Nine New Notable Alumni Entries

Plus Below Nine Past Entries in Their Youth (Clues: Page 68)
There is nothing upon which the reputation of a school depends more than the record of its students after graduation. A school may be victorious upon the athletic fields; it may be supreme in debating contests; but if its graduates fail when they compete with others in college or the business world, its reputation as a school has yet to be made. Thus, the true test of the educational value of a school is based on the achievements of students, not when attending school, but when they are fighting and overcoming the difficulties of business or professional life.

--What the seniors in the 1901 Clinton Review (the first yearbook) saw as the mark of a good school.

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DeWitt Clinton High School deserves to be celebrated for its rich legacy, tradition and profound impact on society. Like their predecessors for nearly 125 years, today’s graduates continue to embark on numerous endeavors that will change our nation and the world.  

--Kishan Singh 2009, Teacher, Brooklyn

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<td>Karl Struss</td>
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DeWitt Clinton High School Notable Alumni
DeWitt Clinton High School Notable Alumni

--- 1897-1900 ---

Ralston S. Holmes '99 entered the United States Naval Academy in 1899 and by career's end rose to the rank of rear admiral. He served as commander of the presidential yacht USS Mayflower (1924-1929), commandant of midshipmen at Annapolis (1932-1935), chief of Naval Intelligence (1938), commander of Destroyer Flotilla 1, Battle Force (1939), and commandant of the 11th Naval District in San Diego, CA (1941-1942). In November 1899, writing from Annapolis to any Clinton (then Boys' High) boy interested in attending the Naval Academy, Holmes warned, "Don't take Latin, Greek, or any other classics.... Mathematics is most important." Holmes died in 1966.

William Anthony Aery '00 began in 1906 as an instructor in social science at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia, which had been founded in 1869 for the "practical education of Negro youth." In late fall 1906, he wrote to the Magpie to tell Clinton students how much he admired the Hampton students for their sacrifice and hard work. It was said that over the course of his life, he wrote more than a million words on Negro education for magazines and newspapers. He retired from Hampton in 1939. For a time, he worked as press secretary for Booker T. Washington. Aery died in 1963.

Pedro de Cordoba '00 began the first orchestra at DeWitt Clinton High School (then Boys' High). The world, however, knows him as a great character actor. His career spanned from the 1915 silent film Pedro de Cordoba '00 began in 1906 as an instructor in social science at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia, which had been founded in 1869 for the "practical education of Negro youth." In late fall 1906, he wrote to the Magpie to tell Clinton students how much he admired the Hampton students for their sacrifice and hard work. It was said that over the course of his life, he wrote more than a million words on Negro education for magazines and newspapers. He retired from Hampton in 1939. For a time, he worked as press secretary for Booker T. Washington. Aery died in 1963.

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Edward Fitzpatrick '00 was a member of DWC's first graduating class. Perhaps that had something to do with why, in 1911, he wrote the book Educational Views and Influence of DeWitt Clinton. From 1903 to 1908, he taught in the New York City Public Schools. Leaving this work to investigate state educational systems, Fitzpatrick drafted the first minimum wage law for teachers in Wisconsin, in 1913. He remained in the state to take charge of Wisconsin's draft administration during World War I. In 1924, he became dean of the graduate school at Marquette University. From 1929 to 1954, he served as president of Mount Mary College for Women, Milwaukee. Fitzpatrick died in 1960.

--- 1901-1910 ---

James E. Kearney '01 served as Roman Catholic bishop of Salt Lake City, Utah, from 1932 to 1937 and of Rochester, NY, from 1937 to 1966. In 1948, he founded St. John Fisher College in Rochester. Today a high school in that city bears his name. His style was gregarious, his voice Irish tenor, and he loved to pepper his sermons with Irish poems and songs. He returned to DeWitt Clinton for several reunions before his death in 1977. In a 1932 interview in the Clinton News, he said, "The mention of Clinton naturally brings back happy memories.... It was a great old school with a great spirit—may the spirit continue with the school for many days to come."

Dudley Field Malone '01 liked to say, "I have never learned anything from any man who agreed with me." Prior to the U.S. entry into World War I, he served as collector of customs of the Port of New York but resigned when President Woodrow Wilson failed to support the women's suffrage amendment. In 1925, he was co-counsel for teacher John Scopes who was charged with violating Tennessee's anti-evolution statute, the famous Scopes Monkey Trial. In a memorable speech during the trial, Malone said, "For God's sake, let the children have their minds kept open – close no doors to their knowledge." In the 1943 film Mission to Moscow, he portrayed Winston Churchill. Malone died in 1950.

George Medalie '01 was a practicing attorney, a United States Attorney, an associate judge of the New York State Court of Appeals and a philanthropist who did not forget his civic duties to care for the less fortunate. He might just be remembered most for his involvement with the notorious gangster Jack "Legs" Diamond, a beer runner and slot machine operator of the 1920s. Medalie not only served as Diamond’s attorney in two criminal cases that resulted in acquittals, but later, as United States Attorney, he prosecuted Diamond and brought about his first conviction in a criminal case. George Zirden Medalie passed away in the DeWitt Clinton Hotel in Albany, New York, on March 5, 1946.

Edward Sapir '01 lived in Germany, England and Virginia before calling NYC home. After graduating from Clinton, he pursued his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology at Columbia University. He would become one of the most important figures in the early development of the discipline of linguistics. Among his major contributions was his classification of indigenous languages of the Americas. He was also a pioneer in Yiddish studies (his first language) in the United States. From 1931 until his death in 1939, Sapir taught at Yale University, becoming the head of the department of anthropology.
Salvatore A. Cotillo '03 may be remembered as the son of the Italian immigrant who opened a confectionery store on Broadway and introduced spumoni to America. But he is remembered for being elected in 1912 to the New York State Assembly by the largest majority given a candidate up to that time. He went on to serve as state senator (1917-1923). In 1923, he became the first Italian-American justice on the New York Supreme Court. Although Cotillo was associated with Tammany Hall, he was a strong proponent of social and pro-labor legislation. Cotillo died in 1939.

Karl Struss '03 was a photographer and cinematographer who in 1929 won the first Academy Award forcinematography for the film *Sunrise*. He filmed a remarkable 103 feature motion pictures, including the 1925 silent screen classic *Ben-Hur* starring Francis X. Bushman and Ramon Navarro, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1931), Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* (1940) and *Limelight* (1952), half a dozen Tarzan movies, and the classic sci-fi shocker *The Fly* (1958). In 1931, Struss returned to DeWitt Clinton to speak to students in the art program about his experiences behind the camera. He died in 1981.

I. Maurice Wormser '03 earned his law degree from Columbia University in 1909. Though a successful advocate, he is most remembered for his forty-two-year career (1913-1955) as a member of the faculty at the Fordham University School of Law. During that time (from 1919 to 1931), he was editor of the *New York Law Journal*. At Fordham, more than 7,000 students benefited from his brilliance, technique, and wit. His death came on October 22, 1955 at a Fordham function where RCA chairman David Sarnoff delivered the main lecture. After the lecture, Wormser stepped to congratulate Sarnoff and collapsed and, two minutes later, died. In his honor, Fordham annually holds the I. Maurice Wormser Memorial Moot Court Competition.

George Baehr '04, a graduate of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, served in World War I as the commander of Mount Sinai's Base Hospital No. 3, established in France. In the 1930s, his work as a pathologist resulted in major advances in the definitive description of lupus. During World War II, Baehr was chief medical officer of the U.S. Office of Civil Defense. In 1944, he became the first chief of medical services and medical research at Mount Sinai Hospital (NYC). Also in the 1940s, he founded the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York (H.I.P.) as a group practice, pre-paid health plan providing low cost medical care to middle class workers. Baehr died in 1978.

Stanley Quinn '04 was born in Bismarck, North Dakota, but moved with his parents to New York City in the mid-1890s. His father, John Quinn, was elected to the New York Senate in 1905. The young Quinn was valedictorian of his graduating class at Fordham University in 1908. At Fordham, he co-wrote the first play that was performed in the newly built Collins Auditorium. He spent most of his career in public relations, for a time working for Edward Bernays '08. As a leader of the Democratic party, he was largely responsible for bringing the 1924 Democratic National Convention to New York City. About his high school, he said, "My days at Clinton made me a better American...because it made me know that no class or race had a monopoly of virtue or intelligence." Quinn died in 1958.

William Axt '05 began his music-composing-for-movies career in a fashion that young people today might not understand. He wrote his first scores for silent movies. This meant that the music was not on any soundtrack but would be played in the movie theater by a live orchestra. His most famous "silent" score was the accompanying music for the 1925 epic *Ben-Hur*. When the "talkies" finally spoke up, Axt's music became part of the soundtrack. His scores can be heard in such classics as *The Thin Man* (1934), *Libeled Lady* (1936), *Parnell* (1937), and *Rich Man, Poor Girl* (1938), and all in all in over 200 movies. Axt died in 1959.

Waldo Frank '06 described his high school this way: "Clinton was life—varied and racy as old New York, deep as American culture and dynamic as the typical American big city generation. The school had freedom..... Boys' minds and spirits could grow in that rich soil of Clinton—and did grow!" He spent his life in the pursuit of freedom for all, though even he would come to regret that he once thought communism was the answer. Frank was a prolific writer whose works are still read widely in Latin America. He was perhaps the first American to use the stream-of-consciousness technique in his writing. His most celebrated works include *Our America* (1919) and *The Death and Birth of David Markand* (1934). Frank died in 1967.

Grover Whalen '06 was a New Yorker through and through, so much so that he was called "Mr. New York." In 1924, he was responsible for beginning the city's first radio station and giving it the call letters WNYC. In 1928, he became chief of police and, in that capacity, begot the controversial line, "There is plenty of law at the end of a nightstick." The 1939 New York World's Fair was his idea, and as president of the World's Fair Corporation, he made sure that the opening ceremonies took place on schedule. As official greeter of New York City, he expanded the use of ticker tape parades, organizing more than 75 between 1919 and 1952 to welcome important visitors to the city. Whalen died in 1962.
Shelton Hale Bishop ’07 was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1914. From 1916 to 1923, he was rector of Church of the Holy Cross in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Later, he served as rector of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in New York City from 1933 to 1957. During that time, St. Philip’s, with its mostly African American congregation of nearly 4,000, was the largest Episcopal church in the United States. Bishop officiated at many noteworthy weddings, including the 1956 marriage of Thurgood Marshall and Cecelie Suyat. Throughout his life, he was a leader in promoting social justice. After retirement, he worked in Hawaii as a missionary until his death in 1962.

Chester Ricker ’07 needed money to help pay the tuition at Cornell College, so he took odd jobs at various race car venues. By his graduation in 1911, he had devised a timing system to judge the winners of races. His system used complex, split-second techniques for timing a race and turning out a foolproof rundown on where each car stood through the race and where each finished. In 1913, he become the official timekeeper of the Indianapolis 500 Speedway Race. In addition, he timed many of the nation’s premier speed contests on water and in the air. Ricker died in 1951, but his time system was used at Indianapolis well into the 1960s.

Barney Sedran ’07, “The Mighty Mite of Basketball,” is the shortest player to be enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame (1962). How small was he? Small enough not to make the Clinton team when he was Barney Sedranksy. Small enough to walk under anything above 5 foot 4. But with that height and only 115 pounds to carry around, he was so fast that the City College of New York (CCNY) coach gave him a chance. He was the school's leading scorer for three consecutive seasons, 1909–11, before setting out for a career in the pros with the Newburgh Club and then Utica of the New York State League. Among his many successes, he led Newburgh to the Hudson Valley League championship in 1912 and Utica to the World Professional title in 1914. Sedran died in 1969.

Louis Stark ’07 was born in Hungary in 1888 and came to the United States with his parents at the age of three. Ten years after graduating from Clinton, he began as a reporter specializing in labor news for the New York Times. His fearless efforts to get to the truth of the story led to his winning the Pulitzer Prize for Journalism in 1942. Whereas literary winners of the Pulitzer were awarded $500, the winner for journalism was given a gold medal valued at $500. In a 1934 issue of the Magpie, he fondly recalled his years at Clinton and made special mention of his favorite teacher, Ellen Garrigues of the English department. Louis Stark was still working for the New York Times when he died in 1954.

Edward Bernays ’08 developed strategies for shaping public opinion that earned him the title “Father of Public Relations.” His clients included Enrico Caruso, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Calvin Coolidge, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Among the corporations he represented were American Tobacco, Proctor & Gamble, CBS, NBC, General Motors, and United Fruit, and among the organizations the NAACP and the ACLU. Life magazine named Bernays one of the 100 most influential Americans of the 20th century. Dying at 103 years of age in 1995, Bernays was the most loyal of Clintonites, ceaselessly supportive of the school and the Alumni Association.

James Henle ’08 may or may not have been camera shy, but this illustration is his only image on the Internet. It comes from an illustrated account of how Henle, as president of Vanguard Press, published an author that had been rejected by 20+ editors. The author was Theodore Geisel, and his book was A Story That Can’t Be Beat. But Henle asked for a snappier title. Geisel came up with And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street (1937) and used his middle name Dr. Seuss as author for the first time. Liking the book, Random House wooed Seuss away from Vanguard and published the rest of the series. Perhaps the most popular book Henle published was Auntie Mame by Patrick Dennis in 1955, which had been rejected by 12 other publishing houses. James Henle passed away in January 1973.

DC Ramsey ’08 perhaps was born to attend DWC. After all, the DC in his name stood for DeWitt Clinton. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy, he became a pioneer naval aviator. In World War II, he commanded the USS Saratoga during the landings against Guadalcanal. For his skillful use of air power against Japanese naval forces in the Solomons, he won the Navy Cross. Rising to the rank of admiral, his post-war assignments included command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics (BuAer) in the Navy Department, and vice chief of Naval Operations. He died in 1961.

Lew Brown ’09 did not graduate in the year after his name. The ’09 marks the year his Clinton Latin teacher told him he was wasting his time in school and that he should go and write lyrics for a living. A good boy, he listened to his teacher, left Clinton, and wrote the words to such great songs as: “The Birth of the Blues” (1926), “The Best Things in Life Are Free” (1927), “To Know You Is to Love You” and “You’re the Cream in My Coffee” (both 1928), “Button Up Your Overcoat” (1929), “Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries” (1931), and “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree with Anyone Else But Me” and “Beer Barrel Polka” (both in 1939). Born Louis Brounstein in Odessa, Russian Empire, Brown died in 1958.

Vincent A. Nardiello ’09 was the New York State Athletic Commission medical doctor during the 1940s and 1950s. As a ring doctor, he examined most of the great prizefighters of the 20th century, including Joe Lewis, Rocky Marciano, Jake LaMotta and Archie Moore. In the late 1930s, Dr. Nardiello, still in private practice, had a patient who wanted him to talk her son into giving up boxing and staying in DWCHS. The doctor told her, “Your son may never be a good student, but I think he may be a pretty good boxer.” The mother relented and her son left Clinton to become Sugar Ray Robinson. Dr. Nardiello died in January 1965. In 1992, he was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame.

Pete Smith ’09 produced, wrote, and narrated more than 280 short films for MGM from 1931 through 1954, many of them being part of his own series, \textit{Pete Smith Specialties}. The one-reelers covered topics from sports to animals to science. His sixteen Academy Award nominations in the short subject categories between 1932 and 1950 resulted in Oscars for \textit{Penny Wisdom} (MGM, 1937) and \textit{Quick \& Wink} (MGM, 1940). He received a 1953 Honorary Academy Award “for his witty and pungent observations on the American scene....” Smith passed away in 1979, but you can still watch his short films periodically on the Turner Classic Movies channel.

Frederic W. Boye ’10 went by the nickname “Fritz” at Clinton and at West Point. At the U.S. Military Academy, he was president of his 1915 senior class, which produced the most generals in the academy’s history, including Dwight D. Eisenhower and Omar Bradley. Boye saw duty with the Punitive Expedition into Mexico in 1916. He served as commanding officer of 12th Cavalry from 1940 to 1943. Rising to the rank of brigadier general, Boye served during World War II as commanding general, Central Command, Chinese Combat Command. He died in 1970 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery. His son, Major General Frederic W. Boye Jr., U.S. Army Ret., died in 2004.

Samuel Hofstadter ’10 was born in Krakow, then in Austria-Hungary and now in Poland, but came with his family to New York in 1899. Graduating from New York Law School in 1913, he distinguished himself in the legislative and judicial branches of New York State government. He served in the Assembly (1925-1928) and in the Senate (1929-1932). In 1931-32, he chaired the Hofstadter Commission established by the legislature to probe corruption in New York City. Its findings led to the resignation of Mayor Jimmy Walker on September 1, 1932. Hofstadter also served in the State Supreme Court (1933-1964) and in its Appellate Division (1947-1964). He died in 1970.

Harold Riegelman ’10 served New York City for more than 60 years in various housing, health, financial, and cultural organizations. After graduating from Columbia Law School in 1916, he made a personal commitment to give one-third of his time to the service of the community. He saw active duty in World War I and World War II, leaving with the rank of colonel. For Gov. Alfred E. Smith, he brought opposing political interests together to enact New York State’s first low-rent housing law. For Pres. Franklin Roosevelt, he reduced from 31 to 17 the number of federal agencies dealing with loans and housing policies. For Pres. Dwight Eisenhower, he became the Postmaster of New York and restored efficiency. Riegelman died in 1982.

\textbf{—— 1911-1920 ——}

Arthur Hornblow Jr. ’11 said of DeWitt Clinton High School that other than his parents, it had the greatest influence in his life. That life was spent producing many successful films, including \textit{Gaslight} (1944), \textit{The Hucksters} (1947), \textit{The Asphalt Jungle} (1950), \textit{Oklahoma} (1955), and \textit{Witness for the Prosecution} (1957). All in all, he produced 38 motion pictures before his death in 1976. When he married Myrna Loy in 1936, the \textit{Clinton News} Gossiper article said that he had made it respectable for Clinton boys to marry actresses.

Phillips Carlin ’12 started his broadcasting career with the New York radio station, WEA, where he covered the 1924 Democratic National Convention at Madison Square Garden. With Graham McNamee, he announced the 1926, 1927 and 1928 World Series for NBC. In 1927, Carlin and Clintonite Milton Cross, both working for NBC, covered the arrival of Charles Lindbergh in New York after his nonstop solo flight to Paris. In 1945, he conceived \textit{Queen for a Day}, a prize giveaway radio and later television show. Afterwards, he worked as a production representative for advertising agencies and produced hundreds of TV commercials. Carlin died in 1971.
Harold “Babe” White ‘12 was an All-American (1915) football guard for Syracuse University, 1913-1916, serving as captain of the 1916 team. At 6 feet, 6 inches in height and 273 pounds, he was the largest American football player of his time. But wait, there’s more. He served in army intelligence in World Wars I and II, was the first American to visit Nepal, represented Haile Selassie of Ethiopia at the League of Nations, was a big game hunter in Africa and Asia, and was a member of the New York Stock Exchange. White died in 1973.

Joseph Fields ’13 had theatrical talent in his blood. His father was Lew Fields of the vaudeville team Weber and Fields. His brother Herbert ’16 wrote plays and screenplays and his sister Dorothy was a song lyricist and playwright. After serving with the American Expeditionary Force in France during World War I, Joseph Fields turned to writing, directing, and producing for the theater and films. He is best known for his Broadway writing collaborations. With Jerome Chodorow came My Sister Eileen (1940), Wonderful Town (1953), and Anniversary Waltz (1954). With Anita Loos, he wrote Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1949) and with Oscar Hammerstein II, Flower Drum Song (1958). Fields died in 1966.

Walter Mack Jr. ‘13 was president of the Pepsi-Cola Company from 1939 to 1950. In 1940, he had the unprecedented idea of putting African Americans in Pepsi ads. In the same year, he introduced the standardized embossed 12-oz. bottle, which debuted with the “Pepsi-Cola” label blown and baked into the glass. He is also credited with being the first to put soda in cans and the first to use a jingle as an advertisement on national radio. Once, at a DeWitt Clinton assembly, Mack was treated to a surprise when the senior class spontaneously stood up and sang the Pepsi jingle. He laughed, the principal did not. Mack died in 1990.

James W. D. Seymour ’13 was the first editor-in-chief of the Clinton News in its debut in early 1913. Edward Bernays ’08 credited Seymour, while working for his alma mater Harvard, with the idea that colleges should market themselves to increase their endowments. Seymour became a screenwriter and penned 42nd Street (1933), The Gold Diggers of 1933, and We’ll Meet Again (1943). In the late 1930s, he was a press secretary to Joseph P. Kennedy, U.S. ambassador to the Court of St. James. Seymour’s father William, at age 7, acted on the stage with John Wilkes Booth. Brother John ’15 and niece Anne were actors, as was his great-uncle Harry Davenport, who played Dr. Meade in Gone With the Wind. Seymour died in 1976.

M. Lincoln Schuster ’13 and his business partner, William Simon, founded Simon & Schuster publishing in 1924. Their first book was one of crossword puzzles and it came with a pencil. The company, though now part of CBS Corporation, is still the preeminent U.S. publisher of crossword puzzle books. In 1947, Schuster wrote to Clinton on the occasion of its 50th anniversary to say that Ellen Garrigues, though now part of CBS Corporation, is still the preeminent U.S. publisher of crossword puzzle books. In 1947, Schuster wrote to Clinton on the occasion of its 50th anniversary to say that Ellen Garrigues, one of his English teachers, had inspired his love of literature. In a 1953 Clinton News interview, he told students to keep their books and burn their diplomas. He also told them that chance favors the prepared mind. Schuster died in 1970.

David Wechsler ’13 was the chief psychologist at New York City’s Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital from 1932 to 1967. He developed several widely-used intelligence tests, including the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (1949) and the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (1955). Updated versions of these tests remain popular in the 21st century. How did Wechsler define intelligence? “Intelligence is the aggregate or global capacity of the individual to act purposefully, to think rationally and to deal effectively with his environment.” He died in 1981.

Richard Cortez ’14 sought to follow in the footsteps of the great “Latin lover” movie star Rudolph Valentino. But Cortez’s real name was Jacob Kranze (or Krantz), born in New York City. While movie executives supported Cortez’s “Latin” claim, the public was suspicious. So the executives said he was French, then Viennese. Nevertheless, Cortez starred in more than 100 feature films, among them Sixty Cents an Hour (1923, silent), The Spaniard (1925, silent), The House on 56th Street (1933), Mr. Moto’s Last Warning (1939), Mystery in Mexico (1948) and The Last Hurrah (1958). Ricardo Cortez passed away in New York City in 1977.

Leon Ginzburg ’14 might have wished that his last name began with the letter A or B. In the late 1920s at Mount Sinai Hospital, he and Dr. Gordon D. Oppenheimer began extensive research on diseases of the bowels, before being joined by Dr. Burrill B. Crohn. In 1932, the three researchers published their diagnosis of “terminal ileitis,” later to be revised to “regional enteritis.” Because Crohn’s name was placed alphabetically first on the published findings, the diagnosed illness came to be known as Crohn’s disease. During World War II, Dr. Ginzburg served at the 3rd General Hospital in North Africa and Europe, reaching the rank of army major. From 1947 to 1967, he was director of surgery at Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan. Dr. Ginzburg died in 1988.
Prince Patanilla Barker ’15 can be found, along with Wilmer Lucas (two entries below), in the chemistry club photo in the 1914 Clintonian. All those test tubes must have inspired him, for he went on to become a psychiatrist, receiving his medical degree from Howard University in 1923. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I, World War II, and Korea, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel. From 1946 to 1956, Barker was chief of neuropsychiatric services at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama. He died on February 1, 1971 and is buried in Long Island National Cemetery in New York.

Milton Cross ’15 started his career in radio just as the world of network radio was beginning. He joined the New Jersey station WJZ in 1921. In 1927, WJZ moved to Manhattan and became the flagship station of the Blue Network of NBC's new national radio network. Cross’s distinctive voice led to being the announcer for the quiz program Information Please and the musical humor show The Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street, among others. But he is most remembered as the host of the Metropolitan Opera’s broadcasts of live Saturday matinee performances. In 43 seasons, he missed only two broadcasts, due to the death of his wife. Cross also edited several popular editions of opera synopses. He died in 1975.

Wilmer F. Lucas ’15 did not turn his experience in Clinton’s chemistry club into becoming a doctor (See Barker ’15 p. 7), but he did serve in the U.S. Army during World War II as commander of the 369th Antiaircraft Artillery Group in the Pacific. Later he would achieve the rank of brigadier general. But his first great achievement happened in 1929 when, after graduating from NYU’s Graduate School of Business, he became the first African-American CPA in New York State history. In 1937, he started his own CPA firm, Lucas & Tucker, on 125th Street in Harlem. The 1914 chemistry club photo shows a confident youngster and the rest of his life proved that he had a right to be. Lucas died in 1980.

Barnet Nover ’15 was a newsman through and through. He was a reporter, associate editor, and columnist for the Buffalo Evening News, 1920-1936; associate editor and foreign affairs columnist for the Washington Post, 1936-1947; chief of the Washington bureau for the Denver Post, 1947-1972; and editor of the Nover News Service, 1972-1973. In the Washington of the 1930s and 1940s, Nover counted among his friends presidents, senators, and Supreme Court justices. It is possible that none of those distinguished friends knew that his last name as a student at Clinton was Novogrudsky. He passed away on April 15, 1973.

Arrigo Righi ’15 was born in Italy in 1897 and came to America at age seven. After DWC, he entered Columbia University but a year later decided that his homeland needed him in the Great War. Joining the Italian army, he became a lieutenant in the Brigade of Grenadiers Royal Guard. When the Prince of Wales, the future British monarch Edward VIII, was touring Italian war zones and longing to converse with someone who spoke English, Righi was sent to the prince’s quarters. Their meeting went so well that the prince invited Righi to return later for dinner. After the war, Righi continued at Columbia and graduated in 1920. He went to South America as a partner in a banking firm specializing in foreign exchange until he joined Pan American Airways in 1940. Righi died in 1972.

Herbert Fields ’16 had a favorite teacher at Clinton and as a playwright, he gave her name to characters in three Broadway shows Let’s Face It (1941), Mexican Hayride (1944), and Up in Central Park (1945). The teacher was Mildred ”Molly” Wincor. Fields wrote the book for Rodgers ’19 and Hart ’10’s A Connecticut Yankee… (1927) and co-wrote the books for DuBarry Was a Lady (1939), Panama Hattie (1940), Annie Get Your Gun (1946), and Redhead (1959), the last two with his sister Dorothy. He also wrote screenplays, some of which were adaptations of his Broadway plays. Fields died in 1958 and posthumously won the 1959 Tony Award for Best Musical (Redhead).

Paul Gallico ’16 first achieved prominence as a sportswriter for the New York Daily News. After sparring with boxing champion Jack Dempsey, Gallico became a celebrity and one of the highest-paid journalists in the United States. He introduced the Golden Gloves boxing competitions to New York. Thereafter, he turned to writing biographies, short stories, and novels, which included The Snow Goose (1941), The Pride of the Yankees (1942), Mrs. ‘Arris goes to Paris (1958), and The Poseidon Adventure (1969). His greatest disappointment was not earning a Clinton “C” for football. His father thought that the sport was too dangerous and made his son quit the team. Gallico died in 1976.

Ludwig Gluskin ‘16 spent his life in music, playing drums in the Clinton orchestra, heading one of the most successful jazz bands in Europe in the 1920s, and becoming music director for CBS Radio (1937) and for CBS-TV (1947). During the late 1920s/early 30s in Europe, his band-become-orchestra recorded over 700 titles. Some of the titles were filmed and can be seen on YouTube. At CBS Radio in 1938, he directed the music for the Orson Welles broadcast of War of the Worlds about a Martian invasion. Though he principally directed the music for CBS-TV, on occasion he turned to composing, which he did for six episodes of The Twilight Zone in the 1960s. Gluskin died in 1989 at age 90.
David Tobey ’16 refereed every important professional basketball game in New York City between 1918 and 1925. From 1926 to 1945, he officiated the first game to experiment with a three-man crew (Georgetown vs. Columbia), the initial East-West game, and countless Madison Square Garden events. In 1945, Tobey announced his retirement to devote all of his time to teaching and coaching, which he continued to do at DeWitt Clinton High School until his retirement in 1964. He wrote articles for Scholastic Coach and authored Basketball Officiating, one of the first books on his profession. Tobey was enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1961. He died in 1988.

George Cukor ’17 was one of the great directors in motion picture history, yet he earned only one Academy Award, for directing My Fair Lady. His films are legendary: A Bill of Divorcement (1932), Dinner at Eight (1933), Little Women (1933), David Copperfield (1935), Camille (1936), Romeo and Juliet (1936), The Women (1939), The Philadelphia Story (1940), Gaslight (1944), Winged Victory (1944), A Double Life (1947), Adam’s Rib (1949), Born Yesterday (1950), Pat and Mike (1952), and A Star Is Born (1954). He was the second of five directors for The Wizard of Oz (1939) and the original director for Gone With the Wind (1939). Cukor died on January 24, 1983.

Peter De Rose ’17 was a musical radio star and songwriter of the 1920s and 1930s. In 1923, he joined his piano with the ukulele of May Singhi Breen to create The Sweethearts of the Air. The NBC radio show ran for sixteen years, during which time the duo married. The show allowed De Rose to play and sometimes introduce his musical compositions. “Deep Purple” (1934) was his most successful composition, performed over time by Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Sarah Vaughan and Donny and Marie Osmond. “Have You Ever Been Lonely?” (1934) was recorded by Patsy Cline. “Wagon Wheels” (1934) was a favorite of Bing Crosby and Paul Robeson. Peter De Rose died on April 23, 1953.

Edward Eliscu ’17 was elected into the Songwriters’ Hall of Fame in 1975. As a lyricist, he gave the world such songs as “Carioca,” “More Than You Know,” “Without a Song,” “Orchids in the Moonlight,” and “Great Day,” the last containing the chorus: When you’re down and out, Lift up your head and shout, There’s gonna be a great day...Gabriel will warn you, Some early morn, You will hear his horn, It’s not far away, Lift up your head and say, There’s gonna be a great day. Eliscu was blacklisted in the 1950s because of his outspoken political views but continued writing for television and theater. He was president of the American Guild of Authors and Composers from 1968 to 1973. He died in 1998.

Walter Hoving ‘17 was the captain of the Clinton football team in his senior year and a captain of merchandising for most of his adult life. From 1955 to 1980, he served as head of Tiffany & Company. His leadership took the company from $7 million worth of business in 1955 to $100 million for the Fifth Avenue store and its five branches in 1980. He entered the merchandise business in 1924 when he went to work for R. H. Macy & Company. He quickly rose in the field, joining Montgomery Ward & Company as vice president in charge of sales in 1932 and serving as president of Lord & Taylor from 1936 to 1946. Hoving remained a loyal Clintonite and returned to the school many times. He died in 1989.

Poy Gum Lee ’17 was born in the United States but became one of the great architects of 20th century China. In 1923, he traveled to Shanghai to design a Y.M.C.A. building. He went on to design the Cantonese Baptist Church and the Cosmopolitan Apartments, both in Shanghai. In 1929-1930, Lee completed the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing and the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall in Canton (Guangzhou) when the original architect died before they were finished. In New York City, he designed the Kimlau Memorial Arch (Chinatown, 1962), dedicated to Chinese Americans who fought and died in World War II and named for Clintonite Benjamin Ralph Kimlau ’37. Lee died in 1968.

Raphael Malsin ’17 served from 1938 to 1982 as the top executive of the Lane Bryant retail chain founded by his mother, who was born Lena Himmelstein in Europe. Arriving in New York, her first name became Lane because the immigration officer misspelled Lena. In the space of three years (1900-1902) she married David Bryant, gave birth to Raphael, buried her husband, and opened a small dressmaking shop in Manhattan. Raphael later became Raphael Malsin when his mother married Albert Malsin. Lane Bryant, the dressmaking shop, under the son’s leadership grew into the largest “special-size” chain in the country, catering to women who wore larger sizes. He sold the company in 1982 and died in 1996.

Sol Antoville ’18 did not listen to his mother when she told him to become a lawyer. Instead, he became a salesman for a fledgling plywood company. His common-man touch and uncommon knack of reading a customer’s mind soon made him the company’s top salesman. The company became the United States Plywood Corporation and he became its president and turned it into the largest plywood organization in the world. For Clintonites, though, it may be more important that he also served as president of the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association and supported Clinton until his death in 1986.
Charles Berns ’18 graduated from the New York School of Law in 1926. But his interest in passing the bar was not as strong as his desire to own a few. On New Year’s Eve 1930, he and his partner Jack Kriendler opened their sixth establishment for good food and drink in a brownstone at 21 West 52nd Street. They called it the “21.” The club became famous for its fine food and wine, its homelike atmosphere, and rich and famous clientele. With the success he achieved as a restaurateur, Berns turned to a life of philanthropy, becoming a trustee of Lebanon Hospital and being active in fund-raising for many charitable organizations. He died in 1971 in California while on vacation.

J. Edward Lumbard Jr. ’18 was a lawyer, prosecutor, and jurist. As a young lawyer, he worked for the Office of Strategic Services, which became the Central Intelligence Agency. He also worked as chief assistant United States Attorney in Manhattan and investigated many scandals. In 1955, President Dwight Eisenhower nominated Lumbard as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, headquartered in New York. Lumbard served as an active judge for 16 years, including 12 years (1959–71) as Chief Judge. He took senior status in 1971, continuing to hear cases on a reduced schedule until his death in 1999.

William H. Mueser ’18 was a world-renowned civil engineer. After DWC, he earned a B.S. in civil engineering from MIT, then did graduate work in Germany. First working for engineers Moran, Maurice & Proctor, in time he established Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers. Mueser’s projects included the deep foundation constructions for the Barclay-Vesey building of the New York Telephone Building and the Chase Manhattan Bank headquarters, both in NYC. He was particularly proud of his foundation designs for the United Nations Secretariat and General Assembly buildings in NYC and the Empire State plaza in Albany, New York. William Mueser died in 1985.

Simon Rifkind ’18 passed away in 1995 at age 94. The New York Times obituary headline described him as a “Celebrated Lawyer.” He was more than that. Born in Russia, he came to the United States at age 9 and went on to become one of the most respected attorneys (and federal judges) in twentieth century America. U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas said of him that he was “the most outstanding advocate of all” the lawyers who appeared before the Court between 1939 and 1975. In 1945, President Harry S. Truman awarded Rifkind the Medal of Freedom for his work on behalf of Holocaust survivors. At his death, Rifkind was the senior partner in the New York-based law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, which had more than 90 partners and about 300 other lawyers.

Thomas “Fats” Waller ’18 was already an accomplished pianist and organist when he attended DeWitt Clinton. He left DWC after only one year and went on to become a great entertainer and to write such memorable songs as “Squeeze Me” (1919) and “Jitterbug Waltz” (1942). In one year, 1929, he wrote “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” “Blue Turning Grey Over You,” “Honeysuckle Rose,” and “Keepin’ Out of Mischief Now.” In 1930, Waller and fellow Clintonite lyricist Stanley Adams ’23 published “Rollin’ Down the River.” DeWitt Clinton High School was the last formal education Waller received. He always associated himself with the school and DWC is proud to call him one of its own. Waller died in 1943.

Ernest Nagel ’19 was a philosopher of science who has often been called one of the major figures of the logical positivist movement. He spent his entire academic career at Columbia University, becoming a University Professor in 1967. His work concerned the philosophy of mathematical fields such as geometry and probability, quantum mechanics, and the status of reductive and inductive theories of science. His 1961 masterpiece, The Structure of Science, practically inaugurated the field of analytic philosophy of science. Nagel was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1977. He died in 1985.

Richard Rodgers ’19 was one of the most prolific composers for the American stage. With Lorenz Hart writing the lyrics, he wrote the music for A Connecticut Yankee (1926), Babes in Arms (1937), The Boys from Syracuse (1938), and Pal Joey (1940). With Oscar Hammerstein II writing the lyrics, he composed the music for Oklahoma (1943), Carousel (1945), South Pacific (1949), The King and I (1951), and The Sound of Music (1959). With Hammerstein, he created the movie musical State Fair (1945) and the television musical Cinderella (1957). In 1962, he wrote the music and lyrics for the Broadway show No Strings. On a memorable night in December 1952, Rodgers came to DWC to conduct the school orchestra in a medley of his music. He passed away in 1979.

F. Eugene Corbie ’20, two months before receiving his DWC diploma, won first place in an oratorical contest at Swartmore College. His speech, “Justice to the Negro,” was a stirring appeal for the fair treatment of his people. The next day at a Clinton assembly, he thanked his classmates for choosing him as their representative in the oratory contest with the words: “The honor was yours, the duty mine.” As a student at City College in 1923, he defeated Abel Meeropol (DWC 1921) in the election for secretary of the student council and was chosen over Countee Cullen (DWC 1922) to be part of the group to study the youth movement in Germany in 1923. City College’s Campus News described Corbie as “the foremost undergraduate Negro student in America.” In 1928, he fell ill and returned to his native Trinidad to die. He became mostly forgotten...until now.
Frederic Glantzberg ’20 had a long and distinguished military career that began in 1924 in the U.S. Army Air Corps and culminated with his promotion in the 1950s to major general in the U.S. Air Force. During World War II, he assumed command of the 461st Bombardment Group (H) and led it to Italy where it served with distinction. While in the European Theater, he flew fifty combat missions and logged more than 300 hours of combat time. This achievement was all the more remarkable because he was missing three inches of his skull right above his right ear, the result of a 1934 airplane accident. He had refused an operation to insert a plate because it would have grounded him. Glantzberg died in 1970.

--- 1921-1930 ---

Vito Marcantonio ’21 was elected as a Republican to the United States House of Representatives in 1934. He was defeated two years later but reelected in 1938 as an American Laborite and served until January 3, 1951. During his days at Clinton, he was influenced by two teachers: Abraham Lefkowitz, who introduced him to socialist thinking, and Leonard Covello, who helped him to develop a fierce pride in his Italian-American heritage. He spent his life fighting for the underdog and fighting off charges that he was a “commie.” He was among the first to push Congress to pass laws protecting civil rights. Following his death in 1954, Marcantonio was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.

Abel Meeropol ’21, born Meeropolsky, wrote for the magazine called it the “greatest song of the 20th century.” Meeropol died in 1986.

Roy Neuberger ’21 was orphaned at age 12 but gives DeWitt Clinton High School much credit for preparing him to meet the challenges of life. In 1939, he and his business partner established Neuberger Berman, a financial firm that would eventually have $130 billion in assets. In the same year, Neuberger bought his first painting, which led to a life of art patronage. In 1974, he contributed 500 of his paintings to a new museum on the SUNY Purchase College campus. In turn, the museum was named for him. Neuberger remained a loyal DWC supporter until his death in 2010 at age 107.

Eyre “Bruiser” Saitch ’21 had the distinction of being a basketball and tennis champion. His tennis skills brought him singles titles in 1928 and 1929 in the New York State championships and 1930 New England Tennis Tournament. But his basketball skills brought him to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. A star basketballer at Clinton, he played professional basketball from 1925 to 1941. He was a member of the 1932-1933 Harlem Renaissance team that played to 88 consecutive victories. It was as a member of that team that Saitch was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1963. He died in Englewood, New Jersey, in 1985.

Milton Steinberg ’21 was considered one of the most outstanding teachers of Judaism in the first half of the twentieth century. At his untimely death in 1950, he was the leader of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City. Two of his books remain widely read. Basic Judaism (1947) set forth the essential aspects of the Jewish people’s faith and practice. As A Driven Leaf (1939) has endured as a significant novel that deals with the second century struggle to reconcile Rabbinic Judaism with Greek Hellenistic society. A brilliant mind, Steinberg was remembered years later by classmate and future tenor Jan Peerce as knowing more Greek than his Greek teacher at Clinton.

Sammy Timberg ’21 was trained as a “classical” pianist but ended up writing music for such “classic” cartoon characters as Popeye, Betty Boop, Hunky & Spunky, Gabby, Grampy, and Superman. Between 1931 and 1944, he scored more than 172 cartoons and gave the world the songs “I’m Sinbad the Sailor,” “It’s a Hap-Hap-Happy Day,” and “Don’t Take My Boop-Oop-a-Doop Away.” He also wrote music for the full-length features Gulliver’s Travels (1939) and Mr. Bug Goes to Town (1941). His song, “Help Yourself To My Heart” was recorded by Frank Sinatra in the 1940s. Timberg died in 1992.

Lionel Trilling ’21 fell asleep at his desk during a lesson in his senior year. He was left alone in the room to continue sleeping. Classmates came and joked that he was dead. One student ran off and put a death notice in the Magpie that was about to go to press. When the magazine with the death notice was delivered to the school, officials did not see the humor in it and ordered the staff to put an apology in the next issue. Our Clintonite, however, went on to become one of the great literary critics of his time. His most famous volume of essays was the 1950 The Liberal Imagination. First and foremost, he considered himself a teacher, and was a longtime member of the Columbia College faculty. Trilling died in 1975.
Cornell Woolrich ’21 was a novelist and short story writer, whose stories have so far inspired more than 30 motion pictures. More *film noir* screenplays were adapted from his works than from the writings of any other crime novelist. Most famously, Alfred Hitchcock turned Woolrich’s *It Had to Be Murder* (1942) into *Rear Window* (1954) and François Truffaut turned *The Bride Wore Black* (1940) into a 1968 film of the same name. Woolrich’s titles, often containing words like death, fear, and black, offer clues into a trouble life, made worse by alcoholism and a leg amputation. As the story goes, when he died in 1968, he weighed only 89 pounds.

William Zeckendorf ’21 was a real estate developer who created for a significant portion of the New York City urban landscape. His most notable property acquisition was a 17-acre site along the East River between 42nd Street and 48th Street, which eventually became the United Nations Headquarters. Zeckendorf also owned New York’s Chrysler Building; built Place Ville Marie in Montreal, Canada; and developed Century City in Los Angeles and Freedomland in the Bronx. Architects I. M. Pei and Le Corbusier worked on many of his projects. Zeckendorf died in 1976.

Edward M. Bernstein ’22 was a central figure in the history of the International Monetary Fund. As deputy to Harry Dexter White at the U.S. Treasury in the early 1940s, he was instrumental in developing both the U.S. plan and the final compromise for the Fund’s Articles of Agreement. At the Bretton Woods conference in 1944, he was both the chief technical advisor and the principal spokesman for the U.S. delegation. When the Fund opened its doors in 1946, he became the first director of research, a position that he held until he left the Fund in 1958. The same year Bernstein formed EMB (Ltd.) Research Economists, an international monetary research firm. Retiring from EMB in 1981, he took up the position of Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institution. Bernstein died in 1996.

Julius Archibald ’22 was the first African-American New York State senator, shown in the photo being sworn in. He was born in Trinidad, BWI, in 1901 and moved to New York in 1917. He later earned his law degree from New York Law School and served as a law clerk to Municipal Court Justice James Watson ’41. In 1952, Archibald ran for the state senate on a civil rights platform. After being sworn in, he introduced several civil rights pieces of legislation. His outspokenness as an elected official cost him his senate seat in the next election. He then returned to the practice of law and continued to advocate for an end to discrimination. The former state senator died in 1979.

Countee Cullen ’22 was elected vice-president of his senior class, a testimony not only to his talents but also to the fair-mindedness of his fellow Clinton students. It would take another nine years before the first African American was elected to Congress from a northern state. Historians generally mark the 1921 *Magpie* publication of his poem, “I Have a Rendezvous with Life,” as the beginning of the Harlem Renaissance. It inspired African Americans in the Harlem community to celebrate their race in art, music, and literature. What did this Cullen feel about DWC? In 1926, he wrote, “We feel that a Clinton man once is a Clinton man always.... We think of time spent at Clinton as golden days in a fair and jolly place, with us the manlier and finer for having a while sojourned there.” Cullen died in 1946.

Isidore Dollinger ’22 put his 1928 L.L.B. from New York Law School to good use over a long and distinguished career in law and government. He was a member of the New York State Assembly (1937-1944) and a member of the New York State Senate (1945-resignation in 1959). He served as district attorney of Bronx County, N.Y. (1960-1968) before becoming a justice of the New York State Supreme Court, first judicial district (January 1, 1969, to December 31, 1975). Isidore Dollinger passed away on January 30, 2000.

Ernest Gross ’22 spent his life in law and government, graduating from Harvard Law School in 1931, serving as the U.S. delegate to the United Nations in the days leading up to the Korean War, and remaining associated with the law firm of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle until his death in 1999. In between he was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army during World War II, signed the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on behalf of the United States in 1948, and represented Ralph Bunche when the latter was called before the Army-McCarthy Hearings in 1954.

Sam Gutowitz ’22, or Sam Goody, found fame in selling records. Shortly after World War II, he established his first store on 49th Street west of Broadway in Manhattan and soon claimed—rightly so—to be the World’s Largest Record Dealer. He was the first to discount LPs, and with his success, he opened a nationwide chain of stores that grew to 800 locations. In 1981, he sold the company. Sam Gutowitz passed away in 1991, and the stores that bore his brand name Sam Goody’s have almost all “passed away” too. In a 1957 interview in the *Clinton News*, Gutowitz said of the 99th Street Clinton, “...It was a very tough block. We always joked about it. I remember we used to say that the cops would walk in threes, one with his back turned to guard the rear:”
Christian A. Johnson ‘22 was such an outstanding pitcher for DWC that he once considered a career in baseball. Instead, he turned to the world of utilities, finance, and corporate management. He became one of the nation’s foremost experts on utility companies, gradually gaining a controlling interest in a company he would rename Central Securities Corporation. He also took controlling positions in several other companies, including Mack Trucks, Inc. In 1952, Johnson established an endeavor foundation to support the best of human “endeavors.” He passed away in 1964. A generous grant in 2005 from his foundation has revitalized the Clinton News and the Magpie.

Arthur Markewich ‘22 began his judicial career when NYC Mayor William O’Dwyer appointed him city magistrate in 1947. Three years later, he was elected to the city court. In 1954 and 1968, he was elected to the Supreme Court, 1st Judicial District. Governor Rockefeller appointed him in 1969 to the Appellate Division First Department, where he remained until 1982. Markewich was the justice presiding on the panel that in 1976 disbarred former president Richard M. Nixon in New York State following the Watergate scandal. Always claiming that his class of 1922 was Clinton’s greatest, Markewich remained loyal to the school, giving considerable amounts of his time to its students, attending leadership weekends, even serving as alumni association president (1967-1968). He died in 1993.

James Latimer Allen ‘23 developed his love for photography while a member of the camera club at DeWitt Clinton. Growing up during the 1920s “renaissance” of black culture, he devoted himself to capturing life in Harlem. His portraits of artists at work offer a record of the artistic life of Harlem before World War II. See him in a two-minute film at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kmsKo-UvL8. His professional career as a portrait photographer ended with his enlistment in the army, where he served with the Office of Strategic Services. For the rest of his life, Allen lived in Washington, DC, working for the government and engaging only in amateur photography. He passed away in 1984.

Jan Peerce ‘22 was the first American to sing at the Bolshoi Opera in Moscow. During his Clinton days, he was known as Jacob Pincus Perelmuth, but his career as an operatic tenor led to a less ethnic name. In November 1939, Peerce performed his first solo recital in New York City. He made his debut with the Metropolitan Opera Company on November 29, 1941 singing Alfredo in Verdi’s La Traviata. A favorite of the Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini, he made many recordings with the great maestro. Peerce’s memoir, The Bluebird of Happiness (1976), included fond remembrances of Clinton and his classmates. He passed away in 1984.

Pandro S. Berman ‘23 talked Fred Astaire into dancing with Ginger Rogers and produced their film Top Hat* (1935). Other films he produced include The Gay Divorcee* (1934), Alice Adams* (1935), Swing Time (1936), Stage Door (1937), Room Service (1938), Gunga Din (1939), The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939), National Velvet (1944), The Three Musketeers (1948), Father of the Bride* (1950), Ivanhoe* (1952), Knights of the Round Table (1953), The Blackboard Jungle (1955), Jailhouse Rock (1957), and A Patch of Blue (1965). The films with asterisks received Academy Award nominations for Best Picture. Berman passed away in 1996.

Frank H. Netter ‘23 produced many illustrations for the Magpie magazine and the Clintonian yearbook while a Clinton student. As a medical doctor, his knowledge of art and anatomy combined to make him the greatest illustrator of the human anatomy in modern history. His detailed artwork is known to nearly every medical doctor in the western world. Dr. Michael DeBakey said of Netter, “He has advanced our understanding of anatomy more than any other medical illustrator since [Vesalius in] the 16th century.” Netter died in 1991. In 2006, he was inducted into the Society of Illustrator’s Hall of Fame. In 2013, his daughter Francine Mary Netter published his biography Medicine’s Michelangelo and Quinnipiac College (CT) officially opened the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine.

Barnett Newman ‘23 was a central figure among color-field abstractionists between 1950 and 1970. In the 1920s, he studied at the Art Students League and, in 1927, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the City College of New York. During most of his career, Newman preferred to have his work seen by a small group of friends, patrons, and fellow artists. By the early 1960s, his stature became apparent to a wider audience. His work was included in national and international group shows, including the Seattle World’s Fair (1962), the São Paulo Bienal (1965), and the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s “New York Painting and Sculpture, 1940 to 1970” (1969-1970). Newman died in 1970.

Sidney Skolsky ‘23 wrote an article for the Magpie in 1923 describing the joys of failing subjects at Clinton. He suggested that classes were much easier the second time around. According to most historians, Skolsky used that same sarcasm a decade later as a Hollywood columnist when he gave the Academy Award statuette the nickname “Oscar.” Along with being a successful gossip columnist (mostly for the New York Post), he produced two highly admired films The Jolson Story (1946) and The Eddie Cantor Story (1953). Skolsky died in Los Angeles, California, in 1983, sixty years after he preached --but never practiced--failure.
Avery Fisher '24 established the Philharmonic Radio Company in 1937. The enterprise grew out of his hobby of building radios. He made significant improvements in amplifiers, tuners, and speakers. In 1945, he began the Fisher Radio Company. It entered the high-fidelity market with a line of components at premium prices. Audio fans acclaimed his products as the "Rolls-Royce of sound equipment." He introduced the first transistorized amplifier in 1956 and offered the first stereophonic radio and phonograph combination in 1961. In 1973, as a result of his donation of $10.5 million to Lincoln Center, Philharmonic Hall was renamed Avery Fisher Hall. Fisher died in 1994. In 2014, his family agreed to permit Lincoln Center to rename the concert hall in an effort to raise capital.

Joseph H. Lewis '24 has been called the king of B-movies. For sure, he had a talent for directing numerous low-budget films. Following a string of westerns in the 1930s, he turned to three films featuring the "East Side Kids"—Boys of the City, That Gang of Mine, and Pride of the Bowery (all in 1940). Of the nearly 40 films he directed, his Gun Crazy (1950) has developed into a cult classic, admired perhaps more for its camera movement than its depiction of two guns-obsessed criminals. Later in his career, Lewis directed many television westerns, including 51 episodes of The Rifleman (1958-1963). He died in 2000 at age 93.

Bernard Newman '24 was widely acclaimed for his integrity. As a young attorney, he was attracted to public service, which included being a law secretary to NYS Supreme Court Justice Samuel H. Hofstadter (DWC '10). In 1965, NYC Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr., appointed Newman to the family court, which was followed by an appointment to the State Supreme Court by NYS Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Newman to the Customs Court, situated in New York, whose name was changed in 1980 to the United States Court of International Trade. Judge Newman served in that capacity (and as senior judge) until his death on April 22, 1999.

Charles Alston '25 was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. At Clinton, his artwork adorned the Clinton News and Magpie. His most famous professional work is the mural he did for Harlem Hospital in 1936. Resting in the Oval Office in the White House is his 1970 bronze bust of Martin Luther King Jr. Though a gifted artist, illustrator, and sculptor, Alston’s greatest talent may have been as teacher. He was the first African-American instructor at the Art Students League of New York (1950-1971) and, in 1973, became a full professor at the City University of New York (CUNY). In 1975, he was the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Teachers College, Columbia University. He died in 1977.

Leonard Hayton '25 can be seen at the Clinton orchestra piano in a 1925 Clintonian photograph, but in the same year, only months away from graduating, he left school to play professionally. And how did that go for him? Well, he became a celebrated musician, composer, conductor and arranger. Early on, he became the accompanist for Bing Crosby. Between 1940 and 1953, he was a musical director for MGM and he received six Academy Award nominations for best original scoring, winning twice: On the Town (1949) and Hello, Dolly! (1969). So let's give playing in the Clinton orchestra a shout out. Hayton died in 1971.

Julius Hlavaty ’26 arrived in America in 1921 from Czechoslovakia, speaking six languages, none of them English. Learning English quickly, he excelled in his studies at Clinton, where he became a math teacher. When the Bronx High School of Science opened in 1938, he was its first math chairman. In the 1950s, when he refused to answer questions before a congressional committee investigating communist infiltration in American life, the Board of Education fired him. He was eventually exonerated and his teaching license reissued. He returned to Clinton to teach math, but after a few years, retired to devote himself to the study of “new” math. Hlavaty died in 1979.

Irving R. Kaufman ’26 graduated from Fordham Law School at age 21. At Fordham, he was nicknamed "Pope Irving" because he always had the correct answer in theology class. Kaufman is most remembered as the judge who presided over the 1951 espionage trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and imposed their controversial death sentences. In 1949, he was appointed by President Harry Truman to serve as a judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy named Kaufman to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, where he served until 1987. In 1987, he was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Ronald Reagan. Kaufman died in 1992.

Eric Linden ’26 went from performing on the Clinton stage to the Broadway stage, and then burst upon the movie screen, playing mostly second leads in 33 films between 1931 and 1941. Following military service during World War II, he began to lose interest in acting and turned to working for Orange County in California. Linden’s most famous role lasted only a minute after the editor left most of the scene on the cutting floor. The role was as the “amputation case without chloroform” soldier in the hospital in Gone with the Wind (1939). “This leg’s got to come off, soldier. No, no! Leave me alone! It’s gangrene. No, no! Don’t! No don’t! Don’t cut! Don’t cut! Don’t, don’t!” Eric Linden died in 1994.
Frank Loesser ’26 won the Tony Award in 1951 for his music and lyrics in the Broadway hit *Guys and Dolls*. He went on to write *The Most Happy Fella* (1956) and to write and compose the Pulitzer Prize winning musical *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (1961). For the 1952 film *Hans Christian Anderson*, he wrote “Thumbelina” and he won the best song Academy Award for “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” from the 1949 film *Neptune’s Daughter*. In 1958, Loesser made a surprise visit to DeWitt Clinton with his musical director, Irving Actman, to watch the Clinton-Nite show. Actman’s son, John, Class of 1958, was the show’s director. Loesser died in 1969 at age 59 of lung cancer.

Frank Caplan ’27 was a youth worker, educator, folk toy collector, and pioneer in developing and manufacturing educational toys for children. He co-founded Creative Playthings in 1945 and worked with artists, architects, and designers, such as Isamu Noguchi, Louis Kahn, Henry Moore, Robert Winston, and the Swiss toymaker, Antonio Vitali, to create innovative educational play objects and playground designs for children. In 1975, Caplan founded The Princeton Center for Infancy and Early Childhood. He researched and co-authored a national bestselling series on early childhood development. One of the first male nursery school teachers in the United States, Caplan died in 1988.

George Gregory Jr. ’27 was the first African American to be named an All-American in basketball when he played for Columbia University in the late 1920s and early 1930s. He earned a law degree at night from St. John’s University while playing for several semi-professional basketball teams. In his best season, he earned a total of $150. He was a commissioner of the New York City Civil Service Commission from 1954 to 1968 and, for a time, served as president of the DWC Alumni Association. His entire adult life was spent trying to make life better for inner-city “kids.” Gregory died in 1994. In 2006, posthumously, he was inducted into the New York City Basketball Hall of Fame.

George Kojac ’27 set and held a total of 23 world records in swimming, including beating Johnny Weissmuller’s 150 yd. backstroke record while a senior at DWC. He broke every National Scholastic freestyle and backstroke record, then won NCAA and NAAU backstroke and freestyle national championships from 1927 to 1931. In the 1928 Olympic Games, he won two gold medals: the 100 meter backstroke (1:08.2) and as a member of the winning 800 meter freestyle relay. Eventually becoming a medical doctor, Kojac enjoyed visiting the Mosholus Parkway Clinton and using the pool, a luxury he did not have as a student in the 59th Street building. He passed away in 1996.

Norman Krasna ’27 was born in Queens, New York, but found his way to DWC High School on 10th Avenue in Manhattan. Then he found his way to Broadway and Hollywood, mostly as a writer, but occasionally as director and producer. His greatest successes came with his pen, receiving three Academy Award nominations for screenwriting, winning in 1943 for *Princess O’Rourke*. His most famous screenplay was the 1954 *White Christmas*, which he also directed and which starred Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney. Several of his stage plays also made it to the screen: *Indiscreet* (1958), *Who Was That Lady* (1960) and *Sunday in New York* (1963). Norman Krasna passed away in 1984.

Joseph Lash ’27, by his own account, spent part of his youth engaged in block fights, playing at dice, going to burlesque shows, and losing money at pool. From his college days at C.C.N.Y. to his death in 1987, his friends and enemies agreed that he was a revolutionary, socialist, liberal, intellectual, and radical political activist. In 1950, he took his “righting” every social wrong to “writing” as a United Nations correspondent for the *New York Post*. A decade later, he wrote his first full-length book, a biography of U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld. His most famous work came in 1971 when he published *Eleanor and Franklin*, a biography of President Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor, which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 1972.

Charles D’Orsa ’28 graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Class of 1932. He spent 38 years in the U.S. Army, serving in both World War II and the Korean War. With the rank of brigadier general, he was the U.S. Army troop commander in West Berlin from 1958 to 1960. He retired as a major general and died on December 22, 1995. In 2002, the army dedicated its two-year-old golf short game practice facility at the West Point Golf Course in honor of Maj. Gen. D’Orsa, who had been an avid golfer.

Abraham Polonsky ’28 earned a law degree from Columbia Law School in 1935, but his heart was in writing. After publishing his first novel, *The Goose is Cooked*, in 1940, he turned to screenwriting and then directing films, doing the first with *Body and Soul* (1947) and the second with *Force of Evil* (1948). As a Marxist and, for a time, member of the Communist party, he was blacklisted in Hollywood in the early 1950s. He first worked under pseudonyms, such as when he wrote for the TV show *You Are There*. In time, his used his real name writing the screenplay for *Madigan* (1968) and directing *Tell them Willie Boy Is Here* (1969). He removed his name from his screenplay for *Guilt By Suspicion* (1991) when the producer changed the lead character from a Communist to a liberal. Polonsky died in 1999.
Kenneth Roberts ’28 had a voice that you liked to hear. During the height of the radio era in the 1930s and 1940s, his voice seemed to be everywhere, introducing programs, moderating game shows, and reading commercials. His most remembered radio role was as the announcer on The Shadow. For television, he was the first announcer for Candid Camera and introduced popular soap operas, including Love of Life from 1951 to 1980. Born Saul Trochman, he left the task of getting before the camera to his son, actor Tony Roberts. In 2009, at age 99, Ken Roberts died in Manhattan.

Eliot Elisofon ’29 was an internationally known photographer whose visual record of African life from 1947 to 1972 was published in magazines such as LIFE and National Geographic. He was also a filmmaker with such film and television projects as the Black African Heritage Series (1972), a four-part documentary on African arts and cultures. Elisofon’s association with the National Museum of African Art began as a founding trustee in 1964. Upon his death in 1973, Elisofon donated his African materials to the museum, including over 50,000 black and white negatives and photographs, 30,000 color slides, and 120,000 feet of motion picture film and sound materials.

Elvin A. Kabat ’29 graduated from DWC at age 15. In 1937, he received his Ph.D. from Columbia University, where he would spend from 1941 to his retirement in 1985 as a teacher and scientific researcher. He is recognized as the founder of immunochemistry—the study of the chemical reactions and phenomena of immunity. In 1991, he was awarded the National Medal of Science by President George H. W. Bush. The award’s citation stated that Kabat’s work advanced our understanding of developmental biology, inflammation, autoimmunity and blood transfusion medicine, leading to treatments that have saved countless lives. Dr. Kabat passed away in Falmouth, Massachusetts on June 16, 2000.

Joseph Kleinerman ’29 began to run at age 13 after attending his first Millrose Games. Photographs of him as a member of the Clinton track team can be found in the Clintonian yearbooks of the late 1920s. In 1941 and 1942, he finished 10th in the Boston Marathon. The Millrose Athletic Association named him an assistant coach in 1941 and head coach in 1967. He was among the founders of the New York Road Runners organization in 1958 and the New York City Marathon in 1970. Kleinerman died in 2003. Each year the Road Runners sponsor a 10K race in New York City in his honor.

Morris Meislik ’29 spent his life promoting civic causes. “Service to the community is the rent you pay for the space you occupy on this globe.” That was his motto. He was the founder of several chapters of the American Red Cross in New Jersey. He was a past president of B’nai B’rith, Teaneck Lodge; a lieutenant governor of Kiwanis Club; a member of the Big Brother-Big Sister program of Teaneck; vice president of the Jewish Welfare Council; and a director of the Urban League of Bergen County. Most importantly, Meislik was president of the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association and one of Clinton’s most loyal alumni. You may ask, did he have a career? Yes, he was owner of Service Sheet Metal Production Co. of Clifton, NJ, which he founded in 1945. Meislik passed away in 2000.

David Miller ’29 directed fifty-two films that were theatrical releases or made for television. In the 1930s, his emerging talent was limited to documentary shorts. But in 1941, he turned to feature films when he directed actor Robert Taylor in Billy the Kid. Then came a line-up of films that are still highly regarded by movie buffs, including: Flying Tigers (1942), Sudden Fear (1952), The Opposite Sex (1956), Anniversary Waltz (1959), Midnight Lace (1960), Lonely Are the Brave (1962), and Captain Newman, M.D. (1963). His last two films were for television, Goldie and the Boxer (1979) and Goldie and the Boxer Go to Hollywood (1981), both starring O. J. Simpson. David Miller died in 1992.

Jerome Moross ’29 began piano lessons at age five and began writing music by age 8. While at Clinton, he became friends with classmate and future film composer Bernard Herrmann. Moross also became a composer for motion pictures. His best-known film score was for the 1958 movie The Big Country, for which he received a nomination for an Academy Award for Original Music Score. In all, he composed music for 16 films. He also composed the main theme to the 3rd–8th seasons of the TV series Wagon Train. Moross died in 1983.

Sam Shaw ’29 continues to be admired as one of the major film and celebrity photographers of the 20th century. In January 2022, his talents are again on display as CNN broadcasts the four-part documentary Reframed: Marilyn Monroe. Shaw had been a close friend of Monroe’s and created an extraordinary album of private life photographs of the actress. In part 3 of the documentary, his daughters Edie and Meta share their personal Marilyn stories alongside many of Shaw’s photos. But Shaw’s talents went beyond “still-life” photography. In the 1960s, he branched out into film producing with Paris Blues (1961), Husbands (1970), A Woman Under the Influence (1974), and Gloria (1980). Sam Shaw, né Warshawsky, passed away on April 5, 1999.
Percy Ifill '30 was co-founder of Ifill Johnson Architects, which in the late 1960s was one of the most respected Black-owned architectural firms in the United States. A 1943 graduate of NYU with a degree in architecture, Ifill spent the next two decades practicing his skills as a draftsman, engineer, and architect. His crowning achievement came with the contract to design the New York State Office Building in Harlem (originally named the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building). The 20-story structure was the largest office building designed by Black architects in New York until that time. Unfortunately, Ifill died in 1975, before his “Ifill Tower” was completed.


Burt Lancaster '30 was one of Hollywood’s greatest stars...and one of its greatest actors. At Clinton, he played varsity basketball and participated in gymnastics, the latter being put to good use in his 1956 film *Trapeze*. For his performance in the 1960 film *Elmer Gantry*, he won the Best Actor Oscar. A few weeks after the awards ceremony, he sent the Alumni Association a special donation. Among his memorable films are *Jim Thorpe—All American* (1951); *From Here to Eternity* (1953); *The Rose Tattoo* (1955); *Run Silent, Run Deep* (1958); *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961); *Birdman of Alcatraz* (1962); *Airport* (1970); and *Field of Dreams* (1989). Lancaster died in 1994.

John Henry Schwieger '30 excelled in the world of finance, lived a generous life and, it can be said, exhibited a bit of mischief in his youth. In finance, he moved from stockbroker to First VP of the NY Stock Exchange to partnership at Paine Weber Jackson and Curtis. He also served on the board of governors of the American Stock Exchange and as a member of the New York Stock Exchange Board of Arbitration. His generosity included sharing his know-how and leadership skills with the Boy Scouts and the YMCA and serving as treasurer of his church (St. Paul’s just outside Parkchester). Then there was the mischief, acknowledged in his memoirs, such as his proficiency in “shooting” BBs at the back of his Clinton history teacher’s head. John Schwieger passed away in 1988.

Albert Wohlstetter '30 was far from being a household name, but his influence on American defense policies during the Cold War was enormous. From 1951 to 1963, he served as a consultant and later as a senior policy analyst for the RAND Corporation. At RAND, he researched how to posture and operate U.S. strategic nuclear forces to deter plausible forms of Soviet nuclear-armed aggression in a way that was credible, cost-effective and controllable. For his body of work, Wohlstetter received the Medal of Freedom from President Ronald Reagan on November 7, 1985. He died on January 10, 1997.

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--- 1931-1940 ---

Albertus “Cleffie” Fennar ’31 said of DeWitt Clinton, “I went to a good high school—the best in the country.” At Clinton, he played football and baseball and ran track in between. Segregation kept him from playing major league baseball, so he joined the Negro Leagues, playing infield until 1947 for teams such as the Lincoln Giants, the Black Yankees, the Brooklyn Royal Giants, and the Cuban Stars. He was a leadoff hitter known for his speed. Fennar worked for Con Edison for 35 years but continued to lecture on baseball and involve himself in organizing youth baseball leagues. He died in 2001. His baseball glove has been displayed at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

Bernard Herrmann ’31 wrote one of his first musical pieces for the Clinton orchestra. But it was so bad, according to him, it was never played again. Nevertheless, he went on to become an Academy Award-winning film composer. His Oscar came with the 1941 film *The Devil and Daniel Webster*. Herrmann composed notable scores for many movies, including *Citizen Kane* (1940), *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* (1947), *Cape Fear* (1962), and *Taxi Driver* (1976). For director Alfred Hitchcock, he wrote the music for *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956), *Vertigo* (1958), *North by Northwest* (1959), and *Psycho* (1960). Herrmann died in 1975. He was honored in 1999 with his image on a U.S. stamp.

Robert Hofstadter ’31 has the distinction of being the only Clintonite...so far...to win a Nobel Prize. The honor came in 1961 in physics “for his pioneering studies of electron scattering in atomic nuclei and for his...discoveries concerning the structure of the nucleons.” Hofstadter taught at Stanford University from 1950 to 1985. During that time, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences (U.S.A. 1958) and was named California Scientist of the Year (1959). Near the end of his life, he became interested in astrophysics and applied his knowledge of scintillators to the design of the EGRET gamma-ray telescope of the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory. Hofstadter died in 1990.
Joseph Uttal ’31 was a proud graduate of DWC, New York University and Harvard University, who served in the USAAF mostly in Britain during World War II and went on to become a top executive for Kraft Foods. Yet when he passed away on November 15, 2009, the British press took more notice of his passing than did American publications. The reason: In October 1948, Jordan co-founded the Second Air Division Association to honor the nearly 7,000 American airmen of that Division who had been killed in action. A library established in Norwich, England, honoring those fallen, received yearly endowments by the Association.

Simon Michael Bessie ’32 graduated from Harvard College in 1936, where he had been editor of the Harvard Crimson. After working as a reporter for the Newark Star Eagle and a reporter and editor at Look magazine, he joined the Office of War Information in 1942 and was involved in psychological warfare in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. For his service, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1946. At war’s end, Bessie began editing for Harper publishers. In 1959, he founded Atheneum publishers and had great success with authors Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Kenneth Tynan and Elie Wiesel. But it was not all perfect. At Harper, he rejected Vladimir Nabokov’s Lolita and Atheneum rejected Mario Puzzo’s The Godfather, calling it junk. Bessie died in 2008.

Lloyd N. Cutler ’32 was described as a business godfather by day and a Sister Theresa by night. The reference was to his willingness to defend big business interests and civil rights causes. In 1962, Cutler was a founding partner of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering, a leading law firm in Washington, DC. His corporate clients included The Washington Post Co., CBS, Bethlehem Steel, Kaiser Steel, IBM, American Express, Pan American World Airways, and the Long Island Rail Road. Cutler served as White House Counsel during the Democratic administrations of Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton. For Carter, he was a consultant on the ratification of SALT II. Cutler died in 2005.

Dean Dixon ’32 broke color barriers when, in 1941, he became the first African American to conduct the New York Philharmonic. He knew how to play the violin before he entered Clinton, but it was at DWC that he gave his first violin solo and where his first musical composition was performed—with the assistance of the Clinton orchestra. In a 1942 Clinton News interview, he told students, “To get ahead, a fellow must work while the other fellow works and work while the other fellow sleeps.” In a 1945 interview, he advised, “There is no substitute for hard, conscientious practice. I want to say also that such boys should interest themselves in all fields of art.” Dixon died in 1976.

Adolph Green ’32 developed his love of writing and acting on the Clinton stage, where he never saw a student show he didn’t want to be in. He even wrote a letter to the Clinton News complaining that the Magpie should be published more frequently so that students like him could see their work in print. After Clinton, he and Brooklynette Betty Comden teamed up to become two of the great screenwriters, playwrights, and lyricists in show business history. In 1952, they wrote the screenplay for Singin’ in the Rain, regarded by many as the greatest film musical. For the stage, they wrote the lyrics for the hit musicals On the Town (1944), Wonderful Town (1953), Bells Are Ringing (1956), Applause (1970), On the Twentieth Century (1978), and The Will Rogers Follies (1991). He died in 2002.

John Randolph ’32 played characters in 30 Broadway plays and in 175 films and television shows. For none of those roles was he credited with the name he had at DWC--Emanuel Hirsch Cohen. Randolph made his stage debut in 1938 but won his only Tony Award in 1986 for Broadway Bound. Of his many film and television roles, his most significant was as Chief Sidney Green in Serpico (1973). Called before a congressional committee in 1955, Randolph refused to answer questions, citing his constitutional rights, and was then blacklisted by the major Hollywood film studios. He did not work again until he appeared in the original The Sound of Music (1959). Randolph died in 2003.


Bill Finger ’33 has finally gained recognition as co-creator of Batman along with Bob Kane ’33, thanks in large part to the research of Marc Tyler Nobleman and the publication of his 2012 graphic biography of Finger, titled Bill the Boy Wonder. Nobleman proved that Finger, not Kane, created the Joker, Penguin, Catwoman, Two-Face, and the Riddler, and also came up with the names Bruce Wayne and Gotham City and introduced the Bat-mobile. In 2013, the TV series Gotham gave Finger the credit line: “Based on the characters created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger.” A 2017 documentary film, Batman and Bill, supported Nobleman’s claim that Finger was the co-creator of Batman. Finger died in 1974 but was posthumously named to the Will Eisner (also a Clintonite) Award Hall of Fame.
Bob Kane ’33 had a slightly different last name (Kahn) when he drew cartoons for the Clinton News. His new name was in place by the time he created Batman in 1939. By the mid-1940s, he turned over the illustration work to other artists. In the mid-1960s, a “camp” version of Batman became a popular television series. In 1989, a highly successful, but darker and moodier film version of Batman was released. Many darker and moodier sequels have followed. Kane died in 1998, but not before admitting that Bill Finger deserved more credit than he was given in creating key characters. Note: Though Kane and Finger are listed in the June 1933 DWC graduation list, they had no known contact at Clinton.

Daniel Schorr ’33 said of Clinton News faculty advisor Raphael Philipson, “He helped to give me a love of journalism. His own enthusiasm for the whole process of news gathering was infectious. He fulfilled for me then the role that Edward R. Murrow came to fill later.” Schorr went on to a successful career in journalism. His aggressive style of reporting, especially at CBS, gained him the ire of many in government and the media, but the admiration of many who valued strong investigative journalism. Since 1985, he has been senior news analyst for National Public Radio. In 1983, Schorr returned to Clinton for the May alumni dinner and the June graduation ceremonies. Schorr died in 2010.

Leonard Sharrow ’33 was one of the foremost American bassoonists of the 20th Century. He joined the NBC Symphony Orchestra when it was first organized, eventually becoming principal bassoonist (and recording the Mozart Bassoon Concerto with Arturo Toscanini in 1948); he also served in the U.S. Army in World War II. In 1951, he moved to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the invitation of then-Music Director Rafael Kubelik and served in a similar position there until 1964, when he retired and joined the music faculty at Indiana University Bloomington. From 1977 to 1987, he was co-principal bassoonist with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Sharrow died in 2004.

Elkan Blout ’34 was smart enough to graduate three terms early from DWC but not old enough to be accepted into college. So he went off for a year to Philips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire to study hard and learn to play bridge. In 1935, he was accepted into Princeton. He would eventually earn his Ph.D. at Columbia University. Starting in the early 1940s, Blout worked for Polaroid, where he helped develop the instant photographic process and the color translating microscope. In the early 1960s, the field of biochemical research led him to Harvard Medical School. There he was a pioneer in developing the tools and techniques for understanding the structures that proteins adopt, for which he was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1990. Blout died in 2006.

B. Gerald Cantor ’34 sold hot dogs at Yankee Stadium while he attended DeWitt Clinton. After studying at NYU, he served in the US Army during World War II. In 1947, he joined up with John Fitzgerald to form an investment company of Cantor-Fitzgerald. Taking over the complete run of the business in 1949, he expanded it to include inter-dealer brokering in securities. In 1972, the company became the first brokerage firm to display live market information on computer screens. In 1983, it was first to offer worldwide screen bond services in United States government securities. In 1978, he and his wife established a foundation, which has given much support to the arts and to research in women’s health. Cantor passed away in 1996.

Bernard Gordon ’34 wrote his first screenplay for the film Flesh and Fury (1952) starring Tony Curtis. In the same year, on reports that Gordon had briefly been a member of the Communist party in the 1940s, he was blacklisted from the entertainment industry. He moved to Europe, where for a decade he wrote using an alias. Ironically, one of his "alias" screenplays was Hellcats of the Navy (1957) starring Ronald Reagan and future wife Nancy Davis. Gordon’s real name finally appeared on the 1963 screenplay for 55 Days at Peking. Only in 1980 did the Writers Guild of America begin restoring credits to Gordon’s “alias” works. He died in 2007.

Franz Hoed de Beche ’34 was among the 133 fatalities aboard the liner Morro Castle when it caught fire six miles off the New Jersey coastline (September 8-9, 1934). He was returning to New York after summering in his native Cuba, expecting to be in Clinton for the opening of school. According to witnesses, he sacrificed his own safety to help others and was lost to the sea, his body never found. A stadium in Cuba is named in his honor. Of French origin, his father had been a commander guerilla who fought against the Spanish during the 1898 Independence War. Note: Current references give the name as Hoed de Beche. Clinton documentation gives Hoede de Beche.

Bernard Jacobs ’34 was president of the Shubert Organization for 24 years and one of the most powerful men in the American theater prior to his death in 1996. With Gerald Schoenfeld ’41, chairman of the Shubert Organization, he controlled a formidable cultural and real-estate empire that had considerable bearing on the American theater and the civic health of New York City. At the time of his death, the empire owned and operated 16 Broadway theaters, half of the Music Box Theater, theaters in Philadelphia, Washington, Boston and Los Angeles, and other real estate property. As producers, the two men were responsible for such shows as A Chorus Line, Cats, and Glengarry Glen Ross. In 2005, the Royale Theatre at 242 West 45th Street was renamed in honor of Bernard B. Jacobs.
Robert Lowery '34 started out in 1941 to be a New York City firefighter, but talent and circumstance soon sent him up the “ladder” of command. By 1966 he was sworn in as the twenty-first New York City fire commissioner, the first African American to hold that position in a major U.S. city. He was well prepared for his seven years as commissioner. Lowery received his first promotion in 1946, becoming a fire marshal. Not a person to shy away from dangerous assignments, he captured more than his share of armed arsonist, leading to his appointment as a lieutenant in the Bureau of Fire Investigation. He served for more than two years as deputy fire commissioner until Mayor John Lindsay named him to the top post. Robert Lowery died in 2001.

Walter F. Riker, Jr., MD '34 was appointed in 1973 by NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle as the organization’s first-ever drug advisor. A world-respected pharmacologist, Dr. Riker’s research showed the medical consequences of the misuse of drugs, including steroids, on athletes. His warnings profoundly changed the standard of how all sports are played. His emphasis on the importance of pharmacology in medical training has also been profound. In 1939, he earned his BA at Columbia University and an MD at Cornell Medical College in 1943. After service in the U. S. Army Chemical Warfare Service, he spent most of his medical career at Cornell as a distinguished educator, research scientist, and physician. Dr. Riker passed away at age 87 in New York City on February 10, 2004.

Sherwood Schwartz '34 was the creator of the classic television sit-coms Gilligan’s Island (1963) and The Brady Bunch (1969). He also co-wrote the theme songs for both series. In his long career in television, he wrote, re-wrote and/or produced more than 700 TV shows, starting with The Joan Davis Show, The Red Skelton Show (winning an Emmy for writing), and My Favorite Martian. In his biography on the BradyWorld.com Web site, Schwartz proudly stated that he was honored as a distinguished alumnus by the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association. He was a loyal supporter of DeWitt Clinton High School until his death in July 2011.

Bernard “Bernie” Sherman ’34 was committed to DeWitt Clinton High School from his first day in the school until his last day with us in May 1997. A member of the Governor’s football team, one of his fondest memories was playing left end in a game at the Polo Grounds before 25,000 fans. Sherman attended every football game from his graduation from Clinton until 1996, a total of 562 games. He earned the name “Mr. Yardsticks,” appeared in Ripley’s Believe It Or Not and was honored by Queens Borough President Claire Shulman when she declared May 26, 1995 “Bernie Sherman Day” (1995).

Will Eisner ’35 was an acclaimed comics writer and artist, whose student work filled the Clinton News and the Magpie in the early to mid-1930s. Considered one of the most important contributors to the development of the medium, he is known for his highly influential series The Spirit and for his leading role in establishing the graphic novel as a form of literature. While serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, Eisner introduced the use of comics for training military personnel. For the publication Army Motors, he created the soldier Joe Dope, whose bumbling ways illustrated how military equipment and weapons should be maintained. In 1988, the comics community created an annual award for the best comics creations. The award is named for him. Eisner died in 2005.

Kenneth Giniger ’35 was a life-long friend of Will Eisner ’35, a relationship that began when the two worked on the Clinton News. Since those Depression days and following service in the U.S. Army during World War II, publishing and writing have been Giniger’s obsessions. As publisher of Hawthorn Books in the 1960s, he produced many books that appealed to American Catholics, including works by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. Giniger’s own writings included America, America, America; prose and poetry about the land, the people, and the promise (editor, 1957) and Heroes for Our Times (co-author, 1968). In 2013, Giniger attended the 100th anniversary celebration of the Clinton News held in the library of the school. He died on April 26, 2019, two months after celebrating his 100th birthday.

Ralph Hirschtritt ’35 was a member of Arista at Clinton…and the Law Society, History Honor Society and the City History Club. Under his senior photo in the yearbook was his ambition--to filibuster in the Senate. Instead, he became director of the Office of Balance of Payments Policy, Options and Strategy, U.S. Department of the Treasury; the alternate to the US Executive Director, World Bank Group, 1964-1965; and deputy to the assistant secretary, Treasury for International Financial and Economic Affairs 1969-1972. He passed away on July 11, 2006.

Ed Lopat ’35 made his Major League debut on April 30, 1944, pitching for the Chicago White Sox. He was traded to the New York Yankees on February 24, 1948 and until 1954 was the third of the “Big Three” of the Yankees’ pitching staff, together with Allie Reynolds and Vic Raschi. In 1953 he led the AL in both earned-run average and won/lost percentage. With the Yankees he won five World Series championship rings. On July 30, 1955, he was traded to the Baltimore Orioles, finishing out the season and retiring from major league baseball. Over his 12-year AL career, Lopat won 166 games, losing 112 (.597) with an ERA of 3.21. He passed away in 1992.
Ralph Morse ’35 never got to the moon, but the camera he developed did. He was responsible for the insulated camera that had the capability to withstand the intense, incinerating heat of blast-offs. As a professional photographer, with thirty years at LIFE magazine, he captured some of the most widely seen pictures of World War II, the space program, and sports events. Morse was the only civilian photographer present for the signing of the German surrender in 1945. Two of his most famous photographs are of Brooklyn Dodger Jackie Robinson stealing home during the 1955 subway series and astronaut John Glenn on the cover of LIFE (March 2, 1962). Morse died in 2014.

Herbert Nichols ’35 passed away from leukemia in 1963 and for a time it seemed his music would die with him. In 1937, he began his professional career when he joined the Royal Baron Orchestra, which included Clintonite bassist George DuVivier. An army veteran of World War II, Nichols expressed the joys and sorrows of life as a jazz pianist and composer. His tune “Serenade” became the music for the song “Lady Sings the Blues,” probably his major claim to fame during his life. But his music was too original, imaginative, and eclectic to be allowed to die. New recordings of his work began appearing in the 1990s, and performing his music is now standard fare at venues around the world.

Chester Rapkin ’35 was a highly respected urban planner who is credited with first describing (1962) the area south of Houston Street in Manhattan as “SoHo.” After earning a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia University in 1953, he taught city and regional planning at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, and Princeton University (1954-1988). Throughout his career, Professor Rapkin consulted for governments, companies, universities, and civic associations. In China, he consulted with the organizations guiding an unprecedented transformation of communally held urban land toward a market-price system. He passed away in 2001.

Seymour Reit ’35 co-created one the most enduring of cartoon characters: Casper, the Friendly Ghost. Unfortunately, he sold the rights to Casper in the early 1940s for a meager $200. But this former editor of the Clinton News went on to establish himself as a writer of several adult works and more than 80 children’s books. The Day They Stole the Mona Lisa (1981) was Reit’s true account of how the famous portrait disappeared from the Louvre for two years in 1911. Reit died in 2001. Curiously enough, in Reit’s graduating class of January 1935, there was a senior with the last name Casper. Coincidence or inspiration?

Wilmeth Sidat-Singh ’35 was a member of the DWC basketball team but won fame on the gridiron for Syracuse. Sadly, his football success was no match for the racism of the day. Because he was a “Negro,” he was not allowed to play in a game against and at the University of Maryland and, after college, was denied a professional career in the NFL. He hoped to serve his country as a Tuskegee Airman, but during his final test flight, his plane developed trouble. He bailed out, became entangled in his parachute in the waters of Lake Huron, and drowned. In 1995, the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association honored his memory at its annual dinner. In 2005, Syracuse University retired his jersey in tribute. In 2013, the University of Maryland formally apologized for its treatment of Sidat-Singh.

Lester Bernstein ’36 started his newspaper career by working on the Clinton News. That would eventually bring him to write for the New York Times and Time magazine and, from 1963 to 1972, to Newsweek magazine as national affairs editor, executive editor, and managing editor. From 1979 to 1982, he was editor of Newsweek. His life work has also included other media. In 1960, as NBC vice president of corporation affairs, Bernstein played an active role in making possible the first presidential television debates between Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy. From 1973 to 1979, he was vice president of corporate communications for RCA. He passed away on Thanksgiving Day 2014.

Daniel J. Edelman ’36 was founder and chairman of the largest privately-held independent and sixth largest public relations firm in the world. Though its main office is in Chicago, the firm has offices in 14 other American cities and in 18 foreign countries. During World War II, Edelman was an officer in the U.S. Army Psychological Warfare and Information Control Divisions, serving in England, France and Germany and received four battle stars and the Commendation Medal. Involved in many charitable organizations in the Chicago area, he passed away in 2013.

Michael Frome ’36 put his experience on the Clinton News to good use, spending his life in the defense of planet Earth. After serving as a World War II navigator, he entered the field of journalism and, by 1968, was conservation editor and columnist for Field & Stream magazine. Thereafter, his overflow of the spoken and written word has aimed at protecting the planet. His nearly 20 books on the environment earned him the 2011 Wilderness Writing Award. In 1987, he pioneered a program in environmental journalism and writing at Western Washington University in Bellingham. Michael Frome passed away in September 2016.
Maxwell Glanville ’36 was born on February 11, 1918 in Antigua, British West Indies. As a youth, he made the 1,785-mile trip to New York City and DeWitt Clinton High School. In time, he found himself on the Broadway stage, the big screen and television—and writing, producing and directing—involved in more than 250 shows and productions. His stage credits include: Anna Lucasta (1946), Autumn Garden (1951), Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955) and Golden Boy (1964). On the big screen, he appeared in Cotton Comes to Harlem (1970) and Come Back, Charleston Blue (1972). A memorable television performance was in The Iceman Cometh (1960). Granville passed away in NYC on March 6, 1992.

Irving Howe ’36, Horenstein while at Clinton, packed a lot of living into his almost 73 years of life (1920-1993). A 1940 graduate of City College, he was founding editor of Dissent magazine; Distinguished Professor of Literature, City University of New York; a U. S. Army draftee during World War II; a noted editor of Yiddish literature; one of the country’s most influential literary critics; and a founder of Democratic Socialists of America. As a leftist, he had no problem being critical of leftist causes, especially those led by individuals who had become too comfortable with capitalist ways. Of his many published works, World of Our Fathers (1976) is the most celebrated, winning the 1977 National Book Award in History. In it, Howe explored the socialist Jewish New York he knew all too well.

Amos Joel Jr. ’36 received the National Medal of Technology in 1993 with the commendation, “For his vision, inventiveness and perseverence in introducing technological advances in telecommunications, particularly in switching, that have had a major impact on the evolution of the telecommunications industry in the U.S. and worldwide.” As an electrical engineer at Bell Labs, Joel’s fascination with combinations resulted in major breakthroughs in automatic telephone switching that lessened the need for operator assistance. No less important was his research in mobile cellular transmission. Joel made the cell phone truly mobile, inventing the mechanism that allowed people in one cell area to phone people in another cell area. He passed away in 2008.

Walter Kaye ’36 began selling insurance in the early 1950s. Today, the Kaye Group of Companies is the 17th largest insurance brokerage in the United States. The firm offers a full-range of insurance brokerage services - property, casualty, life, health, accident, group benefits, qualified retirement plans - for commercial and individual clients. Kaye was a major donor to Democratic party causes. Most importantly for the Clinton community, he supported DWC with recent visits and generous donations. He liked to talk about the old days when a date meant taking his sweetheart to Loew’s Paradise for a movie and Krum’s for an ice cream soda. Kaye passed away in 2015.

Stan Margulies ’36 started out as a newspaperman, in Salt Lake City of all place, then turned to being a publicist for RKO Pictures, and ended up as a producer of some of the most significant mini-series in television history. His masterpieces, in collaboration with David L. Wolper, were the miniseries Roots (1977), Roots: The Next Generations (1979), and The Thornbirds (1983). His other memorable mini-series were Separate But Equal (1991) and Dash and Lilly (1999). And let us not forget that he produced highly successful motion pictures, including If It’s Tuesday, It Must Be Belgium (1969) and Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971). Margulies died in 2001.


Maurice Rapport ’36 was a biochemist who did important research on cancer, cardiovascular disease, connective-tissue disease and demyelinating diseases, a type of nervous-system disorder that includes multiple sclerosis. But early in his career, in 1948, working at the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Rapport made a revolutionary find. He discovered an important neurotransmitter and named it serotonin. He proved that the brain naturally produces serotonin and when it does not produce enough, we can feel depressed. So the remedy for some types of depression was to supply the brain with serotonin. His discovery became a building block for understanding how to chemically treat depression. Dr. Rapport died in Durham, N.C., in 2011.
Leonard Reisman '36 was a New York City deputy police commissioner and the first president of John Jay College for Criminal Justice, holding the latter position from 1965 until his death in 1967. He enlisted in the US Army as a private in 1939 and left service as a major in 1946. During World War II, he saw action in Burma and China, winning a Bronze Star and two combat stars. He also received the Order of the Cloud and Banner from the Chiang Kai-shek government for his training of Chinese troops. After graduating from Columbia Law School in 1950, he worked for District Attorney Frank S. Hogan and became head of the complaint bureau in General Sessions Court. He left for private practice in 1955 but returned to public service in 1958, becoming an assistant to a New York State special prosecutor.

Israel Herbert Scheinberg '36 was valedictorian of his graduating class at De Witt Clinton. By 1943, he had earned his M.D. from Harvard University, then following his internship, served in the Army Medical Corps for the duration of WWII. In 1955, Dr. Scheinberg became a founding professor of internal medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. In the 1950s, he discovered a safe, inexpensive test and treatment for Wilson's Disease, a rare, and previously 100% fatal, autosomal recessive genetic liver disorder. He was leader of the Division of Genetic Medicine at Einstein until retirement in 1992 and passed away from pneumonia on April 4, 2009 at age 89.

Herbert I. Schiller '36 was a leading scholar of the communications industries. Following military service in Occupied Berlin at the end of World War II, he used the GI Bill to earn his Ph.D. from New York University. In 1970, he founded UCSD’s Department of Communication. An economist by training, Schiller turned to the study of the media in the 1960s, publishing Mass Communications and American Empire in 1969 and The Mind Managers in 1973. His six other books and hundreds of articles in both scholarly and popular journals made him a key figure both in communication research and in the public debate over the role of the media in modern society. Schiller died in 2000.

Robert S. Wallerstein '36 is emeritus professor and former chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine. A graduate of Columbia’s School of Medicine, he is credited with bringing research into the mainstream of psychoanalytic academics; proving that there is room for many theories; and laying the groundwork for an international, pluralistic psychology. He has headed the Psychotherapy Research Project of the Menninger Foundation and has been president of the International Psychoanalytical Association.

George Duvivier '37 took up the cello, violin and bass, and at the same time learned composition and scoring, all while at DWC. After serving in the U. S. Army, he composed tunes and played bass for the Cab Calloway band. He performed with some of the greatest jazz bands of his day, such as Bud Powell’s (another DWC man), but did not belong to any one group for any extended period of time. Duvivier played in the orchestra in the 1956 movie The Benny Goodman Story. One of his last performances was on Late Night with David Letterman in 1983, accompanying singer-songwriter Tom Waits. George Duvivier died of cancer in July 1985.

Felix A. Endico '37 had a last name familiar to anyone who enjoyed the foods of Endico Potatoes, a Mount Vernon, NY, company begun by his father and in time run by Felix and his brothers. War hero also identifies the young Endico. During World War II, he fought at Iwo Jima and received the Silver Star. In part, his citation read: “single-handedly put a hostile tank out of action with hand grenades and, when his ammunition supply was expended, courageously engaged an enemy soldier in furious hand-to-hand combat before killing him with a blow from his carbine. Assuming command of a rifle company..., he gallantly led his company in two assaults which resulted in the destruction of two hundred enemy troops and the reduction of thirty-five caves.” Retired a Marine Corps captain, he died in 2007.

Adrian Kantrowitz ‘37 performed the world’s second human cardiac transplant and the first in North America (December 6, 1967). He was one of the greatest innovators in the history of cardiac surgery, with inventions that included a heart-lung machine, an internal pacemaker, the first auxiliary left heart ventricle, and the intra-aortic balloon pump, which had been used in nearly 3 million operations before his death in 2008. He also published pioneer motion pictures taken inside the living heart. In 2007, Kantrowitz received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Downstate’s College of Medicine, where he was a faculty member at the time he performed the historic 1967 transplant.

Benjamin Kimlau '37 was a Chinese-American bomber pilot who died serving his country in World War II. He graduated from the Pennsylvania Military College (now the United States Army War College) with honors, earning a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Field Artillery. Following flight school, he was assigned to the “Flying Circus,” the 380th Bombardment Group of the 5th Air Force in Australia. On March 5, 1944, he and his fellow pilots were ordered to attack the Japanese rear line at Los Negros, an island adjacent to New Guinea. During the attack, the enemy shot down the attacking U.S. bombers, killing Kimlau and the other pilots. For their heroism and devotion to duty, the members of 380th Bombardment Group earned two Presidential Unit Citations.
William Kunstler ‘37 was one of the best-known civil rights attorneys of his generation. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the Pacific theater, attaining the rank of Major, and received the Bronze Star. He was admitted to the bar in New York in 1948 and began practicing law. He was an associate professor of law at New York Law School (1950-1951). Kunstler’s most famous trial was his defense of the Chicago Seven who were charged with conspiracy to commit a riot at the 1968 Democratic National Convention. He died in 1995. In his autobiography, he admitted to stealing a Clinton “C” from the Health Ed office when he did not gain it as a member of the swimming team.

Theodore Roosevelt Kupferman ‘37 would have told you how he got his name this way: his grandfather owned a German restaurant near NYPD headquarters in the 1890s, and Police Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt dined there and forged lasting bonds with the Kupferman family. By the time Kupferman had been born in 1920, the commissioner had served as U.S. president and spoken to Clinton students at the 59th Street building. By the time Kupferman passed away in 2003, he had also led a distinguished life. A brilliant copyright and show business attorney, he was elected to Congress in 1966 to represent a Manhattan district and served until January 3, 1969. From 1969 to 1996, he was a justice of the New York Supreme Court, which included many years on its appellate division.

Enzo Magnozzi ‘37 emigrated from Italy to the United States in 1930 at the age of ten. After playing soccer for Clinton, his talents brought him to playing professionally in the United States, Canada, Italy, and Cuba. He was a member of the Flatbush Wanderers in 1938 when they won the Metropolitan New York League championship. For the American Soccer League, he played for the Paterson Caledonians, New York Brookhantans, and the New York Hakoah. Following his retirement, Magnozzi became a promoter and was instrumental in bringing the great Brazilian player Pele to the United States. In 1977, he was elected to the National Soccer Hall of Fame. He died in December 1987.

Harold Michelson ‘37 went from illustrating the Magpie at Clinton to becoming one of the most important story board artists in motion picture history. As story board artist, he made an illustration of every scene in a movie. His credits included The Ten Commandments (1956), Ben-Hur (1959), Spartacus (1960), West Side Story (1961), The Birds (1963), Cleopatra (1963), and The Graduate (1967). Michelson was a production designer on Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) and History of the World: Part I (1981). He was the art director for Mommie Dearest (1981), Terms of Endearment (1983), Spaceballs (1987), and Dick Tracy (1990). Michelson passed away in 2007.

Seymour Milstein ‘37 served as G.O. president in his senior year and, for decades after graduation, his name could be found on Association letterheads as chair or member of this or that committee. He and his wife Vivian established the “Doc” Guernsey scholarship in 1960. With his brother Paul, Class of 1940, he formed one of the most important realty companies in the New York metropolitan area. In addition, he and his brother gained the controlling interest in Emigrant Savings Bank. His business skill was easily matched by his spirit of generosity. His foundation gave the lead gift to build a hospital building at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. Other beneficiaries include Columbia University, the Metropolitan Opera, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Milstein died in 2001.

Arthur Rickerby ‘37 discovered photography when he joined the camera club at DeWitt Clinton. At the same time, he became a reporter for the Clinton News. The two activities put him on a path to become one of America’s premier photojournalists. His images include the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri ending World War II in the Pacific and the arrival of President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy in Dallas on the fateful morning of November 22, 1963. During World War II, Rickerby served in the U.S. Navy, achieving the rank of captain. He was a staff photographer for LIFE magazine for 10 years, ending at his death in 1972.

Lee Archer Jr. ‘38, Lt. Col. USAF, was a World War II Tuskegee Airman who flew 169 missions in a P-51 Mustang. He also served as a combat pilot during the Korean War. In 2007, he received the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony at the Capitol in Washington, DC, honoring the heroism and bravery of the original Tuskegee Airmen. Following military service, Archer had a distinguished career in business. He joined General Foods as a manager of urban affairs in 1970 and by 1975 was elected corporate vice president of General Foods and CEO of North Street Capital Corp. In 1996, he became chairman of Independent Tobacco Leaf Sales of Zimbabwe, Africa. Archer died in 2010.

Martin Balsam ‘38 discovered his love of acting on the DWC auditorium stage. He earned the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for the 1963 film A Thousand Clowns and the Best Actor Tony for the 1967 Broadway play You Know I Can’t Hear You When the Water’s Running. His listing on Internet Movie Database gives more than 150 television and motion picture appearance, including the classic films On the Waterfront (1954), Twelve Angry Men (1957), the original Psycho (1960), and All the President’s Men (1976), and 38 TV episodes of Archie Bunker’s Place (1979-1983). Balsam died in Italy in 1996.
Lawrence Dickson ’38 graduated from flight training on March 25, 1943, at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. In December, he deployed to Italy with the 100th Fighter Squadron. On December 23, 1944, he flew his 68th and last mission. He was part of a reconnaissance mission to Praha, Czechoslovakia, when engine trouble forced him to bail from his P-51 Mustang. His plane crashed and his body was never found. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and a Purple Heart for his military service. In 2011, the search for Dickson was renewed. In July 2018, his remains were verified from a crash site in Austria. On March 22, 2019, Captain Lawrence E. Dickson was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery.

David Finn ’38 was known at Clinton as David Finkelstein but to the world he was known as a great "PR" man--among other things. Along with Bill Ruder, also Class of 1938, Finn founded a public relations firm in 1948. Soon renamed Ruder-Finn, the company would have singer Perry Como as its first client and go on to become one of the largest public relations firms globally, with offices in the U.S., U.K., Belgium, China and India. In 1980, Ruder formed his own consulting firm and Finn continued on with the original firm, which would become the first PR agency to establish an in-house ethics committee. As for those other things, Finn was also an accomplished photographer, writer, and painter. On October 18, 2021 at age 100, he passed away at home in New Rochelle, NY.

Wynn Handman ’38 was an acting teacher and co-founder and director of the American Place Theater. An acting teacher well into his 90s, Handman was an influence on thousands of performers—among them, former students Richard Gere, James Caan, Joel Grey, Denzel Washington, Michael Douglas, Mia Farrow, Allison Janney, and Chris Cooper. The American Place Theater, opened in 1963, was one of the pillars of the Off-Broadway scene, both a dedicated education space and a producer of new plays by living American writers including Sam Shepard and Joyce Carol Oates. Wynn Handman died in New York City due to complications brought on by COVID-19 on April 11, 2020.

Arnold Hano ’38 was an editor, novelist, biographer and journalist, best known for his non-fiction work, A Day in the Bleachers. It was an eyewitness account of Game 1 of the 1954 World Series, centered on its pivotal play, Willie Mays’s famous catch and throw. After service in the U. S. Army during World War II, Hano distinguished himself as a freelance writer, his work appearing in publications such as The Saturday Evening Post and Sports Illustrated. In 1964, he received the Sidney Hillman Memorial Award in magazine journalism for "The Burned Out Americans," which describes the bad conditions facing migratory farm workers in California. He also wrote biographies of star athletes, and then came more than a dozen novels. Arnold Hano died in California on October 24, 2021.

Ralph Kaplowitz ’38 led the Clinton basketball team to the city title in 1937. In his senior year at NYU, he was drafted into the U.S. Army as an aviation cadet. He was aboard one of planes escorting the Enola Gay as it flew its historic mission on August 6, 1945. After the war, Kaplowitz returned to basketball. On November 1, 1946 in Toronto, Canada, he was in the starting NY Knicks lineup of the very first game of NBA history. Two of his teammates in that game were Clintonites Leo Gottlieb ’38 and Thomas Byrnes ’41. He was then traded to the Philadelphia Warriors to be part of the first NBA championship team. Kaplowitz died in 2009.

Marvin Leffler ’38 is a businessman who made it his business to save Town Hall, one of the great cultural institutions of New York City. In 1979, a year after becoming president of the Town Hall Foundation, he led in the efforts to attain historic landmark status for building. He then ran a successful campaign to raise money for a complete renovation of the Hall. At an October 21, 2012 gala, Leffler and his wife, Dr. Charlotte K. Frank, received Town Hall’s ‘Friend of the Arts’ Award, given for “their abiding interest in the development, enrichment and support of the arts.” Leffler’s first “vocation” was as a salesman and in 1952, with the expertise he gained in that field, he published the highly influential book How to Become a Successful Manufacturers’ Representative.

Harold Levine ’38 was the founding chairman in 1970 of the advertising agency Levine, Huntley, Schmidt & Beaver. With TV newsman Chet Huntley as a partner, LHS&B was one of the most awarded agencies for the quality of its work year in and year out. In 1989, Levine was named chairman of the Alvin Alley Dance Theater Foundation. In 1996, he traveled to the Ukraine to help develop its advertising industry. He was invited back in 2011 to see the “successful fruits” of his suggestions. In his retirement years, he committed himself to providing educational and arts opportunities to the children of Bridgeport, CT. Harold Levine, a man proud to be a Clintonite, died on February 9, 2017.

Robert Q. Lewis ’38 had a successful career as a radio personality, television host and quiz show panelist, and stage and film actor. His middle initial was a gimmick and he jokingly said it stood for “Quizzical.” In the 1950s, in the early days of television, he appeared to be everywhere, at one time hosting three television shows. His film career included featured roles in An Affair to Remember (1957), How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (1967), and Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex (But Were Afraid to Ask) (1972). At Clinton, he went by the name Robert L. Goldberg. He died in 1970 of complications from emphysema.
Robert F. Lukeman ‘38 saw duty with the Eighth Air Force in England as lead crew navigator in the World War II bombing campaign against Germany. Rising to the rank of major general, he has served in many important positions during his long military career, including assignments with the Strategic Air Command and the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal (Air Force design), Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and Army Commendation Medal.

August Martin ‘38 became the first African American to be a commercial pilot when he began flying for Seaboard World Airlines in 1955. He learned to fly in the Civilian Pilot Training Program at the University of California and received his Instructor’s Rating in 1942. He then worked as a flight instructor in the Navy V-12 program at Cornell University. In 1943, he joined the Army Air Corps, and went through flight training at Tuskegee, Alabama. He then went on to fly B-25’s. In 1968, during his vacation time from Seaboard, Martin chartered a plane to fly food to starving Biafrans caught up in a brutal civil war in Nigeria. His plane crashed just before landing and he and his wife were killed. A high school in Queens, New York, is named for him.

Walter Mirisch ’38 has produced some of the Hollywood’s most memorable films, including The Magnificent Seven (1960), Two for the See-Saw (1962), Toys in the Attic (1963), Hawaii (1966), Midway (1976), and Same Time, Next Year (1978). He received an Academy Award for In the Heat of the Night, which won the 1967 Best Picture Award. Mirisch is president and executive head of production of The Mirisch Corporation, which produced two more Best Picture Oscar winners: The Apartment (1960) and West Side Story (1961).

Robert F. Panara ‘38 lost his hearing from spinal meningitis in 1931 at the age of ten. However, he could read and write, and his new solitude created a new passion – reading, reading, and reading. Panara taught English, literature and theatre at Gallaudet College from 1948 until 1965, when he left to help found the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) and the National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD) at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He continued to expand arts and literature at NTID until his retirement in 1987. He passed away in 2014. In 2017, the USPS’s 16th stamp in the Distinguished Americans series honored Robert Panara.

Sugar Ray Robinson ‘38 attended DeWitt Clinton High School. As for when Walker Smith Jr. (his birth name) left Clinton is in dispute, but he was probably “on the books” into 1938. What is not in dispute is that he became one of the greatest professional boxers of the 20th century, winning multiple championships in the welterweight and middleweight divisions. He died in 1989. (Robinson won the Golden Gloves championship for his weight division in 1939 and, the next year, returned to Clinton to speak on the inside history of the Golden Gloves. In the photo to the left, taken by Clintonite Ralph Morse, Robinson is shown with his trainer, Clintonite Harry Wiley.)

William Ruder ’38 liked to talk about the influence “Doc” Guernsey had on his life. “He gave me an opportunity to lead, to take tremendous responsibility, to be inventive. The greatest lesson he taught me was to trust people.” Along with David Finn, also from the Class of 1938, Ruder founded a public relations firm in 1948. Soon renamed Ruder-Finn, the company would have singer Perry Como as its first client and go on to become the largest public relations firm in New York City. In 1960, Ruder was appointed by John F. Kennedy as Assistant Secretary of Commerce and served in that capacity for nearly two years. In 1980, he formed a personal consulting firm while continuing to be a stockholder and board member in the PR firm he founded in 1948. Ruder died in 2011.

Ted Shearer ’38 was an illustrator, cartoonist, and artist whose early drawings appeared in the Magpie magazine. During World War II, he served in the US Army’s segregated 92nd Division and became an illustrator for Stars and Stripes. Later, he sold drawings to The Ladies’ Home Journal and The Saturday Evening Post. Shearer went on to become television art director at the prestigious ad agency of Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborne. In 1970, he quit BBD&O to launch the King Features comic Quincy, which focused on a ten-year-old inner-city kid of African-American heritage. The strip ran until 1986. Shearer died in 1992.

Robert Blackburn ’39 was born in Summit, New Jersey, in 1920 and grew up in Harlem. He died in 2003. From 1936 to 1939, his artwork filled the Clinton News and Magpie. He changed the course of American art through his graphic work and the Printmaking Workshop, which he founded in New York City in 1948. His pioneering contributions to the technical and aesthetic development of abstract color lithography is as legendary as his generosity in encouraging and training thousands of diverse artists to experiment in the graphic medium. He received a MacArthur fellowship in 1992. In the fall of 2014, the Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park, presented an exhibit, Robert Backburn: Passages.
Sidney “Paddy” Chayefsky ’39 is the only person to win three Academy Awards for screenwriting (as the sole writer). In 1953, he wrote the teleplay Marty, which became the 1955 Oscar winning best film of the year. Everyone at the time knew the lines, “Hey, Marty, whada you want to do tonight?” “I don’t know. Whada you want to do?” He won his second writing Oscar for the 1971 film The Hospital and his third for the 1976 film Network. Lines from that film still resonate in America. “I want you to go to the window, open it, stick your head out and yell: ‘I’m as mad as hell, and I’m not going to take this anymore.’” Chayefsky died in 1981.

Edward Greenfield ’39 served as a naval intelligence officer in the Pacific during World War II. He was among the first people to enter Hiroshima after it was devastated by the atomic bomb on August 6, 1945. After the war, he graduated from Harvard Law School and worked in private practice. He was elected a civil court judge in 1963, then elected to the State Supreme Court in Manhattan in 1968 and re-elected in 1982. Justice Greenfield was involved in many controversial cases. In 1981, he allowed a photographer to continue selling nude photos of the young actress Brooke Shields, although he also scolded her mother for exploiting her. Greenfield died at home in Manhattan on August 26, 2021.

Gerald J. Gross ’39 dropped out of college, married, and enlisted in the Army Air Force all in the same week shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack. As a navigator and bombardier, he flew 24 missions over Germany. Gross became a noted publisher and editor, who was credited with giving English readers a chilling look inside Nazi Germany by publishing the memoirs of Albert Speer, one of Adolf Hitler’s closest advisors. His other authors included Eudora Welty, Robert Penn Warren, Barbara W. Tuchman, and E.E. Cummings. He taught and lectured on publishing at NYU, Columbia, UPenn, Boston University and the Pratt Institute. Gerald Gross died in Baltimore, MD, on October 14, 2015.

Irwin Hasen ’39 drew almost his whole life. At 19, he sold boxing cartoons to the Madison Square Garden Corporation, which printed them all over New York in different newspapers. In the 1940s, Hasen was a major artist at National/DC Comics’ sister company All-American Comics. His work can be found in the early comic book pages of the Green Lantern and the Flash. In 1955, he joined with Gus Edson to create Dondi. This comic strip became one of the most successful ever and lasted until 1986 when our Clintonite went into semi-retirement. Like Bob Kane and Will Eisner before him, Hasen’s earliest drawings can be found in the pages of the Clinton News. He died in 2015.

Matthew Kennedy ’39 is the retired director of the historic Fisk Jubilee Singers. Employed by Fisk University as an instructor in 1947, he became a member of its music faculty in 1954. Three years later he was appointed director of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, and he mentored hundreds of young students for the next twenty-three years. In 1958, Kennedy made his own solo piano debut at Carnegie Recital Hall. Over the years, he toured the world as a soloist and as director of the Jubilee Singers. He was appointed acting chairman of the Fisk University Music Department from 1975 to 1978. Kennedy retired from Fisk University in 1986.

Stan Lee ’39 did not use his real last name, Lieber, on the first comic strips he wrote. He was saving it for when he wrote the great American novel. But comic book writing became his life-long career. In fact, he saved the industry in the 1960s when he introduced superheroes with human frailties: The Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Doctor Strange, Thor, The Hulk, The X-Men, The Silver Surfer, Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos, Daredevil and Iron Man. In 2002 the first of many Spider-Man movies was released. The Hulk, X-Men and Fantastic Four have all made the silver screen. Stan Lee passed away in Los Angeles on November 12, 2018. Listen to his rendition of the DWC fight song at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hc1LQaQx9uU&feature=youtu.be.

Victor A. Lundy ’39 is one of America’s leading architects, whose designs include the U.S. Tax Court Building in Washington, DC; the First Unitarian Church in Westport, CT; and the Space Flowers at the 1964-1965 New York World’s Fair. While serving as an infantry sergeant in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II, Lundy sketched the places and people he saw. Those sketches can be seen at http://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=LOT+14007&st=thumbnails&op=PHRASE&s=call_number. In January 2014, the U.S. General Services Administration released its documentary on Victory Lindy, titled Sculptor of Space. It can be viewed at http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/185759.

George L. Mallory MD ’39 had a lifetime commitment to provide health care access to the poor and underserved residents of South Los Angeles. Throughout his 62-year career at Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center in Watts, he worked tirelessly as an educator, psychiatrist, and civil rights activist. During World War II, he had served in the U.S. Army, deployed to the Pacific Theater. He then earned his bachelor’s and medical degrees at Howard University. His career included serving as an instructor and professor at USC School of Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine and Charles Drew School of Medicine and Science. Dr. Mallory passed away on August 24, 2016.
In June 2018, he published received the Distinguished Fellow Award (1996) from the Association for Health Services Research. and was president (1995) and distinguished fellow (1990) of the American Economic Association. He universal healthcare, writing extensively on the cost of medical care and on determinants of health, economics columnist David Leonhardt (8/25/09). Fuchs has been a leading advocate for universal, at Stanford University. He has been called “the dean of health economists” by Victor Fuchs ’40 is the Henry J. Kaiser, Jr., Professor of Economics and of Health Research and Policy, Officers and Senior Officer in Charge of Special Projects. Emond died in 1989. post-war career spanned 47 years at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, with the first half of that time spent as a bank examiner. Thereafter, his positions included being the first Officer in Charge of Operations and Technology, Officer in Charge of the Discount Window, Lead Trainer for Bank Examiners and Senior Officer in Charge of Special Projects. Emond passed away in 2006. $70 billion, including the Loews hotel chain, a tobacco company, an insurance firm and an offshore drilling company. Between 1986 and 1995, he had controlling interest in CBS. He was also known for his philanthropy, with major donations to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York University, the NYU Medical Center and the Wildlife Conservation Society. His $4.5 million gift to the latter created the Children’s Zoo in Central Park. co-founder of Kreisler Borg Florman, one of the major construction companies in the New York metropolitan area. He served as a mediator and arbitrator in many cases involving the construction industry and helped draft the Construction Industry Rules of the American Arbitration Association. As chairman of the Committee on Social and Environmental Concerns of the American Society of Civil Engineers, he oversaw the preparation of the 2002 report on the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site. At Clinton, he worked on the Clinton News, where he developed a passion for photography. Borg died in 2010. The company offered health and auto insurance for the elderly at a time when they could not obtain coverage easily. He is also credited with being a co-founder of AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons. His philanthropy included funding the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania in 1967, the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1972, and the first school of gerontology in the United States at the University of Southern California in 1976. Davis died in 2001. In 2015, the Leonard & Sophie Davis Foundation funded the establishment of DWC’s Student Success Center, where students learn about the college application process. Eugene Emond ’40 enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. After training as a pilot, he was assigned to the 91st Bomb Group at RAF Bassingbourn, England. He was one of the youngest pilots of the B-17 Flying Fortress Man O War II, completing 34 missions. Emond received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and logged 1,306 hours at the controls. His post-war career spanned 47 years at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, with the first half of that time spent as a bank examiner. Thereafter, his positions included being the first Officer in Charge of Operations and Technology, Officer in Charge of the Discount Window, Lead Trainer for Bank Examiners and Senior Officer in Charge of Special Projects. Emond passed away in 1989. Victor Fuchs ’40 is the Henry J. Kaiser, Jr., Professor of Economics and of Health Research and Policy, emeritus, at Stanford University. He has been called “the dean of health economists” by New York Times economics columnist David Leonhardt (8/25/09). Fuchs has been a leading advocate for universal healthcare, writing extensively on the cost of medical care and on determinants of health, with an emphasis on the role of socioeconomic factors. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and was president (1995) and distinguished fellow (1990) of the American Economic Association. He received the Distinguished Fellow Award (1996) from the Association for Health Services Research. In June 2018, he published Health Economics and Policy: Selected Writings by Victor Fuchs 1st Ed.
Arthur Hill ’40 joined the NYPD in 1946 after serving in the US Army during World War II. As he rose through police ranks, becoming an assistant chief in 1971, he received two commendations, three meritorious and three excellent police duty awards. He served as commanding officer of the Malcolm X funeral detail in February 1965. He also became the first African-American commander of the Special Operations Division, now called the Support Service Unit. Hill retired from the NYPD in January 1973 and began a second career as an executive for United Parcel Service. His community involvement included serving on the board of directors of the Apollo Theater in Harlem. Hill passed away in 2010.

Harry H. Kutner ’40 was a 2-pound, 3 ounce-premature baby who later excelled in life. He passed up a West Point appointment to enlist in the Army Air Corps and, at 23, was a pilot-commander of a B-29 Pathfinder with a 13-man crew. He commanded 34 missions over Japan. Besides the Distinguished Flying Cross, Kutner also received the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. After the war Kutner became a New York City police officer, Nassau Family Court judge and New York State Supreme Court justice. Harry H. Kutner died May 4, 2016 at the Hospice Inn in Melville of complications from a fall months after his 91st birthday. -- Oh, he was also the biological father of 11 children.

Paul Milstein ’40 became president of the Circle Floor Company in 1961, a firm that his father had founded in 1919. From installing floors, he expanded to real estate and with his brother, Class of 1937, established one of the most important realty firms in the New York metropolitan area. His brother died in 2001 and his sons, Howard and Edward, are currently his business partners. His generosity has funded a hospital building at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, a center for real estate at Columbia Business School, and a hall at Cornell University College of Architecture, Art and Planning. Milstein passed away in 2010.

Johnny Most ’40 was the raspy-voiced radio sports announcer for the NBA’s Boston Celtics from 1953 to 1990. He is most remembered for his excited call of “Havlicek stole the ball!!” during the final moments of Game 7 of the 1965 NBA Eastern Division Finals. The play sealed the victory for the Boston Celtics. During World War II, as an aerial gunner on a B-24, Most flew 28 combat missions with the 15th Air Force, earning seven medals. He passed away in 1993. He liked to end broadcasts with “Johnny Most, bye for now.”

Jack I. Posner ’40 enlisted in the Army Air Corps in World War II and received his pilot wings and commission in June 1944. He flew in 18 combat missions with the 92nd Bombardment Group in England. After the war, he went back to his civilian life, but was reactivated during the Korean War. Rising to the rank of major general, he served in the U.S. Air Force in many important positions. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters and Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. General Posner died in 2006 and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Richard Schifter ’40 was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1923 and, at age 15, was the only member of his family permitted to emigrate to the United States. After serving in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II, he searched for his parents, but they had not survived the horrors of the Holocaust. Back in the United States, Schifter graduated from the Yale School of Law and developed into an expert practitioner of federal Indian law, which resulted in his appointment to the President’s Task Force on American Indians from 1966 to 1967. He also focused on the application of international human rights standards, serving in senior foreign policy positions in the U.S. government from 1981 to 2001, such as deputy U.S. representative in the UN Security Council, with the rank of ambassador. Richard Schifter passed away in Bethesda, Maryland, on October 4, 2020.

Leonard B. Stern ’40 was a writer, TV producer, and publisher who used his wit and talent to write for such classic television series such as The Phil Silvers Show, The Steve Allen Show, Steve Allen’s Tonight Show, The Honeymooners, and Get Smart. He also wrote screenplays for several Ma and Pa Kettle and Abbott and Costello films, among others. In the 1970s, Stern produced and directed the Rock Hudson TV series McMillan and Wife. For several decades, he was a partner in the Price/Stern/Sloan publishing house, which produced one of his co-creations, the popular Mad Libs series. Stern passed away in 2011.

Meyer Ackerman ’41 operated movie theaters that, long before the Internet and home videos, brought hard-to-find films to audiences in and around New York City. He and his partners owned, among others, the Devon Theater in the Bronx, the Carnegie Hall Cinema and the 68th Street Playhouse in Manhattan, and the Scarsdale Fine Arts Cinema. Perhaps his greatest success came in 1984 when he introduced American audiences to the South African film The Gods Must Be Crazy, which ran at the 68th Street Playhouse for 20 months. A soldier in the U. S. Army during World War II, Meyer Ackerman passed away in White Plains, New York, on October 21, 2019.
Don Adams ’41, whose real last name was Yarmy, left Clinton before graduating. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II in the Solomon Islands campaign and was wounded during the Guadalcanal Campaign. Starting in the early 1950s as a stand-up comedian, he went on to have a career in entertainment that spanned five decades. He was best known for his role as Maxwell Smart (Agent 86) in the TV situation comedy Get Smart (1965–1970, 1995), for which he won three consecutive Emmy Awards (1967–1969). He also provided the title character voices for the animated series Tennessee Tuxedo (1963–1966) and Inspector Gadget (1983–1986). Adams died in 2005.

Harold Altman ’41 was a major contributor of art to the Magpie magazine during his Clinton school years. His further education included the Art Students League, the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris, and the Cooper Union Art School. An artist of wide range, he is most remembered for his lithographs, which brilliantly combined the real and the ideal in a natural landscape. Altman’s works have been exhibited at numerous galleries and museums in the United States and Europe. He has had more than 300 one-man exhibitions in galleries all over the world. From 1962 until his death in 2003, Altman resided in rural Pennsylvania with yearly long stays in Paris, where his works were printed.

Richard Avedon ’41 once described the tower in DeWitt Clinton as his “favorite place in the whole world.” In his senior year, he often hid there, spending the night alone, writing and editing stories and poems for the Magpie. His literary skills won him the title “poet laureate” in a 1941 New York Times contest, but while serving in the US Merchant Marine, he found the camera. For more than a half century, his photographs made the ordinary elegant and revealed the powerful in all their humanity. His Marilyn Monroe was fragile, his Duke and Duchess of Windsor had the same wrinkles at the couple next door. He caught the person behind the façade, and in doing so justified photography as art. Avedon died in 2004.

Herbert H. Breslin ’41 was one of the leading theatrical publicists of his day. His most celebrated client was the late tenor Luciano Pavarotti, whom he represented for 36 years. But Breslin was not the first Clintonite to manage an operatic superstar. That distinction goes to Edward L. Bernays ’08 who, for a time, was the U.S. publicist for Enrico Caruso. Breslin described his relationship with Pavarotti in the “tell-all” book The King and I, published in 2004. During his long career, Breslin has represented such talents as Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Alicia de Larrocha, Joan Sutherland, Marilyn Horne, Placido Domingo, George Solti, Kathleen Battle, Roberto Alagna, and Renée Fleming. Breslin died in 2012.

Tommy Byrnes ’41 is the often-forgotten third original New York Knick from DWCHS. Leo Gottlieb and Ralph Kaplowitz, both class of 1938, come to mind quickly. But it was Byrnes who scored the two points in the final minutes to give the Knicks their first victory (beating the Toronto Huskies 68-66 at the Maple Leaf Garden on November 1, 1946). His college playing was at Seton Hall, but professionally he played for the Knicks (1946–49), Indianapolis Jets (1949), Baltimore Bullets (1949–50), Washington Capitols and Tri-Cities Blackhawks (1950–51) in the Basketball Association of America (BAA) and its successor, the National Basketball Association (NBA), for 265 games. Byrnes passed away in January 1981.

Gerald Schoenfeld ’41 was the chairman of the Shubert Organization from 1972 until his death in 2008. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he earned a law degree from New York University. By 1957, he was hired as an attorney to represent Jacob J. Shubert, the surviving brother of the theatrical Shubert Organization. Schoenfeld soon hired his brother’s friend, Bernard Jacobs ’34, as his legal associate. By 1972, he and Jacobs had taken control of the Shubert Organization and were on their way to turning it into a profitable enterprise. At the time of Schoenfeld’s death, it owned and operated 17 Broadway theaters and other theatrical and real estate property. In 2004, Broadway’s Plymouth Theatre was renamed The Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre in his honor.

Larry Storch ’41 began his show business career on the Clinton auditorium stage. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he used his comic talents on television and the stage and in film. His most famous TV role was the scheming Corporal Agarn on the series F-Troop (1965-1967). He was the first actor to voice Batman’s arch enemy “The Joker,” in the late 1960s TV animation series Batman with Robin the Boy Wonder. On stage, he received rave reviews for the off-Broadway production of Breaking Legs (1991). On Broadway, he appeared in Annie Get Your Gun (1999-2001). His more than 25 films include The Great Race (1965) and S.O.B. (1981).

Stanley Turkel ’41 is a recognized authority and consultant in the hotel industry with experience as the product line manager overseeing the Sheraton Corporation of America and as general manager of the Summit Hotel (762 Rooms) and the Drake Hotel (680 Rooms) and resident manager of the Americana Hotel (1842 Rooms), all in New York City. Since 2005, he has published ten works on the history of American hotels and the men and women who envisioned them, built them and operated them. His book Hotel Mavens Vol. 3 (2020) includes an account of how Clintonites Larry Tisch ’39 and Bob Tisch (one year) rose to great prominence owning the Loew’s hotel chain. On December 23, 2020, Turkel was designated as Historian of the Year by Historic Hotels of America (National Trust for Historic Preservation). This was his third designation, as he was also honored in 2014 and 2015.
James L. Watson ’41 was appointed to the U.S. Customs Court, now the United States Court of International Trade, on March 7, 1966 by President Lyndon Johnson, becoming the first African-American since the Civil War to serve in a southern federal court. In 2003, the courthouse located at 1 Federal Plaza in New York City, where he served for 36 years until his death in 2001, was renamed for him. During World War II, he served in Italy with the 92nd Infantry Division, earning the Battle Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and Army Commendation Ribbon. “The most valuable lesson I learned during my stay in Clinton,” Watson told the Clinton News in a 1954 interview, “was how to live with all kinds of people.”

Bill Wendel ’41, born William Joseph Wenzel Jr., served in the U. S. Army Air Corps during World War II before turning to a life in radio and television broadcasting. Between 1947 and the late 1970s, he announced for Ernie Kovacs, Steve Allen, Jack Paar, Dave Garroway, emcee’d Tic Tac Dough (1958-1959), and was the announcer for To Tell the Truth (1972-1977). In 1980, he began announcing an early morning TV show for David Letterman. He was also the announcer for the complete run (1982-1993) of NBC’s Late Night With David Letterman and then announced CBS’s The Late Show with David Letterman from 1993 to 1995. Bill Wendell passed away in 1999.

James Baldwin ’42 enjoyed his time in the Clinton tower with his friends Sol Stein, Richard Avedon, and Emil Capouya, all writing for the Magpie. He was an avid reader who became a prolific published author. Among his significant works are Go Tell It on the Mountain (1953), Notes of a Native Son (1955), Giovanni’s Room (1956), Another Country (1962), and The Fire Next Time (1963). He spent much of his adult years in France, where he felt free to explore his inner-most feelings. Though controversial during his life for his political and social views, he is widely recognized today as one of the great writers of the 20th century. Baldwin died in France in 1987.

Harold Baumgarten ’42 served with the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division during the first wave of attacks on Omaha Beach, Normandy, on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He was wounded five times before being evacuated, hospitalized and sent home because of the seriousness of his wounds. Following the war, he attended medical school in Florida and then practiced medicine as a physician for over 40 years. In 1991, he served as a consultant for the WWII movie Saving Private Ryan. In October 2016, he published D-Day Survivor: An Autobiography, giving a firsthand account of his landing on the Dog Green sector of Omaha Beach. Baumgartner died in Florida on December 25, 2016.

Gene C. Browne ’42, at age 19, was the youngest black pilot ever commissioned in the Army Air Corps during World War II. As a Tuskegee Airman, he was credited with three unconfirmed kills. On one mission, Lt. Browne crash-landed in Germany. He was captured and ended up at Stalag Luft 7, a camp near Munich, where he was a POW for 10 months until Allied forces arrived. He was awarded a Bronze Star, an Air Medal and a Purple Heart. After the war, Browne was an engineer at Sperry Gyroscope for 20 years. Then for the next 25 years at Grumman, he worked on major projects ranging from the Apollo space program to development of the EA6B Prowler aircraft. Lt. Browne died Feb. 22, 2002 and is buried at Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York.

John T. Conway ’42 enlisted in the U.S. Navy after high school and served during World War II as an officer in the North Atlantic. After graduating from Columbia Law School in 1949, he joined the FBI as a special agent and became part of an elite counter espionage unit working in Washington, DC and New York City. In 1956, Conway joined the staff of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, where he rose to the position of Executive Director. In 1968, he was appointed executive assistant to the chairman of the Board of the Consolidated Edison Company. From 1989 to 2005, he was chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. Conway passed away on February 12, 2017.

Frank Corsaro ’42 was one of America’s foremost stage directors of opera and theatre. He staged operas throughout the United States and in Europe, making his debut at the New York City Opera in 1958 with a staging of Carlisle Floyd’s Susannah. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1984 with Handel’s Rinaldo. His Broadway productions include A Hateful of Rain (1955) and The Night of the Iguana (1959). Corsaro wrote several libretti for operas, including Heloise and Abelard in 2002 and Frau Margot in 2007. Of course, it all began on the Clinton auditorium stage appearing in the Clinton-Nite shows. Frank Corsaro passed away on November 11, 2017.

Norman Frank ’42, born Norman Fetbrod, served during WW II as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force. After the war, he was attracted to advertising and then television advertising. Soon came the interest in producing and/or directing television series, which would include Star of the Family on CBS (1951) and The Jonathan Winters Show on NBC (1956-1957). By the mid-1960s, Frank could be seen in front of the television camera as “the spokesman for the P.B.A.”—New York City’s Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association. His efforts on behalf of the city’s police force often pitted him against Mayor John V. Lindsay. Frank embarked on his own mayoral campaign in 1969 but was unable to oust Lindsay. Moving to Miami Beach in 1979, he became involved in local causes. Norman Frank died in 2007.

Bill Wendel ’41, served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II before turning to a life in radio and television broadcasting. Between 1947 and the late 1970s, he announced for Ernie Kovacs, Steve Allen, Jack Paar, Dave Garroway, emcee’d Tic Tac Dough (1958-1959), and was the announcer for To Tell the Truth (1972-1977). In 1980, he began announcing an early morning TV show for David Letterman. He was also the announcer for the complete run (1982-1993) of NBC’s Late Night With David Letterman and then announced CBS’s The Late Show with David Letterman from 1993 to 1995. Bill Wendell passed away in 1999.
Bernard Handel '42 takes the adage “You’re known by the company you keep” to the next level. Our Poughkeepsie (NY) accountant, consultant, and attorney is known by the awards he has received for his generosity. They include the Americanism Award ADL, Franciscan Award St. Francis Hospital, Chancellor’s medal State University of New York, County Executives Art Patron Award, Dutchess County History Society Award, Pace University Law School Lifetime Achievement Award, and Fundraising Association Philanthropist Award, 2007. You can watch his PBS interview about his World War II experiences at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8YLJA8xuls.

Richard D. Heffner '42 started out to become an historian, which he accomplished in 1952 with the publication of A Documentary History of the United States. Along the way, he moved into communications and became university professor of communications and public policy at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. From 1974 to 1994, he served as chairman of the board and administrator of the motion picture industry’s voluntary film classification and rating system. Perhaps his greatest recognition came from producing and moderating The Open Mind, a more than five decade-old, prize-winning television program on public broadcasting stations around the country. A great admirer of “Doc” Guernsey and all things DWC, Heffner passed away in 2013.

Herman Krawitz ’42 majored in philosophy at City College and being “philosophical” was surely needed in his demanding career in the entertainment industry. One of his great challenges and successes came as assistant general manager of the Metropolitan Opera House (1963-1972). As an expert in backstage organization, Krawitz had the primary responsibility to get the Met settled in its new home in Lincoln Center in 1966, which included staging nine new productions during that first season. An account of Krawitz’s leadership of various entertainment endeavors would take many pages, but it is worth noting that in 1980 he won an Emmy Award for producing Baryshnikov on Broadway. Currently, he is chairman of New World Records, which documents the works of American composers.

Basil Paterson ’42 belonged to the law firm of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C., until his death in April 2014. Along with serving as New York’s Secretary of State and as New York City Deputy Mayor for Labor Relations and Personnel, he was also a New York State Senator, vice chairperson of the Democratic National Committee, and a commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Paterson received the Pierre Toussaint Award from the Catholic Archdiocese of New York and in 1997 was named “Alumnus of the Year” at the DWC Centennial Celebration.

Jack Rudin ’42 and his brother Lewis followed in their father’s footsteps in New York City real estate building, ownership, and management. Enormous success in that business did not keep Jack away from DeWitt Clinton. He visited the school often and enjoyed many turns being “Principal for a Day.” In December 2014, he invited Lincoln Center jazz musicians to come to Clinton to play for an assembly of students, only one more reminder that his loyalty to the DWC remained steadfast. His charitable work was legendary, from giving to medical research and supporting programs for the homeless to promoting dialogue between Catholic and Jews. He passed away on December 4, 2016.

George Sakheim ’42 was born in Hamburg, Germany, and immigrated to New York at age 15. Drafted into the U. S. Army in March 1943, he fought in Normandy and the Rhineland. In October 1945, Sakheim volunteered to work as a German-speaking interpreter at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials. For seven months, he had the opportunity to see and hear Nazi leaders, incl. Hermann Goering and Rudolph Hoess. After the war, Sakheim earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, both in psychology, at Columbia University. In 1954, he earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Florida State University. In February 2009, Dr. Sakheim was awarded the French Legion of Honor for his part in liberating France during WW II. He died in 2019.

Sol Stein ’42 served as army commandant of division schools in the American Zone in Germany at the end of World War II. He was a man of many words, most of them of the written kind. He was a novelist and playwright, and, for 27 years, publisher and editor-in-chief of Stein and Day Publishers. He edited Notes of a Native Son by his Clinton classmate and lifelong friend James Baldwin. In later years, he was the creator of three computer software programs for writers, including the award-winning WritePro®. In April 2013, Stein joined the celebration of the centenary of the Clinton News held in the school library. He passed away on September 19, 2019.

Marvin Traub ’42 went off to Harvard University in September 1942, but army service in Europe during World War II delayed his degree until 1947. In 1949, he earned his Master’s degree from Harvard Business School. The next year he started his retailing career in Bloomingdale’s midtown store’s bargain basement. By 1969, he was president and in 1978 was named chairman and CEO. His leadership brought Bloomingdale’s into the ranks of great...and chic...department stores. In 1992, he founded his own consulting firm, Marvin Traub Associates. Among his many awards, he was named Chevalier de la Legion d’Honneur by President François Mitterand of France (1986). Marvin Traub died on July 11, 2012.
Martin Whitman ’42 served on a U.S. Navy transport ship in the Pacific during World War II. With help from the G.I. Bill of Rights, he graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University in 1949. He then worked for a string of investment firms in New York City and Philadelphia until he founded Third Avenue Management LLC in 1974. As its co-chief investment officer, the firm would manage more than $6 billion in assets. Following a generous donation, Syracuse University named its business school in his honor. Whitman passed away on April 16, 2018.

William Becker ’43 was told if he talked about his special war assignment, he would be shot. During World War II, as a U.S. Army Air Force gunner, he was assigned to the 801st/492nd Bombardment Group, code “CARPETBAGGERS.” It flew many covert missions from England to the French, Norwegian and Danish undergrounds, dropping spies and supplies at night. Only after the Carpetbaggers received the French Croix de Guerre in 1987 following declassification of their missions did Becker’s family learn of his heroism. On September 26, 2013, he received the French Legion of Honor. On August 1, 2018, the Congress bestowed on him its highest civilian honor; the Congressional Gold Medal. After the war, Becker owned several businesses.

Stan Brooks ’43 was the voice of New York City for more than 40 years. During his Clinton days, he wrote a column named “Babbling Brooks” for the Clinton News. After serving in the U.S. Army and then graduating from Syracuse University, he worked as a reporter and editor for Newsday for 11 years. Thereafter, he became director of news at radio station WINS. On April 19, 1965, WINS went to an all-news format and our Clintonite was there to inaugurate the event. In reports usually less than one minute long, he gave the essentials on every kind of news event during the administrations of New York City mayors John Lindsay through Michael Bloomberg. Brooks died in 2013.

Stanley Ornstein ’43 was a distinguished cell biologist involved in such groundbreaking studies as the development of polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis that is used for the analysis of proteins and nucleic acids. In 1980, he devised the tape-transfer method of preparing frozen sections of tissue that provided pathology results in under three minutes. Earlier methods needed four to six hours, often delaying further procedures for a day and increasing hospital costs. Dr. Ornstein held 26 patents in histochemistry, bioengineering and agricultural irrigation. He served in the U.S. Navy during WW II. At his death in 2013, he was professor emeritus of pathology at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.

Lawrence Pezzullo ’43 was a diplomat and Foreign Service officer. In 1977, he was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay. Two years later, he was appointed to the same position in Nicaragua, leaving that post in August 1981. In 1983, Pezzullo became the first layman appointed as director of Catholic Relief Services, the largest non-government aid agency and operating at the time in over 70 countries. In 1993, he was appointed U.S. special envoy to Haiti, but policy conflicts with the Clinton administration over dealing with the overthrown Haitian president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, forced Pezzullo to resign. Son Ralph Pezzullo published Plunging into Haiti (2006) in support of his father’s views on how to help Haiti. Lawrence Pezzullo passed away on July 26, 2017.
Eugene V. Thaw ’43 did not have the talent to paint and so he became a collector of great paintings. He studied art history at Columbia University and then in 1950, with a loan from his father, opened a gallery in the Algonquin Hotel in Manhattan. His keen eye and business savvy quickly led to amassing a collection of major artworks. In 1954, he opened a gallery on swanky Madison Avenue. His collection became so grand that museums vied to buy his works. Along the way, he built a private collection, from which, with his wife Clare, he donated over 1,000 works of art to the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, NY, and the Morgan Library & Museum in NYC. Thaw passed away on January 5, 2018.

Jules Alexander ’44 was a respected photographer before graduating from Clinton. At the age of 15, he was shooting musical talents like Duke Ellington and Frank Sinatra for Down Beat magazine. After serving as an aerial reconnaissance photographer in World War II, he returned home to create a successful career as an advertising and fashion photographer in New York City. But his passion for golf led him to photograph golf pros. He was best known for his images of Ben Hogan, going all the way back to 1959 when Alexander first shot Hogan at the U.S. Open at Winged Foot Golf Club in Westchester County, NY. Jules Alexander, whose last name was Applebaum at DWC, passed away in White Plains Hospital on August 19, 2016, a few months after celebrating his 90th birthday.

Julius Barnathan ’44 was a pioneer in telecast engineering. Along the way to becoming president of ABC Broadcast Operations and Engineering, he developed closed-captioning, the use of cameras inside race cars and on skis, instant replay and slow motion, a computer-generated “paint box” that opened the way for sophisticated animated graphics on television, and the “box block” used on news broadcasts. In 1982, Barnathan received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Gallaudet College for his work on closed-captioning. A US Navy veteran of World War II, he died in 1997.

Robert N. Butler MD ’44 was a gerontologist and psychiatrist who recognized discrimination against the elderly as early as 1968, coining the term “ageism.” Eight years later, the publication of his Pulitzer-prize-winning Why Survive? Being Old in America solidified his reputation as someone who foresaw the impact that aging would have on American society. He was a founding director of the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health, as well as the nation's first department of geriatrics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. He was the author of some 300 scientific and medical articles. Butler died in 2010.

Peter Claman ’44 was a graduate of the Pratt Institute. In 1952, he joined the New York-based architectural firm of Schuman Lichtenstein as a draftsman. Thereafter, he advanced up the architectural latter to become a managing partner of the firm we know today as Schuman Lichtenstein Claman Efron Architects. Claman was a leading expert in residential and commercial development with special expertise in zoning and site evaluation. His designs (in Manhattan) included Ronald McDonald House (405 East 73rd Street), Temple Israel (112 East 75th Street) and Milan Condominium (300 East 55th Street). He was a strong supporter of various causes, including DeWitt Clinton High School. Peter Claman passed away in his beloved New York City on September 12, 2019.

Fred Ebb ’44 had a way with lyrics, which propelled him to the front ranks of Broadway songwriters. With John Kander writing the music, he wrote the lyrics for such legendary shows as Cabaret (1966), Chicago (1975), Woman of the Year (1981), Kiss of the Spider Woman (1993), Steel Pier (1997), Curtains (2006 posthumously), and The Scottsboro Boys (2010 posthumously). One of Ebb’s most famous songs “New York, New York” came from the 1977 movie of the same name. It has found enduring appeal, being played after every home game at Yankee Stadium and at the annual Belmont Stakes. Ebb died in 2004.

Edward S. Feldman ’44 started out as a publicist for movies (The World of Suzie Wong, 1959) and plays (Funny Girl, 1964). But he first gained fame as the executive producer of the 1973 film Save the Tiger. Since then, he has produced or been the executive producer of some of Hollywood’s most successful films. They include Witness (1985); Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992); The Jungle Book (1994); 101 Dalmatians (1996); The Truman Show (1998); 102 Dalmatians (2000); K-19: The Widowmaker (2002). Edward S. Feldman, who served two years in the U. S. Air Force, passed away in Los Angeles on October 2, 2020.

Robert A. Frosch ’44 is a theoretical physicist by education. He has served as assistant secretary of the Navy for research and development, assistant executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, administrator of NASA, president of the American Association of Engineering Societies, and vice president of General Motors Corporation in charge of Research Laboratories. In 1993, he joined the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Frosch is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a foreign member of the UK Royal Academy of Engineering.
Lawrence Fuchs ’44 described himself as a “political behaviorist.” Perhaps that meant that he spent his life in teaching, scholarship, community, and public service—and it must be added, with great distinction. From 1952 to 2002, Fuchs was a member of the faculty at Brandeis University, where he served as the Meyer and Walter Jaffe Professor of American Civilization and Politics. On leave from Brandeis from 1961 to 1963, he served as the first head of the Peace Corps in the Philippines. He published many books and chaired several key government commissions, but he also wanted you to know that one of his fondest Clinton memories was the day his class, taught by Mollie Wincor, received a visit from Richard Rodgers ’19. Fuchs passed away in 2013.

Reuben Gutoff ’44 would surely like to be remembered for more than being the young General Electric executive who talked Jack Welch into staying with the company. After serving many years as senior vice president of strategic planning at GE, Gutoff became president of Standard Brands. In 1979, he left Standard Brands and established a management consulting firm, Strategy Associates. At that time, he correctly believed that strategic planning would become increasingly used in industry. Over the years, he has been a generous supporter of the arts in New York City and one of the most loyal members of the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association. Reuben Gutoff passed away on April 6, 2020.

Victor Ohanesian ’44 enlisted in the Marine Corps in September 1944 and saw active duty in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel and was awarded three Purple Hearts for injuries sustained in Korea. For three years beginning in 1962, Ohanesian taught Naval Reserve officer candidates at the University of Rochester. He was recalled to duty in Vietnam in June 1966. The commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, he was fatally wounded by mortar fire on February 28, 1967, while rescuing a fellow marine near the demilitarized zone. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Lewis Rudin ’44 and his brother Jack built one of the major real estate businesses in New York City. He was an early supporter of the New York Marathon and played a key role in moving it out of Central Park and into the streets of the city. He was also instrumental in moving the United States Open Tennis Tournament to its current home in Flushing, Queens. In 1974, when the city was facing financial ruin, he rounded up property owners and executives who pledged to pay their real estate taxes early. For his leadership in helping the city to survive the financial crisis, he was called “Mr. New York.” Rudin passed away in 2001.

Seymour Schwartz MD ’44 was a world-renowned surgeon, researcher, scholar and author. A gifted actor in student productions at DWC, he was encouraged by his father to pursue a theatrical career, but decided to become a surgeon. In 1950, he completed his medical internship at the University of Rochester, then after serving in the Navy, returned to Rochester. He was a founding editor of Schwartz’s Principles of Surgery, a seminal textbook that is known by generations of medical students throughout the world. To bring the first edition to publication in 1969, Schwartz researched and edited five hours a day for two years. From 1987 to 1998, he was chairman of the university’s surgery department. Dr. Schwartz passed away in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 28, 2020. He was 93 years old.

Neil Simon ’44 was one of the world’s most successful playwright. His plays are almost household words—Barefoot in the Park (1963), The Odd Couple (1965), Sweet Charity (1966), Plaza Suite (1968), The Sunshine Boys (1972), The Good Doctor (1973), California Suite (1976), They’re Playing Our Song (1979), Brighton Beach Memoirs (1983), Biloxi Blues (1985), Broadway Bound (1986), and Lost in Yonkers (1991). He also wrote the screenplays for The Goodbye Girl (1977) and for the many of his plays that became feature films. Before writing for the stage and screen, he wrote for television (Your Show of Shows, The Garry Moore Show, Caesar’s Hour, and The Phil Silvers Show) during the 1950s. Neil Simon passed away in New York City on August 26, 2018.

Charles Strouse ’44 studied at the Eastman School of Music after graduating from DeWitt Clinton. Though he first musical compositions were mainly classical and well received, the odds are that his popular music will be his most lasting legacy. Three of Broadway’s biggest musical hits, Bye Bye Birdie (1960), Applause (1970), and Annie (1977), claim him as composer. Strouse also wrote the 1958 top-ten song “Born Too Late,” the film score for 1967’s Bonnie and Clyde, and the opening theme to the TV sitcom All in the Family, titled “Those Were the Days.” According to the New York Times, Annie is performed 700 to 900 times each year in the United States.

Nicholas Tsoucalas ’44 was a judge of the United States Court of International Trade from 1986 to 1996, and thereafter served as its senior judge until his death in March 2018. It had never been his intention to be a judge or even a lawyer. He entered New York Law School with the idea of pursuing a career in business. In 1944, he signed up with the Navy, was discharged in 1946, and then re-enlisted in 1951. He was offered a commission as a legal officer and turned it down, but when two sailors on his ship were arrested, Tsoucalas agreed to assist in their defense. “I helped represent them and we won the case,” he said. “Maybe I will practice law.”
Fred Bass ‘45 passed away on January 3, 2018, leaving complete ownership of the famed Strand Book Store in Manhattan to his daughter Nancy. In 1927 when the Fred’s father Ben opened the store, it sold little more than used books. After Fred served in the Armed Forces, he came home to work side-by-side with his father, eventually taking over full control and turning the Strand into one of the most famous bookstores in the world. Its inventory would grow to 2.5 million used, new, and rare books, covering topics as far-ranging as occult to philosophy to finance. Nancy Bass is married to U.S. Senator Ron Wyden from Oregon. His father was journalist and author Peter Wyden ‘39.


Marvin Levy ‘45 is often described as filmmaker Steven Spielberg’s publicist, but more formally he is an executive vice president of Amblin Partners, which includes Amblin Entertainment and DreamWorks Pictures. Levy has also been a long-time member of the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. In other words, he has done well in Hollywood after starting out many decades ago in New York writing questions for quiz shows. His genius is in publicizing movies, and those movies include *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977), *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979), *E.T.* (1982), *Back to the Future* (1985, 1989, 1990), *Jurassic Park* (1993), *Schindler’s List* (1993), and *Saving Private Ryan* (1998).

Albert Macovski ‘45 received the Townsend Harris Medal for outstanding postgraduate achievement at CUNY’s 133rd Annual Alumni Dinner at the New York Hilton in 2013. He is a professor emeritus of electrical engineering at Stanford University and holds nearly 160 U.S. patents. Macovski’s research made color television and camcorders commercially feasible. In health care, he invented ultrasound imaging for observing the functioning of the organs of even a very young fetus and improved x-ray and CAT scans to allow for effective analysis of lesions. Likewise, he enabled MRI machines to image the flow of blood based on its motion alone, eliminating contrast injections.

Adolph “Dolph” Schayes ‘45 played on the 1955 NBA champion Syracuse Nationals. A 12-time All-Star, he played 706 straight games from February 17, 1952 until December 26, 1961. He led the NBA in rebounding (16.4 rpg) during 1950-51 season and led the NBA in free throw percentage three times. Upon retirement in 1964, he held the NBA records for career scoring (19,249 points) and games played (1,059). He coached the Philadelphia 76ers and won NBA Coach of the Year honors in 1966. In 1973, Schayes was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and in 1996 chosen as one of 50 Greatest Players in NBA History. He passed away in 2015. In September 2018, DWC’s Gym 3 and its basketball court were named for Dolph Schayes ‘45 and Nate "Tiny" Archibald.

Len Speier ‘45 went from a *Clintonian* yearbook editor to a camera-carrying army soldier in Japan at the end of World War II. After the war, he became a New York commercial trial lawyer but could not shake his love of the camera. His specialty became regular people in life’s daily activities in black and white. His pictures are found in the permanent collections of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the Museum of the City of New York, and the International Center of Photography. In November 2015, seven of his prints were part of a group show on HARLEM at the Ilon Gallery in Manhattan that included works by James Van der Zee and Aaron Sisskind. Len Speier passed away in February 2017.

Reginald Grier ‘46 served in the U.S. Army for 26 years, seeing duty in Italy and throughout Asia. In 1970, he was awarded South Korea’s highest award for foreigners for his community work. Retiring in 1977 as a colonel, Grier began a second career as associate professor in accounting and law at William Paterson College in New Jersey. He earned a doctorate in education in 1979 and an MPA in 1989, both from George Washington University. As examples of his lifetime of selfless service, he is a former president of the DWC Alumni Association. a trustee of the Maryland Conference of the Knights of Columbus, and former Maryland commissioner of Senior Olympics.

Lee Leonard ‘46 had the distinction of being the first voice to be heard on ESPN when the sports channel made its debut on September 7, 1979 (See photo left). A year later, he moved to CNN where he hosted *People Tonight*, the network’s first Los Angeles-based live entertainment news talk show. In the early 1970s, he partnered on CBS-TV with Jack Whitaker on *The NFL on CBS*, a studio-based show with pregame features and halftime and postgame highlights from around the league. The list could go on, for Leonard was the man that numerous TV stations chose to inaugurate a news, talk, or sports program. He passed away in December 2018.
Larry Ellis ‘47 developed an interest in running in a most unusual way. As a youngster, every morning from 4:30 to 6:30, he delivered milk on a horse and buggy. He would then take the bus home to get ready for school. Many mornings the bus failed to arrive and he had to run the two and a half miles to his home. One morning when the bus came, he decided to race it home—and he won. Buoyed by his victory over the bus, he tried out for the Clinton track team. With his first timed mile a respectable 5:15, a career was born. By the time Ellis graduated from New York University in 1951, he had run the mile in 4:14. But his fame would not be restricted to his fast feet. Ellis coached the Princeton University track team from 1970 to 1992, and in 1984 coach the men’s US Olympic track team. He died in 1998.

Lawrence Fleisher ‘47 helped found the National Basketball Association Players’ Association and served as its president from 1962 to 1968. During his tenure, the Association won pensions, minimum salaries, and disability pay for its members. Thereafter, for nineteen more years, he served, without salary, as general counsel for the Association. In that position, he helped broker a labor agreement that installed a salary cap on NBA franchises and provided for penalties for players caught using hard drugs. In 1991, Fleisher was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions to the game of basketball. He died in 1989.

Bruce J. Friedman ‘47 probably does not believe in mermaids, but the character, Allen Bauer, in his story Splash does. The story made a big (you guessed it) splash in 1984 when it was turned into a feature film starring Tom Hanks. Friedman’s imagination has also given us the stories or screenplays for The Heartbreak Kid (1972), Stir Crazy (1980), Doctor Detroit (1983), and Brazzaville Teen Ager (2013). In addition to authoring eight novels, he has written two highly successful plays, Scuba-Duba (1961) and Steambath (1967). From 1951 to 1953, Friedman served in the U.S. Air Force, achieving the rank of first lieutenant. He passed away on June 3, 2020.

Howard Glickstein ‘47 had the opportunity as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, to help draft the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He also served on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights as general counsel and staff director. Then making a career change to legal education, he held faculty and administrative posts at Notre Dame Law School, Howard University School of Law, and the University of Bridgeport School of Law. In 1986, he became dean of the Touro Law Center, serving until 2004. In 2013, Dean Glickstein received the New York State Bar Association’s Haywood Burns Award for his lifelong commitment to social justice and the law.

Harold “Hal” Kant ‘47 cut classes (a lot of classes) at DWC to play poker, and surely that helped him to reach more than $1,000,000 in life-time earnings playing cards. But do not get the wrong idea. Kant earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Penn State and a law degree from Harvard. As an attorney, he decided that recording artists needed legal advice as much as record companies did. He became the principal lawyer and general counsel for the 1960’s rock band Grateful Dead. Kant created and oversaw the various corporations that managed the day-to-day business of the legendary band; his guiding hand is credited with preserving the band’s enduring legacy and their valuable intellectual property, including ownership of their music masters and publishing rights. He died of pancreatic cancer in 2008.

Donald McKayle ‘47 was named one of “America’s Irreplaceable Dance Treasures” by the Library of Congress in 2000. He choreographed more than 50 works for companies in the United States, Europe, Israel and South America. Making his professional debut in 1948, he performed in the companies of Martha Graham and Merce Cunningham. For the Broadway stage, he directed the musical Raisin (1973) and conceived the musical Sophisticated Ladies (1981), doing the choreography for both shows. A long-time professor of dance at the University of California, Irvine, McKayle died in April 2018. At Clinton, he was greatly influenced by teacher Abel Meeropol ‘21, who wrote the poem and song “Strange Fruit.”

Charles Rangel ’75 represented various New York congressional districts as a Democratic member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1971 to 2017. During that time (2007-2010), he served as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Rangel dropped out of DeWitt Clinton during his junior year, then enlisted in the United States Army and, rising to the rank of sergeant, served from 1948 to 1952. During the Korean War, his unit was engaged in heavy fighting in North Korea. In the Battle of Kunu-Ri, he earned a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with Valor. In 1975, he was awarded an honorary DWC diploma and named a distinguished alumnus. On November 2, 2014, he presented the school with a Congressional Commendation to be entered in the Congressional Record.
Edward Ryder ‘47 has a head for lettuce, and in particular that crunchy green orb we call iceberg. Ryder majored in botany at Cornell and earned his Ph.D. in genetics at the University of California, Davis. Then from 1954 to 1956 he served in the U.S. Army. Now comes the lettuce. In 1957, Ryder joined the USDA plant in Salinas, California, where he worked as a geneticist to find ways to improve lettuce breeding. Through forty years of research, he discovered how to produce disease-free lettuce. His findings greatly improved the quality and quantity of the crop throughout the world.

Robert Poydesheff ‘48 belonged to that category of Clintonite where it was difficult to know what title to use when addressing him. He was an attorney and an adjunct professor at Strayer University. He was a colonel in the U.S. Army. He was mayor of Columbus, Georgia’s second largest city, from 2003 to 2007, and for six years before that a councilman in Columbus. He was executive vice president of Allied Technologies International and senior vice president of SunTrust Bank of West Georgia. But for the DeWitt Clinton Community, his most important title may have been loyal alumnus extraordinaire. Robert Poydesheff passed away on September 24, 2020.

George Schwarz ‘48 was born in Germany in 1931, but following the rise of Adolf Hitler in 1933, his family fled to Italy and then France. When France fell to the Germans, they were imprisoned. In 1942, they escaped and fled on foot at night to the Swiss border, freedom and eventually New York. After studying medicine at Tufts Medical School, Schwarz served as a physician with the U.S. Army in Korea in the 1950s. Returning to New York, for the next 35 years, he was chief of radiation oncology at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Manhattan. In the 1970s, seeing the paucity of high-quality restaurants in the West Village, he opened Elephant & Castle, Noho Star and Temple Bar. He died in December 2016.

Alvin Deutsch ‘49, a graduate of the Yale Law School, specialized in copyright with an emphasis in the fields of music, theater, and publishing. He was a co-founder of Deutsch Klagsbrun & Blasband, which quickly established an expertise in intellectual property. One of Deutsch’s most publicized and successful cases came in 1988 when he represented singer Peggy Lee in her suit against the Walt Disney Company for breach of contract when it released a videocassette of the 1955 animated classic Lady and the Tramp. Lee had claimed additional royalties for the songs she had written for the film. Her victory made her purr like a Siamese cat. Deutsch passed away in New York City on October 6, 2021.

Frederic C. Doppelt ‘49 began active duty in the U.S. Air Force in August 1960 as a ward physician, pulmonary service, at the Air Force Hospital, Scott Air Force Base (AFB), Illinois. Rising to the rank of major general, Dr. Doppelt held many important positions, including being commander of several Air Force hospitals in the United States. He made a dramatic impact on Brooks AFB, Texas, and the Air Force during his tenure as Commander of the Aerospace Medical Division (AMD), when he re-organized AMD as the Human Systems Division of the Air Force Research Laboratory. His military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, and Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster.

Bill Graham ‘49 was born Wolfgang Grajonca in Berlin. His father died shortly after his birth and his mother would die in Auschwitz. Arriving in the United States, he lived in a foster home in the Bronx. By the time he graduated from Clinton, he had taken a name that today is instantly recognized as belonging to the greatest rock concert promoter of the 20th century. To many, his greatest accomplishment was producing such charitable events as the Live Aid Concert for African Famine Relief that raised millions of dollars. Tragically, Graham died in a helicopter crash in 1991. In 1992, the Civic Auditorium in San Francisco was renamed for him.

Gil Noble ‘49 was the producer and host of WABC-TV’s weekly public affairs series, Like It Is (1968-2011). The program offered people of all races the opportunity to look at current and past events through an African-American perspective. Noble received over 650 community awards and numerous industry awards, including seven Emmys and five honorary doctorates. His guest list on the program, which was in interview form, included nine heads of state, noted entertainers and athletes, and prominent political and community leaders. Noble suffered a stroke in 2011 and passed away in 2012.

George Shapiro ‘49 is a Bronx boy and he even made a movie to prove it. In fact, two movies. The Bronx Boys (2003) and The Bronx Boys: Still Playing at 80. Both documentaries tell the tale of school mates from JHS 80 on Moshulu Pkwy, most of whom went on to Clinton, who have remained friends to this day. In 2019, he released The Bronx: U.S.A., his third film on the borough, with considerable time given to DWCHS. Shapiro began his movie making business, like so 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.
Howard West '49 co-produced The Bronx Boys documentaries mentioned in the above entry. He had a slightly different name as a student (Aroeste) as did Leonard Lauren '49 (Lifshitz), one of the other Bronx boys in the documentaries. The duo of Shapiro/West produced many successful television shows and films, chief among them TV’s Seinfeld (1990-1998) and the film Man on the Moon (1999) about comedian Andy Kaufman. During a 2003 visit to Clinton, West had a Seinfeld moment pitched back at him. When he entered the auditorium, his host told him, borrowing a line from the character Kramer on Seinfeld, that the auditorium had been “designed in 1857 by Joe Pepitone.” West laughed and said, “Schtick, I see it now. We’re going to get schtick.” West passed away in December 2015.

Russell Berrie '50 was only ten years old when he spent his Saturdays at Yankee Stadium collecting discarded scorecards. He would resell them, all cleaned up, outside the stadium the next day for the same ten cents each they cost inside. In 1963, Berrie established a company in New Jersey that grew to design and distribute approximately 6,000 items, including teddy bears, stuffed animals, baby gifts, picture frames, candles, figurines and home décor gifts. His philanthropic endeavors included a $5 million endowment to William Paterson University, a $4 million grant to Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck to establish a regional cancer center; $5 million to Englewood Hospital and Medical Center Foundation, and $13.5 million for diabetes research and treatment. Berrie died in 2002.

Joseph Dash '50 grew up on the Grand Concourse, (as he would say) the Champs Élysées of the Bronx. His education included: B.A. (City College, 1954); M.A. in chemistry (University of Texas, 1956); M.B.A. (Rutgers, 1962); and Ph.D. in business (Baruch, 1974). From 1959 to 1969, he was manager of commercial research at Celanese Plastics. In 1969, Dash joined CBS Records, where he held significant positions, from director of planning to senior vice president and general manager of CBS Masterworks. After a year as senior vice president and general manager of Sony Classical USA, in 1990 he established the consulting firm Dash & Associates. Dash passed away on June 19, 2020.

William J. Davis '50 was advised by his shop teacher at DWC that he wasn’t good with his hands and should study hard to do something else. Davis took the advice and was always grateful for it. After CCNY, he earned a law degree at Brooklyn Law School. In 1959, he opened a small law practice in New Rochelle and maintained it even as he worked for state and federal housing agencies. In 1981, he was appointed to serve as a judge in the New York Criminal Court. He was twice elected to the New York State Supreme Court, in 1986 and 2000, and served on the Appellate Court until his retirement in 2008. Born in North Carolina, Davis passed away in Southampton, New York, on May 20, 2021.

Sheldon Fireman '50 has fed many people in his more than 35 years as a restaurateur. In New York City, his Fireman Hospitality Group operates six restaurants: Brooklyn Diner USA (two locations), Café Fiorello, Redeye Grill, Trattoria Dell’Arte, and Bond 45. In recent years, he has spread his “marinated chicken kebab” wings. In addition to opening Fiorella Pizzeria and Bond 45 in National Harbor, Maryland, he has brought a Brooklyn Diner USA to Dubai Festival City in the United Arab Emirates. So if you are on the Arabian peninsula and longing for a good pastrami sandwich, head to Dubai.

Budd Friedman '50 is the founder and original emcee of the Improvisation Comedy Club, which opened in 1963 on West 44th Street in Manhattan. The club, which is now franchised across the country, provides a venue where aspiring performers can showcase their talent before an audience and the entertainment industry. He was instrumental in launching the comedy careers of Rodney Dangerfield, Robert Klein, Jay Leno, Richard Lewis, Andy Kaufman, Freddie Prinze, Steve Landesberg, and Jimmie Walker. In 2007, he was inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame. Friedman served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Wounded at Pork Chop Hill, he was awarded the Purple Heart.

Hank Garrett '50 made his way to Hollywood on that well-traveled road through the Catskill Mountains of New York. At Brown’s Hotel in the Catskills, he sharpened his skills as a comedian, making audiences laugh with his childhood tales. One night after a show, a television producer asked him to audition for a new TV show, Car 54, Where Are You? Garrett got the part of Officer Nicholson. He completed his trip to Hollywood when he gained the role of the killer postman in Three Days of the Condor (1975), for which he won a New York Film Critics’ Award. Thereafter, his talents kept him working in a wide variety of films, television series, and comedy shows.

Sam Gross '50 has used his wit and drawing talent to become a world-renowned cartoonist. His cartoons have appeared in The New Yorker, Esquire, Cosmopolitan, and Good Housekeeping. He was also the cartoon editor of National Lampoon and Parents Magazine. His cartoon collections include I am Blind and My Dog is Dead (1977), An Elephant is Soft and Mushy (1980), and Your Mother is a Remarkable Woman (1992). In the late 1990s, Gross became involved in electronic publishing ventures with cartoons playing an important role. But you can still catch his cartoons in The New Yorker and other notable publications.
Ted Kavanau ’50 was a newsman in New York in 1967 when he had the idea to begin TV’s late-night news at 10 p.m. instead of the traditional 11 p.m. And thus Channel 5’s 10 O’Clock News was born with Kavanau as one of its founders. But Kavanau had all the other hours in the day to think about. So in 1980 he became vice president and one of the creators of the 24-hour CNN network, centered in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1982, he would also create CNN Headline News, which is now known as HLN. In 2012, Kavanau decided he had given all the hours of the day a good run and retired. But for 32 years at CNN, he was a major player in the spread of 24/7 world-wide news coverage.

Tom Pappas ’50 retired in 2009 after 50 years of service to the United Federation of Teachers (UFT). During those five decades, he served as chapter leader, strike leader, district representative, borough representative and staff director. His last assignment was as chapter leader of the RTC-UFT, the Retired Teachers Chapter of the UFT. In this capacity, he made sure that retired teachers were not forgotten for the service they rendered the children of the New York City public school system. He is a winner of the UFT’s highest honor, the Charles Cogen Award.

Ozzie Virgil ’50 did not play baseball for DWC because there was no team between the mid-1930s and the early 1950s. But after playing baseball as a US Marine at Camp Lejeune, NC, he turned to professional ball as a career. He made his major league debut on September 23, 1956 playing third base for the New York Giants. On that day, he became the first Dominican to play major league baseball. From 1958 to 1961, he played for the Detroit Tigers. Between 1961 and 1968, he played on four other teams. Thereafter, he had numerous positions in baseball, including coaching and managing minor league teams. In 2007, Virgil became a special instructor for the New York Mets.

Arthur Zeikel ’50 had little ambition in his youth. Then an inspiring professor at CCNY introduced him to economics and markets. He was hooked and went on to earn his MBA from New York University. After serving in the U.S. Army, he began an illustrious career on Wall Street, which included Dreyfus Corporation, which he left to co-found Standard & Poor’s/InterCapital, Inc, followed by time at Oppenheimer & Co. In 1967, he co-authored the textbook *Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management* that was used throughout the country. He then joined Merrill Lynch Asset Management (MLAM) where he worked from 1976 until his retirement in 1999. For much of this period, MLAM was the largest, or among the largest, investment management firms in the U.S. Late in his career, Zeigel taught finance as an adjunct professor at New York University. He passed away in New York on December 7, 2021. N

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Robert Gomel ’51 was the editor-in-chief of the January 1951 *Clintonian* yearbook. That required him to pay close attention to photographs. No wonder he became an accomplished photojournalist who created memorable images of 1960s world leaders, athletes, entertainers, and major events. His photographs have appeared on the covers of *Life*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, and *Forbes*, and in *Time* and *The New York Times*. From the 1970s through the 1990s, Gomel shifted his focus to commercial photography, shot national advertising campaigns throughout the world.

Howard V. Lee ’51 was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during August 1966 while serving with the Marines in Vietnam. In part, the medal citation stated: “His indomitable fighting spirit, superb leadership, and great personal valor in the face of tremendous odds, reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps.” Lee also earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V and Gold Star in lieu of a second award, the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with one bronze and one silver star, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. In 1975, Lee retired from the Marines with the rank of lieutenant colonel. On March 23, 2019, he passed away in Virginia.

Gerald Sheindlin ’51 served as an Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court from 1986 until 1999, where he presided over the first double murder trial to involve the admissibility of DNA: the murder of a Bronx mother and her child. His ruling in that case, admitting DNA evidence, changed the American criminal justice system forever. From 1999 to 2001, he was the People’s Court judge on television. Judge Sheindlin is the author of two books, *Genetic Fingerprinting: The Law and Science of DNA Evidence and Blood Trail*. 
Gerald Shur '51 founded the Federal Witness Protection Program (WITSEC) in the late 1960s while serving in the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the United States Department of Justice. He saw the need for the program when many witnesses would not testify because they were afraid of being killed as a result. WITSEC assigns a new identity and relocates witnesses and their dependents. In 2008, he told the Philadelphia Inquirer, “When you assume a new identity, you may never return to your past life. You basically forfeit your chance to attend your mother’s funeral.” Gerald Shur died of lung cancer on August 25, 2020 at his home in Warminster, Pa.

Ben Wattenberg '51 was the moderator of the weekly television program Think Tank with Ben Wattenberg, which had been broadcast nationally on PBS beginning in 1994. The topics included public policy, politics, arts and entertainment, culture, science and technology, and medicine. His views on these topics can be found in the nine books and countless articles he wrote over four decades. Wattenberg was a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. He had been appointed to various committees and commissions by Presidents Carter, Reagan, and Bush (senior). He passed away in 2015.

Milton L. Williams '51 served in the U.S. Navy, then juggled life as a New York City police officer and a full-time student, first at New York University and then New York Law School. He practiced in both the private and public sectors before being appointed to the bench in 1977. He served as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, Associate Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, and Presiding Justice of its Appellate Division, First Department, from which he retired in 2008. In 2013, his portrait was hung at the Appellate Division. Williams is a trustee of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, a Knight of Malta, and a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

Robert Buckner '52 was a 1957 graduate of West Point, where the importance of respect and discipline in teamwork were emphasized and would guide his whole life. After graduation from Columbia University, he began his career (1964-1991) at DWC teaching and coaching. His teams won 52 of 56 games. His first team went undefeated and won the PSAL championship. A member of that team, basketball hall of famer Nate “Tiny” Archibald '66 has often praised his coach for whipping him into shape and giving him direction. Buckner later coached Manhattan College basketball and then the women’s basketball at Hastings High School when his daughter, Barbara, was a member of the team. On 13 June 2017, Robert W. Buckner passed away from complications caused by pneumonia.

Stanley Cohen '52 has given sports fans (and anyone confined to home by the pandemic) a series of informative and entertaining books to help pass the time. The following reprints or updates are even worth a reread. The Game They Played: The True Story of the Point-Shaving Scandal That Destroyed One of College Basketball’s Greatest Teams (2015); Yankees 1936–39, Baseball’s Greatest Dynasty: Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio and the Birth of a New Era (2018); A Magic Summer: The Amazin’ Story of the 1969 New York Mets (2009); Man in the Crowd: A Fan’s Notes on Four Generations of New York Baseball (2012) and Dodgers!: The First 100 Years (1990).

Avery Corman ’52 has followed up his 1980 “Bronx” novel The Old Neighborhood with his 2014 “Bronx” memoir My Old Neighborhood Remembered. A must-read for Clintonites, the memoir contains both humorous and poignant true stories about growing up in the Bronx. His two early novels, Oh God! (1972) and Kramer vs. Kramer (1975), have gone far beyond the Bronx to become international best sellers. The first became a major motion picture with George Burns and John Denver. The second was the basis for the 1981 Academy Award winning film of the same name. Corman’s theatrical version of Kramer vs. Kramer has been performed throughout Europe.


Don Lane ’52 was not a familiar name to American television audiences, but in Australia he was one of the most popular entertainers from the 1960s to the 1980s. For a time, he was the highest paid performer on Australian television. He began his career as a nightclub performer and singer, and even appeared on the Ed Sullivan television show in the late 1950s. But in 1965 he was called to Australia to fill in as a talk-show host, and thus began an extraordinary career in television down under. At Clinton, he was known as Donald Morton Isaacson. He died in 2009.

Allan L. Schuman ’52 is the perfect example of a person who rises through the ranks of a company, only to wind up running it. In 1957, after serving in the U.S. Army, Schuman began working as a junior salesman for EcoLab, Inc., a company that began with cleaning carpets and has grown to keeping water clean, food safe, and energy abundant. By 1995, he was CEO, and during his eleven years in that position, the company’s stock nearly quadrupled in value as it emerged as the world’s dominant supplier of industrial cleaners and sanitizers. Undoubtedly, Schuman’s role as editor of the Clinton News encouraged him to think big and to achieve even bigger.

Howard Sherman ’52 wears many hats. He was an original limited partner in the Phoenix Suns. He is a medical doctor, who served as commander of Ground Recovery Forces, Space Shuttle Columbia, I, II, III and IV. He was also the medical consultant for Pope John Paul II’s visit to San Antonio, Texas, in September 1987. In 1999, after 35 years of service, he retired from the United States Air Force with the rank of senior colonel. In 2002, Sherman co-founded the DeWitt Clinton Texas Alumni Affiliate and in that same year was named a distinguished alumnus of DeWitt Clinton High School.

Laurence Barrett ’53 was an outgoing editor of the Clinton News when he graduated in 1953. By 1957, he had joined the New York Herald-Tribune and covered New York City Hall issues for the paper from 1959 to 1962 before becoming its Washington correspondent. He published The Mayor of New York, a novel, in 1965. Barrett joined Time magazine in 1965 and held key positions (senior editor, White House correspondent, national political correspondent, deputy Washington bureau chief.) He returned to the position of national political correspondent in mid-1991. Barrett retired from Time in 1993, the same year he published Gambling With History: Reagan in the White House and became vice president of a Washington public relations firm.

Leo Kadanoff ’53 was a recipient of the National Medal of Science in 1999. He is a theoretical physicist who has contributed widely to research in the properties of matter, the development of urban areas, and upon statistical models of physical systems. His best-known contribution was in the development of the concepts of “scale invariance” and “universality” as they are applied to phase transitions. Kadanoff has also been involved in the understanding of the onset of chaos in simple mechanical and fluid systems. His textbook, Quantum Statistical Mechanics, is considered a classic and has been translated into many languages. Kadanoff passed away in 2015.

Jerome Moss ’53 can boast that he received the largest first-place purse to date in the Kentucky Derby when his horse Giacomo unexpectedly won the race in 2005. His horse Zenyatta is the all-time leading female earner in North America. Moss also had a winner when he and musician Herb Albert founded A&M Records in the 1960s. In 1989, they sold the label, which they had begun for a reported $200 each, to PolyGram for a reported $500 million. They then formed a new record label, Almo Sounds. In 2006, they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as non-performers. In 2009, Moss and his wife Ann received The Big Sport of Turfdom Award for their efforts to enhance coverage of thoroughbred racing in the media.

Eliot Tiegel ’53 has been an entertainment journalist for more than fifty years for such publications such as Billboard, Weekly Variety, Hollywood Reporter, Rolling Stone, High Fidelity, L.A. Times and Herald Examiner, N.Y. Daily News, S.F. Examiner, Washington Times, and Chicago Tribune-N.Y. News Syndicate. In 2007, he published Latinization of America: How Hispanics Are Changing the Nation’s Sights and Sounds. In 2008, he published Overexposed: The Price of Fame, which examines the effects of in-your-face publicity and paparazzi journalism. In his own words, his writing is now “focusing on the explosive impact the Internet has on all forms of media.” Tiegel died on April 6, 2020.

Woodrow White ’53 is a bishop of the United Methodist Church, elected in 1984. He is the denomination’s first African-American bishop. When the Church established a General Commission on Religion and Race in 1968, he became its first general secretary, serving in that capacity until 1984. Between 1984 and 2004, when he retired, he served as bishop in Illinois and Indiana. In addition to writing extensively for denominational and ecumenical periodicals, he has preached in South America and examined race relations in Australia and New Zealand for the World Council of Churches. He is presently bishop-in-residence at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.
Victor Babu ’54 is proud to tell people that his ancestry is Vlach-Romanian from Albania. DWCHS is proud to have him as an alumnus. Babu is one of the foremost ceramics artists in the United States. His first art teacher at Clinton encouraged him to pursue ceramics, saying, “You have no business doing anything other than ceramics.” In 1965, several years after earning an M.F.A. from Adelphi University, Babu began teaching art at the University of Texas in Austin. In 1968, he headed to the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI) to develop with two other art teachers one of the best undergraduate ceramics programs in the world. He retired from KCAI after 33 years, but his work continues to be exhibited in galleries world-wide.

David Margulies ’54 was a familiar face on the stage and in films and television, but most Clintonites did not know he was an alumnus until they read his obituary. Margulies passed away in Manhattan on January 11, 2016. His first Broadway appearance was in the 1973 revival of The Iceman Cometh. His film credits include The Front (1976), All That Jazz (1979), Dressed to Kill (1980), Ghostbusters (1984), Brighton Beach Memoirs (1986), Running on Empty (1988), Ghostbusters II (1989), and Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1994). His television credits include Kojak, Tales from the Darkside, Spenser: For Hire, Chicago Hope, NYPD Blue, Northern Exposure, Touched by an Angel, four episodes of Law & Order, and eight episodes of The Sopranos as mob boss Tony Soprano’s lawyer Neil Mink.

Gregory Robeson Smith ’54 is the senior pastor of the Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Harlem. His grandfather had been the church’s pastor in the 1930s and his uncle, Paul Robeson, often sang and spoke there. In addition to being a pastor, Smith has been successful in marketing and finance and in developing alliances between public and private sectors. Appointed by President Bush in 1990, he served for five years as president and chief executive officer of the African Development Foundation, an independent Federal agency in Washington, DC, with offices in 25 African nations and staff of more than 300 employees.

Allen Weinstein ’54 served as the 9th Archivist of the United States heading the National Archives and Records Administration from 2005 to 2008. He then became the senior strategist for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and returned to the University of Maryland as a history professor. From 1985 to 2003, he had served as president of The Center for Democracy, a non-profit foundation based in Washington, DC, that he created to strengthen the democratic process. He was university professor at Boston University (1985-89) and Georgetown University (1981-1984). His controversial 1978 book Perjury: The Hiss-Chambers Case argued that Alger Hiss was guilty as charged in one of the most famous spy trials of post-World War II. Weinstein passed away on June 18, 2015.

David Berliner ’55 has authored more than 200 articles, books and chapters in the fields of educational psychology, teacher education, and educational policy, including the best-seller The Manufactured Crisis (1996). An educational psychologist, our Clintonite is a past president of the American Educational Research Association and, at present, a Regents’ Professor at Arizona State University in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies division. Berliner’s honors include being an elected member of the National Academy of Education and a fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He is also the winner of the E. L. Thorndike award in educational psychology.

J. Ira Harris ’55 is recognized as one of the nation’s most creative investment bankers. “If you put in a total effort, the rewards will come” has been his motto and explains why he received the Horatio Alger Award in 1977. At that time, he was a general partner at Salomon Brothers. By 1988, he was a senior partner at Lazard Frères. In 1998, Harris became vice president of the Pritzker Organization, whose holdings include Hyatt Hotels, the manufacturing conglomerate Marmon Group, and Galaxy Aerospace (1998). The same year he established J. I. Harris & Associates, a financial consulting firm. Over the years, DWC has been the beneficiary of his spirit of generosity and giving back.

Alvin “Al” Harvin ’55 braved new worlds when he became the first African-American reporter for the New York Post in 1967. Two years later he became a sportswriter for the New York Times and remained with the paper until his retirement in 1994. His insightful reporting on the New York Giants and Jets made him a respected name in journalism, but when he covered DWC football, it was a special treat for Clintonites young and old. To Harvin went the task of writing the Times’s 1992 obituary for another Clintonite, New York Yankees pitcher Ed Lopat ’35.

Steve Wintner ’55 is a retired AIA architect whose career included serving as director of operations at Brooks Collier, vice president and director of architecture/interior architecture at CRSS (Caudill Rowlett Scott Sirrine), and vice president and director of operations at Gensler. In 1985, he founded Management Consulting Services in Georgetown, Texas, which specializes in professional design firm management. He is a founding member (2009) of the Silver Fox Society, an organization and social network of world community volunteers serving and caring for those in need. Wintner is the co-author of the book Financial Management for Design Professionals: The Path to Profitability (Kaplan AEC Education). His "Unforgettable Stories" of the Bronx was published in Back In The Bronx, Spring 2020.
Robert Esnard ’56 embodies “the joy of giving back.” With unmatched enthusiasm, he remains the most loyal of alumni. He gives his time not only to DWC, but also serves on the boards of trustees of the New York Botanical Garden, the Wildlife Conservation Society, El Museo del Barrio, and the Armory High School Sports Foundation. Much of his career as an architect has been spent in the public eye, as deputy mayor for policy & physical development, Koch Administration; NYC commissioner of buildings; deputy borough president of the Bronx, and director of the Bronx office of the Department of City Planning. Esnard is currently president of the Zucker Organization, a real estate and development company.

John Tognino ’56 spent more than 35 years with Merrill Lynch, and at the time of his retirement in 1993, he was a managing director of global equities. In 1986, he was named chairman of the Securities Traders Association (STA), and from 1992 to 1996 he was chairman of the STA Foundation Advisory and Finance committees. He has also served as executive vice president and head of global sales and member relations for NASDAQ. He is presently the chairman & CEO of The Pepper Financial Groups and the most recent chair of the board of trustees of Fordham University. He and non-Clintonite Joseph McShane, SJ, Fordham’s president, have been known to burst into DeWitt C-L-I-N-T-O-N, Boom! John Tognino passed away in Bronxville, NY, on December 19, 2021.

Norman Fox ’57 had some buddies at DWC: Bob Trotman, Andre Lilly, Robert Thierer, and Marshall “Buzzy” Helfand. The school’s bathroom became their practice studio and together they became Norman Fox and the Rob-Roys, a doo-wop group and one of the first such groups to be interracial. Their first three recordings included “Tell Me Why,” written by Buzzy Helfand. When Helfand left the group, his replacement, Paul Schneller, joined in the Rob Roys’ recording of “Pizza Pie” in early 1959. The group has had several up and down periods and a few changes in the singers, but in the 21st century they were still performing and can be seen periodically of PBS.

Louis Friedman ’57 earned his Ph.D. in astrophysics engineering from M.I.T. in 1971. He worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory from 1970–1980, where he was involved in planning deep space missions. His projects included Mariner-Venus-Mercury, the Grand Tour (Voyager), Venus Orbital Imaging Radar (Magellan), and the Mars Program Halley. In 1978-79, Friedman went to Washington, DC, as the AIAA Congressional Fellow and worked on the staff of the subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. In 1980, he was a co-founder of the Planetary Society with Carl Sagan and Bruce C. Murray and currently serves as its executive director.

Lewis Aaronson ’57 soars high in his devotion to DeWitt Clinton High School. For the 2017 alumni dinner, he was responsible for gathering more than thirty of his classmates for their sixtieth reunion. He helps to organize reunions all over the country and inspires fellow Clintonites to establish scholarships for current graduating seniors. For most of his adult life, Aaronson has also been soaring high as a pilot. After being part of the air force program at the University of Arizona, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1961 to 1966, gaining value experience as a pilot. Then for the next 35 years, he was a commercial pilot for Continental Airlines.

Stephen R. Deutsch ’57 is living proof that a Clinton alumnus can be elected to four government positions in two different states, with twenty years of perfect attendance to show for it. After serving as town councilman in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, he was elected to the RI House in 1980 and then the RI Senate in 1983. He served as deputy leader in both chambers. His retirement to Port Charlotte, Florida, did not end his political career. In 2010, he was elected Charlotte County Commissioner and reelected in 2014 and 2018. As he would tell you, he was not elected to his first job, that of a grocery delivery boy at age eight.

Kenneth Harper ’57 was the program affairs director at WPIX Radio in the early 1970s when he came up with the idea of an all-black version of The Wizard of Oz. He left his job and devoted all of his time to seeing his dream become a reality. The Wiz, with Harper as executive producer, opened on Broadway in 1975 and went on to win seven Tony Awards, including best musical. In 1977, the film version appeared with Diana Ross as Dorothy, Michael Jackson as the Scarecrow, Nipsey Russell as the Tin Man, Richard Pryor as the Wizard, and Lena Horne as Glinda the Good Witch. Though Harper died in 1988 at age 48, his creation of The Wiz stands as one of the glories of entertainment history.

Ralph Lauren ’57 possesses one of the most recognized names in the world, even if it is not the same one (Lifshitz) he had at Clinton. In 1967, he first put his name on handmade ties made of luxurious materials and his fashion empire for men was underway. In the 1970s, he introduced his line of women’s fashions. In 1983, he became the first fashion designer to launch an entire home collection, which included bedding, towels, area rugs, wall coverings and tabletop and table coverings. Through all of this business growth, he has understood the importance of giving back. His charitable foundation contributes to many worthy causes.
Edward Chin ’58 served as state director of the Wisconsin Technical College System from 1996 until retirement in 2002. WTCS consists of 16 state technical colleges serving nearly 450,000 Wisconsin residents a year. Before his tenure as director, he served 13 years at WTCS as the assistant state director and administrator of finance, planning and policy. He is currently president of the Wisconsin Technical College System Foundation, Inc., which is dedicated to the advancement of vocational, technical, and adult education in Wisconsin.

Robert Klein ’58 focused his early comedic career on making fun of DWCHS, and Clintonites loved him for it. In 1975, he was the first comedian to appear in a live concert on the Home Box Office “On Location” series. But he has shown himself to be more than a just another funny man. He acts in films, on television, and on Broadway; he sings; and he writes best-sellers. Nominated for Grammys, Emmys, and Tonys, he won the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for his performance in the play They’re Singing Our Song (1979), and the Obie Award For Performance and The Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Performance by an Actor, both for the play The Sisters Rosensweig (1992). In 2018-2019, he had a reoccurring role in four episodes of the TV series Will and Grace.

Edward Lewis ’58, along with Clarence O. Smith, founded Essence magazine in 1969. Serving as its chairman, Lewis made Essence one of the leading lifestyle magazines for African-American women. In 2005, he sold the publication to Time Warner. In 2014, he published The Man from Essence: Creating a Magazine for Black Women, a candid account of how he co-created Essence magazine. Lewis has contributed both time and financial support to a number of civic, educational and arts organizations. As a Clinton student, he played football for Joe Prezioso, one the DWC’s great teachers and coaches. Like so many others, Lewis cherishes Prezioso’s memory.

Steven Roth ’58 is chairman of the board of Vornado Realty Trust. He is the co-founder and managing general partner of Interstate Properties and chairman and chief executive officer of Alexander’s, Inc. In 2005 and again in 2006, Barron’s magazine named him one of the world’s thirty most respected CEO’s. He is a trustee of the Whitney Museum of American Art, trustee of the Intrepid Museum Foundation, member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and board member of New York University School of Medicine Foundation. When he speaks at functions, his introduction always includes that he is a graduate of DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx.


Charles DeLisi ’59 is the Metcalf professor of Science and Engineering at Boston University, where he also served as dean of the College of Engineering from 1990 to 2000. Previously, he held been professor and chair of biomathematical sciences at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine (1987–1989) and director of the U. S. Dept. of Energy’s Health and Environmental Research Programs (1985–1987). In 2001, he received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Bill Clinton for his role as the first government scientist to conceive and outline the feasibility, goals, and parameters of the Human Genome Project. His October 2021 memoir, The Mysterious Commonplace: A Life In Science, uncannily reveals the story of the rewards and frustrations of his life in science.

George Fellows ’59 received his M.B.A. with honors from Columbia University in 1966, but it also took talent and hard work to make his dreams a reality. After gaining executive experience in a number of companies, from 1993 to 1999 he held various titles with Revlon, as the president of Revlon U.S.A., the CEO and president of Rev Holdings, LLC and Revlon Consumer Products Corporation, and the CEO, president and COO of Revlon Inc., New York City. From 2000 to July 2005, he served as the CEO and president of GF Consulting, New York City. Most recently, he served in the same positions with Callaway Golf Co. from 2005 to 2011. It might be said that never was an M.B.A. put to better use.

Jerald “Jerry” Harkness ’59 was the leading scorer (14 points) when Clinton won the PSAL basketball title in 1958 defeating Boys’ High of Brooklyn. Then at Loyola University in Chicago, he led the basketball team to an NCAA title in 1963. Harkness’s professional career was short, but on November 13, 1967, he hit a (record-making) 92-foot-long shot at the buzzer to give the Indiana Pacers the win over the Dallas Chaparrals. His post-playing career included sportscaster in Indianapolis and director of the Indianapolis Chapter of 100 Black Men, a national organization that helps young African-American males. In November 2018, Harkness published Connections: A Memoir, which tells of the trials and tribulations and victories of his life. Harkness passed away in Indiana on August 24, 2021.
Robert A. Olstein '59 has always had a passion for DWC. It turns out, he also has a passion for making good investments. Today, he is the chairman of a capital management program that bears his name. He has long been recognized as one of the financial community’s most astute and original research analysts and money managers, and is a leading expert on forensic accounting. Olstein has appeared many times on television to give his evaluation of the financial scene. In 2005, Michigan State University, his college and graduate school alma mater, recognized his distinguished career by presenting him with its Outstanding Alumni Association Award.

Julian Schlossberg '59 has entertainment in his blood judging from the films and staged works he has produced, the record company (Gold Castle Records) he established, and the important classic films he brought and restored. He named his first company Castle Hill Productions in tribute to his old Bronx neighborhood. Before selling the company in 2006, he had distributed over 500 first run and classic movies to theaters, pay TV, basic cable, home video, TV syndication and other motion picture outlets, making it one of the largest independent film distribution companies in the world. The Web sites of IMDB and IBDB give a complete listing of his involvement in film, television, and theater.

Barry Schwartz '59 had $10,000 in 1968 to help a friend open a fashion design company. The friend was Calvin Klein and the two of them joined forces to create Calvin Klein, Inc. He left the hem line to Klein and focused on the bottom line. It was only a matter of time before the company could boast $3 billion dollars in annual retail sales. In 2002, the company was sold to Philips-Van Heusen for $400 million cash and a long list of other financial benefits. From 2000 to 2004, Schwartz served as chairman and chief executive officer of the New York Racing Association.

Gary Gubner '60 was already a nationally known athlete while at Clinton. In 1959, he set the national high school shot put record and became the national indoor champion with a put of 64’ 11 ¾”. He was featured in the New York Times (January 17, 1960) as a schoolboy champion shot putter who had difficulty finding a gym with a ceiling high enough to contain his tosses. Often the 12-pound shot cracked ceilings, destroyed lighting fixtures, or dented walls. In 1960, he set the shot-put mark of 65’7”, which remains the all-time PSAL record. He continued to break records during his NYU college years. Gubner presently owns a residential construction business in Wilton, Connecticut.

Everett Hatcher '60 was a Drug Enforcement Administration agent who was shot and killed during a 1989 undercover operation in Staten Island. He had joined the DEA as a special agent in the New York Regional Office in 1977. He received Special Achievement Awards in 1982 and 1983 for his investigative work and a third in 1987 for his work in the DEA’s recruiting program. Special Agent Everett Hatcher Place, West 17th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues in Manhattan, home to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration’s New York Regional Office, now bears his name as testimony to his courage and dedication.

Richard Marks '60 was one of the leading film editors in Hollywood for more than three decades. His talent is on display in such classics as Bang the Drum Slowly (1973), Serpico (1973), The Godfather: Part II (1974), Apocalypse Now* (1979), Terms of Endearment* (1983), St. Elmo’s Fire (1985), Pretty in Pink (1986), Broadcast News* (1987), Dick Tracy (1990), Father of the Bride (1991), and As Good as It Gets* (1997). He was also the editor for Made of Honor (2008), Julie & Julia (2009), and How Do You Do (2010). For the films with asterisks, Marks received Academy Award nominations for Best Editor. He passed away on New Year's Eve 2018.

Danny Schechter '60 was a television producer, independent filmmaker, and media critic. As a producer for the ABC newsmagazine 20/20, he won two national Emmy Awards. He helped founded and was the executive producer of Globalvision, a NY-based television and film production company. His documentaries included In Debt We Trust (2006) and the post 9/11 film We Are Family (2002), shown at the Sundance Film Festival. In 2012, he released his documentary DeWitt Clinton High School: How a School Can Teach Us All, available from the DWC Alumni Association. In November 2013, he published Madiba A to Z: The Many Faces of Nelson Mandela, a completely unique biography that draws on his forty-year relationship with Mandela. Danny Schechter passed away in 2015.

Stanley B. Shopkorn '60 is a successful financier and a believer in giving back. His financial credentials include being a vice chairman at Salomon Brothers, head of the hedge fund Ethos Capital LP, head of equities trading at Moore Capital Management LLC. In 2008, he co-founded the hedge fund Hilltop Park Associates LLC, where he is currently a partner and portfolio manager. Fund LP hedge fund. His sense of giving back has brought him to being the chairman of the board of trustees of Ronald McDonald House NY, a member of the board of the New York University Cancer Institute, and a generous donor to the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association.
Jeff Wald '60 entered the entertainment world as a personal manager in the early 1960s, most notably advancing the career of singer Helen Reddy. His publicist skills then benefited Sylvester Stallone, Paul Rodriguez, George Foreman, Peter Allen, James Brolin, Tom Skerritt, George Carlin, Elliott Gould, Donna Summer, Flip Wilson, and Marvin Gaye, and musical groups such as Deep Purple, Chicago, and Crosby Stills & Nash. Wald’s credits as an executive producer/producer include the films *Paradise Alley* (1978) and *2 Days in the Valley* (1996) and television shows *The Newlywed Game* and *The Gong Show* (1988), *The Rosanne Show* (1998), and *The Contender* (2005-2009). Wald passed away in Los Angeles, California, on November 12, 2021.

--- 1961-1970 ---

Robert Altman ’61 had the good fortune of being taught photography by Ansel Adams. Shortly therefore, Altman was hired as a photojournalist by *Rolling Stone* magazine. Jann Wenner, the magazine's founder and publisher, said of Altman’s photography, it “was instrumental in portraying the look and feeling and vitality of the Sixties.” Following his early success as chief staff photographer for *Rolling Stone*, Altman expanded into the realm of fashion photography and fine art. In the 1990s, he transitioned from film media to digital media and became active as a digital photographer. In 2007, he published *The Sixties*, a collection of his famous photographs from that decade. Robert Altman passed away at his home in San Francisco on September 24, 2021.

Alan Gordon ’61 gladly told you that he bought his first Clinton jacket (at Hi-Jinks) the day after graduating from JHS. In 2000, he became national executive director of AGMA, the American Guild of Musical Artists. The union represents 8,000 opera singers, dancers, opera directors, backstage production personnel, and figure skaters. Earlier in his career, he was a labor attorney for the Textile Workers Union of America. Then came 25 years with the Directors Guild of America (DGA), for part of that time being its eastern executive director. Gordon passed away on January 1, 2016.

Elliot Roberts ’61 belongs to that long list of New York City youngsters, many of them Clintonites, who began their Hollywood careers in the “mailroom” of the William Morris Agency. As the story goes, they got noticed and rose high in the entertainment business. Elliot Roberts, whose last name at DWC was Rabinowitz, took the route that led to becoming a music manager and record executive. In the late 1960s and the 1970s, he represented many singer-songwriters, in particular, Neil Young and Joni Mitchell. In 1967, Roberts started Lookout Manager, and three years later helped to create David Geffen’s Asylum Records, later becoming Elektra/Asylum Records. He passed away in June 2019.

Pablo Robertson ’61 has the distinction of being a real person and a cartoon character. The real person played “All-City” basketball for Clinton and then joined Clintonite Jerry Harkness to play for Loyola of Chicago. In the 1970s, “Pabs” was one of the most popular players on the Harlem Globetrotters. And that’s how we get to the cartoon character. The first Harlem Globetrotters cartoon series, called *Harlem Globe Trotters*, debuted on CBS in September 1970 and ran through September 1972. It has the distinction of being the first Saturday morning cartoon that featured African-American male characters, and “Pabs” was one of them.

Steve Samtur ’61 is a Bronxite by birth and a teacher by trade. His years as a pedagogue brought him to the classrooms of Taft High School and Fordham Prep, but it is his love for the Bronx that brings him to the attention of every true Bronxite. In 1992, he and his wife Susan began publishing *Back to the Bronx*, a quarterly magazine that is dedicated to helping Bronxites relive their youth through wonderful stories and precious photos of so many yesterdays. The Web site www.backinthebronx.com offers memorabilia about the Bronx for sale and a variety of ways to hook up with mates from the old neighborhood. Samtur co-authored three books: *The Bronx: Lost, Found, & Remembered - 1935-1975* (1999), *Little Italy Of The Bronx* (2002), and *The Bronx: Then & Now* (2003).

James Wechsler ‘61 has served on the New Mexico Court of Appeals since December 1994, and presently is chief judge of that court. As an assistant attorney general from 1976 to 1983, he represented the State of New Mexico in the civil and criminal prosecution of antitrust and economic crime cases and in public utility ratemaking proceedings. He served two terms as an elected State Bar commissioner and has served on the Supreme Court Committees on Rules of Appellate Procedure, Courts of Limited Jurisdiction, Civil Uniform Jury Instructions, and Public Confidence in the Legal System.

Joseph Zicherman ‘61 departed as a money manager at Morgan Stanley in 1998 to form his own investment company. He gave it the name Stadium Capital Partners because he had grown up “in the shadow of Yankee Stadium.” Reportedly, as many as 200 of Zicherman’s Morgan Stanley clients followed him to his new enterprise. As a strong supporter of the arts, he has served on the board of the directors of TKTS (Broadway discount tickets) and is presently a vice chair of the board of directors of the Hamptons International Film Festival, which takes place every fall in East Hampton, New York.
Barry Heyman ’62 has over 40 years of experience in development and emergency management with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of State. His assignments have included seven years in Peru and Haiti and shorter stays in other areas of Latin America as well as in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. For eight years, he served as Director of Latin American Operations and Director of Worldwide Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness Programs at USAID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. His world travels have also been captured by his extraordinary talents with a camera (http://www.barryheymanphotography.com/).

William Macaulay ’62 was chairman and CEO of First Reserve Corporation, the world’s largest private equity fund specializing in the energy industry. In founding First Reserve in 1983, he was responsible for supervision of all aspects of its investment program and strategy, as well as its overall management. His academic credentials in finance included an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to his roles as financial advisor and investment manager, he can be counted among the truly generous philanthropists of our time. In 2006, he gave $30 million to his alma mater CCNY, the largest gift in the school’s history. He passed away on November 26, 2019.

Kenneth Rothschild ’62 revealed in a 2018 story, “Growing Up Deaf in the Bronx,” the challenges he faced as a deaf person before, during and after his years at DeWitt Clinton High School. For example, when out somewhere in the evening, he had to call home to say he was okay. It was hit and miss. He could not tell if he got a dial tone and only later arriving home did he know if his message went through. A 1968 graduate of Gallaudet University, today Rothschild is an internationally-renowned philatelist, historian, and storyteller. Since the 1980s, Rothschild has collected, studied, and analyzed the representation of deafness on postage stamps across the world. He played a key role in the issuance of the 1983 USPS 20¢ Thomas H. Gallaudet stamp.

Donald Teig ’62 became an optometrist in Connecticut, but one with...let’s call it...a vision. He understood that athletes had a need to be efficient with their eyes. In 1979, he established the Institute of Sports Vision and became a pioneer in creating cutting-edge equipment that could evaluate and train the visual motor skills integral to athletic success. Teig first approached Major League Baseball with his ideas for an athletic visual training program and was hired by seven MLB teams. Before long, he worked with men’s and women’s tennis tours, professional golf tours, and the NBA, NFL, and NHL. Teig is also founder and president of Ultimate Events & Entertainment, LLC, a Florida-based company that provides vision care to people who participate in visually demanding sports, hobbies and careers.

Lewis Frankfort ’63 held various positions in New York City government before joining accessories retailer Coach in 1979. Since becoming Coach’s CEO in 1997, he has successfully built the company into the premier American accessories brand. It was his vision and leadership that brought Coach from being a cottage-industry manufacturer of leather goods to being a leading designer and marketer of fine accessories and gifts worldwide. Named Coach’s chairman emeritus following his retirement in 2014, Frankfort has joined the board of waste and recycling management on-demand technology company Recycle Track Systems. He joined as an advisor and investor in the company.

Barnet Liberman ’63 is known principally as a real estate renovator. He and his business partner Winthrop Chamberlin pioneered the concept of turning obsolete industrial and commercial space into modern loft apartments. Their efforts have also saved a number of historically important buildings in New York City. In 1990, Liberman established WinterLab, Ltd. to develop his inventions in freezing processes, for which he owns six patents. In 2004, he co-founded IndiePix, which boasts the broadest online selection of indie films from around the world, including the latest award-winning titles from the festival circuit, popular indie classics, foreign, and documentaries.

Ed Remen ’63 discovered the game of racquetball in the 1970s. His excellent hand-eye coordination and superb athleticism led him to 42 national titles—both singles and doubles—throughout the 1980s. In 1991, he was inducted into the USA Racquetball National Hall of Fame as both a player and contributor to the game. After coaching the USA National Team in 2001, he became a fixture on the courts of North Carolina State University. He is currently the director of Racquet Sports for the University Recreation Department and instructs racquetball, tennis, badminton and his latest discovery: pickleball. Obviously, he was born to be a great athlete.

Andrew J. Singer ’63 is the chairman & CEO of The Singer & Bassuk Organization. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Real Estate Board of New York, past chairman of the Finance Committee of the Real Estate Board of New York and the past chairman and current vice chairman of the Real Estate and Allied Trades Division of UJA Federation of New York. In April 2007, Singer won the Real Estate Board of New York’s coveted Most Ingenious Finance Deal of the Year Award for the third time. The transaction was the $256,500,000 construction financing of 20 Exchange Place in Lower Manhattan.

John Barbarette ’64 will say how fortunate he was to attend DWC, but DWC feels no less fortunate to have him as one of its sons. Though the world has known John Barbarette as electronics technician, business owner, department manager at Home Depot, and specialist at Lowe’s Home Improvement, the Clinton Community ranks him as one of its most dedicated alumni. For more than 20 years, he has been the annual alumni dinner chairman. In 2002, he was a major force in reinstating the alumni leadership weekends. If he had his way, he would still be playing football for the Red and Black, but he does the next best thing. He is always in the stands cheering on the team. He has just finished his second elected term as president of the DWC Alumni Association. A good time for a little rest!

Rafael A. Candelario ’64 enlisted in the United States Marine Corps immediately following his graduation from DWC. He was deployed to Vietnam in 1965 and 1968. In 1984, he was promoted to sergeant major, a rank he held until his retirement from active duty in 1994. After thirty years of service, his decorations included: Silver Star Medal, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. In 1995, he accepted a position as an Associate Naval Science instructor with the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Leto High School (Tampa, Florida) where he served for 16 years. He passed away in Florida on June 3, 2019.

Dario Gonzalez ’64 is the medical director of the Prehospital Advanced Emergency Medical Care program for the New York City Fire Department. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. In 1979, he graduated from medical school (SUNY Stony Brook) and studied in Emergency Medicine at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx. On April 19, 1995, he went to Oklahoma City as part of the rescue effort for the Murrow Federal Building Bombing. He was also served at the World Trade Center collapse on September 11, 2001. He has lectured worldwide on disaster preparedness.

Bruce Hare ’64 can make a claim that few Clintonites can match. His father and grandfather attended DWC. The importance of heritage is in his blood and explains his calling in life. In 1975, the same year he earned his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Chicago, he became founding chair of the University of Massachusetts’s Black studies department. In 1990, Dr. Hare began at Syracuse University as professor in the Department of African American Studies in The College of Arts and Sciences and professor of sociology in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He was chair of the African American studies department from 1990-95. He is the author or editor of numerous publications, including 2001 Race Odyssey: African Americans and Sociology (2002).

Paul Mayewski ’64 is director of the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine in Orono, Maine. He has led dozens of international research teams into the remote places of the earth to gather climate records still frozen in ice. From the Antarctic, Himalayan, Patagonian and Greenland ice sheets he has collected and preserved ice cores for later analysis. He has also contributed to 300 reviewed publications and has pioneered comprehensive climate models by calibrating and interpreting the data obtained from his expeditions. In the Saint Johns Range of Victoria Land, Antarctica, lies Mayewski Peak, named for our Clintonite for his glaciological and geological work in Antarctica.
Arnold Obey ’64 had it said of him, by classmate Michael Schwartz ’64, that he was “a great athlete, great husband, great father, great friend.” His accomplishment were many: basketball champion at DWC (1963), Basketball Hall of Famer for Wagner College (scoring 1,000 points) and basketball coach at Staten Island Academy for eight seasons. For more than two decades, he served as principal of PS 31 in Staten Island. And then there were the marathons, running the streets of New York City for 38 consecutive years. Arnold Obey died of Covid-19 on March 22, 2020 while on a trip to Puerto Rico.

William Worsley ’64 was a member of DeWitt Clinton’s undefeated (20-0) 1963 city championship basketball team. In 1966, as a Texas Western College sophomore, he was a member of the first team with an all-African-American starting lineup to win an NCAA basketball championship. That victory, which came over the highly favored University of Kentucky, was the subject of the 2005 motion picture Glory Road. Worsley has spent his post-collegiate life in the service of youngsters either as a counselor or a coach. In July 2011, he received the H. Councill Trenholm Award from the National Education Association for the work he does guiding students in the right direction.

George Zebrowski ’64 was born in Villach, Austria, but crossed the Atlantic Ocean in time to get his high school education in the Bronx. He is a science fiction writer, whose first novel, The Omega Point (1972), grew into The Omega Point Trilogy (1983). In 1999, his fourteenth novel, Brute Orbits, garnered won the John W. Campbell Memorial Award as the best science fiction novel of the year. As a co-author, Zebrowski can include among his more than 70 short stories and 40 books Star Trek: Heart of the Sun (1997); Star Trek: Garth of Izar (2003); and Star Trek: The Next Generation: A Fury Scorned (2011).

James Breidenbach ’65 put his drafting skills learned at the Manhattan Technical Institute (1965-1969) to good use in the U. S. Navy (1969-1971) when he developed confidential engineering drawings for the Naval base located in Iceland. While drafting became his career, his passion belonged to ice hockey. His early years of playing in various venues did not bring him fortune, but his knowledge of the game brought him fame. In 1990, he was offered the position of off-ice official with the New York Rangers. His duties included scorer, statistician and scoreboard operator. Breidenbach was with the team when it won Stanley Cup in 1994 and proudly says, “I have the ring to prove it.” He became a favorite of journalists who loved to write of his devotion to the game. He retired in 2006.

Howard Mager ’65 likes to give people the business— that is, the business skills they need for success. To this end, he is president and founder of MTeam LLC, which provides coaching and consulting services, as well as managing director of ExtraordinaryLeadership.org, and co-founder of Extraordinary Sales Performance. Before launching MTeam in February 2008, Mager was senior vice president of McGraw-Hill Construction, responsible for sales operations and revenue. Early on in his career, he was publisher of Chemical Week. But he will probably tell you that the hardest job he’s ever had as a Clinton alumnus is trying to buy Clinton tee shirts from the school or Alumni Association.

Richard Sher ’65 played Chopin’s Polonaise Brillante cello solo at his graduation in the Loew’s 175th Street Theatre. Since then, his venues have been considerably more upscale. At 18, he became the youngest cellist ever to join the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The following year, Sher became the youngest principal cellist of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared in major concert halls in Europe and New York in both recital and concerto appearances. From Der Tagespiegel, a Berlin newspaper, comes the praise: “Great cellists are rare, and the American cellist Richard Sher has to be counted among them.”

Nathaniel Archibald ’66 was elected to Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1991. His credentials were indisputable: NBA champion (1981); All-NBA First Team (1973, ’75, ’76); All-NBA Second Team (1972, ’81); Six-time All-Star; All-Star Game MVP (1981); only player ever to lead the league in both scoring and assists in a season (34.0 ppg, 11.4 apg in 1972-73). In 1996, he was chosen as one of 50 Greatest Players in NBA History. For his work with youth, he was honored by New York City Mayor David Dinkins in 1993. In January and again in February of 2015, Archibald was back in Clinton encouraging students to make good choices on the court and in life. In September 2018, DWC’s Gym 3 and its basketball court were named for Dolph Schayes ’45 and Nate “Tiny” Archibald.

Ira Harkavy ’66 has spent his professional life proclaiming that a university should be part of its surrounding community and not set apart from it. In his case, the university is Pennsylvania and the community is West Philadelphia. As founding director of the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania, since 1992, Harkavy has helped to weave community service into Penn’s academic fabric by making community service part of course work. He teaches in the departments of history, urban studies, Africana studies, and city and regional planning. (Edward Netter was the first cousin of Frank H. Netter MD ’23.)

Armando Montano ’66 proudly says that he “was born and raised in the Bronx and attended public schools.” In 1976, he received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Thereafter, for 35 years, he balanced being a self-employed attorney and a public service volunteer (The Latino Voting Rights Committee, Community School District 12, Latino Artists to save El Museo del Barrio and the NYS Assembly Task Force on Bilingual Education). Montano was elected in 2013 as a judge of the NYC Civil Court in Bronx County and in 2017 as a justice of the NYS Supreme Court (12th Judicial District Bronx County). Reaching the compulsory age to retire in 2018, his term ended on December 31 of that year.

Bruce Taub ’66 covered sports for the Clinton News. His articles carried such headlines as “Undefeated Cagers Walk Away with Division Title” and “Hoopsters Halt Brandeis.” In May 2016, he was named an distinguished alumnus at the DWC Alumni Dinner, where he had the opportunity to greet Ada Chiriles, his Clinton News faculty advisor. Today, Taub is a senior advisor at CBS, having previously served as executive vice president and chief financial officer for the CBS Television Network. Taub joined CBS in 1975 as an analyst with the CBS Television Stations Division. He is a graduate of Northeastern University (B.S.) and of Boston University (M.B.A.).

Richard Carmona ‘04 returned to DeWitt Clinton in June 2004 to receive his honorary diploma. After dropping out of Clinton in 1967, he joined the US Army Special Forces, ultimately becoming a combat-decorated Vietnam veteran. After active duty, he attended Bronx Community College and later graduated from the University of California (SF) with an M.D. (1979). He has been the chairman of the Arizona Southern Regional Emergency Medical System, a professor of surgery at the University of Arizona, and the Pima County Sheriff’s Department surgeon and deputy sheriff. In August 2002, he was sworn in as the 17th Surgeon General of the United States and served in that position until July 2006. He was the Democratic candidate for U.S. senator from Arizona in the 2012 election.

Jacques DeGraff ’67 is a minister at Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem. A graduate of Hunter College, Reverend DeGraff has dedicated his life to empowering others to be the very best they can be. He is a former vice president of One Hundred Black Men, an organization that champions issues facing local communities, and a founding member of the Eagle Academy, an all-boys school aimed at helping at-risk young men become successful individuals. He continues to serve on the Eagle Academy’s advisory board and also sits on the Nielsen Media African American Advisory Board. He has appeared regularly as a contributor on Fox News and other news shows.

Ralph Friedman ’67 was described as the most decorated detective in NYPD history in the New York Post of Feb. 15, 2015. He was in 15 gun battles, collected 219 NYPD awards and 36 civilian honors, and made 2,000 arrests, 105 off duty. He was stabbed, broke his hand twice, fractured his skull, and was smashed over the head with a tire iron. Retired since 1984, he says he misses the job, but according to the Post, “he still has unpleasant dreams in which he’s shooting at a bad guy but having no effect, or he fires and watches in slow motion as his bullet slowly exits the barrel and drops.” On Sept. 19, 2017, Discovery Channel told the story of Ralph Friedman in the series Street Justice: The Bronx.

Barry Rothfeld ’67 retired in June 2015 after 11 years as president and publisher of the Poughkeepsie Journal and 42 years with the Gannett Co., Inc. He was honored as Gannett’s “Publisher of the Year” in 2009. But it is what he has done since retirement that draws our present attention. He more than exemplifies the virtue of giving back. In retirement, he has remained involved in the community, taking on such responsibilities as chair position of the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region, second vice chair of the Vassar Brothers Medical Center, member of the board of the Half Moon Theatre as well as the Council of Advisors for Pattern for Progress and the Bardavon Theater. Rothfeld has also found himself in front of a classroom as a teacher at Marist College for Lifetime Studies.

Stuart Sheslow ’67 and his DWC teammates reached the semi-finals of the 1966-1967 basketball season, but an unsettled controversy between Boys’ High and Lafayette abruptly ended the season. His time for recognition came after earning his master’s degree in film from NYU and then relocating to Hollywood. In 1985, he became an original executive producer for TV series Berrenger’s. The next year saw him as a creator and writer of The Redd Fox Show and executive producer of the TV series All-American Girl. In 2001, he was one of the writers of the TV movie Sunstorm. BTW, he was responsible for development of the megahit animated series The Simpsons.
Jason Sommer ’67 is an award-winning published poet, who graduated from Brandeis University, Stanford University (where he held the Mirrielees Fellowship in Poetry), and St. Louis University. He taught at St. Louis University, Webster University, and University College, Dublin. Since 1985 he has been on the faculty of Fontbonne University in Missouri. His titles tell you that he likes humor: “The Ballad of Fighting With My Father” (1984); Lifting the Stone, 1991; Other People’s Troubles, 1997, which was honored with the Society for Midland Authors award for poetry; The Man Who Sleeps in My Office, 2004; and The Laughter of Adam and Eve, 2013.

Kenji Takigami ’67 was raised in a Japanese diplomatic family, whose posts included Burma and the UN in New York City. While attending DWC, he developed a passion for photography. Little by little, his expertise with a camera led to a formidable career as a photographer. In 1980, he launched Kenji Takigami Studio in New York City, and began a solo career that has since taken him around the world. From 1991 to 1997, his photos were featured on 58 out of 60 covers of the prestigious Japanese monthly business magazine, NEXT. He has also served as chief photographer for Japan Airlines inflight magazine Supreme New York and photographed world leaders at events sponsored by Asia Society.

Jose “Pepe” Figueroa ’68 founded Priority One Services in 1986, a Virginia-based company that is an industry leader in innovative facility management, transportation and animal science projects. Inspired by his world class violinist father, he grew up appreciating the beauty of music and its importance in a person’s life. Putting his love of music into action, Figueroa serves as a board member of the Fairfax (VA) Symphony Orchestra and was a founding member of the Hispanic Youth Foundation of Northern Virginia in 1997. His generosity was responsible for the 2007/2017 celebrations of Gov. DeWitt Clinton held at the school and the establishment of the DWCHS Faculty Hall of Honor in October 2018. In 2020, he initiated the Gerard Pelisson Clinton Spirit Award for that graduating senior who exhibited extraordinary school spirit, to first be given in 2021.

Fernando Tapia ’68 was elected to a fourteen-year term as a justice of the Bronx County Supreme Court on November 6, 2012. He had served as an acting justice, appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Ann Pfau, from 2010 to 2012. From 2003 to 2012, he was a judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York, New York County. He received his J.D. from Dickinson School of Law at Penn State University. Judge Tapia has been praised by many community organizations, including the Bronx Park East Community Association and New York’s Indian-American community, for his involvement in their neighborhood and social projects.

Ralph Vicinanza ’68 was in publishing for nearly 40 years before his death from a brain aneurysm in 2010. Early in his career, he specialized in international rights, working on overseas deals for such writers as Stephen King, Norman Mailer, Carl Sagan, Philip K. Dick, Robert A. Heinlein, George R.R. Martin, Terry Pratchett and Kim Stanley Robinson. Vicinanza founded his own agency in 1978, where he devoted much of his attention to science fiction and fantasy writers. He was also an executive producer of the television series FlashForward (2009-2010) and Game of Thrones (2011).

Israel Wachs ’68 will tell you that at DWC he became proficient in math and science, particularly chemistry. That proficiency led to his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Stanford University. After working at Exxon Research and Engineering in New Jersey from 1977 to 1986, he turned to Lehigh University in Pennsylvania where he could teach as well as do research. Today he is G. Whitney Snyder professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at Lehigh. Wachs has earned international renown for research into heterogeneous catalysis, applying his findings to the manufacture of chemicals and air pollution control. His inventions have earned more than three dozen patents. In 2018, he was elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI).

Michael Yackira ’68 joined NV Energy in 2003 and by August 2007 was president and CEO, positions he held until his retirement on June 30, 2014. NV Energy provides electricity to 2.4 million citizens throughout Nevada as well as a state tourist population exceeding 40 million annually. Under Yackira’s leadership, NV Energy built a 231-mile, half-billion-dollar transmission line connecting Northern and Southern Nevada electric systems. Yackira’s experience included extensive roles in operations, finance and regulatory matters in other industries, including telecommunications, and oil and gas. In 2013, NV Energy was bought by Warren Buffet’s MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co. for about $5.6 billion.

Michael Batista ’69 works among the treasures of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and for what he does at the Met, he should be regarded as a treasure. Officially, he is the senior exhibition designer. That means he takes large empty areas and turns them into perfect showcases for the museum’s exhibits. Thus, if you entered the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor (class of 1934) Exhibition Hall between March and July 2012, you would have enjoyed Byzantium and Islam: Age of Transition, presented in an exhibit designed by Michael Batista. More recently, you may have seen his designs for the exhibit The Civil War and American Art, which ran from May to September 2013.
Barry M. Bloom ’69 has been a sports columnist and reporter since 1976. On May 18, 2020, he joined Sportico, a new publication on the business of sports, after writing a sports-business column for Forbes (1918-1920) and covering baseball for MLB.com from 2002 to 2018. Previously, he worked for Bloomberg News and the San Diego Union-Tribune. Bloom has been a voter for the National Baseball Hall of Fame since 1992 and in recent years has won five awards from the San Diego Press Club for best columns, news stories and features. His books include biographies of baseball’s Larry Bowa and Tony Gwynn. He thanks Clinton News advisor Ada Chirles teaching him the trade.

Jay Haddock ’69 or Julio Ortiz, as he was first known at Clinton, is president of Capital Hotels & Suites, which operates the St. Gregory and the Beacon Hotel & Corporate Quarters, both located in Washington, DC. He has been chairperson on the DC Commission on Latino Community Development and a longtime member of the board of directors of the Whitman-Walker Clinic. Haddock’s strong support for expanding HIV/AIDS services geared toward the Latino community in the Washington area resulted in the opening of an Office for Latino Services at the Whitman-Walker Clinic.

Ira Steven Behr ’70 likes to wear sunglasses indoors. He also likes to produce television series and write the scripts, which he did to great acclaim for Star Trek: The Next Generation and Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. His first work as a writer was for the James Garner television series Bret Maverick. Thereafter, he wrote for the series Fame and produced and wrote for the short-lived series Bob Patterson. Behr’s recent ventures have included producing and writing for the highly successful TV series The 4400 (2002-2004) and Crash (2009) and being executive producer of the series Alphas (2011). Between 2014 and 2016, he was co-executive producer/executive producer of 26 episodes of the cable TV series Outlander. In 2018, he produced and co-directed What We Left Behind: Looking Back on Deep Space Nine, a documentary on Star Trek.

Ellis E. Cousens ’70 served from 2001 until his retirement in July 2014 as executive vice president and chief financial and operations officer of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., a global publisher of print and electronic products. Previously, he was senior vice president and chief financial officer of Bookspan, a Bertelsmann AG joint venture. In the 1990s, he served as president of the Yonkers Board of Education. His education includes earning a Master of Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and an MBA in Finance from the Hagan School of Business of Iona College. For his time at Clinton, he praises Mr. Edward Morrison ’46 and Mr. Ronald Laspagnoletta ’59 as teachers who inspired him and made a difference in his life.

Thomas “Tom” Henderson ’70 is an administrator at a juvenile facility in Houston, Texas, that takes in at-risk teenagers. Over the past several decades, he and his wife have opened their home to nearly 60 foster children. Besides being a “pro” in his work with people in need, he knows how to handle a basketball. Does he! He was a member of the 1972 US Olympic basketball team that won the silver medal, although, according to many, Soviet mischief “robbed” them of the gold. As a professional, he played for the Atlanta Hawks, Washington Bullets, and Houston Rockets. He was a member of the Rockets when they won the NBA championship in 1978.

David Platt ’70 completed directing 83 episodes of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit in 2010 before the television series ended its eleven years of shooting in New York City. During that time, he also directed four episodes of House M.D. and three episodes of Judging Amy. In 1997, 1999, and 2000, he was nominated for an Emmy Award in the category Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Drama Series for his work on Law & Order. Since 2011, Platt has directed episodes of the television series Body of Proof, The Good Wife, A Gifted Man, NYC 22, Elementary, Suits, The Blacklist and Agent Carter.

Julian Rodescu ’70 was a native of Bucharest, Romania whose education after DWC included earning music degrees from Juilliard. His vocal talents were discovered in the cafeteria at Juilliard and he was immediately offered a full scholarship to study voice there. He went on to sing with the opera companies of LaScala with Riccardo Muti conducting, the Maggio Musicale in Florence under Zubin Mehta and Semyon Bychkov, the NY City Opera, Aachen Stadttheater in Germany, the Philadelphia Orchestra under Wolfgang Sawallisch and the Boston Symphony with Seiji Ozawa. When not singing on stage, he gave private lessons in Philadelphia and taught voice at Swarthmore College. He died in 2011.

Stephen L. Winters ’70 is director and founder (1991) of the cardiac rhythm management program at the Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute, Morristown (NJ) Medical Center. He is an associate professor of medicine at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and serves on the Board of Directors of the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association (HCMA). Previously, Dr. Winters served as co-director of the electrophysiology division at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and on the faculty at Mount Sinai and at Columbia’s College of Physicians and Surgeons. A Clinton News editor-in-chief, he says, “While others may admirably speak of their Harvard, Yale, or prep school days, I enjoy singing the praises of De Witt Clinton High School, its teachers, its alumni, its history, and its humanity.”
Andrew Ackerman ’71 stepped down as executive director of the Children’s Museum of Manhattan (CMOM) on June 30, 2019. It was a position he has held since 1990, steering the institution to exceptional growth. Under his leadership, CMOM attendance rose to 350,000 visitors annually. Opened in 1973 and located in the Tisch Building at 212 West 83rd, CMOM’s mission has been to inspire children and their families to learn about themselves and our culturally diverse world through a unique environment of interactive exhibitions and programs.

Kent Armstrong ’71 has the distinction of being a brand name. It can be found on the music pickups he has been designing since the early 1970s. He has handmade or modified pickups for many of the music world’s greatest stars, including Pete Townshend, Jimmy Page, Brian May, Rory Gallagher, and Jimi Hendrix. He was born in Ohio, spent his early years in Florida, spent his high school years in the Bronx, then went off to England where his fame as a repairer and then designer of pickups was first established. Today, nearly all of the top jazz guitar builders in America offer Armstrong’s pickups on their guitars as an option.

Gary Axelbank ’71 has been the host and senior producer of the TV talk show BronxTalk since its debut in 1994. Using his trademark direct, honest, and informed approach, he has moderated dozens of political debates, interviewed numerous elected officials, and presented programs on a wide variety of contemporary subjects. Axelbank began his hosting career in radio as a disc jockey before becoming a producer of news features for WNBC and later a producer on FOX Sports. In 2016, the media company City and State New York named Axelbank one of the fifty most influential people in the Bronx. In June 2017, Axelbank created the web site http://www.thisisthebronx.info/, which is dedicated to all things Bronx, including arts/culture, business/real estate, tourism and restaurants.

Gregory Faulkner ’71 credits his experience as G. O. president and the mentorship of Clinton faculty members for inspiring him to community service and leadership. Following college, he worked at Frontlash, an AFL-CIO project focused on registering newly enfranchised 18-year olds. In 1980, he was elected to his Community School Board and served a term as its president. Concerned about drug and alcohol use in his community, he joined Phoenix House, a drug treatment program. After 14 years at Phoenix House, he was hired as a substance abuse counselor at Edgecombe Correctional Facility. In 1996, Faulkner was hired by La Guardia Community College as director of the Student Center for Leadership. Since January 2010, he has been chief of staff to NYC Councilman Fernando Cabrera.

James Germany ’71 was a star running back in the Canadian Football League. He played his college football at New Mexico State University, where he was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 1994. His seven-year career with the Edmonton Eskimos, starting in 1977, saw him paired with Neil Lumsden and quarterbacks Warren Moon and Tom Wilkinson. Together they formed the backfield backbone of the Eskimos’ 5 Grey Cup championship dynasty. Germany rushed for 1000 yards 3 times, 1004 yards in 1977, 1324 yards in 1979, and 1019 yards in 1980, and he was an all-star in 1981.

Harry S. Jacoby ’71 knows that his career choice surprised some people. He is a Jewish guy who worked for a German company that makes baking ovens. At the end of 2019, he retired after 20 years as founder and managing partner of MIWE America, with its headquarters in New Jersey. The quality of workmanship brought MIWE’s ovens into the kitchens of major hotels, restaurants and bakeries throughout the United States. One of the most notable was the 2005 installation of a pastry oven in the White House. As the Hudson Bread Company in the NY/NJ area expanded, MIWE America was there to provide ovens and refrigeration systems in multiple years from 2005 to 2019. In 2020, he saw the future and joined sales & marketing at Robotray Industrial Automation.

Irving Jones ’71 has been guided throughout his career in education by the principle “in order to teach them, you have to reach them.” Beginning as high school English teacher, he quickly advanced to assistant principal and then principal in Utica, New York. In 1997, he became the founding principal of the new Monticello High School in Albemarle County in Virginia. He was honored as the 2003 National High School Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and MetLife. In 2008 Jones opened his consulting firm, ICJ & Associates, LTD, and is currently in leadership training projects in the United States and the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas and St. John.

Alan Kaufman ’71 is a novelist, memoirist and poet who was instrumental in the development of the Spoken Word movement in literature. He is the author of the memoir Jew Boy (2000), the novel Matches (2005), and is the editor of The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry (1999), a landmark volume that introduced readers to an entirely new and largely hidden vein of American poetry. He is the son of a Holocaust survivor and, for a time, he served in the Israeli Army. In the early 2000s, Kaufman returned to Clinton to give a recital of his poetry before a full auditorium of students. In 2009, his papers were acquired by the University of Delaware Library.
Ronald Watson ’71 was the Grand Marshal of the Bronx Veterans Day Parade in Throgs Neck on November 13, 2016. During his 22 years in the U.S. Marines, Lieutenant Colonel Watson had deployments during Operation Desert Storm and was senior staff officer at the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Brussels, Belgium). Since 2004, he has been a business development principal for Lockheed Martin. As a Clintonite, Watson has always bled true Red and Black. He was an All-City football player at Clinton. Later, he was a teacher and football coach at his alma mater. And now you can see him at nearly all Clinton football games at home and away.

Steven Blitz ’72 has come along way since his time as editor of the Clintonian yearbook. At present, he is the managing director of Global Macro in the United Kingdom, and also serves as a chief US economist at TSL Research Group Limited. He is responsible for covering the U.S. economy, including fiscal and monetary policies. Previously, he held key positions at Lazard & Co., M Science, Majestic Research, and ITG Market Research Inc. Blitz is a commentator on economic and financial issues, frequently quoted in the financial press including Barron’s, appearing on TV and radio, and writing guest columns for financial publications. Oh, and he is still proud of having been editor of the Clintonian.

Henry Cornell ’72 retired in 2013 from Goldman Sachs & Co., an international securities firm, where he had been vice chairman of the merchant banking unit since 2012. Joining GS in 1984, Cornell was made a partner in 1994 and assumed the duties of Managing Director in 1998. After leaving GS, he founded and became senior partner at Cornell Capital LLC, a private equity firm. In spring 2017, Cornell Capital acquired World Kitchen, whose houseware brands include Pyrex, Corningware and Corelle. Over the years, Cornell has served on the Board of Directors of The Ping An Insurance Company of China, The Kookmin Bank of Korea, The Dusit Thani Group, and Rajadamri Public Company Ltd. He has also served as a Trustee of The Asian Art Museum in San Francisco and a Trustee of the Citizens Committee for New York City.

Theodore M. Klein ’72 has been making a name for himself playing the banjo, and a search of the Internet will likely show him with a banjo than with his inventions, for which he holds 42 patents (as of the moment). Truthfully, his name was made long ago as a genetics research scientist. One of his great accomplishments was as co-inventor of the gene gun in the 1980s. The device is used to inject cells with genetic information into plants, thus transforming the plants genetically. In an article published about him, Klein said that even as a student at DeWitt Clinton he knew he wanted to become a soybean genetic engineer. It’s just possible that he meant the remark to be humorous.

Bruce L. Levy ’72 was active in the US energy sector for over three decades. Until February 2011, he was president of International Power America, where he was responsible for all aspects of the company’s U.S. subsidiary including operations of its 7,300 MW of power generation facilities and related finance, energy trading, and development activities. Prior to joining International Power in 2004, he was senior vice president and chief financial officer at General Public Utilities Corporation (GPU, Inc), a diversified energy production and distribution company, where he was responsible for all financial operations of the company.


Michael A. Battle ’73 joined the New York law firm of Schlam Stone & Dolan LLP in 2010 as a senior partner. He had previously been a partner in the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski in Washington, DC. From June 2005 to March 2007, he served as director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) at the Department of Justice. Before that, Battle served for three and a half years as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York. In June 1996, Governor George Pataki appointed him to serve as a judge on the Erie County (New York) Family Court, to which he was elected the following November to a full 10-year term.

Randolph Frieser ’73 is the founder and former CEO of Accelerated Rehabilitation Centers. Under his leadership, Accelerated began as one outpatient technical rehabilitative care center in Chicago in 1989 and grew to over 200 centers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri and Arizona. Today, Frieser is the CEO and co-founder of Revolution Weight Loss Centers, which focuses on the issue of obesity in America. During his Clinton days, he was a member of the football team. Not only has he been generous to his Bronx alma mater, he is involved in charitable programs in the Chicago area, including financing scholarships for physical therapy students enrolled in Governors State University.
George Gresham ’73 joined 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East in 1975 after becoming a housekeeper at Presbyterian Medical Center in Manhattan. As he worked to get his BS from Lehman College, which he did in 1984, he rose in the ranks of 1199. He joined the union’s staff as an organizer in 1988, became a vice president in 1990, an executive vice president in 1993, and secretary treasurer in 2000. In June 2007, he was sworn in as the fifth president in the 75-year history of 1199, which is the country’s largest local with a membership of 300,000. In 2016, the media company City and State New York began its Bronx Borough 50 series and ranked Gresham the most influential person living in the Bronx and impacting the lives of its residents.

Steven “the Bear” Sheppard ’73 has the distinction of being a gold medal Olympian. He was a member of the U.S. men’s basketball team that captured the precious metal by defeating Yugoslavia at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, Canada. But his story does not begin or end there. In 1973, he led the Clinton Governors to the PSAL basketball title. Watch the game at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=we2DFccESao. He became a star player for the University of Maryland and went on to play professional ball with the Chicago Bulls and the Detroit Pistons and in Italy. Sheppard has spent his post-professional life coaching and mentoring student athletes in the Washington, DC, area.

Kool DJ Red Alert (Frederick Crute ’74) is a founding father of hip-hop music and culture. He was one of the first deejays to perform with the architects of hip-hop Universal Zulu Nation. For 30 years on 98.7 Kiss-FM, he had one of New York’s most influential radio mix shows and broke some of the most important records in hip-hop like “Rappin’ Duke,” “Roxanne, Roxanne,” and Boogie Down Production’s “South Bronx.” His support advanced such acts and artists as A Tribe Called Quest, Queen Latifah, and Black Sheep. On April 29, 2012, DJ Red Alert played his final mix on Kiss-FM, before the station merged with its former rival, WBLS. Today, Red continues to rock at venues of his own choosing.

Alfred “Butch” Lee ’74 became the first Puerto Rican national to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA) when he joined the Atlanta Hawks in 1978. He also played professionally for the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Los Angeles Lakers. Lee was a member of the Puerto Rican national basketball team that came close to defeating the United States in the 1976 Olympics. Leading the Marquette Warriors to the school’s first national championship, he was selected as the Most Outstanding Player at the 1977 Final Four. Lee has the distinction of being on a championship team in high school (DWC 1973), college (Marquette 1977), and professional (Lakers 1980).

Victor Rosario ’74 played right field on Clinton’s baseball team, a remarkable accomplishment because he had only one arm. When he graduated, he took with him the self-confidence he had developed as a Clinton athlete. In 1993, Rosario created the One Arm Bandits, a softball team of world-wide repute for young people missing an arm or part of an arm. From that first team begun in Miami, Florida, One Armed Bandit teams now play in Venezuela, Colombia, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. In recognition of its unique contribution to sports, the One Arm Bandits have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame Library in Cooperstown, New York.

Juan R. Sanchez ’74 presently serves as Chief United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Appointed chief judge on August 1, 2018, he is the first Latino to hold that position. He has served on the District Court since his confirmation by the U.S. Senate in June 2004 by a vote of 98-0. From 1998 to 2004, he had served as elected judge of the Chester (PA) County Court of Common Pleas. Sanchez was born in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. After graduating cum laude from CCNY in 1978, he attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School, receiving his Juris Doctor (JD) in 1981. U

Rolando T. Acosta ’75 was elected to the New York State Supreme Court in New York County in 2002 and governor-appointed in 2008 to the Appellate Division, First Department, where, in May 2017, he was governor-appointed to serve as Presiding Justice. Prior to his election to the Supreme Court in 2002, Justice Acosta had served as an Acting Supreme Court Justice, and before that, in 1997, he had been elected to a County-wide Civil Court judgship in New York County. Earlier, he had held various governmental and community posts, including First Deputy Commissioner for Law Enforcement for the New York City Commission on Human Rights. In 2004, he was selected as the Latino Judge of the Year by the National Hispanic Bar Association and is presently a trustee of Columbia University. As a Clinton student, he “pitched” the 1975 baseball team to the city championship at Shea Stadium.

Jonathan Asher ’75 understood the principle of giving back long before receiving his DWC diploma. He was involved in a myriad of school activities, from serving as Arista president to being of service to teachers and fellow students. He learned to interact with all kinds of people and to know what they liked and did not like. Little wonder, then, that he has spent the past 30 years as an expert in consumer goods marketing and brand designing (creating a unique name and image for a product in the consumers’ mind, mainly through advertising). In September 2018, Asher relocated to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to join Explorer Research as executive vice president. The company is North America’s leading privately held research firm specializing in shopper and packaging research.
David Refkin ’75 began working for Time Inc in 1982 in corporate finance. By 2001, he had risen to the rank of president of TI Paperco Inc with the responsibility for purchasing the paper for the Time Inc’s 135 magazines worldwide and eight book companies. For his efforts to combine environmental and corporate purchasing needs, he was elected to the Board of Trustees of the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment. In 2004, he was named Director of Sustainable Development for Time Inc. At present, Refkin is president of GreenPath Sustainability Consultants and serves on the board of the National Wildlife Federation.

Curtis Urbina ’75 was instrumental in several successful music labels, which he owned or co-owned, such as Emergency Records and Quark Records. These labels created the first opportunities for many of today’s leading DJ/producers and remixers. He has been an adjunct professor at New York University, teaching courses on the business of music publishing, careers in the music business, and developing a record label. In 2006, Urbina joined Minnesota DJ/Remixer Thomas Spiegel (aka DJ Man-X) to form Deep Haven Music. A great wrestler at Clinton and now a great wrestling coach in Newtown, Connecticut, in August 2017 Urbina was named Newtown’s Sportsperson of the Year.

Mario Custodio ’76 was only 15 years old and still a Clinton student when he was cast in a starring role in the film The Black Pearl (1978), which continues to be a perennial favorite on U.S. and Latin American television. Following the release of the film, he was taken with the production side of filmmaking and joined up with director Saul Swimmer to develop the MobileVision Projection System, a pre-IMAX giant-screen technology for projecting movies on a 60x80-foot screen. His successes include being production supervisor of Queen’s legendary We Will Rock You documentary and the 2005 Bob Marley and Friends documentary.

Mario McCutcheon ’76 and his teammate Wallace Miller led Clinton’s gymnastics team to its 88th consecutive win and tenth consecutive PSAL championship in 1976, all under the brilliant coaching of John Traetta. After Clinton, McCutcheon brought fame and glory to Southern Connecticut State University, where he was coached by Abe Grossfeld. In 1980, McCutcheon won the Nissen Award as the best college gymnast in the country. He was a member of the 1981 world championship team. A specific gymnastics routine, a “McCutcheon,” is named after him. Naturally, he turned to training others after his retirement from competition.

Henry “O” Ordosgoitia ’77 belongs to that all-important category of alumni, of whom we say, “What would we do without them?” Henry O is Clinton’s documentarian, selflessly giving of himself to photograph every aspect of the castle on the parkway over the past several decades. You name the event and “O” is there with his camera taking high-resolution images. For the rest of history, Henry’s images of Clinton will be the most thorough and accurate visual accounts of DWCHS moving from the 20th into the 21st century. When he is not photographing Clinton, he can be found in the world of freelance photography in such important venues as MetLife Stadium, Yankee Stadium, and CitiField.

Thomas Quiones ’77 was elected in November 2021 to the New York State Supreme Court 9th Judicial District - New York (Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess and Orange Counties). His appointment as a city judge of Yonkers, New York, in January 2016, had made him the first Hispanic judge in Yonkers history. In November 2016, he ran for a full term and won. Prior to his appointment as a city judge, he had served twenty years (1996-2016) as a New York City Child Support Magistrate. In that position, he resolved all aspects of the determination of a child support award, including motion practice, preliminary hearings, fact-finding (trials), rendering a decision and, if appropriate, the entry of an Order of Support. At Clinton, he was senior class president.

Eliseo Rojas ’77 was born in Peru and educated at DeWitt Clinton and Columbia University. He is presently vice president of Global Sourcing & Procurement at Interpublic Group of Companies. He served as corporate co-chair of the New York & New Jersey Minority Supplier Development Council’s Business Opportunity Expo 2010. Prior to joining Interpublic, he was a vice president of Global Procurement for the Cendant Corporation, the largest provider of real estate and travel related services in the world. Earlier, for fourteen years, he was the chief procurement and supplier diversity officer for TIAA-CREF, the largest pension system in the world and a Fortune 100 financial services company.

Kevin Scott ’77 retired from the United States Navy in 2018 with the rank of vice admiral. A 38-year Navy veteran, he commanded every level thru numerous major conflicts and regional contingencies. Ashore he served as military aide to the vice president, Office of the Vice President, The White House (1997-1999). For his final tour of duty, Admiral Scott served as Director for Joint Force Development (J7) on the Joint Staff, Washington D.C, from July 2016 thru Sept 2018. Following retirement, he joined and soon became president of New Market Veterans, LLC, a Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVO) dedicated to advancing science in the health care continuum and helping transform federal agency culture and skill sets through service and inclusion.
Gilbert Walton ’77 has been in the insurance business for more than three decades. As part of Farmers Insurance, the Gil Walton Agency in New Rochelle, NY, focuses on automobile, homeowners and business insurance. His well-established commitment to his customers is matched only by his commitment to Dewitt Clinton High School. He has been president of the DWC Alumni Association and is presently a member of its Alumni Board. For years, he was the force behind the annual DWC golf outing. Mention a Clinton event and you will find Gil Walton there and involved. The time he devotes to alma mater, along with his financial support, keeps Clinton strong and productive for today’s students.

Daniel Quintero ’78 signed a minor league contract in 1982 with the Kansas City Royals and played professional baseball in the U.S. and the Dominican Republic. But fate had other plans for him. 1990, he joined the Boys and Girls Club’s national organization and played an integral part in creating over twenty-three new clubs in the Northeast region. In 1996, Quintero became executive director of the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club, where at age 9, he was one of the first kids to register at the club when it relocated to the Bronx in 1969. Under his leadership, Kips Bay has gone from serving 4,000 children to over 10,000, expanded to nine locations and opened a summer camp.

Larry Schachner ’78 served as judge of the New York City Housing Court from 2000 to 2003. In 2003, he ran for New York City Civil Court judge, District 1 representing the Bronx. The New York Times endorsed him, saying that he “has the potential to play a positive leadership role within the court system, and we are pleased to endorse him.” Our Clintonite won that election. His good work on the Civil Court bench led to his appointment in 2007 as acting New York State Supreme Court justice, Bronx County. In 2013, he was elected to the Supreme Court 12th Judicial District, Bronx County. He retired from the bench in 2017 and began a new career as a private mediator, working for NAM, National Arbitration & Mediation, which specializes in mediating complex civil matters including negligence, medical malpractice, construction accidents, and products liability.

Stephen Armagon ’79 is site manager of the Loch Raven campus for the Veterans Affairs (VA) Maryland Health Care System. He has overall responsibility for providing leadership support and oversight to the clinical and administrative services and programs on the Loch Raven campus. Prior to his VA appointment, Armagon served for 26 years as a health services management administrator in the US Air Force Medical Service. He has performed duties and missions in more than 16 states across the United States and 15 countries across Europe, Southwest Asia and Africa.

Taiboo Song ’79 graduated from M.I.T. in 1984 before “taking off” to the world of Boeing as an equipment manager. Moving on to ever-more-challenging assignments, in 2015 he was promoted to large-scale complex planning architect. His expertise has contributed to the development of the 777 and 787 as well as to advances in communication/network protocols. Taiboo Song has received numerous patents and in 2019 he received Boeing’s Special Invention Award on behalf of his team for their work enabling additional options or how airline customers can configure seating arrangements.

Angel Juarbe Jr. ’84’s qualities of leadership and service brought him respect as a NYC firefighter and victory on the FOX TV contest show Murder in Small Town X in summer 2001. He won a Jeep and $250,000 on the show and planned to celebrate with his parents the evening of September 11, 2001. That morning, the call came into his Manhattan fire station that two airplanes had flown into the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers. He sped to the calamity. Deep in the Marriott Hotel adjoining the Twin Towers, he lost his life as the floors of the hotel collapsed on him. With his parents present, the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association paid tribute to him at its annual dinner in May 2004.

Pedro Borbon Jr. ’85 is the proud wearer of a World Series ring, earned in 1995 as a relief pitcher for the Atlanta Braves. In the 9th inning of the 4th game, with the Cleveland Indians threatening to take the lead, Borbon relieved Mark Wohlers and struck out Jim Thome and Sandy Alomar Jr., and got Kenny Lofton to fly out to right. Some believe that without that performance, the Braves may not have won the 1995 World Series. Borbon played pro ball for nine seasons: Atlanta Braves (1992-1996), L.A. Dodgers (1999), Toronto Blue Jays (2000-2002), Houston Astros (2002), and St. Louis Cardinals (2003).

Stephen Buckley ’85 was chosen in July 2021 as a Eugene C. Patterson professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy at Duke University’s Sanford School of Public Policy. It is an extra honor as Duke is his college alma mater (1989). That same year, he joined the Washington Post where he covered local news before joining its foreign staff in Kenya and Brazil. In 2001, he switched to the St. Petersburg Times (since 2012 called the Tampa Bay Times), moving up to managing editor of the paper, then publisher of Tampabay.com, and dean of faculty at the Poynter Institute. In 2014, Buckley, with his wife Cathleen and their children, headed to Zambia to work in a leadership initiative for orphans. He increasingly traveled monthly to Aga Khan University in Nairobi, Kenya, to plan, direct and teach in the university’s professional development program in journalism. But now it’s good to be home.
Ty Allan Jackson ’85 thought to become a businessman, in corporate sales. That changed in 2009 when his seven-year-old son asked, “Dad, can I open a lemonade stand?” This motivated Jackson to seek out books that would teach his son about entrepreneurship and finance. Finding none, he was inspired to fill the void. Thus, *Danny Dollar Millionaire: The Lemonade Escapade* was born. When rejected by over 150 agents, Jackson launched his own publishing company, Big Head Books, in June 2010. He published his work in December 2010, and it gained mass recognition in just a short time. Then came more success with *When I Close My Eyes* and *The Supadupa Kid*. In 2013, *Danny Dollar Millionaire*... partnered with Google to teach kids about entrepreneurship. In 2020, he published *The Supadupa Kid II -- Move.*

Alberto Ebanks ’86 was an important part of the wrestling team during his Clinton years. These days he wrestles injustice as an attorney and has made a name for himself defending those in the greatest need. In the mid-1990s as an Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County, he successfully prosecuted numerous criminal defendants in Bronx Criminal Court. In 1998, he co-founded the full-service law firm of Ebanks & Statler, LLP, which handles cases from both the plaintiffs’ and defendants’ side. His practice is expansive and covers both State and Federal courts.


Jeff Monge ’86 was fortunate to play DWC football at a time when two of his coaches were Don Cafaro ’34 and Bernie Sherman ’34. Those legendary DWC footballers would have been proud that Monge went on to be the founder and managing partner of Monge Capital (MCG), a Latino-owned and -operated firm that provides advisory services and capital solutions for real estate projects. Prior to founding MCG, he was senior vice president & principal for UrbanAmerica, L.P., a $520 million real estate investment fund focused on acquiring and developing commercial real estate in low- and moderate-income urban markets. Monge graduated from SUNY Institute of Technology in Utica/Rome, NY with a master’s in business management and a B.S. in Computer Engineering Technology.

Saki Cabrera ’87 is a Ph.D. professor of psychology and human services at Solano Community College in Fairfield, California. She is also founder and CEO of Stronger Communities, which advocates for the underprivileged and underserved and helps them realize their potential through training, education, and support. The path to her career of service to others presented many challenges, perhaps the one most significant during her years at Iona College. She was shot at point-blank range during a bizarre robbery attempt in Times Square. The shooting left her paralyzed from the waist down, but Saki vowed from her hospital bed to make a difference in this world. All the students she has helped would tell you she succeeded.

Clive A. Dixon ’87 is officer in charge, commander, Fleet Air Forward Detachment Aviation Support Division (ASD) Misawa, a position the navy chief warrant officer has held since January 2012. In 2009 and again in 2010, he was a member of the Blue Angels, the U.S. Navy’s Flight Demonstration Squadron, serving as its supply officer. In various capacities as a supply officer, he was previously deployed in the Arabian Gulf, Horn of Africa and Mediterranean supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Commendation (5) and Achievement (6) Medals.

Ngoc Lu ’87 is vice president and chief technology officer for AEA investors LP, which operates as a private equity firm. The firm focuses on leveraged buyout, growth capital, and mezzanine capital investments. Prior to joining AEA in 2000, Ngoc Lu was with Credit Suisse First Boston for seven years. He is a graduate of the University of Rochester. Born in Vietnam, he had to endure the North Vietnam government take over of the country in the mid-1970s. At 13, he fled with his family to New York after his father, an officer in the South Vietnamese military, was sent to a reeducation camp. Ngoc Lu used his time at Clinton well, as Arista vice president, a member of the Academic Olympics, math team and peer tutoring—all to go along with oratory, bowling and swimming.

Tracy Morgan ’03 left DeWitt Clinton in 1987 without a diploma to take care of his ill father. At Clinton, he ran track, but seemed too shy to involve himself in any of the school’s theatrical shows. It was surprising then that he eventually achieved great success in stand-up comedy. From there, he became a seven-season regular on *Saturday Night Live* and then co-starred in the hit sit-com *30 Rock*. In 2003, while Morgan was appearing on a WNYC television program about DWC, Geraldine Ambrosio, the principal, walked on the set and presented him with an honorary diploma. His eyes swelled with tears. He had his diploma, and he was proud of it.
Deowall Chattar-Cora ’88 graduated from Sarah Lawrence College (NY) before earning his medical degree from NYU School of Medicine. His specialization in plastic surgery required a five-year general surgery residency at Morristown Memorial Hospital (NJ), a burn surgery fellowship at the hospital where he was born: the Jacobi Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Bronx), and three years of plastic and reconstructive surgery residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center, in San Antonio, where he is presently an assistant professor of surgery. He has made several humanitarian trips to Africa over the years, where he performed many complex and life-saving surgeries.

Marsha Guialdo ’88 knows how to run fast. You could say it is in her genes. Her mother, Pollina, was a champion runner and jumper in their native Trinidad. At Clinton, young Guialdo took on the hurdles. In 1986, she ran the 400 meter intermediate hurdles in 61.58 seconds, the third fastest time in PSAL history to that date. After running for Cal State, Los Angeles, she went on to race in major competitions all over the world. In 1995, ranked #2 in the United States in the 100 meter hurdles, Guialdo placed second in that event in the World University Games at Fukuoka, Japan.

Andrea Navedo ’88 starred as the mother in the TV series Jane the Virgin (2014-2019). Her feature-film acting debut came in Spike Lee’s Girl 6. Then she took on the reoccurring role of Linda on the television soap opera One Life to Live. Two years later, she was Theresa on the soap Guiding Light. In prime time, she had a recurring role on the TV series Law and Order (2001-2004) and has appeared multiple times on the series Blue Bloods (2010-2011). Her recent screen appearances have included multiple episodes of the TV series Golden Boy (2013) and Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (2013) and the feature film Last I Heard (2013). In 2020, she appeared in multiple episodes of the TV series The Good Fight and Mrs. America.

Stephon Alexander ’89 is a theoretical physicist and the Royce Family Professor at Brown University. In 2013, he won the American Physical Society Bouchet Award for "his contributions to theoretical cosmology." Alexander was featured in the 2010 segment of the NOVA TV series The Secret Life of Scientists and Engineers. His secret: he loves to play the saxophone. In 2016, he published The Jazz of Physics: The Secret Link Between Music and the Structure of the Universe, reviewed in the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times. Election as president of the National Society of Black Physicists came in 2018, the same year he served as a science advisor for the film A Wrinkle in Time. Alexander has described his DeWitt Clinton physics teacher, Mr. Daniel Kaplan, as his greatest inspiration.

Desiree Francis ’89 understands cash flow and community needs. Perhaps that explains why today she is managing vice president of Community Finance for Capital One, leading the financial corporation’s lending and investing for affordable housing development. Community Finance originates over $1 billion annually to finance affordable developments, primarily financed with low income housing tax credits. Desiree also serves on the board of AHIC, a national organization for investors in affordable housing. So, yes, she understands cash flow. Her academic training includes studying at Georgetown’s McDonough School of Business and NYU’s School of Public Service.

Robert Sostre ’89 is "probably one of the greatest athletes in history," says Marty Hogan, six-time racquetball U.S. champion. Sostre, the "Iceman," holds well over 100 pro titles in paddleball, handball and one wall racquetball combined. In 2012, he won the three-wall racquetball world championship in Las Vegas. In 1986, 1987 and 1989, under Coach Robert Finkelstein, he led the Clinton handball team to consecutive PSAL championships. In 2000, he won the United States One-Wall Handball Association title, becoming the first player to win the national championship in both handball and paddleball. In 2003, the Paddle Company issued a signature paddle named for him in recognition of his great talents. In 2014, Robert Sostre was inducted into the World Outdoor Racquetball (WOR) Hall of Fame.

Basmattee Boodram ’90 is an epidemiologist, researcher and associate professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) from which she earned her Ph.D. in 2009. She earned an MPH from Southern Connecticut in 1997 and an AB from Dartmouth in 1994. Boodram is a co-founder of the Consortium for Modeling and Analysis of Treatments and Interventions, which provides a forum for active development of cross-cutting multidisciplinary research. As a researcher at the Community Outreach Intervention Projects (at UIC), she engages in interdisciplinary research that addresses the complex interplay of individual, social, and structural factors that lead to health disparities among marginalized populations.

Anika Khan ’90 is a director and senior economist with Wells Fargo in Charlotte, N.C., with expertise in U.S. macroeconomic and quantitative analysis, institutional sales and trading analytics and commercial-mortgage-backed securities underwriting. Her commentary is frequently cited by periodicals such as the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Bloomberg News, and USA Today. She appears regularly on CNBC and Bloomberg TV. Khan is also an adjunct professor at Queens University in Charlotte. She earned her B.S. in economics from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and an M.S. in economics from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
Amy Melendez (Siu-Fung Ho) ’90 made history when she became the first female editor-in-chief of the Clintonian (yearbook, 1990) and again on May 27, 2010 when she was elected to a three-year term as the first woman president of the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association. She has been a member of the Alumni Board for many years. Her commitment to all things Clinton is a major reason why the Alumni Association remains a vital force in helping students and in maintaining the history and traditions of DeWitt Clinton High School. Name a Clinton event and Amy Melendez is there. Of course, she has another life to live, which includes being a vice president and network engineer at Citigroup.

Ruben Nembhard ’90 played basketball for DWC and then for Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, where he has been elected to the school’s Hall of Fame. Between 1996 and 2003, he saw hoop action on a number of professional teams, including the NBA’s Portland Trail Blazers and Utah Jazz and the Townsville Crocodiles of the Australian NBL. Since 2004, Nembhard has triumphed on the court playing for the Gaiteros de Zulia of the Venezuelan LPB. In 2010, he scored his 11,000th point in the Venezuelan League and was chosen the league’s Most Valuable Player.

Denise Wallen-Grant ’90 joined Coach North America as senior director retail allocation in April 2017. A graduate of Columbia University in 1994, she has gained valuable experience over the years in sales, store management, product development and merchandise planning & allocation. Her credentials were earned at Ralph Lauren, ANN INC, the Jones Group and Onestop Internet. To see Wallen-Grant at work at Coach and to learn more about her background from her own comments, check out the video https://www.huffpost.com/entry/this-company-figured-out-how-to-maximize-diversity-at-the-top-heres-how_n_5c65d5b8e4b0aec93d3cf04e.

--- 1991-2000 ---

Yadira Velasquez Arroyo ’91 lost her life in the line of duty as an emergency medical technician (NYFD) on March 16, 2017. While responding to a call in the Bronx, she and her partner saw a man “joyriding” on the back of their ambulance. They stopped the ambulance and got out to see who the man was, but he pushed past them and got into the driver’s seat. As he maneuvered the ambulance, he rode over Arroyo. He was arrested, but Arroyo died of her wounds. The 14-year EMT veteran and mother of five children was greatly admired by her fellow workers and the people in her community, as shown by the overwhelming turnout for her funeral at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church. In true Bronx fashion, a permanent wall mural in the borough’s Soundview neighborhood pays tribute to her.

Aileen Rivera Cinquemani ’91 has the distinction of being the first female DWC graduate to become a DWC teacher. She also has the distinction of being an accomplished artist despite being legally blind. (http://www.blindartistssociety.com/Aileen_Cinquemani_art.html). In July 2012, her paintings were on display in the Greenburgh (NY) Town Hall. Her paintings are available at http://darcarts.com/. At that Web site, information is available about her “commissioned” original art work.

Keeshan Giles ’91 started taking acting classes at the suggestion of his high school guidance counselor. After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting from the City College of New York, he put his degree to good use in the world of entertainment. Giles has appeared in episodes of such popular TV series as Will & Grace (2006), Scrubs (2007), Grey’s Anatomy (2005-2008), The Office (2010), New Girl (2015-2016) and Where the Bears Are (2017). His film world has meant leads in such films as Rage of Innocence (2014) and The Second Age of Aquarius (2020).

James Mack III ’91 is one of the nation’s leading researchers in “green chemistry.” In 2006, he received a major grant from the National Science Foundation to advance green chemistry by a thorough study of ball-milling reactions, which avoids the use of solvents. He earned his Ph.D. in 2000 from the University of New Hampshire, studying Diels-Alder reactions of fullerenes with various linear acenes. This was followed with a post-doctoral fellowship at Boston College developing rational syntheses of unique fullerenes and nanotubes. In 2003, Mack joined the staff of the University of Cincinnati as an assistant professor of chemistry. In 2009, he was promoted to associate professor, and in 2016, he was appointed assistant dean of the Graduate School.

Omar J. Randall ’92 has held the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps since January 2019. In June, he took command of Combat Logistics Regiment 37 and Camp Kinser in Okinawa, Japan. Commissioned from the University of Connecticut in 1996, Col Randall has demonstrated key leadership skills across three tours in Iraq, as a Detachment Commander for Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 13, a Battalion Logistics Officer for 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines at Camp Lejeune, NC, a Joint Logistics Planner at US Central Command, a Battalion Commander at Combat Logistics Battalion 31, a Section Head for Logistics Plans and Operations at the Pentagon, and Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics at 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade and 3d Marine Division.

Theodore Torres ’95, a celebrated and award-winning chef, founded Coa Catering in the Philadelphia area in 2016. He describes Coa as “a personal catering company with a Latin American touch,” which specializes in events, intimate private dinners and office parties. Torres was formerly an executive sous chef at the Pyramid Club in Philadelphia. He won the Food Network’s Chef Wanted series with Anne Burrell in 2013 but declined the position that came with his win to pursue his dream of creating his own company. Learn about his dream-come-true company at http://www.coacatering.net/.

Natasha Van-Reil ’96 was born in Jamaica. She became an American citizen in San Antonio, Texas, in October 1998 while serving in the U. S. Air Force. Capt Vanreil has been in the Air Force 25 years. She joined in December 1996 and was stationed at Laughlin AFB, Texas from March 1997 to December 2000. After Active Duty, she joined the Air Force Reserve. Currently, she is a Medical Service Corps (MSC) officer at the 105th Medical Group, Stewart ANG. Capt Vanreil has assisted our wounded military members in Hawaii, San Antonio, and Ramstein, Germany. In addition to her military service, she has been an employee at M&T Bank for 20 years, first as an administrative assistant to the previous CEO and Chairman of the Board for 17 years and now as technology support to the executive leadership. She holds an Economics degree from the U. of Pittsburgh and MBA from Regis University.

Sanjay Ayre ’99 won a silver medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics in the 4 x 400 meters relay racing for his native country of Jamaica. It started out as a bronze medal, but in 2008 the gold medal winners were retroactively disqualified. Ayre earned a bronze medal in the 4 x 400 meters relay at the 2005 World Championships. At the 2005 Penn Relays, he was part of the Jamaican team that pulled off a surprise victory over the U.S. team in the 1600-meter relay. He graduated from Auburn University in 2003 with a degree in criminology. Ayre now runs his own training center in Howard County, Maryland, and serves as the men’s sprint coach for Howard Community College.

Yscaira Jimenez ’99 is the CEO of LaborX, the LinkedIn for the LinkedOut, linking people who are currently linked out of the knowledge economy to good jobs. As a talent marketplace, LaborX connects hiring managers to vocational, boot camp, apprenticeship and community college graduates using predictive skill analytics and 3D resumes. She is a serial entrepreneur and is currently building LaborX. She attended DWC (99), Columbia University (03) and MIT (14) and speaks 4 languages. She’s an avid fiction reader, hiker, Capoeirista, and traveler, visiting over 40 countries across 5 continents.

Karina Jorge ’99 knows that college sports involve more than an athlete’s performance. For the past fifteen years, she has been an administrator in intercollegiate athletics and recreational sports at the City College of New York. She presently serves as assistant athletic director for compliance and senior woman administrator, the latter being the highest-ranking female in each NCAA athletic department, excluding the athletic director. Essentially, this means she has to know and follow every rule and regulation of the NCAA and City University Athletic Conference so that the athletes have only to concentrate on delivering their best performance.

Sydney Valerio ’99 is an educator and a creative non-fiction mixed genre writer and performer. In 2016, she wrote and performed “Matters,” a one woman show at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. Her poetry appears in anthologies and magazines including the BreakBeat Poets Vol. 4: Latinext, Harvard’s Palabritas, Acentos Review, and Mujeres: the Magic, the Movement, and the Muse. She has edited Roxana Calderon’s book La Casa de las Maletas and Lorraine Avila’s Malcriada & Other Stories. She is a teaching artist for Lit to Life, the project manager for the CCNY MFA Archives as Muse: a Harlem Storytelling project, and the creator of the community arts based project: Perspective Matters-NYC Kid Who’s Now a NYC Adult. A 2019 BRIO Award winning poet & a 2020 VOLCANISTA, Valerio is working on her first book as a graduate of the MFA Creative Writing program at CCNY. She currently serves as the president of the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association.

Michael Blake ’00 graduated from the prestigious Medill Journalism School at Northwestern University in 2004 with thoughts of entering politics. He worked for presidential candidate Barack Obama’s 2008 campaign in Michigan and Iowa. With Obama’s victory, Blake was appointed associate deputy director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. In 2013, he left that post to become a senior advisor at Operation Hope, a nonprofit that teaches young people and families in the Bronx about sound financial practices. He was elected to the NYS Assembly in 2014 and vigorously represented the 79th District (Bronx) through December 2020. At present, he is vice chair of the Democratic National Party.
Yakhira Encarnacion-Patterson ‘00 graduated from Tufts University in 2004 with a double major in clinical psychology and child development. In 2009, she completed a master’s degree in public health degree specializing in epidemiology and biostatistics at CUNY Hunter College. Her work has involved research studies ranging from early onset Alzheimer’s disease to HPV in adolescent females, as well as the National Children’s Study that investigated environmental stressors in children ages 0 - 21. Encarnacion also worked in medical education as a pediatric residency coordinator at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, for seven years. She currently manages research programs at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai for medical students in the senior program administrator role, bridging her research background and medical education expertise into one role.

Christine Fleming ‘00 is an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Columbia University. She received her B.S. in electrical engineering and computer sciences from M.I.T. in 2004 and her Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from Case Western Reserve University in 2010. Fleming’s research interests include developing optical coherence tomography technologies for cardiovascular disease diagnosis and therapy monitoring. On August 21, 2013, MIT Technology Review published its prestigious annual list of 35 top young innovators, which included Christine Fleming. She was honored as an outstanding inventor for her work in the field of biotechnology and medicine.

Natasha Green ‘00 may be one of the busiest young women in America today. She is a business owner, an event planner, a project starter, a teacher (including teaching mathematics at DWC) and a web developer. She has built projects and/or partaken in events surrounding other people’s passion because it challenges her. Green loves the irony that she is a Sagittarius and she has an archery business http://hiddengemsarchery.com/. Rumor has it that she is planning to take up residence somewhere in Europe for a stretch of time so that she can broaden herself. One more thing, while she taught at Clinton, she was also a member of the Alumni Board.

Aracelis Lucero ‘00 attended Middlebury College in Vermont. In 2003, she did a semester abroad at the University of Paris (La Sorbonne). In 2004, she received her B.S. with a double major in Economics and French. Lucero began her financial career working as an analyst for Lehman Brothers Inc. and then Barclays Capital. Switching careers after getting her Master’s in international affairs from Columbia University, Lucero became the executive director of the Mexican American Students Alliance, which promotes underserved students in New York City, with a focus on those of Mexican descent.

Luis Rohena ‘00 earned a B.A. in biochemistry at Columbia University in 2004, then through an army scholarship graduated from medical school in 2008. He completed his pediatrics residency at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and his medical genetics fellowship at the Columbia University Medical Center. He is currently an army major and chief of medical genetics at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. He is also an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. In 2006, Rohena returned to Clinton to give the commencement speech at the June graduation.

Joel Martinez ’01 is known as The Kid Mero. He is a writer, comedian, music blogger, and a YouTube and Twitter personality, whose career owes much to the Internet and the electronic tools of communication that are part of it. Martinez and fellow Bronxite Desus Nice gained fame with their Complex TV 46-episode podcast Desus vs. Mero, which first premiered on December 18, 2013. In season 5, he became a cast member of MTV2’s Guys Code with Desus Nice. He was the co-host of Viceland’s Desus & Mero talk show alongside Desus until June 2018, and currently co-hosts Desus & Mero which premiered on February 21, 2019 on Showtime.

Ramon Guzman ’02 had reason to smile in the photo to the left. A linebacker for the Montreal Alouettes, he was holding the Canadian Football League’s Grey Cup, which his team won by defeating the Saskatchewan Roughriders for the national championship in 2009. His team repeated the triumph defeating the Roughriders to win the 2010 Grey Cup. After playing football for DWC, Guzman did the same at the University of Buffalo, where, as a freshman, he scored on a six-yard touchdown play the first time he touched the ball in a game. Guzman began his professional career with the NFL’s Indianapolis Colts (2007-2008). The 2011 season was his last as a pro.

Adaly Rosado ‘02 was working as a security guard at Yankee Stadium when he received a letter from the Catholic Archdiocese of New York accepting him to study for the priesthood. Earning a B.A. in philosophy (2007) from St. John’s University and a B.A. in sacred theology and a Master of Divinity (2011) from St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, NY, he was ordained to the priesthood on May 14, 2011. A self-proclaimed “New Yorican,” Rosado is dedicated to serving the Latino Community, particularly its youth. He is a member of the Advisory Board for the Office of Hispanic Ministry and is the co-chair at the Archdiocesan level of the Encuentro V evangelical ministry. Rosado presently serves as parochial vicar of Saint Joseph’s Church in Spring Valley, NY.

--- 2001-2010 ---
Amy Yensi ’02 joined the Spectrum News NY1 news team in April 2018 as the Bronx reporter. Before NY1, she was a general assignment reporter at WJZ in Baltimore for three years. There, she earned an Emmy nomination for her coverage of the Freddie Gray riots. Before WJZ, she was a “one-man band” reporter for News 12 The Bronx and Brooklyn, when she shot, wrote and edited her own stories. She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. Yensi earned her master’s degree from the CUNY Graduate school of Journalism and her bachelor’s degree in English from Hunter College.

Victor Pichardo ’03 was elected to represent the 86th Bronx District in the New York State Assembly in a special election in November 1013. He was re-elected in November 1014, 2016 and 2018. After graduating from the University at Buffalo in 2007, Pichardo pursued an internship with Senator Charles Schumer in New York City. He then worked for four years as Senator Schumer’s staff assistant and community outreach coordinator/Latino liaison. In 2012, he became the director of community affairs for State Senator Gustavo Rivera in the Bronx. Pichardo won the September 2014 primary by a two-vote majority over his opponent, proving the importance of every vote.

Derron Wallace ’03 is an assistant professor of education and sociology at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. His research focuses on inequalities and identities of race, class and gender in urban schools and neighborhoods. In 2014, Wallace earned a Ph.D. in sociology of education from the University of Cambridge (UK) where he was a Marshall and Gates Cambridge Scholar. For his dissertation, he was awarded the 2015 Distinguished Dissertation Award from the American Educational Research Association. Wallace is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wheaton College (Massachusetts). In 2008 as a Fulbright scholar, he taught English and conducted research on education reform in Thailand. In April 2017, Brandeis honored Dr. Wallace with the 35th Michael L. Walzer ’56 Award, given to a faculty member who “combines superlative scholarship with inspired teaching.”

Sharlene Brown ’04 earned a BA from Harvard University (2008) and an MBA from the Wharton Business School (2016). Her formal education has also included Northwestern University and the University of Paris VIII (Vincennes--Saint-Denis). After Harvard, she worked for J.P. Morgan as an investment banking analyst. From 2014 to 2020, she worked for Accenture, becoming the business strategy senior manager. Since March 2020, Brown has been a director at City of Hope Medical Center in Los Angeles, a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center and a founding member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network.

Sarina Morales ’06 submitted an essay and a video to Nike in 2009 on why she would be an awesome field reporter. Out of hundreds of women, she was chosen to represent and report for Nike at sporting events nationwide. Thereafter, she worked at Turner Broadcasting and at National Geographic in social media marketing. In January 2015, Morales joined ESPN as a contributor to SportsCenter. In May 2018, taking Horace Greeley’s advice to go west, she became a team reporter for the Los Angeles Rams. She was introduced to Rams fans in this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWalaC2ewMY.

Katherine Mateo ’07 received her J.D. in 2015 from Stanford Law School, where she was articles editor of the Stanford Journal of Law, Science, and Policy, and senior editor of the Stanford Law and Policy Review. She gave the alumni address at the Class of 2016 commencement ceremony. Her 2011 undergraduate degree (B.A. summa cum laude) was earned at the CUNY Macaulay Honors College. In 2017, she founded a scholarship for underprivileged college students at Macaulay Honors. Presently, Mateo is a litigation associate at Morrison & Foerster LLP in New York City. Born in the Dominican Republic, she has her eyes on the prize, a seat on the U. S. Supreme Court.

Juan Carlos Perez ’07 is the third Clintonite to win a World Series ring, following Ed Lopat ’35 and Pedro Borbon Jr. ’85. Victory came when the San Francisco Giants—for which he played left field—defeated the Kansas City Royals in Game 7 (October 29) of the 2014 World Series. He had made his MLB debut for the Giants on June 9, 2013 at a game against the Arizona Diamondbacks. Despite some difficult times in 2016 (Chicago Cubs) and 2017 (Detroit Tigers), Perez signed in 2018 with the Acereros de Monclova (Monclova Steelers), a Triple-A Minor League Baseball team of the Mexican League located in Monclova, Coahuila, Mexico. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJqe_y_p_Bk for Perez’s baseball highlights.

Christopher Francis ’08 is principal consultant for the California Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee in Sacramento, California. At the same time, he is a California Council on Science and Technology Fellow. In 2012, he received dual bachelor’s degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he majored in political science with a public policy focus and in materials science and engineering. At the University of California, Berkeley, he earned his M.S. in 2014 and his Ph.D. in 2017, both in materials science and engineering. At Berkeley, he mentored underrepresented STEM undergraduates as part of UC Berkeley’s Getting into Graduate School program.
Syed Ali ’09 is an urban planner. As explained on his Web site https://syedagmalali.com/, he produces strategies for equitable urban development related to food, health, technology, and wealth. In addition to a master’s degree in urban planning from Harvard University (2019), he earned a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University (2013), where he studied government and English. At Wesleyan, he served as student representative on the university’s Board of Trustees. Presently, he is an analyst at HR&A Advisors, where he supports market studies and economic impact analyses around the country. Previously, he spent four years setting digital communications strategy for FoodCorps, a national nonprofit connecting kids to healthy food in school.

Paul Dedewo ’09 will tell you, “All my life I’ve been playing catch up, but I’ve finally caught up.” And it all has to do with being a track star. He took up track at 17, an age deemed by many to be too late to make an impact in the sport. He did not break 50 seconds in the 400-meter dash until he was 19. Not until he was 24 did he break 47 seconds. And only at age 27 did he break 45 seconds and win the silver medal in the men’s 4 × 400 meters relay at the 2018 IAAF World Indoor Championships in England. Now he can add that he is a member of the U.S.A. track and field team. While a student at CCNY, he earned the title of 2011 NCAA All-American, held an over 3.5 GPA in advertising and public relations, and engaged himself in countless volunteering activities.

Princewill Umeh ’14 has already demonstrated qualities that mark him as a DWC notable alumnus. Graduating from Clinton, he was awarded a Gates Millennium Scholarship. He is a recent graduate from American University, which included a year at the London School of Economics, and currently works as a business manager in the Global Corporate Banking business at JP Morgan. He is a man of character whose trials in his youth predict his future. For the Spring 2014 Magpie, he wrote of the tortures of going to school in Nigeria. “Although life at Command Secondary School injured me emotionally, and physically, I was strong like eagles soaring upwards on their wings. I learned self-discipline and a sense of duty, along with an inner strength that helped me resist the urge to hate my tormentors.”

Manuela Espinoza ’20 left this life too early, passing away on May 12, 2020 from Covid-19. She was awarded her diploma on June 27 because she was passing all of her last term classes and had fulfilled all other requirements. Her family said that she loved school. Espinoza would have been the first member of her family to attend college. Having been accepted to 20 colleges, she planned to be a social worker or lawyer to help kids. She has earned her place as a DWC notable alumna.

Nine Past Notable Entries in Their Youth
(from left, top down)
Class of 1919 -- Page 13 -- Prolific composer
Class of 1921 -- Page 14 -- 49 days old future U. S. House Rep
Class of 1931 -- Page 20 -- Scored Psycho, Vertigo
Class of 1935 -- Page 24 -- Pride of Syracuse
Class of 1937 -- Page 26 -- A doctor with a heart
Class of 1939 -- Page 30 -- Excelsior!
Class of 1944 -- Page 38 -- The story of life through humor
Class of 1957 -- Page 47 -- The eye for style
Class of 1999 -- Page 65 -- Madame President

Further Reading

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