

DEWITT CLINTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Memories are all we really own.

- Elias Lieberman, Class of 1900



DeWitt Clinton High School Alumni Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2024

www.dewittclintonalumni.com dewittclintonalumniassociation@gmail.com dwcalumni@aol.com





Visit our website
www.dewittclintonalumni.com

- ◆ Stay current with the DeWitt Clinton Community
- ◆ Download this *Newsletter* in color
- ◆ Download the booklet *DWCHS Notable Alumni*

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Governors,

Our annual alumni dinner this past May was a great success due to alumni like you who attended and celebrated our alma mater. Our distinguished alumni honoree, Tracy Morgan '03, provided an evening of reflection and admiration for our alma mater. This newsletter took some extra time to create because of the passing of its previous editor-in-chief. I have taken on this new role and look forward to making this a labor of love for DWC just like Gerard did for so many years.



Our DWC alumni board has seen this new school year full of improvements and remarkable experiences for students. We are planning new events that welcome alumni into the school building throughout the school year. We look forward to contributing to the school and receiving apparel made by current DWC students. See page 9 for more information about the apparel and our Governors walking tours.

Please take your time to read through this publication. Please read the principal's letter on page 3 and learn about the wonderful updates the school has made in the past year. Thank you again for paying your membership dues, sending donations, and continuing to support our alma mater. **Save the date: Friday, May 2, 2025** and join us at our annual alumni reunion dinner. If you aren't receiving emails from us then please sign up for updates via our website: www.dewittclintonalumni.com

With Love from the Bronx,

Sydney Valerio '99
 DWCHS Alumni Association
 Board President



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PRINCIPAL
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EDITOR IN CHIEF
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Gov. DeWitt Clinton

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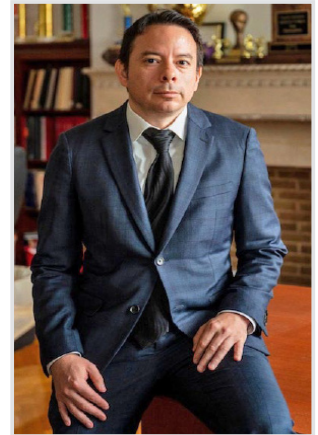
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December 2024

Principal's Letter

Fall/Winter 2024



Pierre Orbe, Principal
DWC High School

Dear DWC Alumni,

As the 2024 calendar year comes to an end I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the many successes here at DeWitt Clinton High School. This past June, DWC continued to show how we are one of the top schools in the Bronx and in New York city by boasting another outstanding graduation rate of 94%! I am also very excited to announce that for the first time in recorded history the attendance rate at DeWitt Clinton High School has eclipsed 93% daily attendance. This is a number that we have never hit in my tenure as Principal, nor in any other administration, and I am very proud of the work that our students are doing.

To celebrate our students' attendance and academic success we have been showering them with new DWC branded apparel to represent the rebirth of the DWC success. We have a new attitude and a new swagger as one of the premier high schools in the city. As alumni members you too can sport the new swag though purchasing items on the Alumni association. We are working towards our goals towards air conditioning for the physical education building and every purchase on your end gets us one step closer.

I am also proud to announce that our students are now engaged in a cosmetology after school program. This new program joins a long list of opportunities for our students to engage in real life work and for them to gain new skills to better prepare themselves for working in the 21st century. We continue to have our swimming program, our apparel program, after school robotics program, our coding program, our nursing program, our EMT program, our agriculture program, all of our PSAL sports teams, and a long list of clubs and organizations. Through all of these programs we have employed over 150 students as paid interns to support these programs throughout the year. In addition to the workplace training opportunities, we also have a number of college trips that have already happened and those that are planned for the Spring semester. This past November, members of our senior class visited colleges in Boston, MA on an overnight trip. They had the opportunity to see Boston University, Tufts University, and Amherst College.

For the spring semester we are looking to take 160 seniors on two more overnight college trips. The first will be to schools in Connecticut including, the University of New Haven, UConn, University of Bridgeport, and Yale University. The second will be to New Jersey and Philadelphia. Those schools will be Villanova, Temple University and Rutgers University. We also have several extended day trips for another 100 students planned for the spring semester. Colleges include Vassar, SUNY New Paltz, University of Albany and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Finally, we will also be taking around 40 seniors to various vocational programs and schools local to NYC. By year's end we will have provided nearly every senior the opportunity to visit a post secondary option, giving them a head start on their life after Clinton.

This school year we are also taking a select group of seniors to Puerto Rico! This trip is slated to take place at the end of May 2025, to celebrate all of their hard work and accomplishments. DWC is proud to say that we are subsidizing a portion of this trip for our students, giving them the opportunity to visit a city that they might otherwise never be able to visit. In order to qualify for this trip students must make their monthly payments, meet and maintain their attendance goals, and never fail a class the entire year! We are excited to see who is the strongest amongst us and who can complete the challenge laid before them! In addition to our trip to Puerto Rico, our seniors also have the opportunity to go on several other trips in the tri-state area. 150 seniors who do not go on the Puerto Rico trip are eligible for an overnight trip to the Kartrite Resort and Indoor Waterpark. All seniors will have the opportunity to go to Six-Flags in New Jersey, and visit the American Dream Mall in the Spring semester. We have worked very hard to ensure that students have the most well rounded high school experience, through their academic and co-curricular activities.

Reflecting on all of the success we are having at the school, I would be remiss if I did not speak about a recent loss DWC has suffered. At the end of November, DWC Alumnus and football coach Dwight Downer tragically passed away in a terrible accident. He was an amazing mentor to many young men on and off the football field. After retiring as a corrections officer,
(Principal's Letter continues on page 7)



DeWitt Clinton High School 128th Reception

Sponsored by the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association

Celebrating the following anniversary classes:

- 60th - 1965 ♦ 50th - 1975 ♦ 40th - 1985
- ♦ 30th - 1995 ♦ 25th - 2000 ♦ 20th - 2005
- ♦ 10th - 2015

Friday, May 2, 2025
 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Rory Dolan's
 890 McLean Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704

Dinner Reservation

Name _____ Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ or charge my credit card.

Visa Master Card American Express Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

CVV 3 or 4 Digits on the back of the card _____

Signature: _____

I cannot attend but enclose a contribution for \$ _____
or charge my credit card to support the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc.

Tickets will include:
 Open Bar, Hor D'Oeuvres,
 salad, main dish, and dessert!

Ticket price for our dues paying
 members is \$99 until January 31st.

Tickets go on sale on January 1, 2025.

Sit With OR Guests

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Please return by April 18, 2025 to:
DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc.,
P.O. Box 566, Elmsford, New York 10523-0566
Phone (914) 961-3003

Your Ad for the 128th Annual Dinner Journal

Please check one box:

Description	Ad price	Ad displayed on DWC Alumni website
<input type="checkbox"/> Red & Black Page (8"x 10.5" Vertical) Full page in color - Ad framed in Red & Black frame	\$1,000	Included
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Page (8"x 10.5" Vertical) Full page in color - Ad framed in platinum frame	\$750	Included
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Page (8"x 10.5" Vertical) Full page in color	\$500	Included
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (8"x 10.5" Vertical) Black & White	\$200	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Page (4"x 5.25" Vertical) Black & White	\$125	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page (4"x 5.25" Vertical) Black & White	\$75	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Card (3.5"x 2" Vertical) Black & White	\$50	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Booster (Name and graduation year only) Black & White	\$25	N/A

Write in your ad here, attach copy or send electronically to our email: dewittclintonalumniassociation@gmail.com



Name and year graduated (please print) _____

Company (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Tel. No. _____ Work Tel. No. _____

E-Mail Address _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ or charge my credit card: \$ _____

Visa Master Card American Express Discover

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

CVV 3 or 4 Digits on the back of the card _____

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to the "DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc." Contributions are tax-deductible.

Please return by April 14, 2025 to: DWC Reunion Dinner- Journal Ads
PO Box 566, Elmsford, NY 10523-0566
Telephone (914) 961-3003

GOVERNORS IN ACTION

Governors Host a College Night Event



Governors Host a Holiday Feast



Governors hosted a number of events to open up the new school year and to close out 2024. These pictures include faculty, staff, and students making their mark at DeWitt Clinton High School. Gym 3, for example, created the space for a Thanksgiving potluck event that fed the hearts and souls of all who form part of the DWC community. Other events this season included college visits, performances, and open Gym on Saturdays. This season will also begin our alumni walking tours! See page 9 for more details.

PHOTOS IN OUR NEWSLETTER WERE GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED BY DWC FACULTY & ALUMNI

GOVERNORS IN ACTION



The Governors Dance Team and musical program created the ambiance to kick off the holiday season celebrations.



President Emeritus John Barbarette '64 pictured here at the May Annual Alumni Reunion Dinner- a gentle reminder to save the date for next year's reunion event:
Friday, May 2, 2025



(Principal's Letter continued from page 5)

Coach D poured his heart and soul into youth football. Having coached with the Bronx Buccaneers and then coming to DeWitt Clinton, the number of lives he has forever changed is countless. As we head into the holiday season, I would like to remind everyone to keep their loved ones close, and particularly to keep the Downer family in your thoughts.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a very safe and healthy holiday season and wish all of the DWC Alumni a very Happy New Year! I know that 2025 is going to bring even more success to our school, and even more pride to your hearts.

Sincerely,

Pierre Orbe
Pierre Orbe
Principal
DeWitt Clinton High School

GOVERNORS IN PDQ FOR LIFE MODE



**CONGRATS
TO ALL OF
THE FALL
ATHLETES
ON
ANOTHER
STRONG
SEASON!**



ENTERPRISE APPAREL AVAILABLE VIA WWW.DEWITTCLINTONALUMNI.COM

Did you know about our current DWC students who intern in the school's Enterprise program? They design, create, and market DWC apparel that other student's who've achieved academic goals get to earn through their efforts. The apparel they create is also for our alumni to receive after making a contribution via our website. You will see crewneck sweaters, like the one Danielle Booker '99 received in the mail recently. Other items include golf shirts, t-shirts, and hoodies. We will also have the students bring back the classic DWC logo gear that we all wore for gym class. We are so proud of this program and the ways it's filling our current students and alumni's closets with DWC gear to wear with pride!



GOVERNORS WALKING TOURS

Starting this December, Alumni Walking Tours will take place before our alumni board meetings. Literally, we will be taking a walk down memory lane. Alumni Walking Tours are open to our membership. See our website to sign up for a walking tour. If you're not a member yet then please visit the website to make your contribution. Any alumni association members who are interested in the walking tour can make a contribution on the website by ordering apparel. Apparel will be distributed at the walking tour. Walking tours will take place at 5:30 p.m. and members are welcome to stay for our meeting after the walking tour. Please email us at dewittclintonalumniassociation@gmail.com if you have any questions. You must sign up in advance. Bring a form of Identification. Space is limited.

Words from the Class of 2024 Graduation Speaker Amy Yensi '02

“Sometimes your best is brilliant. Other times your best doesn’t equal a win, but at least you can be sure that you showed up—not for anybody else, but for you.”

Being the keynote speaker at the graduation is one of the highlights of my career and life. I was inspired by all the students, who seemed so eager to get out into the world. The speeches and performances were powerfully meaningful. I am excited to see what this next generation of Clinton alumni will accomplish. I just know the Class of 2024 is destined for greatness.

Go Governors!



Luis Jimenez, Class of 1983, Declared a Local NYC Hero

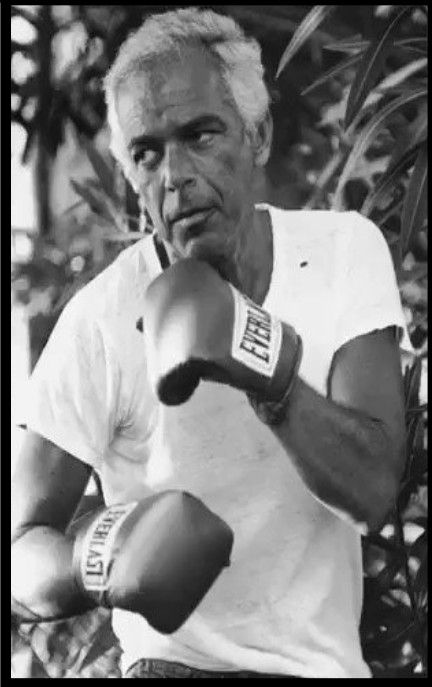


Luis is always lighting up the floor at our annual reunion dinner.

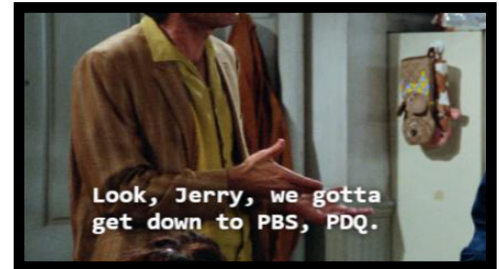
October NYC and National headlines reported, 'Bus Driver Reunites with 5-Year-Old He Found Walking Alone After She Skipped School: 'Thank You Luis for Being My Hero' (People Magazine, Oct. 2024) & 'Hero' bus driver reunites with 5-year-old girl he rescued 'Thank you, Luis, for being my hero and saving my life' (ABC News, Oct. 2024) all referring to DeWitt Clinton High School Alumnus, Luis Jimenez, Class of 1983 An annual supporter of our alumni reunion dinner and association, Luis Jimenez, a NYC MTA bus driver, was recently reunited with a 5-year-old girl he rescued after the child was seen walking on a street by herself in search of a new pet fish. Jimenez was finishing his morning shift that day when he spotted Addy alone on a sidewalk. He monitored Addy for about a block and then told one of his passengers to call 911. According to ABC News, Luis "told WABC it made him feel good that Addy was reunited with her family after the incident. 'I couldn't wait to meet her and her parents because something like that should be celebrated, she was able to get home,' he said" (ABC News, Oct. 2024). Luis, we are always surrounded by your dancing and jovial spirit and are so proud of you. We can't wait to see you at the next reunion dinner in May 2025.

ALUMNI SIGHTINGS

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALUMNI RESIDING IN THE ARIZONA AREA:
Arizona will hold their 12th all-class reunion/brunch on Sunday, February 2, 2025.



"If our classmate Ralph is not the most accomplished member of the Class of 1957 he comes very close. The opening of the Ralph Lauren Center For Cancer Prevention at USC Norris here in Los Angeles included a full page ad with an announcement that said: " Someone you know has cancer, we're all affected - husbands, wives, mothers and fathers, sisters, brothers and friends. This is our effort in the fight. What warms my heart is that Ralph has the economic punch and he uses it the right way".-- Lew Aaronson '57



Seinfeld sitcom, Season 6, Episode 3, 17:44 features an easter egg referring to DeWitt Clinton High School when Kramer's character says "Look, Jerry, we gotta get down to PBS, PDQ."



George Shapiro '49 was a Bronx boy and made three movies to prove it. *The Bronx Boys* (2003) and *The Bronx Boys: Still Playing at 80* (2013) tell the tale of school mates from JHS 80 on Mosholu Pkwy, most of whom went on to Clinton, who have remained friends to this day. In 2019, he released *The Bronx: U.S.A.*, with considerable time given to DWCHS. Shapiro began his movie making business, like many others, working in the mail room of the William Morris Agency, then became one of its talent agents, and would one day become one of the most successful managers in show business. He left Morris and joined up with Howard West to form a production company that, among other ventures, produced the TV sit-com *Seinfeld*. Shapiro passed away in Beverly Hills, Calif., on May 26, 2022.

Visit our website for more information from our Notable Alumni booklet created by Mr. G. Pelisson. Email us if you find more DWC easter eggs while watching *Seinfeld* and we'll feature it in our next newsletter.

Michael Blake, Class of '00, Announces He's Running for New York City Mayor

Our 2022 Distinguished Alumni Honoree, Michael Blake, announced officially launched his mayoral campaign on November 26, 2024. After graduating NorthWestern, Blake's political career includes serving as a critical staff member for both of President Obama's campaigns, serving NYS as an Assembly-member, serving the Democratic National Committee as its Vice-Chair, and serving as the CEO of the Atlas Strategy Group. He is a Reverend. Whatever the audience, Blake's guiding principle remains the same: Your Block won't Block your Blessings. Your Zip code won't deny your Destiny. His campaign's slogan is:

Blake for NYC Mayor: Tomorrow begins Today!



Honoring our newsletter's Editor in Chief & DeWitt Clinton High School Historian whose service to DeWitt Clinton High School advanced the Clinton spirit until December 2023.

MR. GERARD PELISSON

Gerard Pelisson started teaching at DeWitt Clinton High School as a substitute in 1966 and later became a History teacher at the school he and Mr. James Garvey coined *The Castle on the Parkway*. Later in retirement, Gerard dedicated his time to our alma mater in service to it as its historian and editor-in-chief of its newsletters and notable alumni booklets. He attended school events and organized the Faculty Hall of Fame ceremonies. He penned countless letters advocating for our school to remain open and because of his voice it has survived the past two decades of mayoral control of schools. He defended our alma mater in every letter he wrote to NYC newspapers and publication whose intentions were to mar the school's reputation rather than uplift it for its rich history and traditions. He became an honorary board member in 2003 and contributed countless hours to upholding our alma mater's legacy. We miss you dearly Gerard!



Want to see more of Gerard's work documenting our school's history via his carefully crafted notable alumni booklets and newsletters? Visit our website www.dewittclintonalumni.com to retrieve, to remember, and to honor his legacy.

- Gus Dinolis '72 (March 2024)
- Coach Dwight Downer (November 2024)
- Robert Eisinger '45 (July 2024)
- Victor M. Linn '51 (April 2024)
- Stanley Simon '46 (July 2024)

Gerard Pelisson, Retired Faculty & DWC Historian (December 2023)

Mary Agnes Coady-Faculty member included in 2018 inaugural DWHCS Faculty Hall of Honor

Philip Cohen '64, Went to summer school in 1964 to complete intermediate algebra and was granted graduation in August 1964. I joined the Navy and served in Haiti Vietnam, Korea (subsequent to Puerto Rico Capture). Graduated from Lehman College degree economics Dec 1974. Minors in German and English

Christopher R. Conty '67-Orchestra, Arista, Magpie, Forum Club, Key Club-Devasted by news of Gerard's passing. Would like to track down Brian McInerny '66

Robert A. Corrigan '63-Rest in Peace Gerard Pelisson. Thank you for your dedication and contributions to the great legacy of DWC

Howard Domfort '73-Artista, Intramural Softball, Retired for 11 years from the NYS Dept of Taxation+ Finance. Spend winter in NewPort Richey, FL

Robert Esnard '56-Architect/City Planner

Jose "Pepe" Figueroa '68-Volleyball Team, Senior Orchestra, Front Office Switch Board I continue to work and still enjoy the chase. I have so many fond memories of Clinton!

Richard Garber '54-Co-Captain 1953-54 Varsity Basketball team. Tearing up as many golf course as possible

Ira Greenberg '57-45 years either as a controller, or running companies

Lawrence Grossman '57-Clinton News, Clintonian-I continue to be the Brasza Professor and Director of the Center for the Molecular Medicine and Genetics at the Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit

Bernard Handel '42-Clinton News, Service Leagues, Chemistry Club

Edward K. Hara '61-Football, Orchestra (viola), music squad Air Force Liaison Office, minute man two crew, supply contractor, local city mediator, CPA practice NYC + in Minneapolis, semi retired, recovering from pneumonia-legionella (very rare)

Steven Herwood '70-Arista, Yearbook squad, college office squad. In my tenth year of selling radio advertising for Inner Harbor Media in Syracuse, NY. We broadcast from the same building where Dick Clark and Mary Albert began their professional careers. I am proud to have known Gerard Pelisson as a friend and resource.

Barry N. Heyman '62-U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of State - foreign service officer and civil servant working in international development and emergency management.

Bernard Katz '56-Magpie, Service League-Finally retired from teaching at Nassau Community College but still active in private practice of Psychology. Also all grandchildren college graduates.

Terry Kirschner '66-OWNER OF TIRE / AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR CENTERS-WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED BY FORMER DWC MEN

Michael Lebowitz '59-Football, BSEE CCNY, MBA Iona College President of Vital Computer Services retired in 2000. Active artist since then (sculpture and painting)

Neil Lederer '62-Deans Squad, Senior Play Superintendent of schools/ High School principal 57 years in public education

Warren Lebowitz '70-Computer club-Graduated Baruch College with BBA 1974 Graduated Iona College with MS 1982 Tax Professional since 1980

David Levit '47-Chorus (then called Glee Club)1951-1990 Served in NYC Schools as Teacher, Asst. Principal, Principal and from 1972-1990 as Deputy Supt of community school district 73X. Retired-1951-1990. Appreciative and grateful for the excellent free education, including college (CCNY), provided by NY state.

Michael R. Lewis '66-Track & Field, Cross country Team, Drill band

Carmine Magazino '59-Clinton News, Football, God Bless Gerard Pelisson for keeping the great memories of years gone by for all the oldtimers! 65 years since graduation!

Thomas Mauro '56-Football 1954 & 1955, Baseball 1955 & 1956, 3 sons all retired. 2 as police officers, 1 heating & air conditioner. Married 62 years to Linda Apr 29, 1962

Herman Mensing '53-Very disappointed to see so few "Alumni Notes" on last newsletter. That is something I've always looked forward to. German Club, Form Basketball. Retired from AT&T, having worked in multiple departments in multiple cities for 50 years. Keep busy with making note cards, using photos I've taken. Health is generally ok. Remain reasonably active. The Clinton years were good ones.

Alumni Notes Cont'd.

Beaton Miller '57-Editor in Chief The Clinton News; Co-author of classnight play, "Going like 60."

Kenneth M. Morris '62- Clinton News, Magpie, Yearbook, Arista, Lightbulb Press, Siegel & Gale, John Jay College, Ph.D. Columbia University, BA with honors, Cornell University

Felipe Pena-Diaz '99-Captain of Debate Team Regional Director for Rent A Center Real Estate Investor Owner/CEO of Felise Investments & Capital Homestays

Omar Randall '92-U.S. Marine Corps Brigadier General Omar Randall, deputy commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces South. Randall, who originally joined the Marine Corps in 1996, has served as the deputy commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces South since May of 2023. He is a native of the Bronx, New York.

Irwin Rubin '67-Irwin Rubin and his wife Sharon have relocated from NY to Northern California to be closer to their children and grand daughter. After 50 years of practicing law, Irwin has retired and looks forward to more gold, travel and exploring new activities.

Bernard Schiffer '50-Graduated CCNY 1955. Worked for Pfizer 32 years- moved to LA in 1972 as a director for the 99 cent only store have four sons Eric, Dan, Riat, Tom-

Larry Tashlik '60-Biology Club, office helper (worked switchboard) Retired Lt. Colonel, US Army, Retired US Civil Service (AF Special Operations- Education & Training)

Robert Tausek '68-Clinton News-Residing near Charleston, SC, Retired from federal government service

Stephen A. Ugelow '60-Aridity Football-30 years as an Emergency Physician

Sydney Valerio '99-Student Gov't, Senior Class President, ASPIRA, Softball Team, Environmental Club, ARISTA, Pace University '03, Columbia '06, CCNY MFA '20, Project Manager of Archives as Muse: a Harlem Storytelling Project at CCNY, Creator of Perspective Matters: New York City Kid Who's Now a NYC Adult, *Kenyon Review* Alumna, Anthologized in *The Breakbeat Poets* Vol. 4: LatiNext edition, long distance runner, and currently serving as the Alumni Association Board President

Michael Weiser '70-My dad Herbert Weiser graduated in June 1938

Lance Zavin '66-Library Club, Retired from NYCHA. Local 237 Retiree division consultant. Pres. of Pelham Play Jewish Center, Bd Nominee Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY JAMES BALDWIN!

“Those who say it can’t be done are usually interrupted by others doing it.”

— *Notes of a Native Son, James Baldwin '42*

DeWitt Clinton High School Joins CCNY MFA Program's James Baldwin Centenary Celebration Symposium



JAMES A. BALDWIN
"Baldy"
Maggie Editorial Board; Student
Court.
Novelist-Playwright
Fame is the spur and—ouch!

On Thursday, December 5, 2024, two DeWitt Clinton High School English teachers accompanied over a dozen DeWitt Clinton High School students at The City College of New York's celebratory event of our alumnus, James Baldwin '42. Present at the event was his nephew Trevor Baldwin and Baldwin scholars who contributed to the celebration through their panel discussions and testimonials. Alhanna Williams, a current 12th grade student at our alma mater participated in the event. She read Baldwin's "A Letter to My Nephew" and contributed her voice to the celebration. Students joined Trevor Baldwin in a group picture. The event was live streamed by the Manhattan Neighborhood Network and a photographer in the room from the class of 1974, Malik, sported a red shirt and black sweater which instantly allowed Alumni Board President Sydney Valerio '99 identify him as a fellow Governor. A gentle reminder of how much this city is made up of Governors.



Trevor Baldwin pictured above on the left accepting an award commemorating James Baldwin's 100th Birthday. DeWitt Clinton High School students pictured below on the right with Trevor Baldwin.



How the Boys of Boys' High Became Clintonites

The 1897-1898 school year saw the New York City public school population reach half a million. Schools were so crowded that some of them held half-day sessions to accommodate twice as many students. On the high school level, a lack of facilities meant turning away hundreds of children.

In February 1898, frustrated at having to reject new students, Principal Buchanan sought permission from the Board of Education to open an annex for Boys' High School. But his request fell victim to inaction, as the Board had its own expansion problems. The January 1, 1898 merger of New York City (Manhattan and the Bronx) with the city of Brooklyn and various towns in Queens and Staten Island had left the "new" New York City without a central Board of Education to govern all public schools.

In late spring of 1898, the state legislature addressed the issue of multiple Boards of Education by creating a central Board with offices at Park Avenue and 59th Street. One of the first steps taken by the new Board was to give Boys' High permission to open an annex on 46th Street. On September 12, 1898, the annex opened with Dr. Charles Douglas as its head. With the additional space, the student body grew to two thousand by the start of the 1899 school year.

The new central Board of Education may have temporarily eased the overcrowding at Boys' High, but it also sent the school into a temporary spin by ordering it to change its name by 1900. An even older Boys' High School existed in Brooklyn, and the Board, understandably, saw problems with two schools having the same name. The Brooklyn school, being older, was permitted to keep its name.

Following months of vigorous debate and discussion on the part of the faculty and student body to choose a new name, a consensus was reached to name the school after the individual who had contributed the most to the establishment of the public school system in New York. In 1900, Boys' High School of Manhattan and the Bronx became The DeWitt Clinton High School, although the state legislature did not make the change official until Janu-

ary 1, 1901.

At the same time, to personalize the names of schools, Girls' High School was renamed The Wadleigh High School and The Mixed High School



The New York City Board of Education building when it was on 59th Street in Manhattan

was renamed The Peter Cooper High School, to be renamed The Morris High School in 1905.

The first Clinton graduation exercises were held in 1900 at the offices of the Board of Education on 59th Street. The graduates had to share the day and the place with the graduates of Wadleigh and Peter Cooper, as all three schools held a combined ceremony.

Diplomas were granted to students who had fulfilled a three-year or four-year course of study. The four-year graduates from Wadleigh and Peter Cooper had already completed a year's schooling before entering the New York City public school system. It would not be until 1901 that Clinton had its first four-year graduates.

Of the 28 Clinton graduates in 1900, five went on to New York University, two to Cornell Medical,

Membership Dues 2025



I would like to receive a paper edition of the Alumni Newsletter.

Please Print

NAME _____ YEAR GRADUATED _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

DWC SCHOOL AFFILIATIONS (CLUBS, SPORTS)

NOTES _____

Please use the above space to provide news about yourself for our publication.

Barrese Society: I have paid dues for ____ consecutive years. This year's donation includes ____ missed year(s).

Dues January 1, 2025	\$35.00
Voluntary Assessment (in support of student activities)	\$15.00
Total Sustaining Donation	\$50.00

The Alumni Association will shortly mail the Barrese Society pins to all those alumni who have contributed to the Association for at least ten years in a row. Thank you, loyal sons and daughters of DWC.



Actual size: 1" diameter

- Century Club \$100 (includes dues)
- Red and Black Club \$200 (includes dues)
- Governor's Club \$300 (includes dues)
- President's Club \$500 (includes dues)
- Guernsey Club \$1,000 (includes dues)
- Alumni Leadership Weekend Fund \$ _____

Dues can be paid securely on line at www.dewittclintonalumni.com

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ or charge my credit card \$ _____.

- Visa
- Master Card
- American Express
- Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

CVV (3 or 4 digits on the back of the card) _____

Signature _____

The DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association thanks you, our loyal supporters.

Make checks payable to DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn., Inc. Mail to: P.O. Box 566, Elmsford, NY 10523-0566 (A donation for scholarships require a separate check made payable to the DeWitt Clinton Scholarship and Student Aid Fund, Inc., and mailed to: P.O. Box 566, Elmsford, NY 10523-0556).

**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS OUR
ALUMNI WEBSITE**



OUR ALUMNI WEBSITE INCLUDES:

- 1. Digital versions of our newsletters and publications,**
- 2. Apparel made by DWC enterprise interns,**
- 3. Alumni Reunion Tickets,**
- 4. Photos and videos from our events, and**
- 5. Alumni Dues form & more.**

**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS THE LINK FOR
ALUMNI DUES**



SOME ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP PERKS:

- 1. Direct support of current DWC students academic programs, sports programs, etc.,**
- 2. Lowered ticket prices for the alumni reunion dinner and other alumni association sponsored events,**
- 3. Access to alumni association members only events,**
- 4. We are a non-profit and your dues are tax deductible,**
- 5. Receive giveaways exclusively for our alumni membership,**
- 6. Mailings of our newsletters and publications, and**
- 7. Access to the DWC walking tours that begin this December.**

DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc.
P.O. Box 566
Elmsford, New York 10523-0566

DeWitt Clinton Scholarship
and Student Aid Fund, Inc.
Phone (914) 961-3003

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**Thank you for your constant support of our alma mater.
We wish you a peaceful holiday season.**

Save the Date: Friday, May 2, 2025

Annual Alumni Reunion Dinner



Sine Labore Nihil — Nothing Is Achieved Without Hard Work