



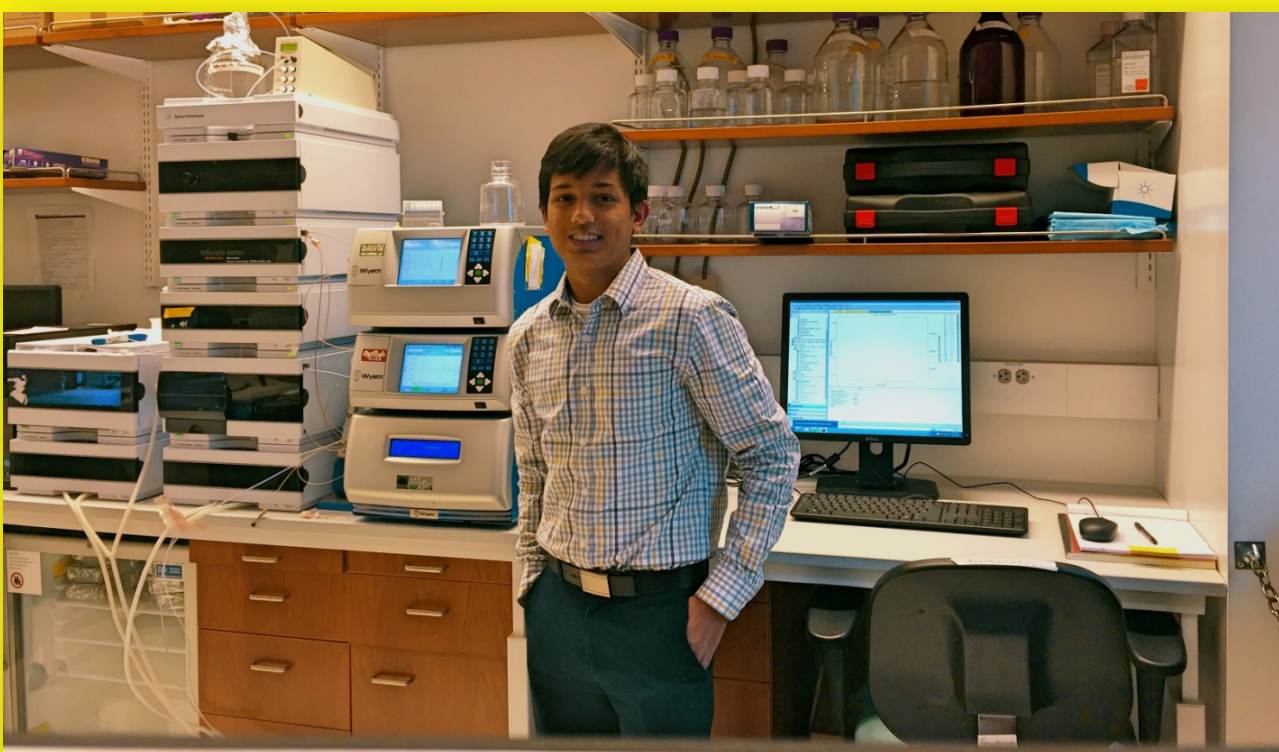
# RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## Akash Chaurasia

Akash Chaurasia, a 2015 RHS graduate, is passionate about the application of science to the medical field. He is passionate about helping people by using chemistry and biology as a:

- Certified EMT volunteer with Ridgewood EMS
- Research Assistant for cancer research at Department of Pediatrics, and Cell and Developmental Biology at Weill Medical College of Cornell University
- Lab Assistant for patients in search of a cure at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Student of Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University

He travelled internationally to broaden his worldview and hopes that this education and experience will provide him a deeper scientific background with which he can make significant contributions to the scientific community.







# RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## Avinash Chaurasia

Avinash Chaurasia, a 2016 graduate of the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine was a RHS graduate of Class of 2008. Soon-to-be resident physician, Avinash will practice in the field of radiation oncology at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He is passionate about taking care of patients with various types of cancer and is committed to pursuing research that may help improve patient care and cancer treatment. He is an Army officer and a West Point graduate, and learned much about the sciences at Ridgewood High School that pushed him to pursue a career in the health care field. He plans on pursuing further cancer research during his residency at the National Institutes of Health in coming years.



Avinash volunteering at the Huntington Beach Marathon as medical tent staff.





# RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

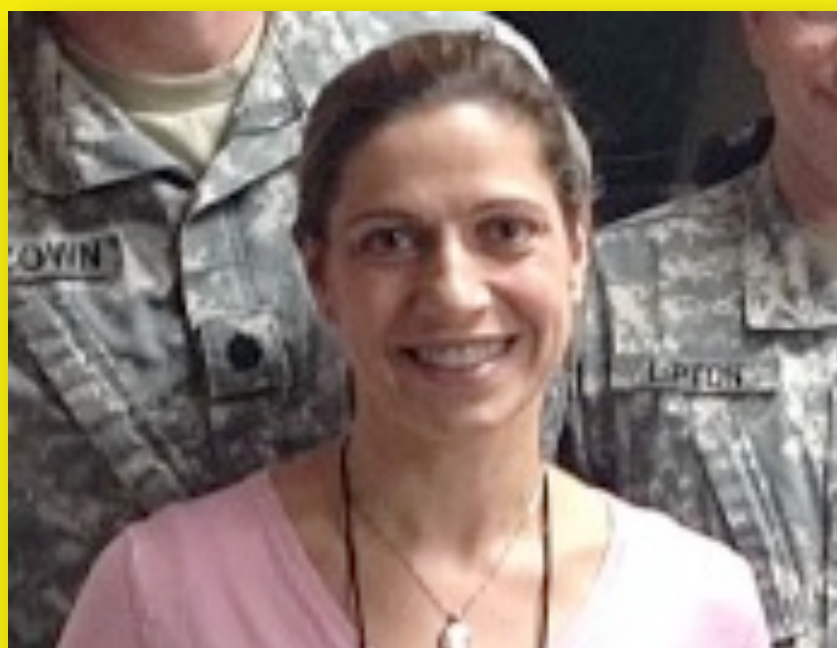
## Cheryl Lee Arnt Issa, MS, RD

Cheryl Arnt Issa is a Public Health Nutritionist at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in College Park, Maryland.

Cheryl is a 1990 RHS graduate who received her Bachelors of Science degree in Dietetics at the University of Maryland. After her training and board exams to become a registered dietitian (RD) specializing in pediatrics, she began working as a dietitian at Georgetown Hospital in Washington, DC. There, along with doctors, nurses, and parents, she helped her patients heal and recover from illnesses by feeding them healthy nutrition. In 1999, she began working at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC where she provided nutrition therapy to the children of those serving in the US Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Public Health Service.

In 2014, Cheryl left the hospital to join the area of public health at the FDA. Her primary role is to provide thorough investigative scientific reviews of infant formulas before the nutrition products are sold in the United States.

Every day, Cheryl spends her time energetically researching and collaborating with the scientific community to protect and promote public health by assuring the safety of infant formulas in our nation's food supply.





# RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## Brendan Reilly

Brendan Reilly is a Ph.D. student at Oregon State University and a graduate of Ridgewood High School's class of 2004. He is a marine geologist and uses sediments from the sea floor to study earth history, including past climates, tectonics, and ice sheets. Reilly has worked as a shipboard scientist on the Research Vessel Joides Resolution for the International Ocean Discovery Program's 2015 expedition to the Indian Ocean. He has also worked in Antarctica, the Arctic and most recently in the Peterman Glacier and Fjord, Northwest Greenland. Brendan and a team of international scientists collect and use sediment cores recovered from the seafloor to study the geological history of the area and how climate changes impact the oceans and glaciers in the most remote and coldest areas of Earth.



Icebreaker, Research Vessel Oden in the Arctic above Greenland







# RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## Patrick Lafond

Meet Patrick Lafond, Chemical Engineer and RHS graduate class of 2004. Patrick received his Bachelor of Science degrees in Mathematics and Chemical Engineering from Virginia Tech. Patrick then went to the Colorado School of Mines for a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering, where he studied granular material. After being awarded his Ph.D., Patrick went to the University of Göttingen, in Germany, for a post doc performing high pressure x-ray, and neutron measurements. Now Patrick lives in Maryland doing further post doctorate work at the Army Research Lab. In his current job, he is studying materials that explode, to understand what makes some chemicals explode (like gunpowder), and other chemicals burn (like candle wax). This can help us understand lots of things, like what chemicals might make good rocket fuel, or if there is something safer than dynamite to use when mining for coal.



Super Science Saturday is proudly sponsored by



and







# RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## Hayley Clark

Hayley Clark is an RN at The Valley Hospital and a graduate of Ridgewood High School's class of 2009. She was a member of the second RAHP (Ridgewood Academy of Health Professions) class of Ridgewood High School. She is Valley Hospital's first employee to come from the RHS RAHP program. Hayley is a graduate of Villanova University class of 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She works in the Labor and Delivery unit where babies are born. Hayley cares for mothers in labor and assists with the delivery of their newborns. She works with a team of doctors, midwives, and other nurses. She has learned a variety of skills including fetal monitoring, patient education, medication implementation, holistic therapies, and operating room requirements. Every day is fast paced, requiring individual assessment and teamwork. Welcoming new life to the world is tremendously exciting!

Photo courtesy of  
Valley Hospital







# RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## Sarah E Bressler

Sarah currently works at Valley Hospital as a Labor and Delivery nurse. Her interest in healthcare started in the RAHP program at Ridgewood High School, class of 2009. Then she spent a year in Salamanca, Spain studying Spanish language and culture before starting nursing school at Binghamton University, class of 2014. After college, she worked on a Medical-Surgical unit before ending up at Valley. A fun fact about her is that she is a certified scuba diver and she has dived in Hawaii, Jamaica and Israel!







# RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## Suzanne Belli

Suzanne Belli is a 2011 graduate of Ridgewood High School and a member of the fourth RAHP class of Ridgewood High School. Suzanne graduated from the University of Virginia class of 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She started her nursing career at The Valley Hospital and graduated from Valley's 2015 Nurse Residency program working in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). The PACU is a fast-paced unit where she works with post-operative patients recovering from anesthesia. She is often working with a team including an anesthesiologist, surgeon, respiratory therapists, and nurses. A fun fact about Suzanne is that she was born at Valley Hospital!







# RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## Katie Kitrinos

Katie (McGrath) Kitrinos graduated from RHS in 1992 and is a director at Gilead Sciences in Foster City, California helping to develop medications to treat infectious diseases. She received her B.S. in Biology from James Madison University in 1996 and her PhD in Genetics and Molecular Biology in 2003. Katie works in the Biomarker Sciences department, where her job involves understanding how both the body and the virus respond to certain hepatitis and HIV medications. Her job involves conducting experiments, analyzing data, and communicating results both within the company as well as to doctors and nurses around the world. She has authored over 35 research papers and 90 conference presentations. Her work has contributed to the successful development of new medications to treat HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.



Super Science Saturday is proudly sponsored by



and

