underrepresented communities. Stephanie's credits include Sprite/Televisa Univision's, "Celebrating 50 Years of Hip Hop", Coach, Meg thee Stallion, JCPenney, and Barack Obama's, "Working What We Do All Day."



**Stephanie  
Jennings '15**



**Marie  
Jimenez**

Marie Jimenez is the author of the books *Seven Essential Tips for Every Child and Teen* and *Personal Finance for Teens*. Her passion lies in helping young people build their confidence, gain essential life skills, and boost their financial literacy, so they can enter adulthood with the knowledge that they can stand on their own two feet.

Marie is a proud, retired member of the NYPD. Her many interactions with people of all ages and walks of life led to a profound realization that who we become as adults is intricately tied to the skills we learn in our childhood and teens. She has witnessed how a positive mindset enables children and youths who have had to face immense life challenges to still believe in themselves, commit to improvement, and work hard for their goals. She has also seen the many mistakes that youths can make when they lack basic financial literacy skills. Marie believes in the power of helping teens discover their values, so they can lead more meaningful lives. It is only when you find your authentic motivation that you can commit to your goals, and her aim in her books is to help teens feel passionate about building a better, brighter future—personally, professionally, and financially.

Patty is a businesswoman with a creative flair. After completing her studies at Fordham University, Patty launched her career as a Certified Public Accountant at a Big 4 accounting firm in New York City. Throughout her journey in the business world, there was one thing that she could not get off of her mind...her passion for baking!

Patty came up with the idea to start Patty Pops in Ms. Connolly's Preston high school economics course in 2008! She was asked to start a hypothetical business, and decided to create a lollipop business, hence the name "Patty Pops". When she began college in 2009, she decided to kick off the business part-time, and it was a success! Over the years, she then expanded her product lines to include additional specialty desserts like cakes, cupcakes, and chocolate covered treats as trends & demand for other products grew.

Patty is now a full-time baker and the proud owner of Patty Pops Inc., located in Westchester, NY. She and her team of female & dessert designers offer specialty cake pops & desserts that are distributed nationwide.

This past summer, Patty became the official cake pop distributor for the Malibu Barbie cafe, where she collaborated with the Bucket Listers to provide custom Barbie themed cake pops. During the 2023 holiday season, Patty & her team took home the 1st place prize at the Gingerbread NYC Great Borough Bake-Off at the Museum of the City of New York, where she represented her Bronx hometown by paying homage to the 50 years of Hip-Hop anniversary. The win was featured in Time Out, the New York Post, the NY Times, NY1, Pix11, News12, and major international news outlets.



**Petroula  
Lambrou '09**



**Julia  
Macrino  
CCS-SLP '15**

I am a Medical Speech Language Pathologist working in a skilled nursing facility in the Bronx, NY. Where I am is nowhere close to where I thought I would be, as I thought I would be a school based SLP working with children on the autism spectrum and with speech and language deficits. The journey to get to where I am now was long and tough and I'm still learning more information every single day in regards to the field I'm in and about myself as a person and clinician. Although my job is extremely taxing and hands on I have learned how important time management is and taking time off to relax and maintain my own mental health is. Working in a facility with patients who are so medically complex is such a challenge but if you are strong willed and determined you can accomplish anything you may set your mind to.

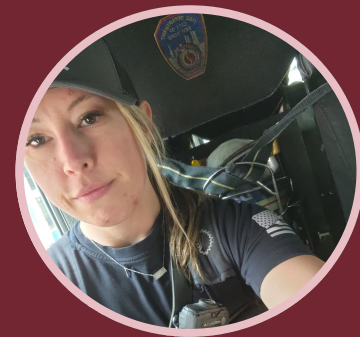
A Bronx native and 2013 Preston graduate, I continued my undergraduate studies at Fordham University, earning a BS, majoring in Biological Science and double minoring in Bioethics and Psychology. Immediately following graduation, I pursued an MA in Ethics and Society which I earned in August of 2018. Following this, I completed credits towards an MS in Biological Science at New York Medical College before transferring to the College of Mount Saint Vincent for my second degree Accelerated Bachelors of Nursing, which I earned in December 2022. Currently, I work as a pediatric registered nurse at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore where I am also a member of the Unit Practice Committee. In January 2024, I started a hybrid MSN program in Healthcare Organizational Nurse Leadership at Iona University.



**Theresa  
Mandile '13**



My name is Erica Mazurkiewicz, I graduated from the class of 2010! I was born and raised in the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx. I went on to receive my first degree from John Jay as my dream job was to be a police officer. While waiting for the next steps for NYPD, I got a second degree in Forensic Accounting. At the time I took every civil service exam offered. I landed in the FDNY as one of currently 161 women on the fire side! November 2019 I was sworn in at the age of 28 and was assigned to Engine 68 on Ogden Ave by Yankee Stadium. I started my career at the height of COVID adding additional challenges to the heavily male dominated field. After 4 years I'm still excited to go to work, it is the best decision I made. I can't say enough good things about the department. In my free time I spend my days snowboarding or at the gym to stay in shape. Currently I am looking to further my career by going to a specialized unit.



**Erica  
Mazurkiewicz  
'10**



**Stephanie  
Mozzone '10**

Stephanie Mozzone is a proud Preston alumna from the class of 2010, who is now a proud Preston teacher. After graduating from Preston, she completed her undergraduate studies at LIU Post. She graduated with her Bachelor's in Education, with a concentration in Foreign Languages (specifically Italian and Spanish). From there, she taught 7th and 8th Grade Italian in Glen Cove, NY. She then spent the next five years teaching Spanish to students in Pre-k through 8th grade in Rye, NY and Scarsdale, NY. She finally made her way back to Preston in the 2020-2021 school year. She began teaching 9th and 10th Grade Spanish. She obtained her Master's Degree in Literacy, and has also been teaching English to 9th graders for the past two years. Ms. Mozzone also teaches Italian to 7th Grade students in the summer as part of Preston's Project PREP program, as well as English as part of the TACHS prep program in the fall. To say she loves teaching is an understatement!

Catrina graduated from Preston in 2009 and went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from Villanova University in 2013, majoring in Sociology and Criminal Justice. Her first professional role out of college was in advertising sales at a major TV network in NYC, where she gained valuable experience working in an office environment, and learned the importance of networking, advocating for yourself, and finding great mentors. Since 2018, she has been working at Danone North America based in White Plains, NY, helping to grow well-known food and beverage brands in the yogurt, coffee creamer, plant-based milk, and baby food categories (some of our brands include Dannon, Oikos, Light & Fit, Activia, Danimals, International Delight, Silk, Happy Family, and more!). At Danone, Catrina has held several roles across the marketing, sales, and business strategy departments. Her current role focuses on consumer and shopper research in the eCommerce space.



**Catrina  
Muffoletto '09**

Catrina currently lives in Thornwood, NY with her husband, Jimmy. Her favorite things are spending time with friends and family (especially her nieces and nephews!), traveling, yoga, and learning to speak new languages!





**Michelle Manzo**  
**Muffoletto '09**

Michele, 32, graduated PHS 2009, Bachelors in Childhood Education with a concentration in math, Masters in Educational Technology, currently working in Tech Sales. Success isn't linear and neither is growth. When I chose to go to Pace University in 2009 I thought I'd be a teacher forever. And when I graduated Pace after my masters in 2014 I thought I'd ultimately become a Tech Director. Sales was never in my plan but it's in my "now". I was a Computer teacher right out of Grad school, a classroom teacher in 2016, then switched careers to work in Tech in 2017. I've been with the same company for 7 years. I was a Data Engineer, starting the data department, as the department grew I entered management in 2021. When I came back from my second maternity leave I joined the Sales Department in 2023. And I'll probably change careers again at some point. I think it's important to trust the process, do what makes you happy and be open to opportunity. The choices you make now affect you now and later but there's always a chance to pivot, it's never the end.

With a passion for transforming hair into works of art, Christanie has been a seasoned hairdresser for seven years. What started as a love for the art of hairstyling has blossomed into a thriving entrepreneurial venture, as she now proudly owns and operates the salon portion of Oasis of Beauty Spa and Salon. Christanie attended the Aveda Institute of New York in the fall of 2016, briefly after graduating from Preston High School.

As a professional for almost 10 years, I'm happy to say that I'm still very invested in my craft, and wouldn't change my decision of obtaining my Cosmetology License for anything. As well as doing hair, I also have a day job where I act as Media Coordinator to a local Charter School in the Bronx. Managing two careers can be hard, but super rewarding. Without these decisions, I wouldn't be the woman I am today.



**Christanie**  
**Navatta '16**

Kristine Neidig, a 2002 graduate of Preston High School, received a scholarship to Fordham University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Journalism with a minor in Psychology. After initially venturing into customer service and sales, she found her true calling in the technology sector.

In 2008, Kristine joined DAG Tech, a growing IT Services firm. Starting with sales and marketing, she played a crucial role in expanding the company's operations. Over the years, her responsibilities evolved to include procuring tech licensing, managing operational processes, and overseeing accounts. Today, she holds the position of Director of Accounts, contributing over 25 years of dedicated support to technology.

Kristine is passionate about promoting women in STEM and hopes her extensive experience in technology will pave the way for future generations. Alongside her professional pursuits, she homeschools her 11-year-old, engages in various hobbies, practices sustainability, and runs a small passion project business. Kristine is committed to spreading positivity and fostering a love for technology in the years to come.



**Kristine**  
**Neidig '02**

Rebecca Nieves is the Deputy Chief of Staff for New York City Council Majority Leader Amanda Farías. She lives in Pelham Bay in the Bronx where she was born and raised. Rebecca's passion for advocacy and love for her community has led her to a career in local politics and government.

She began as an intern in 2017 on the Amanda Farías for City Council campaign where she ran a robust field operation for the campaign. She briefly served as a Grant Writer for a tech nonprofit and then went on to serve as the Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Harvey Epstein. In the State Assembly, she helped to pass the 2019 Housing Stability and Tenant Protections Act and helped expand access to reproductive health across New York State universities. As the Deputy Chief of Staff, she has led on comprehensive legislative packages focused on menstrual equity, discounted ferry tickets, economic opportunity for rideshare drivers, and more. She currently serves as a Judicial Delegate for the Bronx Democratic party and sits on the board of the Chippewa Democratic Club.



Rebecca  
Nieves '12

Andrea M. Montalvo, RN, CPN, BSN is a certified pediatric registered nurse committed to the care of children and their families. She is a proud graduate of Preston High School's class of 1991 at which time she was known by her maiden name, Andrea M. Pagan.

After graduation she went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Mercy University. Since obtaining her nursing degree, Ms. Montalvo has worked at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore. She has always been a pediatric RN with her career beginning on the inpatient unit providing direct patient care and later served as a liaison between the medical and nursing staff.

With a keen understanding of the value of education, she served as a clinical preceptor and pediatric residency program educator. She later transferred to the department of pediatric gastroenterology and liver transplant. Her current role is the charge nurse and patient care coordinator for the pediatric procedure area supporting all pediatric specialty patients undergoing anesthesia.

Throughout her nursing career she has received many awards and acknowledgments and has appeared in both Nursing Spectrum and Advance for Nurses Magazines. In addition to 24 years in nursing, she has been training patients, families, and medical personal for over 15 years giving talks on enteral feeding, central line care and new associate orientation/preceptorship. She has also proudly served on the front line of medicine during the height of the pandemic. Ms. Montalvo is extremely excited and honored to return to her alma mater for Career Day 2024.



Andrea Pagan  
Montalvo '91

DeLeassa Penland is a Special Agent for the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York. For the past nine years, she has investigated and assisted in the prosecution of cases involving public corruption, fraud, and other federal crimes. In 2018, Special Agent Penland led one of the most complex and far-reaching public corruption investigations in recent memory, resulting in the conviction of 8 individuals engaged in bribery and fraud at the highest levels of New York State government. Several of those convictions were appealed and heard by the United States Supreme Court. In 2019 and 2020, Penland assisted in the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of Michael Avenatti related to fraud and extortion.

In the last few years, Penland has focused on victim related federal crimes which have included investigating and charging the following: a prominent pain management doctor for sexually abusing his patients, an individual for defrauding a non-profit organization that provided assistance to families of fallen NYPD officers, and multiple individuals related to elder fraud scams. In 2019, Penland was awarded the Outstanding Federal Law Enforcement Award by the Women in Federal Law Enforcement organization and the Investigator of the Year Award by the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation.



**DeLeassa  
Penland P'27**



**Adriana  
Perez '10**

Adriana Perez received her Associates in Baking & Pastry and Bachelors in Restaurant, Food & Beverage Management from Johnson & Wales University, as well as her Masters in Food Studies from New York University. Prior to that, Adriana was a Preston Panther, graduating in 2010.

Adriana has a lifelong interest in all things food and a core belief that not only should healthy, sustainable & culturally relevant food be available to every community, but that every community should be educated about their food - where their food came from, how to prepare it and how to have a balanced relationship with food. Her dedication to increasing understanding and empowerment around food has led her career towards education & community organizing. She is currently the Community Program Manager for Project EATS, connecting NYC residents to farms through special events, after school classes, art workshops and training programs.

In her spare time she enjoys any activity she can do outdoors, playing volleyball, exploring ceramics, and snuggling her dog.

Khamini Persaud P.E. ('13) is a consultant environmental engineer with WSP USA. During her years at Preston, she gained a deep love for the sciences and has carried that through to her professional life. In her current role as a licensed professional engineer, she specializes in air quality and greenhouse gas analyses across public and private sectors. In her free time, she enjoys knitting, gardening, and playing with her cats.



**Khamini  
Persaud '13**





**Adina  
Rivera '14**

Adina Rivera is a Water/Wastewater EIT Young Professional at HDR with over five years of experience in various roles. Her expertise includes developing approaches to minimize the effects of environmental impacts of proposed construction projects, water quality testing and analysis as well design and design services during construction. She is a Manhattan College alumnus with a 2019 BS in Civil Engineering and Minor in Environmental Engineering & Mathematics and 2020 Masters of Engineering in Environmental Engineering. Adina currently serves as a Membership Coordinator on the Board of NYWEA's Young Professional's Metropolitan Chapter. Most notably, as part of the UN 2023 Water Conference, on March 21st in NYC, Adina spoke as part of the Gender & Youth Hub with the WaterWoman Project to an audience full of our next-generation water workforce to educate and inspire them on how to turn climate action into a career in water.

Dr. Tiffany Rodriguez is a licensed clinical psychologist who works as the supervising psychologist for inpatient psychiatric services at Jacobi medical Center, a NYC public hospital in the Bronx. In that role, she conducts psychiatric evaluations and provides individual and group therapy to patients who are admitted to the hospital for psychiatric treatment. Dr. Rodriguez is also a mental health consultant for the Stand Up to Violence (SUV) program which works to minimize gun violence in the Bronx. Dr. Rodriguez has a part time private practice in which she provides psychotherapy to clients with varying diagnoses. Lastly, she does pro bono work completing psychological evaluations for asylum seekers that can be presented to support their asylum cases in immigration court.

Dr. Rodriguez is a Preston alum, Class of 2002!



**Tiffany  
Rodriguez '02**



**Elaina  
Blasone-  
Salcedo '12**

Elaina Salcedo is a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner who specializes in General Oncology. Elaina graduated from Preston High School in 2012, and went on to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. She received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at CMSV in 2016 and 2022, respectively. Elaina began her career in 2017 as a Registered Nurse at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where she worked on an inpatient unit which focused on Medical and Surgical Urology and Thoracic Medicine. In July 2023 she began working as a Nurse Practitioner at the White Plains Hospital Cancer Center where she works with patients with all types of cancer diagnoses, caring for them throughout their treatment courses. In her free time, Elaina still works per diem at MSK as an RN and helps to train new nursing staff as a preceptor.

Alexis Salkey '14, is a director, producer, and marketing strategist based in New York City who aims to tell diverse stories across film, media, advertising and television that focus on the human experience through a multicultural lens. Her business background in conjunction with her creative pursuits truly define where creativity and strategy meet. Alexis currently serves as a Production Management Associate for the Live Production and Entertainment team at the National Basketball Association (NBA) supporting the execution of live events such as the In Season Tournament and All Star Weekend. She formerly was a Production Coordinator at BET Networks assisting the end to end production of News programs across the network and strategizing with marketing, and social leads to promote the broadcasts. After graduating from Preston High School in 2014, she attended the State University of New York College at Oswego where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and pursued a Master of Science degree at New York University in Integrated Marketing and Management. Alexis is currently working on two short films under her production company, Tallawah Films.



Alexis  
Salkey '14



Mia  
Selvaggio

Mia Selvaggio's journey in the social media realm began over a decade ago, driven by her passion for connecting people and businesses in meaningful ways. With a sharp focus on the hospitality sector, she founded The Amici Group, recognizing the pivotal role social media plays in shaping the success of restaurants and food brands.

As a female entrepreneur, Mia embodies resilience and determination, carving out her path in a competitive industry. Her unwavering dedication to her craft has propelled her agency to the forefront of the digital marketing landscape, where she continues to innovate and inspire.

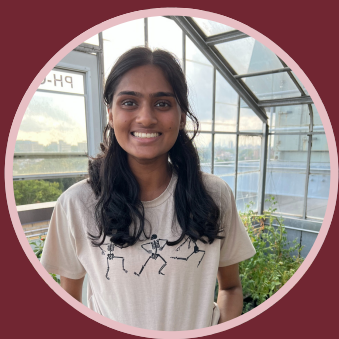
Through strategic collaborations with renowned establishments like Hal's New York and Botticelli Foods, Mia has solidified her reputation as a trusted partner in driving business growth through social media. Her hands-on approach and intimate understanding of the industry's nuances allow her to craft tailor-made solutions that resonate with her clients' audiences.

With Mia Selvaggio at the helm, The Amici Group is not just a business; it's a beacon of creativity and excellence, empowering businesses to thrive in the dynamic world of social media.

Janine graduated from Fairfield University's nursing program with her BSN in 2007. She worked as an inpatient RN on the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology unit at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) for 7 years. She graduated from Columbia University in 2013 with her Masters in Nursing and got her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner license. She was the outpatient Pediatric Sarcoma Nurse Practitioner at CHAM until 2015 when she moved to her current role as Sick Cell Research Nurse Practitioner. She resides in the Bronx with her husband and two young boys.



Janine  
Shaver '03



**Desiree  
Sukhram '16**

Des graduated from Preston High School in 2016, after which she attended St. John's University in Queens, NY. She majored in Biology and interned in Pharmaceutical and Microbiology labs where she developed an interest in research. She completed the 5-Year Program, earning a Bachelor's and a Master's in Biology. During the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic she was a Living Environment and Anatomy/Physiology teacher here at Preston. Des is currently a PhD candidate at St. John's (Class of 2027) where she is developing genetically altered bacteria that can be used to detect environmental toxins and rapidly diagnose diseases such as viral infections or cancers. She also teaches Microbiology labs and mentors aspiring Synthetic Biologists in her lab.

Elisa Toapha is a third grade teacher at St. Clare of Assisi - St. Francis Xavier Elementary School, in the Morris Park section of the Bronx. Having been a Catholic School student herself, she was drawn to the close-knit family environment, and the ability to share her faith with all her students. With almost twenty years experience in the classroom, Elisa has seen many transformations in the field of education, and continues to grow her educational vision by currently working to attain a degree in Administration and Supervision with Fordham University. Elisa began her studies attending SUNY New Paltz receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Adolescent Education, and went on to attain her Master's Degree in Elementary Education with Mercy University. She currently has her professional teaching certification in elementary grades 1-6. She began her career as a seventh through tenth grade public school Spanish teacher. She is now teaching in her 16th year at SCA - SFX. Over the years she has taught fourth through eighth grades, but has found her heart to be in the third grade classroom. In Elisa's career she has received the Dyson Family Foundation Scholarship for Educators and the FIAME Teaching Excellence Award. One of the many things Elisa loves about being a teacher is when her students come back to visit, tell her where their lives have taken them, and the influence she had on them. Elisa is a strong believer in collaboration, compassion, and creativity. A short quote to describe Elisa's role in the classroom is, "The best teacher teaches from the heart, not from the book."



**Elisa  
Toapha  
P'27**





**Eugenia  
Wolovich '10**

Eugenia Wolovich is the History Department Chair at Preston High School and a Preston Alumna, class of 2010. Prior to her work at Preston, she received her BA and Masters in History from Hunter College, CUNY. At Hunter, Ms. Wolovich took an array of courses from Early Rebellion in U.S. History to Urban Anthropology of American Cities, with a concentration in World War II and Holocaust Studies. Her interest in these subjects and in education overall first developed while working at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in the Education Department, partnering with middle schools over the tristate area to bring the history of the Holocaust from the museum setting and into the classroom. Her love of history and learning came earlier than that; it developed in Preston's very own mansion - in room 4 - with her AP United States History teacher, Mrs. Mierzwa. To love History is to love consuming knowledge and to eagerly debate. To debate, you must understand all sides of the argument, even ones you disagree with. This is what history is; understanding all elements of the past to create a better future. At Preston, Ms. Wolovich teaches United States History & Government Regents Level and Honors Level (in partnership with SUNY Albany), Advanced Placement United States History, Economics & Government, History of Women and Public Policy (both courses in partnership with SUNY Albany).