



## HAPPY 30TH to the BERLIN BRATS!

Let's  
see  
what  
the  
NEXT  
thirty  
years  
bring!!



Our first reunion was in 1986 in Virginia Beach, VA.

It all started with the '69-'70 cheer squad, who had 200 names on a yellow legal pad (pre-internet days!).

From there, we have grown to an Alumni Association with a database, newsletters, annual regionals, cyclical Reunions, and scholarship awards!

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# Atlanta area all-DoDDs



## BERLIN IN THE HOUSE!!!

Thirty Berlin Brats from the classes of 1988-1993 attended the Atlanta reunion weekend, June 23-26. The fun included a picnic, parties, and a t-shirt and goody bag -- and even better, great reconnections with classmates!

TOP: Berlin Brats show their school spirit in newly-designed tees!  
LEFT MIDDLE: Ken Magee '88 photo bombs his own photo.



MIDDLE RIGHT: Front row: Shannon Teasley '88, Kogie (Johnson) Porter '88, and Michelle (Brown) Floyd '89. Second row: Lynette Purdy '90, Adrienne Mitchell '88, Erica (Riddick) Benison '88, Monique Haddock '87, Felicia (Phillips) Hayes '88, Valerie Robbins '89, Jackie (Bryant) Colon '91, and Orlando Colon '93.

Also pictured in photos on this page are James Benson '88, Selina Brown, Tyrone Benson, Dannette Brown, and Terri Greer.



## BRAT GET-TOGETHER

Richard Black '72, traveled to Washington, DC, to pay his respects to his mother and father while visiting Arlington Cemetery over the Memorial Day weekend. While he was in the area he spent time with former classmates Renate (Kowalski) Goodloe and Joyce (Clark) Mallon.

Joyce and Richard also caught up with Gerard "Jerry" Harmes '71, and his wife, Janet, at their home in Annandale for coffee and pastries.

Renate spoiled Richard with home-cooked meals while Joyce guided him through Smithsonian museums, accompanied him to Arlington Cemetery, and fed him Chinese food because there was no time to cook! "It was a great visit, but far too short," says Joyce.



The three amigos.... Jerry, Joyce, and Richard.

The buds....



Richard Black '72, Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72, Renate (Kowalski) Goodloe '72 and her husband Pete, in Annandale.





# Why are high school memories burned

*Trapped in a holding pen of teenagers brimming with hormones,*

by Frank T McAndrew  
(sent by Mr. O'Neill, FAC '62-'65)

For better or worse, many of us never forget high school: the unrequited romantic crushes, chronic embarrassment, desperate struggles for popularity, sexual awakening, parental pressure and, above all else, competition – social, athletic, academic.

There's even an entire genre of entertainment that revolves around high school. *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Mean Girls*, *Heathers*, *The Breakfast Club*, and *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* all revisit the conflict and angst of these years.

What is it about this period of our lives that makes it seem more meaningful and memorable than any other?

My research experience as an evolutionary psychologist leads me to believe that many factors interact to make our teenage memories so vivid. But the main driver is the collision between the hardwiring of our brains that took place across several million of years of evolution and the odd social bubble created by high school, which poses an unprecedented social challenge to our prehistoric minds.

In other words, the world that we evolved to be successful in (a small, stable group of interrelated people of various ages) is very different from the holding pen full of teenagers brimming with hormones that populate our world during the high school years.

Some look back on high school as the best time of their life and pine for those "good old days."

Whether or not this was actually the case, it turns out there may have been some evolutionary

advantages to having a rosy view of the past.

But most of us remember high school with an emotional mixture of longing, regret, joy, and embarrassment. And strong emotions equal strong memories; even the music from those years gets imprinted on our brain like nothing that comes later.

Memory researchers have, in fact, identified something called "the reminiscence bump," which

**"Our strongest memories come from things that happened to us between the ages of ten and 30."**

shows that our strongest memories come from things that happened to us between the ages of ten and 30.

What is it about this time of life that makes it stand out from the rest of our years? Part of it is undoubtedly due to changes in the brain's sensitivity to certain types of information during adolescence. Emotions signal the brain that important events are happening, and the teen years are chock full of important social feedback about one's skills, attractiveness, status and desirability as a mate. This is precisely the stuff we need to pay attention to in order to successfully

play the cards we have been dealt and to become socially and reproductively successful.

Memory research may offer hints about why the mental snapshots of our high school years remain so vivid even decades later. But evolutionary psychology can also help explain why so much meaning is attached to these years and why they play such an important role in who we become.

For example, there's a reason teenagers often strive to be popular. As far as scientists can tell, our prehistoric forebears lived in relatively small groups. Most people would live out their entire life in this group, and one's social standing within it was determined during adolescence. How much one was admired as a warrior or hunter, how desirable one was perceived to be as a mate, and how much trust and esteem was accorded to one by others – all of this was sorted out in young adulthood. A person deemed to be a loser at 18 was unlikely to rise to a position of prominence at 40. Thus, from an evolutionary perspective, the competition of the teen years had lifelong repercussions.

Of course, today, those who have unsavory high school experiences can move to new places after graduation and start over. However, even though we may be consciously aware of this (to the extent that we are consciously aware of anything when we are teenagers), the psychological buttons that get pushed in the adolescent brain make us become consumed with our social lives during this period.

Popularity can become an obses-

# into our brains?

*we experience emotions so strong they monopolize our recollections*

sion, since you'll be ranked against the people in your own age cohort for the rest of your life. After all, your status as an adult primarily depends upon how you stack up compared with them, not with others.

Also, strong pressures to conform ensure that you do not stray too far from a friend group's values. Ostracism from the group in prehistoric times was tantamount to a death sentence.

It all requires forging alliances and demonstrating loyalty to others. The result is a splintering of the social world into competing cliques that grind each other up in the gears of the social hierarchy.

Back home, conflict with parents is usually inevitable. Parents want their children to succeed, but they usually have a more long-term perspective than that of their teen. So the things that the parent thinks that the child should be concerned with (preparing for a career and developing important life skills) and the things that the child is emotionally driven to actually be concerned with (being popular and having fun) are often at odds. Parents usually realize where the parent-offspring tension comes from. Kids don't.

Meanwhile, hormones fuel the sort of "showing off" that would have increased one's attractiveness in early societies. In young men we still reward, to some extent, the things that would have been essential for success in hunting and combat thousands of years ago: the willingness to take risks, fighting ability, speed and the ability to throw with velocity and accuracy. Young women will showcase their

youth and fertility. Beauty, unfortunately, continues to be a significant criterion by which they are judged.

In earlier times, because you had a personal connection with nearly everyone in your group, the ability to remember details about the temperament, predictability and past behavior of peers had a huge payoff. There would have been little use for a mind designed to engage in abstract statistical thinking about large numbers of strangers.

In today's world, while it is still important to keep tabs on known individuals, we also face new challenges. We interact with strangers on a daily basis, so there's a need to predict how they'll behave: will this person try to swindle me or can he or she be trusted? Is this someone important that I should get to know or a nobody that I can safely ignore?

It's a task many of us find difficult because our brains weren't really wired to do this, and we fall back on cognitive shortcuts, such as stereotyping, as a way to cope.

Natural selection instead shaped an innate curiosity about specific people – and a memory to store this information. We needed to remember who treated us well and who didn't, and the more emotional the memory, the less likely we are to forget it. It's tough to forget when the person you thought of as a close friend publicly snubbed you, or the time that you caught another trusted friend flirting with your boyfriend or girlfriend.

The result is a strong propensity for holding grudges. It protects us from being taken advantage of again but can also make for some

uncomfortable, anxiety-inducing moments at high school reunions.

To further complicate things, high school is probably the last time in life when people of all sorts are thrown together for no other reason than they are the same age and live in the same area. Yes, high schools are often segregated by economic background and race. But most high schoolers will still encounter more day-to-day diversity than they will later in life.

After high school, studies have shown that people begin to sort themselves out according to intelligence, political values, occupational interests and a wide range of other social screening devices.

At the same time, however, the people you knew in high school remain your default group for engaging in social comparison.

According to "social comparison theory," we figure out how good we are and develop a sense of personal worth by comparing ourselves with others; the more similar those others are, the better we can gauge our own strengths and weaknesses. Because your high school classmates will always be the same age as you – and because they started out in the same place – there's inherently a degree of interest in finding out what happened to them later in life, if for no other reason than to see how your own life stacks up.

Given all this, it's no wonder that the English Romantic poet Robert Southey once wrote that "the first 20 years are the longest half of your life, no matter how long you might live."

*This article originally appeared on The Conversation*



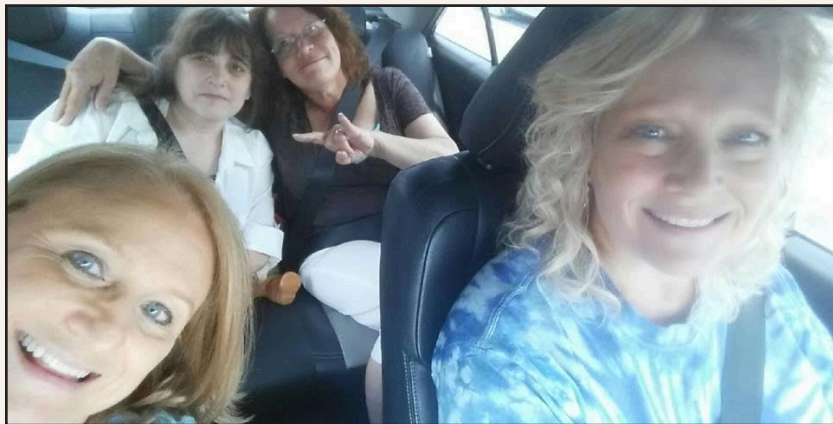
# BRAT GET-TOGETHER

## Road Trip!

Volleyball teammates together!  
Let the fun begin...

Picked up Angela at the airport and we're  
off!!!

Class of **1980** rules!!  
Graduated 36 yrs ago today!!!  
June 8, 2016, New Braunfels, TX.



Top photo (L to R): Theresa Ledbetter '80, Angela (Ott) Lamb '80, Roo (Eargle) Moran '73, and Karen (Paige) Sellers '80. Bottom right photo (L to R): Theresa, Julie Langley '77, Ritch Ridgill, Angela, Roo, and Karen.

## ARIZONA STOP-OVER

En route from Los Angeles to Houston in May, 2016, Bernie Beausoleil '72 stopped in to Phoenix to enjoy a sunny evening at Pappadeaux's with Carl Fenstermacher '73 and Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72.



# BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Above: friend Steffi, Gary Planz '74, wife Eveline, and Pat (Martel) Little '72.

*We had a great time in our garden with Bratwurst and potato salad with Pat (Martel) Little '72.*  
-- Gary Planz '74

## Utah rodeo

Renate (Kowalski) Goodloe '72 and Nancy Liepmann '72, long time best friends since BAHS days, reunited in Oakley, Utah, on the 4th of July.



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# Michael Somsam '86: Never give

sent in by Cate Speer '85

Michael Somsam '86, entered the military after high school to serve his country, like many of our classmates. However, in 1995, he received a gunshot wound to the head in the line of duty and lost his vision at the age of 24. He was honorably discharged and retired as a First Lieutenant.

Then began the journey of learning to live his life without being able to see.

Despite this set-back, Michael did not give up on his dreams or his responsibilities and today he is a triathlete, single father, attorney, and has been selected to participate in the 2016 Ironman World Championships.

In his own words, Michael says: "First and foremost, I am a single father of two daughters. Our family motto is, "never give up and never be defeated!" and we live by those words every day. We hope to inspire others with it.

"I am a totally blind triathlete. I have the great honor of being

selected as one of five physically challenged athletes to compete in this year's Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii, on October 8th.

"Upon losing my vision, I never gave up. I attended law school at the University of Arizona and am a current practicing attorney. My legacy is about helping others and giving back. As a lawyer, I volunteer my time in the community through the Modest Means Legal Services program and serve our veterans with the Military Legal Assistance Project. In 2015, I was presented the "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias Courage award from the United States Sports Academy for my continuing efforts to take on impossible challenges and make them possible.

"Prior to losing my vision, I dreamed of competing in the Ironman Kona. Growing up in Hawaii, it is an event that is larger than life. However, my dreams were delayed. A delay is not a denial, and Ironman has taught me a broken body does not mean a broken spirit. On October 8th, I am finally coming home to fulfill that dream. Twenty-five years in the making, I have finally been given this great privilege by being selected to compete this year. This homecoming has significant meaning for me.

"The Ironman race gave me a gift for which I am eternally grateful and now wish to give back. I know that I can and will inspire others. There are soldiers returning home with



multiple injuries, disabled persons with no hope or purpose, and their families, seeking inspiration and guidance. In my own life, I hope to inspire my two daughters to be the best they can be and to never quit. My hope is that my story will inspire someone to change his or her life for the better, to never give up, and to never be defeated by

**Michael's completed races include:**  
2014 Ironman AZ  
2015 Ironman AZ  
2016 Ironman Oceanside 70.3  
2016 Boston Marathon

- Website: <http://www.michael-somsan.com>
- Email: [michael.somsan@gmail.com](mailto:michael.somsan@gmail.com)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blindironman/>
- Twitter: @blindironman
- Instagram: @blindironman
- Fundraising website for the World Championships: <https://usaba.myetap.org/fundraiser/athletedevelopmentaccounts/individual.do?participationRef=451.0.387854397>



Michael and one of his guides, as he completes a race.

# up; never be defeated

one's circumstances. All it takes is one individual to inspire another to cause others to change and inspire someone else in a positive manner. What better or nobler purpose than to show victory and inspire others to do the same? Thus, for this athlete, the quest for Kona is one of healing, challenging oneself, and in the process, inspiring the belief that life is a gift where truly "anything is possible!"

"While I might not be able to see the finish line, it will allow me to see another item checked off my list, one many originally thought to be impossible. The Ironman motto is "anything is possible" but, for me, it is only possible with the assistance of my wonderful guide, Dominic Bernardo."

To train for the World Championships, Michael is working out with six people, but only one Ironman guide, Dominic.

Because he is 100% blind, a guide is required for every triathlon

discipline: the swim, bike, and run. And in Ironman rules, it has to be the same guide for the entire race. During the swim, he and his guide are tethered at the waist with the guide swimming in front and Michael at his guide's feet. On the bike portion, they ride a specially-built tandem bicycle. And lastly, on the run they are side-by-side, connected by a tether held in each of their hands.

"What does it feel like on a bike without being able to see where you're going?" he is asked.

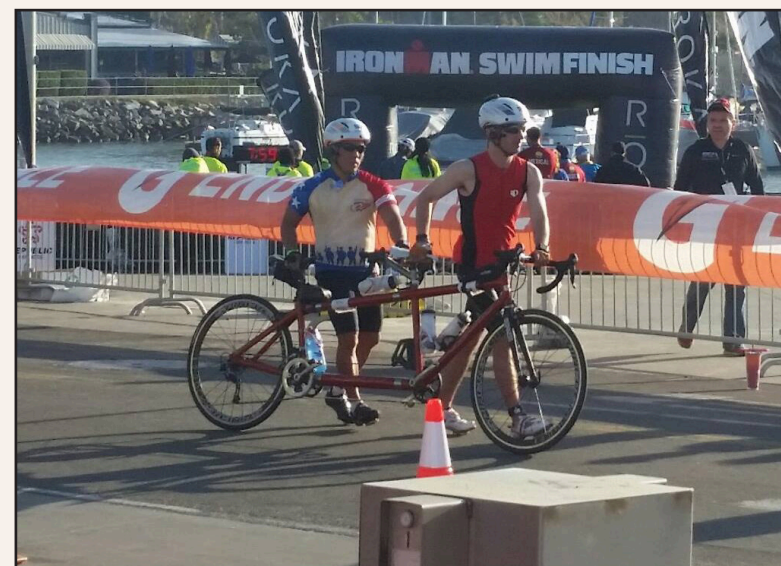
"It really depends on the terrain we are riding on," he responds. "When we are going fast, it feels like you are flying; amazing to feel the wind go past you. At times it can be scary, especially on the steep downhill when we get up to speeds of up to 45 to 55 mph -- and this is on a bike, not a motorbike!"

Michael's journey to the Iron-

man World Championships is not yet finished; he still must find the funds to make it happen.

"We are doing everything we can to bring this dream to fruition, but the equipment and travel required for both of us to train and race at the Ironman World Championships is extremely expensive," he explains.

Michael's motto of "never give up and never be defeated" should stand him in good stead as he and his team work to make his dream and this homecoming a reality to



Above left: Michael with one of his daughters while still in the Army. Above: Michael and Dominic entering the bike portion of an Ironman race with the tandem bicycle. Right: Michael running with his guide during the Ironman at Oceanside Pier earlier this year.





## Charlotte Brat Lunch Club



June 21st: Monthly Charlotte, NC, luncheon  
L to R: Ellen (Morphis) Citarella '73, Deb (Clark) Brians '74, Candance Wyman '73, and hubby Greg.  
Missing today is their usual club lunch bud, Bryan Duckett '84.

## BRAT GET-TOGETHERS

## High Tea

Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71 and Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72 enjoyed the ritual of an afternoon high tea in Winchester, VA, on April 15th.



## Oregon Rooster Crow

Finally met up with Mark F. Woods '76 on Saturday, June 25th, at the Rooster Crow in Rogue River, Oregon. Had a great time! We only live a town apart. Small world! We figured out we had a yearbook together (neither one of us remembered that...lol).

-- Mary Webb '74

## Time stands still for no one!

*We just felt like a Brats moment.*



Sometimes you need to be around family that understands you.

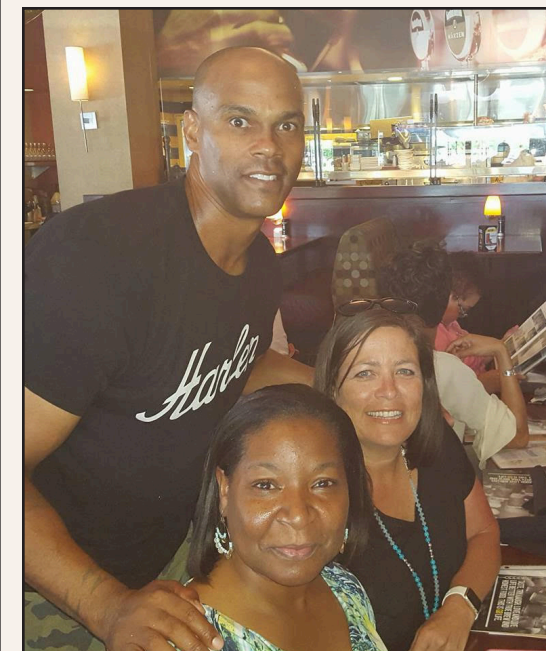
I FB opened up a lunch date at Gordon Biersch Restaurant in Virginia Beach, VA, and look who showed ...

*"I'm on cloud nine! The best memories, Berlin, Germany!!!"*

-- Ken Magee '88, May 14, 2016



Seated, L to R: Jackie Bailey '84, Walter Bailey Jr '90, Linda (Bailey) Lane '85.  
Standing, L to R: Nelson Mendez '88, Erica (Riddick) Benison '88, Joy (Campolo) Turner '88, Ken Magee '88, Crystal Riggsbee '87, Virginia Courtney '87, and Jana Williams '89.



Top: Jana Williams '89 and Jackie Bailey '84. Above middle: Nelson Mendez '88 and Erica (Riddick) Benison '88. Left: Ken Magee '88, Erica, and Joy (Campolo) Turner '88. Center top: Linda (Bailey) Lane '85. Center bottom: Nelson made packages for everyone. Above: Ken and Jana.

## BRAT GET-TOGETHER



## Tenth anniversary of our first reunion ever in Berlin July 27-30, 2006



Roughly 401 Berlin Brats, friends, and family members joined us to celebrate in Berlin. For many, it was the first time back to the city since high school -- and the first time seeing it without the Wall that had been a constant presence during our years as Berlin Brats. Walking through the Brandenburg Gate, down Unter den Linden, for the first time was a memorable experience, made all the better for the good friends who accompanied us. Cruising on the river and enjoying the mild summer weather was another of the highlights.

While there, we also visited the Allied Museum that had recently opened in the former Outpost movie theater building -- and which opened an exhibit based on us (see article at <http://www.alliiertenmuseum.de/en/exhibitions/temporary-exhibition/archive/archive-year.html?calyear=2006&ayr=0.>)



HAPPY 20TH  
ANNIVERSARY TO  
BUSMVA



Established 1996

The Berlin U.S. Military Veteran's Association (BUSMVA) turns 20 this year. Wendy Hicks '87's father was just elected vice president of BUSMVA at their June reunion.

Overseas Brats, the all-schools, all-years umbrella organization for all military brats around the world celebrates 30 this year.



## Hauptbahnhof celebrates ten years! May 26, 2006 - 2016



## S-bahn car converted to currystand at Tegel Airport

Located near the D and E gates, outside the main hall.

-- John Freeman '71





## Colorado Brats Group luncheon

On Apr 23, 2016, the group got together -- complete with city license plates -- at the Edelweiss Restaurant in Colorado Springs. Darla (Tabor) Hung '88 is holding the Berlin plate.



## BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



## Brat music livens up the night

The BAHS volleyball gals saw Bryan Potyk '87 and his rock band perform in New Braunfels, Texas, during their road trip (see page 6).

## Brats get together in the Cape!

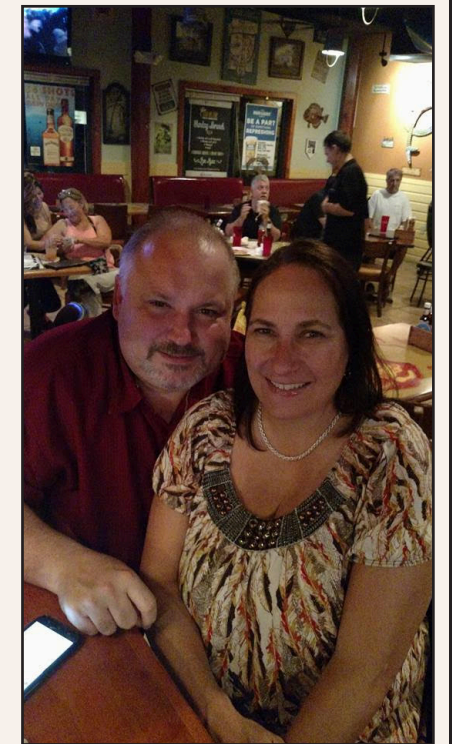


L to R: Betsy & Jim "Jammer" McLean '78, Karri (Ebarb) Burns '91, Carl Samples '76 & wife, Kerry Lastra '74, and Rusty Widger '71

## Orlando magic

May 2016

Bryan Duckett '84 (center) hanging out with Angie (Arnold) Doyle '85 and Richie Arnold '85 at "Fish and Fire" in Orlando, FL



## BRAT GET-TOGETHERS



Ken Magee '88 and Tim Snow '85 on June 23rd



Kenneth Magee '88, wife Contessa, and Tim Snow '85.

On our way down to Atlanta we stopped in on family and visited Tim and had lunch. Thanks, Tim!

Much love and appreciated.

My wife said it is awesome how you haven't seen someone in 30 years but when you get together it's like you've been around them all along. FAMILY!

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# The original Wall: CIA pictures from 1961

*submitted by Toby West '61*



*Throw  
back  
photos*



This is the way the Wall looked when I was there; ugly, brutal, rough, and topped with barbed wire over broken bottle glass.

Too many people remember only the later, cleaner version of the Wall with its smooth walls capped by a pipe. The original Wall was more honest.

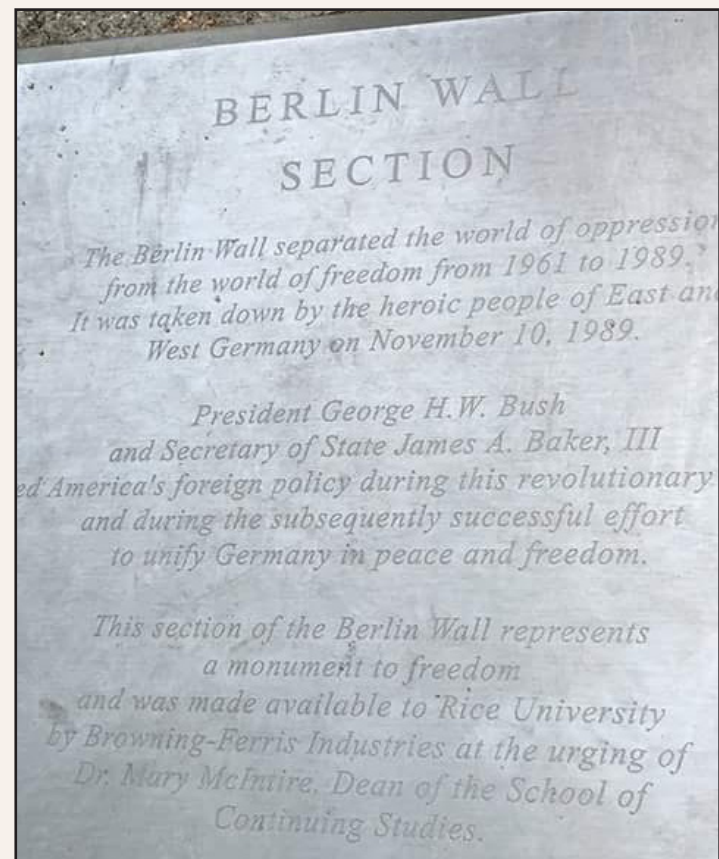
-- Bob Wyman '71 ('63-'68)





## THE WALL: AROUND THE WORLD

### Rice University, Texas



Laura (Coats) Satterfield '71 finding the Berlin Wall at Rice University.

### Berlin Brat friends remain true

I'm so sorry I wasn't friendlier with more of you, my classmates, when I was in Berlin. Most of my friends were Germans. I felt it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be as involved in the culture as possible. I found more fun at the Linientreu in the middle of the night than the Burger King at Truman Plaza. But, what I find fascinating is that I have never been able to keep in touch with my German friends, while many of you are still solidly here. I take that as a lesson learned.

-- Gregory Patrick '91  
June 30, 2016



In honor of Rio 2016 and the Olympic games going on now, we remember the



1936 Berlin Olympic Stadium ... including BAHS track meets held there once upon a time.



## Throwback photos



Congress Halle (the pregnant oyster) – home of the 1969 Junior-Senior Prom



# Secret NSA spy station opens for Berlin tours

A Berlin tour company has been granted access to run walking tours on what was once known as Teufelsberg, or Devil's Mountain. The new tour started operations in March.

Teufelsberg is an artificial hill with peculiar origins. The hill is located on the site of Nazi architect Albert Speer's military-technical college. After failed attempts by the allies to use explosives on the facility, they decided to fill it in with rubble. From 1950 to 1972, approximately 26,000,000 cubic meters of rubble were piled up, making Teufelsberg the highest point in Berlin.

In 1955, a ski jump temporarily opened there and in 1962, the jump expanded to hold a capacity of over 5,000 specta-

tors. By 1963, the recreational use of Teufelsberg ceased and it began housing one of the NSA's largest-ever spy stations. The documents and research that went on at Teufelsberg are still classified. The type of work and information gathered there is largely thought to be centered around East Germany and other Warsaw Pact nations' military radio traffic. However, many rumors have surfaced and the full extent of the operations that went on there is still unknown. Only add-

ing to the rumors are the recent leaks from the NSA, reported by *Der Spiegel*, that the U.S. still taps over half a billion German communications.



The Original Berlin Cold War Teufelsberg Tour is about 4.5 hours, features the Berlin Wall Memorial and East Side Gallery, history of the Cold War, and stories of escape attempts across the Wall, as well as a tour of Teufelsberg.

It runs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 10:00 a.m., & meets at: One80 Hostel by Alexanderplatz, Otto-Braun-Straße 65, 10178 Berlin.

David Caprisi, a guide at Original Europe Tours, says the new tour focuses on the Cold War, and how the station may or may not have been used. "The station obviously doesn't function anymore, but .... I think it's a reminder of one of the first high tech examples of mass secret intelligence gathering."

He also explains a number of repurposed uses for the area. The

land is now privately owned and the abandoned facilities were put to alternate uses. Although many buildings are unsafe, one in particular has been used to showcase

what the new owner calls "Europe's largest street art gallery." Much of the multi-story building is covered with graffiti murals and artworks from numerous well known international street artists. There are also numerous large murals found around all the buildings. Spaces are set aside for specific artists and large murals are routinely painted over and changed.

The old spy station now also hosts over 25 bee colonies, an antique home decor shop, a clay pizza oven, and a sauna. Ideas for future projects are underway and a team of urban engineers, graffiti artists, and even a bee keeper have turned the space into an alternative living utopia.

The walk to Teufelsberg is about 35 minutes from the closest local transport, and the path is not well marked. The only way to gain access to the private land is through prior approval or by participating in a tour.

For more information about the cold war walking tour of

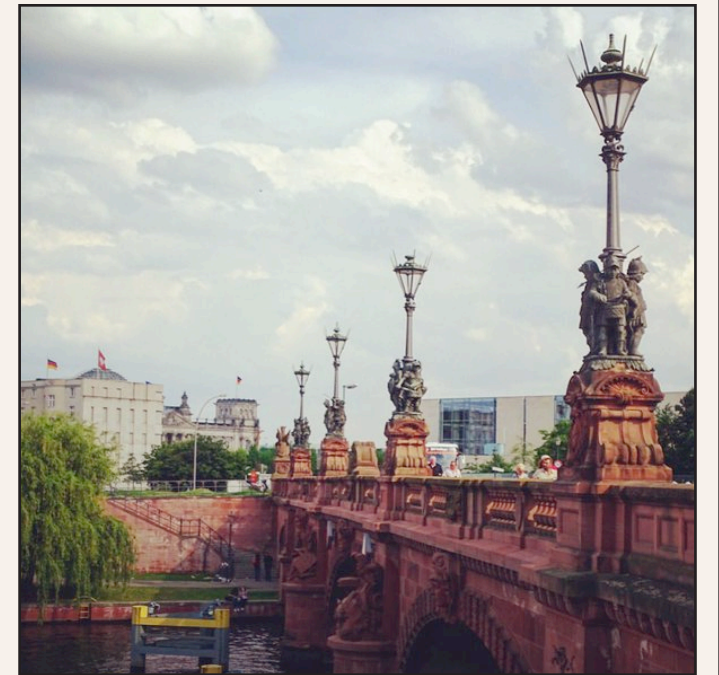
Teufelsberg, visit: <http://original-berlintours.com/tours/original-berlin-teufelsberg-cold-war-tour/>



## In case you wondered ...

Did you know Berlin has over 1,700+ bridges? The length of the waterways (180 navigable kilometres) is such that it can effectively be traveled by boat - something you might have thought you could do only in Venice!

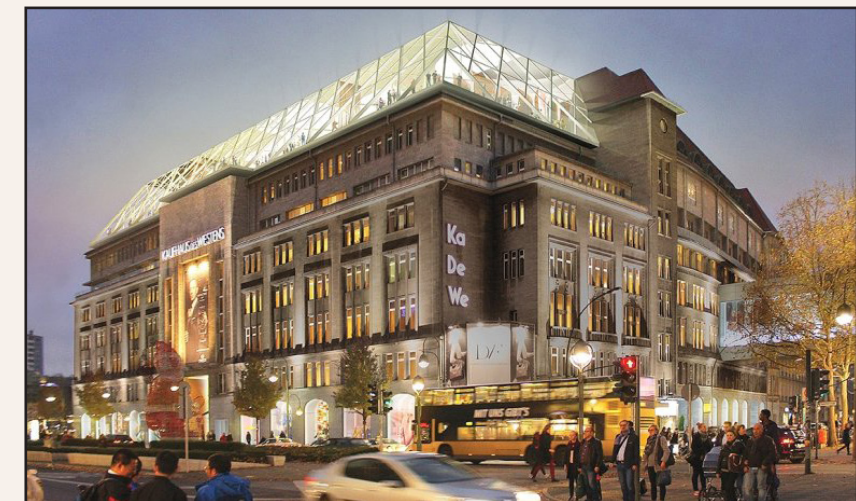
One of the bridges of Berlin, the Moltkebrücke, is a favorite of Berliners. Made of red Main sandstone, it has three crossed arches across the Spree. It saw heavy fighting during the Battle of Berlin in April 1945. Despite being wired with explosives against the Soviet advance, it was one of the few to survive mostly intact, though it has been reinforced for modern traffic. It is known for ornate carving, including a pair of griffins at the end.



Moltke Bridge

A favorite of Berliners.....

## Venerable store KaDeWe gets a facelift



KaDeWe, the largest department store in continental Europe (60,000+ square metres), started its facelift in May, and it's expected to take 7 years. I'm sad because it will look a bit too modern to me when done.

I am sure renovations are necessary. However, I

will miss the OLD gal!!!

One of my favorite places to eat in Berlin is at KaDeWe in The Petit Bistro. Great food and wonderful wine! I hope they won't tinker too much with the restaurant areas.

Please check out the link from the *Berliner Morgenpost*:

<http://www.morgenpost.de/berlin/article207481287/Schoenheitskur-fuer-die-Berliner-Legende-KaDeWe.html>



# Norb and Polly DeYoung: A couple of BAHS teachers leave lasting legacies among colleagues and students alike

by Judy Belt

BAHS Teacher 1968-72

Seeing this picture of Norbert (Norb) DeYoung-FAC posted on Facebook recently brought back memories of when I first met him and his wife Polly [Polly (Croom) DeYoung]. Both of them were teachers at Berlin American High School -- he taught science and she taught math. Both were beloved teachers whom the students respected.

Upon my arrival three days before school started in 1968, they were so kind and helped me settle in as a new teacher at BAHS. My husband Jack and I went out to dinner with them several times during that school year. We enjoyed their company and getting to know them. We learned that they had only been married a year and that they were spending their summers apart because both were finishing masters programs at different universities -- Norb in Wisconsin and Polly in Georgia.

Jack remembers Norb offering



Norb DeYoung, FAC, and Mike Dane '72

us Grand Marnier Liqueur one evening at their house as an after-dinner drink -- he showed us how to put this lovely drink in a snifter, roll it around and smell its aroma before consuming it. Norb loved attention to detail and it's something we've never forgotten.

When school was out for the summer of 1969, I remember hanging out at their apartment as they packed for their summer off time at different graduate schools.

It was great to see them both

again at the beginning of the 1969-1970 school year. About a month into the school year, all teachers were required to get a flu shot. So, one day we all lined up after

school for our shots -- laughing and joking all the way.

The after-effects of this shot hit Norb hard, as he got a severe case of vertigo and nausea. He went to see the doctors at the Berlin Brigade Hospital and they said to go home and rest,

still thinking it was the after-effects of the flu shot. After resting for several days and missing school, Norb was still no better. Eventually, he was sent out to a medical facility in West Germany where they said the cause was an improper development of his sternum, ribs, or something like that. He came back to Berlin with some medicine they gave him but got no better. Eventually, they put him in the American hospital in Berlin and kept him sedated -- the vertigo was still there.

Polly and his family became alarmed -- at this point, 4-6 weeks had gone by with little or no improvement.

Eventually he was flown to the Army hospital at Landstuhl, Germany, for further treatment. They ran a myriad of neurological tests there, narrowing it down to meningitis, something else I can't remember, or a brain tumor. We were all praying it wasn't the latter; but, sadly it turned out to be just that. As I recall, the tumor was at

the base of his skull in the area that affected his central nervous system.

Everyone was stunned and felt so badly for Polly and Norb as they faced this crisis together. The tumor was growing quickly and surgery seemed to be the only option, although his chances of surviving surgery were slim. As a scientist, Norb knew how the human body worked and had to have known that he probably wouldn't survive. I can't even imagine their anguish as Polly and Norb said good-bye before he was wheeled into the

operating room.

Word reached us in school a few hours later that Norb had died on the operating table. The entire school was stunned and the faculty had to keep it together for our students. I can't remember who did the planning, but a memorial service was planned that took place in the gym. I just remember the entire school participating and all of the kids dressing in their nice clothes. The band played and the choir sang appropriate songs. Those who knew Norb the best told wonderful

stories about him and how much they admired him as a man and as a teacher. It seems Norb was not only a wonderful teacher and role model, but a friend to many. When the ceremony was over, there wasn't one dry eye in the place. I'm not sure when all of this took place, but it was near Thanksgiving of 1969. I always felt badly that I didn't know Norb longer. I've never forgotten Norb or Polly. Polly left BAHS in 1971 to teach at London Central American High School where she taught for 34 years.

## Epilogue: Polly DeYoung



Polly DeYoung taught at Paris High School for two years before her four years in Berlin. After Norb's death in 1972, Polly moved to London, where she taught math for 34 years until she retired in 2005. When the school closed in 2007, she was asked back to be the guest speaker.

Several hundred people jammed into London Central High School's "big gym" for the ceremony marking the closing of the school after 56 years.

*Stars and Stripes* newspaper reported that, "Students and educators past and present joined military leaders from across the United Kingdom and Europe as well as local British dignitaries in marking the closure of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools' only boarding school," and added that "it was the words of past educators and present students that reflected the spirit of the ceremony and the closure."

The newspaper specifically mentioned Polly, who "was described by a fellow teacher as the 'Queen mother of London Central,'" and who "reminded students that — despite the challenges that might lie ahead in new schools and new countries — London Central has prepared them well."

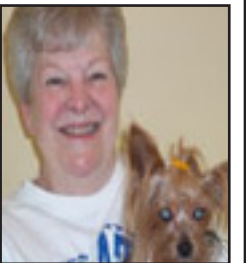
"We've been through a lot together: problems and protests, drawbacks and shutdowns," she said. "We've been through peace, and we've been through war. And, like always, we'll get through with it and move on."

In a subsequent interview for a local newsletter in her native Georgia, Polly recalled her 40 years living and teaching in Europe as her favorite memories from adulthood.

She remembered her experiences after 9/11 most graphically. "I was living in London and teaching on the military base. After the attacks, they closed the military base, so no one could get on or off the base. There were 247 students stranded on the base, so 12 dorm counselors and six teachers, of which I was one, lived in the dorm for a week. The adults escorted the students everywhere. Because the base was closed, no one could come or go off-base, so we did everything — taught all the classes, cooked all the meals. We tried to keep the students' lives on a routine," she said.

The accomplishment of which she said she felt most proud in her life was "the impact that I had on the students I taught."

Catch her speech at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGdl4P5DbA0#action=share>



by Bernard Beausoleil '72

I saw Mr. DeYoung in his room in Landstuhl hospital two days before he died. We were there for a Boy Scout/Explorer event and ran into Mrs. DeYoung in the hallway. I saw him lying in his bed, with a beard. He gave me a very strong handshake and then greeted me in a very high pitched female-like voice. He was my science teacher and cross country coach and a good friend. When he died two days later, I was shocked, grief-stricken, and cried and cried.

I've thought of him many times and prayed for him and Mrs. DeYoung over the years. Such a great man's life snuffed out way too early.



# Brats...might be kinda' fun

Seeking new stories for the next book!

Trisha A. Lindsey '82 and Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83

This is the "official call" for stories and pictures for the new Brats overseas book project! Fresh from successful publication of the *Cold War Memories* book - where 148 Berlin Brats, teachers, and administrators contributed their stories from war-torn Berlin from 1945 to 1994, we are now tackling **an ALL overseas Brats book: gathering stories from ANY Brat, ANY teacher, ANY era for this book! So that means YOU!**

Send stories and any attached pictures via email to [bratsoverseas@yahoo.com](mailto:bratsoverseas@yahoo.com).

Stories 750 words or less; pictures 300 dpi for best reproduction.

No more than two stories per person.

Please send at least three pictures with your story so we have more than one choice for blocking.

View samples of entries on our website, where we also post updates periodically:

<http://bratsoverseas1.wixsite.com/bratsoverseas>

We'll send a terms of service (TOS) agreement (required for all published books), so be sure you send your stories from an email address that will not change; we'll use it to communicate with you.

## Berlin Brats Tysons Corner, VA, regional

Sept 4, 2016, 4 pm

[Tysons' Biergarten](#)

hosted by Steve Kinzie '87  
& Jo-Anne (Prokopowicz)  
Sears '87

(tickets via [eventbrite](#))

## Berlin Brats Virginia Beach, VA, regional

Oct 16, 2016, TBD

details TBD; stay tuned

If you haven't seen *Cold War Memories: A Retrospective on Living in Berlin*, you can view and purchase it on [Amazon.com](#), and write a review!

## Contact Information



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### Early '60s Site

By invitation only

Contact Jim Branson '64

[jbranson01@hotmail.com](mailto:jbranson01@hotmail.com)

for an invite

### American Overseas School Historical Society

Gayle Vaughn Wiles, President

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website: [www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)

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## Next Reunion

June 7th-11th, 2017

New Orleans

Berlin Brats 2017  
New Orleans, LA



Mark your calendars now!

Hotel booking page

will go LIVE by late

Summer 2016