

The Scroll

Special Edition— Pull-out Supplement



Photo from left: Ms. Sunitha Howard, Mrs. Linda Vitulli, Dr. Kumari Johal, Principal Ian Sherman, Dr. Angela Arias, Ms. Aferdita Silverman, Mrs. Theresa Smith. (Missing from picture: Ms. Michelle DiBonis-Matica and Dr. Dean Saghafi.)

The Sherman Ripple Effect

By Mr. William Sweeney

We are hereby celebrating Mr. Ian Sherman, our Lincoln High School Principal of the past ten years. He has kept a steady high school ship during this his tenth year as Principal. He has presented an atmosphere that has allowed six marvelous teachers to gain incredible honors for “Outstanding Teacher of the Year” which our students see every day in class. Mr. Sherman has had a ‘Ripple Effect’ on the community.

“How many Teachers of the Year do you have as Principal? Four?” I casually asked Mr. Ian Sherman as I exited the Lincoln High School building after the school one fine Spring day last year. He quickly thought about it and calculated, “Six!” My jaw dropped. “What?” I responded. (Continued on page 2a.)

The Sherman Ripple Effect (Continued from Page 1a)

I know the great impact of one Teacher of the Year since my aunt, Mrs. Ruth Sweeney, was a Yonkers Teacher of the Year in 1983-1984 (see photo on bottom of page 3). I have met strangers tell me my Aunt Ruth was the greatest teacher they have ever had. That is the same with all of these Teachers of the Year. This title greatly instills in the person, their families, their students and co-workers with a good type of pride. But for one principal to have six Yonkers Public Schools Teachers of the Year during his tenure as principal is staggering to me. It's incomparable to any academic achievement in any field at any time. This grand record is a blessing to all including our students, families, and other teachers and administrators at Lincoln High School.

I have been teaching at Lincoln for this my fifteenth year. At the beginning of my sixth year here, I was blessed to have started moderating and thus producing this school newspaper, for as long as Mr. Sherman has been the principal. We are both in our tenth year of doing such. In that time, I have been reporting on the Teachers of the Year, one by one. The most recent is Mrs. Theresa Smith from last Spring. Before her and in order are Dr. Kumari Johal, Dr. Dean Saghafi, Ms. Michelle DeBonis-Matica, Mrs. Linda Vatulli, and Ms. Aferdita Silverman. They have each written here about their strengths as a teacher and the positive effect that Mr. Sherman has had on their success.

It has been a great honor to have worked on assembling this Supplement. Know that all the Lincoln High School Teachers of the Year and Mr. Sherman have been glad to help assemble this. The articles written by the Teachers of the Year are heartwarming and, of course, exceptional!

Peace and Love to All of the Readers of this Supplement,
and Praise God, the Majestic Creator of All Always.
Mr. William Sweeney, English Teacher



The Scroll Newspaper Club above (from left): Daniela Gonzalez (Vice President), Isabella Escamilla-Ponce (President), Margaret Ennin (Secretary), Jose Gonzalez (Ace Reporter), Mr. William Sweeney, Moderator

Freshmen Input

Two freshmen have written interesting articles on meeting and getting to know Mr. Sherman as their new principal. See Daniela Gonzalez' article on page 3 and Margaret Ennin's article on page 13.

Record Front Cover Appearances

On pages 14a, 15a, and 16a of this Special Edition Supplemental Booklet, included are the pictures and inscriptions when Mr. Sherman graced the front cover of The Scroll during his first nine years as Principal of Lincoln High School. I believe he holds the record for most appearances on the front cover.

Bookend Teachers of the Year

There have been, so far, six Teachers of the Year during the Sherman Principality. But there are two more 'bookend' Teachers of the Year. Dr. Angela Arias (see photo, right) was Teacher of the Year when Mr. Sherman was an Assistant Principal at Lincoln High School under Principal Edwin Quezada (now Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent of Schools.) Mr. Sherman had written a letter to promote Dr. Arias for Teacher of the Year. Another Teacher of the Year associated with Mr. Sherman's principality is Mrs. Sunitha Howard (see photo, left) who joined Lincoln High School this past September as the Middle School Teacher of the Year from last year. She has replaced recently retired Dr. Saghafi as the Science Research teacher. She is continuing the great legacy of the Science Research Program started by Dr. Saghafi.



Mr. Sherman

By Daniela Gonzalez (freshman)

What do you think when you think about Mr. Sherman? The first day I was like "who is this man with a suit yelling good morning?" Then I realized it was the principal. Mr. Sherman in my opinion is one of the best principals that I faced in my life. He doesn't stay in his office all day and interacts with his students. He's also very funny. I remember one day I was sitting on the bleachers, and he came to talk to me and my friends and I asked, "How are you everywhere" and he said, "there's 3 of me" and that pretty much makes sense, he sees everything and everyone every day. He takes his job very seriously and he makes the school work and well as all the assistant principals at Lincoln. He interacts a lot with the Science Research academy, he is in all our academy days with Mr. Morano and he most of the times stays for the whole thing. He makes the dress code and rules work and I really appreciate having him at school, in addition I'd like to thank him for always being there for us and being the funny guy that he is.

Former Yonkers Mayor Angelo R. Martinelli presents the award for Yonkers Public Schools Teacher of the Year for 1983-1984 to Mrs. Ruth Sweeney. She taught at School 17. Mrs. Ruth Sweeney was the aunt of Mr. William Sweeney and is the soul who was the inspiration for this supplemental publication. This photo was originally printed in The Herald Statesman which was the local newspaper from 1891-1998. The photo was supplied by David Sweeney, the son of the late 'Aunt Ruth' and the cousin of Mr. William Sweeney.





Celebration of Principal Ian Sherman Accolades

***Mr. Sherman wins Administrator of the Year—
2019

***Six Yonkers Public Schools Teachers of the Year
during his 9-Year Tenure, so far.

Plus...



Teacher of the Year 2012-2013



Our Best Practices

By Dr. Angela Arias, Retired Teacher 2020

I first met Mr. Sherman when he came to Lincoln High School as an Assistant Principal. At that time I was the SLC Coordinator, and we were both assigned to monitor the 2nd floor. Mr. Sherman and I worked in collaboration to promote Professional Development and we were also in charge or managing all grants at Lincoln High School.

Together we received training on grants management and writing. We presented at conferences in New York State and later when he became a principal, he accompanied me to the NYGEAR UP National Conferences where we also presented best practices. Under his leadership, Mr. Sherman became one of the most respected principals for the NYGEAR UP program and was always willing to showcase our best practices.

There are several anecdotes that I can share about Mr. Sherman. He was nominated by students and later chosen as “Honorary Dominican” by the Dominican Culture Club in Yonkers. During his first year as principal, he received an ice bucket of water for the dunk challenge. When Mr. Sherman knocked on my office door, he often knocked three times very fast, followed by Dr. Arias’ three knocks. We both enjoyed discussing “The Big Bang Theory” and I often called him “Sheldon”. He has a large collection of multi-colored socks and students often wondered which cartoon or colored sock he wore on a given day.

Although Mr. Sherman was not principal when I earned the honor of “Teacher of the Year”, I understand that he was one of the administrators who wrote a letter of recommendation; and he attended the ceremony at the Yonkers Public Schools Board of Education.

Teacher of the Year 2014-2015



“ For the Best Education I Could Possibly Provide Them”

By Dr. Dean Saghafi, Retired Teacher 2022

Mr. Sherman contributed tremendously to my success at Lincoln High School. Mr. Sherman is one of the most understanding, caring and dynamic leaders I have worked for in my 29-year teaching career. Mr. Sherman is not a typical principal; he is a mentor to all students and staff. Mr. Sherman was my assistant principal for three years and was in charge of the scientific research community, which I directed.

For the last ten years, Mr. Sherman has been our Principal. The excellent support that Mr. Sherman gave me to expand the scope of the Program for Scientific Inquiry. Initially, many of the projects were biology and chemistry-based. With Mr. Sherman's support students could do projects in fields such as hydroponics, engineering and social sciences. He expanded the room by knocking down a classroom wall to expand the laboratory and installing new laboratory work stations so more projects could be done. He purchased 3D printers used for projects and large format printers, which allowed the students to print their poster boards in-house for the science competitions instead of printing them outside for \$150 per poster. He changed the format of the Science Symposium to make it more parent-people friendly. He helped to create a positive nurturing culture within the academy exemplified by having Academy Day, the annual Lab Coat Ceremony, and the LHS PSI Senior Graduation. He had students design patches for each science competition, which students received and ironed onto their lab coats to show their participation. Mr. Sherman always stopped by the class to congratulate the students who won competitions or to see what projects students were doing. He always asked questions and gave suggestions to the students about how to improve their projects. Mr. Sherman also came to some competitions to show his support for the students. I remember once he went to the Westchester Engineering and Science Fair at Sleepy Hollow High School. My students' eyes lit up in joy to see him there, and his presence made them at ease about competing in the science fair.

It was an honor and a pleasure to work with such a dynamic leader who facilitated my ability to provide my students with the best education I could possibly provide them.

Teacher of the Year 2015-2016

Mayor Spano presents Mrs. Aferdita Silverman with the Teacher of the Year Award.



(from left) Kara, Noel (husband), Aferdita, Josh and Jessical

Mr. Sherman As A Leader

By Mrs. Aferdita Silverman

I have had the pleasure of serving as an educator at Lincoln High School for twenty-seven years. Over that time, five principals have graced our halls and steered the direction of this building. Mr. Sherman is the only principal who served as an assistant principal here and later principal. Having worked with him in both roles, I have learned from him and admire his dedication to staff and students alike.

Arne Duncan, former US Secretary of Education stated, “There are no good schools without good principals. It just doesn’t exist. And where you have good principals, great teachers come, and they stay, they work hard and they grow.” Mr. Sherman is a “teacher’s principal.” I have seen many teachers ask for his support and he tries his best to help—whether it is related to websites, programs, instructional strategies, classroom management, and even clubs. He genuinely listens and tries to find solutions to help us better to help our students. He loves his job and it shows. Mr. Sherman is extremely hands-on and knowledgeable. He continues to learn to be able to help others. He wants nothing more than to see Lincoln High School flourish. It clearly shows why so many educators have received accolades under his tenure. When people feel supported and trusted as professionals, their instruction is directly impacted because they are open to trying new methodologies and strategies.

Over the years, Mr. Sherman has even joined in our lessons. He recognizes that learning takes place anywhere—beyond classroom walls... and is open to allowing us to take students outside, on trips, etc. My students love watching their principal join our outdoor World War I activity and that he was even an active participant too. Students and staff alike have asked to start clubs at Lincoln and his response is “Let me know how I can help.”

Jessica Bohn penned, “Being a good leader isn’t about having powers over others, but about instilling power *in* others.” Mr. Sherman’s leadership style empowers educators and offers the support that impacts long-term success.

Teacher of the Year 2016-2017



(From left) Ms. Santiago, Ms. Dolan, Ms. DeBonis-Matica, Mr. Minyard, Mrs. Harper, Mr. Sweeney, Ms. Martselos, Ms. Osinloye attended the award dinner at the Westchester Manor.

(from right) Mikey Debonis-Matica, Mrs. Debonis-Matica and Assistant Principal Jonathan Cartica at the International Night Festivities (2014)



By Ms. DeBonis-Matica

I was honored and blessed to be chosen as Teacher of the Year in 2017. It was incredible to be recognized for all of my hard work. My real love and genuine regard for my students and subject area is what continues to propel me to be better, even as I am in my 30th year of teaching. My “firm, but fair” approach to teaching is what I think is my greatest asset in the classroom as well as my creative way of infusing the arts into my curriculum. Mr. Sherman has allowed me to be “me” and with that type of support I am able to flourish. He has also shown great empathy to me as a single parent trying to juggle career and motherhood. For all of this, I am very grateful.



Dr. Johal and Mrs. Silverman share the moment between two Yonkers Teachers of the Year.



Dr. Johal and Mr. Sweeney celebrate her awards for Teacher of the Year.

Teacher of the Year 2017-2018

By Dr. Kumari Johal

I realized my true passion for teaching when I was in the sixth grade and my science teacher asked me to explain the topic on chemical reactions to the class. The positive comments and a little praise that I received from her filled me with immense joy and confidence about my own abilities. I would say that such an encouragement and a positive nurturing environment can go a long way and set a strong foundation for creating lifelong learners. I believe that after parents, teachers are the most influential people in the children's lives. It was the support from my parents and teachers that allowed me to receive two Masters and a Doctorate degree in Chemistry.

I worked as a research associate for some time, but I soon realized teaching young minds was more fulfilling than working in a research lab. I am so glad that I chose the teaching profession as my career as it allows me to use my passion, knowledge, talent, and experience to help my students realize their inherent potential and make the best use of it. The tremendous happiness and satisfaction that I receive on seeing my students succeed academically and beyond, has been the driving force throughout my career. I believe the goal to see every student succeed is achievable if we provide them with the proper opportunity, encouragement, resources and most importantly a realization of their own enormous potential.

I have been teaching for thirty years, the past seventeen years here at Lincoln High School, and I have enjoyed every minute of that. It was an amazing coincidence that our principal Mr. Ian Sherman received the "Administrator of the Year" and I received the "Teacher of the Year" awards in the same year of 2018. Mr. Sherman is one of the best administrators I have worked with throughout my teaching career and I truly appreciate his kind and compassionate nature. He has taken Lincoln High School to new heights with his incredible leadership in creating a sound structure and organization, and constantly working on new initiatives to serve the students in the best possible way. He always emphasizes that preparing the students for the state exams should be the last thing on our mind; the most important thing is developing their interest in the subject, teaching them the necessary skills, and instilling a feeling of accomplishment in them which will automatically lead to their success.

Teacher of the Year 2018-2019



From left: Judy Bartynek (Kiwaniis President), Olivia King, Mrs. Linda Vitulli and Princip Ian Sherman



Rear, from left: Norma Millan, Ms. Kwasi-Wulli, Mrs. Vitulli (Academy of Learning Dept. Chair), Mr. Allen, Ms. Lacen, Mr. Galella

Front, from left): Ms. Rodney, Mrs. Carpentieri

By Mrs. Linda Vitulli

Mr. Ian Sherman, the Lincoln High School Principal, is an inspirational leader whose deep sense of purpose is evident each and every day. Being a special education teacher and the current Special Education Chairperson, I can say with the utmost confidence that any success that the Special Education Department has attained is attributed to the commitment exemplified by Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Sherman is supportive and sensitive to the needs of the Academy of Learning students. Regardless of the daily pressures of being a high school administrator, Mr. Sherman is always available to listen to a student, lend a helping hand to a staff member, and even sweep the hallway of debris so that our students are in an environment that is conducive to learning. Mr. Sherman supports new ideas, implements positive change, and leads the way for us to live out our mission of caring, leading and learning. He has created a culture where we are the LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY and each member plays a critical role in its success. He shares and feels the Lincoln High School family's achievements, failures, victories and losses as deeply as if they were all his own.

Mr. Sherman fully exemplifies all the characteristics of an inspirational leader and it has been my pleasure working with him.

Teacher of the Year 2021-2022



By Mrs. Theresa Smith

I met Mr. Sherman fourteen years ago when we both started at Lincoln. He was my Assistant Principal, and from the beginning, he had an “Open Door” policy even though he is not often sitting at his desk. Mr. Sherman is a hands-on Principal, and can usually be found walking the hallways talking to students, popping into classrooms to check on teachers or hanging out in the cafeteria. Mr. Sherman is a great resource, whether I need him to help me to review my data, discuss student progress, or bounce crazy ideas for lessons off him. He is a wealth of experience and he is not afraid to try new things, even if they don’t come out the way he planned.

It’s these qualities that make me want to try new lessons, new teaching styles to engage my students. When I implement a new procedure, I will sit with Mr. Sherman and say, “Well that didn’t work out at all like we planned.” Or, “My lesson was great because I did what we discussed.” During one of our morning coffee discussions, Mr. Sherman was discussing a book he was reading (He is ALWAYS reading a book usually followed by a memo) about bringing more STEM activities to our students. Together we introduced STEAM Thursdays in the cafeteria during lunch periods. It’s things like this that makes Mr. Sherman a great role model for everyone. He also says that if you have any questions or concerns to see him, and he actually follows up on what you need.

Being named “Teacher of the Year” was an honor, but I was only able to achieve it because I had the amazing support of Mr. Sherman and my other Administrators behind me over the years, who al-



Teachers from left: Ms. Lyttle, Mrs. Smith and Ms Petnuch



Mrs. Smith is in her classroom.



Teacher of the Year 2021-2022

REACH them to TEACH them

By Ms. Sunitha Howard

Life carves out a path for us, but we are not aware that path is being carved out until we take the time to look back on how far we have travelled.

My first teaching experience started in Sunday School when I was fifteen. I started officially teaching with a license at twenty-one. My uncle who was a New York City high school math teacher and Sunday School Headmaster, felt it would be a great fit. On my end, I thought it would keep me busy while I figured out what it is I really wanted to do. I had a lot of dreams and challenges that I was excited to take on and I am amazed and thankful for how it has all come together for me.

I planned to stay in the school system a handful of years and then transition to working in Epidemiology. As I completed my research thesis, I realized I was not ready to leave teaching. An empty classroom felt sad and lonely and I enjoyed attending school activities outside of school because it offered students support and encouragement, but it also fed my soul. Running into my students and their families outside of school, especially after many years, was magical. Some of my favorites have been cheering for them at marathons and sports games and watching aspiring student comedians perform comedy on New York City stages. Some of the sad times have been hospital visits and walking into shady apartment buildings looking for a student who ran away from home. Years later, I wondered if there was something else I should be doing. Maybe another career was waiting for me. Then I received the New York State Master Teaching title. I stopped wondering.

One of my most valuable statements anyone ever made to me in this career was my first Assistant Principal who told me never forget that I work for the kids. The kids. Not the school district. Not administration. Not parents. THE KIDS! Focusing on that one statement throughout my career played a significant role in attaining Teacher of the Year status. For me, it was a parent who took the time to secretly nominate me without letting her children know. A parent who was pursuing a degree, had a full-time job, and two teenaged boys at home to care for. This is a story of a lot of parents in our district. They give it their all. I want to be right there next to them doing the same.

I am grateful for the path life carved out for me. My first job led me to my amazing husband and helped me to accomplish my Ivy League goals. Since working in Yonkers, I have had so many great opportunities and met so many amazing educators who belong on the Wall of Fame. Dr. Pisacreta, the Principal who led School 5, dedicated most of her life to the children there, is one of those people.

It makes me happy that Mr. Sherman reminds me of Dr. Pisacreta. Even though I've only worked with him for a few months, his dedication to his students, staff, and school is clear. The fact that so many teachers attained High School Teacher of the Year status at Lincoln High School during his tenure as Principal is a testament to his role as their leader. In my experience, he is supportive, keeps his word, and gives great advice!

It is fulfilling to still be in this field: Teaching is a rewarding career for those who know that EVERY student is teachable. You must REACH them first to TEACH them.

Ian Sherman

By Margaret Ennin (freshman)

“Take off your hoodie, Young Man.”

“I don’t care.”

“Young Lady, you should be in class.”

“Stop harassing your teachers.”

“Good morning, Lincoln Lancers.”

“There are **three** of me.”

“PLEASE EXCUSE THE INTERRUPTIONS!!!!”

Mr. Sherman. Many ninth graders were perplexed by his outgoing character, intimidating stature, and sense of school spirit. The amount of purple within his wardrobe alone was blinding. But from the sound of the conversations, we have had with fellow freshmen, he had that unwavering warming presence that demanded respect yet humored us all. On my first day entering school, I was late. It was really the third day of school, yet I had arrived in America late. All I am greeted with is the image of Mr. Sherman standing there, back straight and an intimidating stance, yet he had a smile on his face and welcomed me. From then on, I never saw him not fake yell at a student or criticize a student in a humorous way. He always said good morning as soon as you entered the building, and personally always told me to stop “harassing my teachers”. He is the best principal I have ever encountered, and although everybody always admits that they hate being reprimanded by him, they never ever deny the offer to talk about how funny he is (even if we’re laughing AT him, not with him). He’s the most engaging principal I’ve ever met, and many will say the same.

Class, It's Review Time!

By Mr. William Sweeney

Let's review The Scroll front covers from the past nine years that featured Principal Ian Sherman.

Sixth Annual Walkathon For HIV Orphanage in Kenya

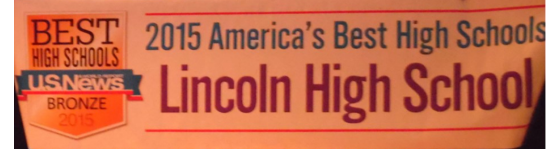


The Scroll Issue 12-9-13

Mr. Sherman, our new Lincoln HS Principal, cuts the ribbon to begin the 2013 Walkathon. Mr. Juma Achoki watches.

Photo via the Yearbook Committee.

LHS Honored for Receiving U.S. News Bronze National Ranking



The Scroll Issue: 5-27-15

Lincoln High School Principal Ian Sherman (above) speaks at the podium for ceremony honoring the school. Dr. Yazurlo, Superintendent of Schools (left) looks on. Ms. Sandy Hattar, Assistant Principal at Lincoln (just right of Mr. Sherman), also looks on.



Mayor Mike Spano Visits Horticulture Program

The Scroll Issue: 2-3-16

From left: Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin Quezada, Amanda, Shamir, Jim McManus, N.D., Mr. Hatem, Jada Rivera, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Nireal, Henrick, Jose, Principal Ian Sherman, Jonathan, Alex Ramos, Ginea, and Jose Malta.

Westchester County Executive Astorino Visits Horticulture Program



The Scroll Issue: 6-2-16

On January 19th, Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino visited the Lincoln High School State-of-the-Arts Horticulture Program (Read more on page 4.) (The photo above was supplied by Mr. Jim McManus, N.D.)



The Scroll Issue 5-31-17

(From left): Adam Kaufman (AP), Sandy Hattar (AP), Ian Sherman, Principal, Dr. Angela Arias, Gear-Up Coordinator, Jeannette Swanson (AP), George Miles (AP)

Teacher of the Year



The Scroll Issue: 5-31-17

Michelle DeBonis-Matica (above), English Department Chairperson at Lincoln High School was recently named Yonkers Teacher of the Year for High Schools. The photo was supplied by Tina Matica.



Congratulations to Dr. Dean Saghafi-Ezaz (above, right) for winning the Yonkers Public Schools CTE Teacher of the Year. Ian Sherman (above, left), Lincoln High School Principal, presented the award.

Administrator of the Year



The Scroll Issue : 5-23-18

(Above) Lincoln High School Principal Ian Sherman was presented with the Yonkers Public Schools Administrator of the Year award. Helping him to celebrate are Marissa, his wife, Ari, his son, and daughters Leora and Moriah.

Dr. Saghafi's Researchers



The Scroll Issue: 5-28-18

(Above, from left): Dr. Saghafi, Michael Boahene, Principal Sherman, Elaina Herrera, Reimont Batac, Adrian Addo, Patrick Adofo.

Latin Club Luncheon



The Scroll Issue: 4-12-19

(Back row, from left): Ms. DeBonis-Matica (English Dept. Chair(wearing sombrero), Mr. Zambrano (Grade 12 Administrator)

Middle row, from left): Julian Soto, Kendry Milani, Mr. Sherman (Principal), Crystal Padron

Front row, from left): Ms. Santana (Grade 12 Guidance Counselor), Andrew Gomez Photo supplied by Ms. Loia

Hail The Val and The Sal



The Scroll Issue: 5-28-19

Valedictorian Anjali John and Salutatorian Brian Garcia Hernandez are joined by parents and Lincoln High School staff at the Yonkers City Award Ceremony. Congratulations! (The photo was supplied by Brian Garcia.)

LHS Wins School of the Month



The Scroll Issue: 5-28-19

Mayor Spano (center) congratulates Lincoln High School.

(Photo courtesy of Yonkers Public Schools website.)