



Founded 1913

**THE**

# Clinton News

DEWITT CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL, BRONX, NEW YORK

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Wednesday, June 3, 2015

## Gates Millennium Scholar Named

By Robert Mohammed '15

Vidur Beharry has done it. He has won the coveted Gates Millennium Scholarship which will pay for his education through a doctorate. Only 1000 seniors in the country are given this honor so they need to prove worthy. In Vidur's case, he is.



Vidur Beharry

The application process itself was intimidating. Vidur had to respond to a personal information form, find an adult to evaluate his academics on a nominator form, and another sponsor to reply to inquiries about his leadership abilities. Each step required attention to detail and many hours of work. Additionally, Vidur had to prove financial need.

After coming in as a semi-finalist for the prestigious New York Times Scholarship, (Continued on page 3)

## Two Seniors to Hamilton College

By Lauren Waldron '15



Kaygon Finakin



Delgado Corcoran

The prestigious Hamilton College, founded in 1793, located in Clinton, NY, has accepted two DWC class of 2015 students! Congratulations to Kaygon Finakin and Delgado Corcoran, both aspiring writers, for this excellent opportunity to continue their studies.

Both students were on the verge of accepting other placements when their acceptance and financial packages came through.

"I was prepared to go to Bard," said Kaygon, who had a cousin graduate for Hamilton in 2012, "but when I got this offer and saw that Hamilton is (Continued on page 3)

## Writers Win Awards at 92nd St Y

By Oliver Martinez '15



Helina Owusu-Sekyere (photo left) and her poem "This is Who I Am" took top honors in the Ruth and Burt Schelsinger Award for Poetry contest and the \$1000 prize. The poem was judged and chosen by the distinguished (Continued on page 5)

## DWC Celebrates Unity in the Community

### Principal Taveras Reports on a Unique Day in the Life of DeWitt Clinton High School

On Saturday April 24, over 800 people attended the first annual Unity in Our Community event at DWCHS. During the assembly, which took place in the DWC auditorium, we honored those members of our community that help and support us to make our school a wonderful place in which to learn. These included representatives from the Mayor's Office, NYCDOE, Councilman Cohen, Good Shepherd, Sports and Arts Foundation, Montefiore Hospital, School Safety Agents, Community Businesses, the NY Jets, Custodians and many more.



Principal Taveras

Outside on the field we had a BBQ, Mr. Softee ice-cream, face painting, seven bouncy games, football, soccer, volleyball and basketball clinics, workshops for parents and over 30 information tables with representation from colleges, health providers, our own SLCs and other community based organizations. The tables were set up around the outside of the gym building providing information to our parents and students. It was beautiful to see parents, grandparents and extended families enjoy a beautiful day at the Castle on the Parkway.

We ended the day by holding a free raffle. We gave away \$400.00 worth of gift cards to Stop & Shop and Modell's.

(Continued on page 3)



To view images from this fabulous day, go to the following link: <https://vimeo.com/user18951076/videos>



## Palazzo Strozzi Renaissance Awards Bring 2 Students to Italy for a Month

By William Perez '15



Ashudur Omith and Jasmine Sinkler

Spending Christmas break reading about the Italian Renaissance and writing an essay about Machiavelli's influence has paid off for two members of our junior class. Jasmine Sinkler and Ashudur Omith will be heading to Florence, Italy, with the Palazzo Strozzi Foundation at the beginning of July.

"The selection was difficult because DWC had such strong candidates this year. But we can only take two from each participating school," Bill Higgins from the foundation reported.

So after submitting essays, which were proof read by Mrs. Neary and Mr. Quinn in the English Department, six brave students waited for a chance to be interviewed in person.

From those interviews Jasmine (Continued on page 6)

## Health Occupations SLC Fair Held May 28 in Gym 3

The Health Occupations S.L.C. prepares students for careers in the health field. The program has been developed with an emphasis on college and career preparation with a rigorous curriculum.

To help students learn about college and career opportunities, the SLC held a fair in Gym 3 on May 28. Students had the chance to meet representatives from various schools, health careers and even the NYFD.

Every student in the Health Occupations S.L.C. is special and the S.L.C.'s mission is to create a more personalized learning environment that will best meet the needs of a diverse student population. The Health Occupations students discover their full potential through the health and animal care service curriculum that is aligned with their talents and goals.



Today's Health Occupations students are tomorrow's doctors, veterinarians, nurses, and other health professionals.



## Boys Basketball Reflects on a Terrific Season

By Elijah Brown '16

The DeWitt Clinton boys' basketball team finished off a terrific year at 22-7 with a 15-1 conference record, first place in their league. The team bowed out of the city-wide play-offs in the quarterfinal round against Bedford Academy from Brooklyn. With just seconds left, Clinton was up by one, but then a highly controversial foul call allowed the opponent to shoot three free throws with one second on the clock. The player made all three shots giving Bedford a 54-52 victory, ending an incredibly successful campaign for first year coach Chris Ballerini.

DeWitt Clinton was led this season by their guard play of Ignacio Matias and Muhamed (Mo) Toure, both seniors. Matias had a flair for the dramatic by hitting three game-winning shots for the Governors throughout the season. The most celebrated of the three was a steal at mid-court followed by a lay-up at the buzzer in a tied game against league rival Holcombe Rucker High School. This play sent Gym 3 into pandemonium as the crowd rushed the court in celebration.

Mo Toure was the team leader and was the (Continued on page 8)

### What You Will Find Inside

Page 2 Editorials; commentary from Kishan Singh '09, former *Clinton News* editor-in-chief  
Page 3 Valedictorian! Salutatorian! Laudatorian!; enjoying International Celebration Day  
Page 4 Alumni dinner honors first "alumna"; celebrating Homecoming Day

Page 5 2015 *Magpie* published; have you visited the new school Web site yet?  
Page 6 How to...write a resume, pass a road test, tie a bow tie, advance your goals  
Page 7 Theatre reviews: the best way to write a play; Random House writing awards  
Page 8 Spotlighting Coach Omar Osario and flag football; other sports, get ready for football



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**DeWitt C-L-I-N-T-O-N Boom!**

Clinton, oh Clinton, ever to thee,  
 Fairest of high schools  
 Give her three times three, oh students!  
 Long may we cherish thee,  
 Faithful we'll be,  
 Clin-ton, oh Clin-ton,  
 For you and me!

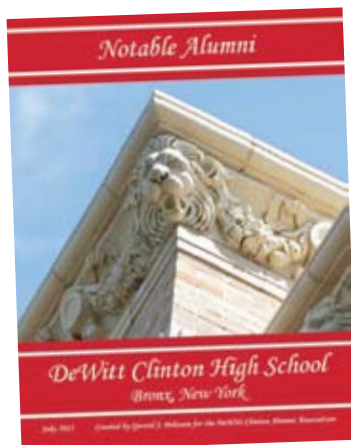


**DeWitt Clinton**

March 2, 1769 - February 11, 1828

United States Senator,  
 New York City Mayor,  
 New York State Governor,  
 Established the New York City  
 Public School System

Thirty counties and municipalities  
 are named for DeWitt Clinton



The July 2015 edition of the DWC Notable Alumni Booklet will be available for downloading from [www.dewittclintonalumni.com](http://www.dewittclintonalumni.com) on July 1.

**Nothing Is Accomplished Without Hard Work**

By Robert Mohammed '15

Many students from DeWitt Clinton High School have dreams and goals they want to achieve in the near future. Ours is a school with the greatest alumni, such as Ralph Lauren and Tracy Morgan, and we will have more.

Lauren Waldron, class of 2015, wants to pursue business in college and become a financial accountant. A financial cost accountant earns an average salary of \$51,100 yearly- not including bonuses or benefits. If you have no knowledge about this type of employment, a financial cost accountant deals with companies' business assets. So lets say you work for the New York Yankees, you would be in charge of maintaining the Yankees products, their profit and make sure they are profitable over prolonged periods of time. Lauren plans on reaching this goal by being dedicated to her work. "I want to be 100 percent focused on my work", she said. After pursuing this career, Lauren then plans to invest her earnings into real- estate "such as buildings, condos and apartments." A great goal and achievable for hardworking Lauren.

Another student, Ali Albadhi, aspires to be a pharmacist after college and grad school. He says he "plans to endeavor in his studies and own a pharmaceutical company down the road."

If you plan on working your way up, hard work will be absolutely necessary. But students of DeWitt Clinton High School will be successful. Because we know Sine Labor Nihil- "Nothing is accomplished without hard work."

**DWC: A Life Changing Institution**

By Kishan Singh '09, former *Clinton News* editor-in chief

Ten years ago on a bright September morning the trees had begun to turn, the birds were chirping, and atmosphere was pleasant. It was a new beginning for a student who felt naked and afraid to embark on a new journey.

The shy, heavy-set student who could have easily been mistaken for Josh Peck from the 2004 sitcom, *Drake & Josh*, anxiously walked into a grand high school building located at Mosholu Parkway in the Bronx.

Something felt unusual as he entered.

The halls in this building were different than any other educational institution the student had attended in the past. The halls conveyed stories, fascinating stories.

There were the stories of underprivileged minorities. There were stories of the academically talented. There were stories of athletes. All of these people had one thing in common---they entered through the doors of DeWitt Clinton High School and were destined for greatness.

DeWitt Clinton High School has been in my life for almost a decade. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that a school would influence my life the way Clinton did.

It was because of Clinton that I went from being a tubby kid afraid of voicing his opinions to a young adult never afraid to speak up for what he believes in. It was because of Clinton that I developed a profound love of media and journalism.

And it was because of Clinton that I strive everyday to serve causes greater than myself.

There is a quote that reads, "In some way, big or small, you are who you are because you attended DeWitt Clinton High School. Let your hearts remain proud of Clinton."

This certainly rings true to me.

**Emmy Winner Danny Schechter '60 Dies**  
**Filmmaker Was Clinton News Editor-in Chief**



Danny Schechter passed away March 19, 2015 from pancreatic cancer. Both he and his brother Bill '64 were editors-in-chief of the *Clinton News*.

Danny Schechter won two Emmys for producing news stories for ABC News on his way to becoming the "conscience of human-rights journalism." He produced many books and documentaries that focused on the need for equal justice for all. He was one of the first journalists to report on Nelson Mandela's efforts to end apartheid in South Africa. In 2013, he released *DWC High: How a School Can Teach Us All*, a film that was a call to arms to rouse people against the forces that were sacrificing Clinton to benefit newly created small schools. He loved life, his family and DWC.

*I never learned anything worthwhile from a person who agreed with me.*

-- Dudley Field Malone, DWC class of 1901

The *Clinton News* welcomes your response to the opinions below. As space permits, your views will be published in the next issue. Submit to Mrs. Neary, faculty advisor, in writing or through email at [annneary@aol.com](mailto:annneary@aol.com).

**Say What? Renewal School? Community School?**

By Lauren Waldron '15

In November 2014, Mayor deBlasio pledged that the city would spend \$150 million to help 94 struggling schools under a program called Renewal Schools. DWC is one of those schools. What does that mean?

According to the DOE website, The School Renewal Program is a call to action. The NYCDOE will work intensively with each Renewal School community over the next three years, setting clear goals and—with support from Central—holding each school community accountable for rapid improvement.:

Key elements of the plan include:

1. Transforming Renewal Schools into Community Schools, with deepened support from and for families and community partners. Partnerships with community-based organizations will enable these schools to offer tailored whole-student supports, including mental health services and after-school programs.
2. Creating extended learning time – an extra hour added to the school day to give all students additional instructional time.
3. Supplying resources and supports to ensure effective school leadership and rigorous instruction with collaborative teachers.
4. Performing school needs assessments across all six elements of the Framework for Great Schools (rigorous instruction, collaborative teachers, supportive environment, effective school leadership, strong family-community ties, and trust) to identify key areas for additional resources.
5. Bringing increased oversight and accountability including strict goals and clear consequences for schools that do not meet them.

We all need to work together to make our school the school of choice for families in the Bronx.

**Social Media-Good or Evil?**

By Jhevaughn Simmonds '15

Social media plays a big part in our lives in today's world since technology is growing at a rapid rate. Students who attempt to multi-task: checking social media sites while studying show reduced academic performance. Their ability to concentrate on their work has gone down due to the distractions that are brought about by YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, etc. The more time students spend on social sites the less time they spend socializing in person. Students who spend a great deal of time on social networking are less able to effectively communicate in person (seomworld.com). The popularity of social media and the speed at which information is being spread has created a different view towards proper spelling and grammar. Kids start to abbreviate words and can't text without having to rely on spell check.

Another big problem that comes from kids communicating more online is that it has gotten easier to be cruel. Cyber bullying is a form of bullying that is done through social media or any messaging website. Examples of cyberbullying include mean text messages or emails, terrible rumors, threats, embarrassing pictures, videos, websites or fake profiles. Also, another danger that comes with social media is stalking. Kids update their statuses, share what they're watching, listening to, and reading and have apps that let their friends know their specific location on a map at all times. With this information at the click of a mouse, it has become more dangerous for everyone, especially kids and young adults.

However, in many cases because of social media some people have flourished. Talents get discovered faster than in the past, students who are good at programming get their name out there more easily, students who are good in music get their video out.

On page 5, check out how to use the new school Web site.



Now you can follow all the action at DeWitt Clinton on social media!

Facebook- [ichooselinton](https://www.facebook.com/DWCAlumniAssociation)

Instagram- [#ichooselinton](https://www.instagram.com/DWCAlumniAssociation)



For fun, see what past Clintonites are saying about DWC.

Go to [www.facebook.com/DWCAlumniAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/DWCAlumniAssociation) or follow the fun with Instagram [@DWCAlumniAssociation](https://www.instagram.com/DWCAlumniAssociation)

You can also visit the DWC Alumni Association Web site at [www.dewittclintonalumni.com](http://www.dewittclintonalumni.com)



## Valedictorian! Salutatorian! Laudatorian! Ready to Speak *to* and *for* the Class of 2015!

By Robert Mohammed '15



Yancarlos Diaz



Jejomar Ysit



Bright Aglamey

Yancarlos Diaz's quiet demeanor belies his dedication to his scholarly and musical pursuits. Unassuming and humble, Yancarlos might have missed your attention but not that of his teachers who always find him engaged and eager to learn. They took notice in 9th grade and he never once disappointed. His grade point average of 98.96 tells only part of the story. For Yancarlos also plays on the volleyball team and will be playing his trumpet in the school concert this month.

Yancarlos will make DWC proud as he pursues computer science at Rochester Institute of Technology and will be an alum welcomed back often!

To hear Jejomar Ysit tell it, freshman year was just seconds ago. He remembers well what he anticipated high school would be like. And he remembers equally well what it really was. It was not Glee or Disney. It was real and it was hard and it was worth the struggles to find a home with such diver-

sity among the student body.

Jejomar is successful at all his undertakings. He makes videos like a pro, he is an active member of Arista, and he volunteers at the Whitney Museum of Art, all while maintaining a grade point average of 96.37. And he never stops smiling. His winning work ethic and personality will stand him well next year at Wesleyan College. His biggest concern at graduation? Getting you all to listen!

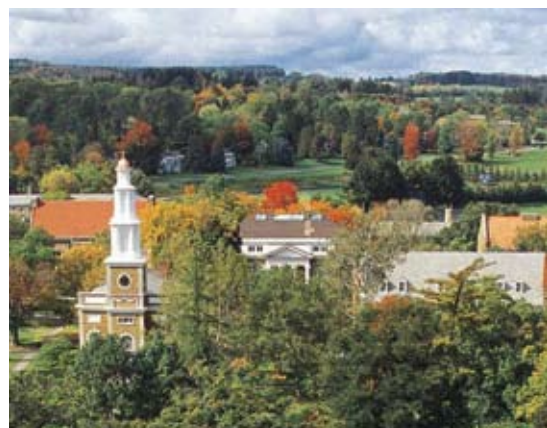
For Bright Aglamey, coming from Africa was not as scary as facing so many students who were just "not that friendly" in grade 9. She learned to navigate the hallways and the toughness and came to realize by the time that she was a senior that she "really does love DWC." As an award for her efforts and strong academic achievements, Bright will be the speaker at Seniors Award night June 10th. Her story is one that will ring true with many and will be told in her soft voice, true to her heritage.

(continued from page 1)

### Two Seniors Heading to Prestigious Hamilton College

ranked in the top 40 colleges in the US, I jumped at the offer." Delgado actually had paid his deposit at SUNY Purchase when he got word that his first choice was offering him a full scholarship. "I could not believe it when they contacted me," said Delgado. "I had already gone to Accepted Student Day at Purchase, but I am so excited to be going to Hamilton. I went to see the campus and fell in love with everything about the college."

Both will have time to hone the writing skills developed over their time at DWC and through personal interest. Kaygon spent last summer at Princeton as part of the summer journalism institute



Part of the lovely campus of Hamilton College

and Delgado recently won second prize in the 92nd St Y's prose contest (See article on page 1).

(continued from page 1)

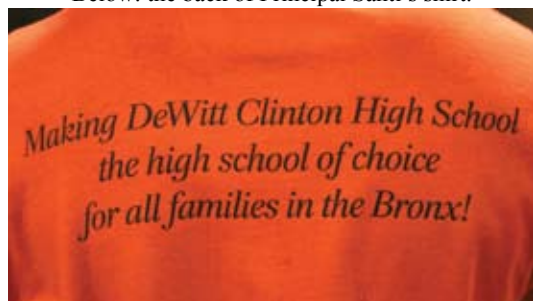
### DWC Celebrates Unity in the Community

Thank you to all of the staff members who came to the school with their family and thank you to those staff members that came in to support the smooth running of the event. Thank you to all of the people on the planning committee for making this event a tremendous success.

We continue to work hard to make DWC the high school of choice for all families in the Bronx.



Below: the back of Principal Santi's shirt.



### From the Principal

I recently had a visit from Alfred Floegel, who lives in Florida and is over 80 years of age. His father was Alfred Floegel Sr., the artist who painted the murals outside of the library between 1934 and 1940. Alfred remembers his father talking about this beautiful mural he painted for a high school in the Bronx. Alfred came to NYC from Florida just to get a chance to see the painting his father was so proud of. As he walked the halls and ascended to the third floor, I could see Alfred's joy as he anticipated seeing the murals. As I walked Alfred to the 4 train I could almost see him walking a little taller as the pride of seeing his father's work in person elevated him to new heights.



Principal Taveras

A few weeks before that, I received a call from Rear Admiral Kevin Scott, a 1977 graduate of DWCHS. As one of the highest ranking African Americans in the U. S. armed forces, he is part of the President's Joint Chiefs of Staff. We spoke on the phone for about 30 minutes. He called because he heard of the wonderful things we are doing at the school and because he would like to reconnect. He talked about how he wants to return to DWC and give back to the school that gave him so much. I could feel his passion, love and pride for alma mater as we spoke and then when we met at homecoming.

I have been at DWCHS for nearly 2 years. One of the things that I have noticed and that has impressed me the most is the pride I see and feel whenever I speak or meet former graduates of our school. The two stories I shared above are examples of how proud people are to be part of this historic school.

I want you to show your pride by wearing red & black every Friday. Sine Labore Nihil - Nothing is accomplished without hard work

### International Day Celebration May 29



From its opening day in 1897, DeWitt Clinton High School has always valued the rich diversity of its staff and student body, which have come from at least 77 countries. On May 29, DWC threw itself a party to celebrate all the different peoples of planet Earth that currently abide in the Castle on the Parkway.

(continued from page 1)

### Gates Millennium Scholar Named

Vidur knew nothing was a given. But he persevered and got all his paperwork in-even if it meant late nights. Because not only does Vidur work after school but he volunteers and gets his honors class homework assignments in on time. "You need to take ownership of your own future. Nobody can do that for you," he says.

"The email arrived on April 20, 2015. The package with all the official documentation arrived a few days later. As I opened the email and saw the headline "CONGRATULATIONS" poking out among the rest of my emails, awe overcame me. I couldn't believe that I had actually won! I immediately felt blessed."

After his initial shock at winning, Vidur traveled to Williams College to see the campus. He was treated well and loved his visit. But Princeton won out as his academic home for the next four years because of the breadth of classes offered and the opportunity to take a semester overseas.

"I chose Princeton for the little things. After all, Princeton and Williams were both schools with great academics, and great reputations. Princeton had better food, a larger alumni network, more study abroad opportunities, and a larger undergraduate size with the same family-like feel that Williams provided. These aspects are important to me, and the choice became obvious."

"I have every confidence that Vidur will be very successful at Princeton", said Mrs. Neary his AP Literature teacher. "He is up to the challenges that Princeton will afford him."

Interested students should know that the Gates Millennium Scholarship (GMS) was established in 1999 to allow high performing/ low income students to attend selective private and public colleges without concern for finances. The applications for 2016 will be available 8/1/2015 at [www.gms.org](http://www.gms.org).



## 118th Alumni Dinner Makes History First Woman Named Distinguished Alumna



Sam Gross '50



Larry Schachner '78



Anika Khan '90

The glass ceiling was broken at the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Dinner on May 21, held at the Marina Del Rey in the Bronx. No one was hurt. Just the opposite. For the first time in Association history, a Clinton graduate was given the "Distinguished Alumna" Award. Yes, finally a woman! The honor went to Anika (Randall) Khan '90, who is a director and senior economist with Wells Fargo in Charlotte, N.C. Her commentary frequently appears in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, and *USA Today*.

A second honoree was Larry Schachner '78, who serves as New York State Supreme Court justice, 12th Judicial District, Bronx County. In addition to his outstanding record on the bench, Judge Schachner has always been available to visit the school and assist present-day students.

The third honoree graduated 65 years ago but is still proud to call himself a Clinton man. Sam Gross '50 is a world-renowned cartoonist, whose creations have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Good Housekeeping*.

Reggie Grier '46, coming from Washington DC, was again the "last man standing," in other words, the oldest person in the room. Thank you Orlando Rao '73 for the photos.



Retired faculty Gerard Pelisson Hon.'03 and honoree Sam Gross '50



Alumni board members Ivette Terry '95, Kishan Singh '09 and Orlando Rao '73



From left: standing, Chris Bryant '90, Anika Khan '90, Cornel Johnson '79, Donna Smith '90, Yusef Burgess '90; sitting: Marlon Dunbar '90, Nyesha Abdul-Samaad '90, Kerry L. Tillett '90.

## HOMEcoming 2015

By Lauren Waldron '15

On May 22, 2015, alumni took the occasion of homecoming day to return to DWC. All had different experiences after high school. Some went to college and some went on to a job. Some went into the military. But they all had one thing in common: enough affection for and fond memories of their high school years to come back.

For Abigail Clarke, class of 2014 Macy Honors program, returning was a matter of curiosity. She is attending College of Mount Vincent with a nursing major. "My teenage years were impacted significantly by DWC. It transformed my life and prepared me for college and also the real world. The honor and AP classes allowed me to get a peek at the rigor of college classes. DWC will always be my alma mater and I'm sad that the school downsized and more than one school is occupying the building."

Stephanie Munoz and Josselyn Lopez, also the class of '14, visited their former A.P. Lit class and had this advice to students heading to college, "Stay on top of your

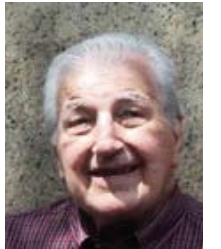
work. Professors will not remind you when assignments are due. They do not treat you as children. If you don't get the work in on time, you suffer the consequences."

Yanitza Perez added, "I have a professor who tells us the paper must be in his basket before he enters the class or it is considered late. The penalty is a full drop in the grade. You better believe I RUN to class...early so my work will be graded based on merit."

Jasely Molina '14, who attends Plattsburg, reflected on her freshman year with joy. "There is so much to know and experience. Take everything you can. I have a major in journalism and two minors in language. I am learning French."

Current students love this day. They see how everyone is doing, what it is like to be out in the world and they value the lessons learned by former DWC graduates. Jason Parsuram said, "It's so interesting to hear about their first year of college and what's it like to be a freshman because I will be one in September."

**A** Dolph Schayes '45 was enshrined on the Bronx Walk of Fame on May 10 as part of the Bronx Week 2015 festivities. He is a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame and was voted one of the fifty greatest players in NBA history. A 12-time All-Star he was a member of the 1955 NBA champion Syracuse Nationals, where he played most of his professional career. And yes, he played for the Governors.



**N** 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. Now retired, he says he misses the job.



**W** Lernice Henry D. O. '89 was named in March to head the first pediatrics department of the Horizon Family Medical Group, which has 110 providers and 38 offices throughout Orange County, NY. Dr. Henry is a graduate of the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her residency at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center in the Bronx.



**K** Kimanie Farquharson '07 was accepted to Harvard Business School in 2013 for his MBA, after having graduated from Fordham University with a bachelor's degree in marketing and finance. But when the chance to be a model came his way, he took off down the runway. When not posing for magazine spreads, he is a commercial business manager for the North-western Mutual Financing Group in New York.



## A Trip Down Memory Lane from the 1949-50 Clinton News

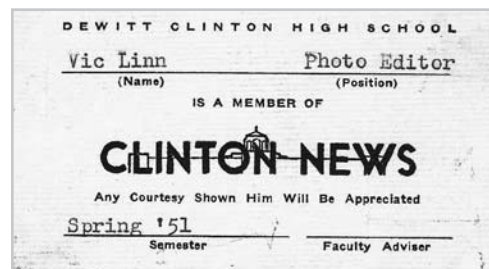


1949, the very first photograph I ever had printed showing the '49 senior class president and Principal Walter J. Degnan planting a tree at the northeast corner of the campus. That twig is still there today, but now it is a huge tree.

Victor Linn, class of 1951, has sent us some photographs he took as a student/sports photographer for the *Clinton News*. Under each photo is Linn's description of what is happening in the photo.



1950, of all my pictures, this is my absolute favorite sports photograph. The player going up for a layup was Bob Logan who was capable of jumping so high, we joked about his having springs instead of legs. The photo was taken in gym 3 with all the watching kids sitting on the elevated track.



Newsman Victor Linn today



1950, a photo from the Curtis game played in Staten Island. It shows the Clinton receiver, Larry Applebaum, in white about to catch the ball.



# 2015 Magpie Pays Tribute to Clinton's Writers, Artists and Athletes

## Begun in 1903, The Student Publication Still Brings a Wow



The Spring 2015 *Magpie* magazine has just been published. Begun in 1903, the student literary and art magazine has been the "launching pad" for some of the greatest poets, writers, and artists in American history.

Many historians say that the Harlem Renaissance began in 1922 when the *Magpie* published the poem "I Have a Rendez-vous with Life," written by Countee Cullen '23. Harold Michelson '37, the scenic de-

signer for the first *Star Trek* movie in 1977, first drew sketches for the *Magpie*. Famed authors Paul Gallico, Paddy Chayefsky, Sol Stein, and James Baldwin wrote for the *Magpie*. Who can forget the art work of Aaron Thompson and Tuyen Tran, both of the 2010 class?

In the 1910s and 1920s, the *Magpie* also reported on Clinton's sports teams. This year's issue follows up on that tradition with six pages of photographs of most of

Clinton's current teams.

Of course, in the 40-page issue you can find many examples of student writing (poetry, short story, play, essay) and art.

Download the *Magpie* in color from the school Web site at [www.dwchs.net](http://www.dwchs.net). Or buy a hard copy from the magazine's faculty advisor, Mrs. Ann Neary, for \$5.00. That would make you a supporter of the 113-year-old *Magpie* magazine.

(continued from page 1)

### Writers Win Awards at 92nd St Y

writer Yiyun Li from among the multitudes of student work from across New York City. Receiving the news, Helina broke into a wider grin than her usual and asked, "Really? Me?" She added, "This is an amazing honor that I could not be more proud of." Her poem follows.

Then there is Delgado Corcoran. After winning second place in the Martin Gardy Award contest for prose for his piece titled "Carpe Diem" and a \$400 prize, he had this to say, "Writing has always been a pastime, something that brought me joy. I am honored that someone else

"Positivity is not only a belief, it's also a state of mind" which make me a winner that I will always be proud of.

**THIS IS WHO I AM**  
 Helina  
 She has Chocolate skin  
 The color of soil  
 Her hair is sable black  
 With an inky resemblance to oil  
 When she smile's  
 Happiness and joy are the first words to come to mind  
 After she laughs  
 Anyone around is inclined to respond in kind.  
 Her appearance in the mirror  
 Reflects confidence, courage, and determination  
 She is proud of who she is and where she's going  
 This pride comes from a great nation

Across the ocean and over the trees  
 This was where she found the land of opportunity  
 She is from a town where options were few  
 The home her father built was nestled in the morning dews  
 The dirt roads were full of walking people only  
 No cars or signs from the city  
 This was her home, the land she loved  
 Her heart belongs to the village of Kumasi  
 This girl who has chocolate skin and sable hair  
 Has a joyful smile and a prideful heart  
 She is Helina  
 I am Helina  
 This is who I am

I am the quiet student  
 Who speaks only when I have something to say  
 I am the dutiful daughter  
 Who cares for her family each and every day  
 My strength, I was born with  
 Wisdom, I was instilled with  
 Knowledge, I acquired from many books  
 And the people I went to school with  
 This is me  
 And I cannot change who I am  
 From my looks to my personality,  
 To my majestic homeland

Ghana, the land of gold  
 makes me proud to call it home  
 Though I live on a foreign land  
 Have foreign tastes, and foreign clothes  
 I will never forget where I'm from,  
 Ghana will follow me wherever I go.

finds it of value or merit. I thank Wendy Salinger (coordinator for The Poetry Center Schools Project at the 92nd St Y) and Mrs. Neary for believing in me."

Delgado's piece is a fictional tale from the point of view of a deceased man.

At a reception held on Thursday May 21 at the 92nd St Y, Helina and Delgado met the founders and sponsors of their awards. It was clear from the conversations that Mrs. Schelsinger and Mrs. Gardy had read



A proud family, from left to right: Kwadwo Owusu-Sekyere (father), Helina Owusu-Sekyere, Diana Ankomah (mother) and Jennifer Owusu-Sekyere (sister)



Delgado Corcoran

each piece. They were delighted to see such fine writing from our students and suggested a reunion next year-same time-same place-to see how their freshman year of college went.

## Visit the NET Yet?

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**DeWitt Clinton H.S.**  
The High School of Choice  
DeWitt Clinton High School offers students a wide variety of rigorous courses as well as a large number of sports teams and clubs. Traditional pep rallies, homecoming, dances, and other exciting programs and events engage all of our students in building school pride. The new small...

**Principal "Santi"**  
Current Principal of DWCHS  
In his second year as principal of DeWitt Clinton High School, former Deputy Chancellor Santiago (Santi) Taveras was born and raised in the Bronx. Santi moved to the Dominican Republic when he was 3 years old and lived there for 7 years before returning to New York City, where...

**DWCHS in the past**  
Countless years of Rich History  
DeWitt Clinton High School was founded in 1897 as an all-boys school in Manhattan. DWCHS moved to its current location in 1929. The school is located at 100 West Moshulu Parkway South near Lehman College and the reservoir. The 26 acres host the school's natural turf football...





## Broadway League Internship Selects Two Clintonites for Week-Long Program

By Lauren Waldron '15

Selected from an applicant pool of hundreds of high school students, Christopher Campbell and Gabriel Ortega spent a week with a theatre program that allowed them backstage at such famous shows as *Matilda* and *Jersey Boys*.

They shadowed back stage personnel integral to any theatre production. They met directors, marketers, graphic designers and costume designers and realized everyone is part of the team. "Everyone is important to making a show work," said Christopher.

They were taken to the Shubert Theatre and shown the secret box where Shubert would sit and watch his wife. "If she overacted, he would wave a white handkerchief out the box to make her stop," explained Gabriel. Gabriel was also able to hold a Tony award (photo).

They also saw previews of costume designs for shows that have not even opened. Gabriel remembers seeing teacup costumes that would be suitable for *Beauty and the Beast*, for instance.

Neither one had a particular interest in the theatre until their teacher, Miss Burke-Soalle, recommended they try the program. Now they are hooked. "There are so many aspects of theatre that people never think of, from the business part and financing a show to the lighting...it's amazing and full of possibilities," said Christopher.

Both recommend that students apply next year because it was so memorable for them. Not only did they learn a lot about theatre but they got to see shows and loved them. They are planning more trips to the theatre on their own now!



Christopher Campbell



Gabriel Ortega with a Tony Award

## Three Honorable Mentions in the Random House Creative Writing Awards:

Zain Khalid, Memoir, *The Unforgettable Memory of MY Life*

Jordan Padilla, Fiction, *The Home Front*

Helina Owuso-Sekyere, Drama, *Play*

## Blood Wedding :

### A Wonderful and Unforgettable Experience

By Raul Guillen '15

"Acting is easy." Or so I was told every time I mentioned I would be playing the role of the groom in the play *Blood Wedding* by Federico Garcia Lorca. Dr. Teonilda Madera, our director, worked hard with each one of us so that we could reincarnate our characters. That's when I realized that acting took more than just memorizing lines. It was a commitment for all the members of the play. We were responsible to bring to life the writings of a man whose predisposition was to open the eyes of a very conservative, unfairly indoctrinated and violent society. And what we kept in mind was the positive messages Lorca wanted to emanate to the audience.

The play itself is very interesting, but I was also struck by how well those who seemed cast out of character did in their roles. Justin Jimenez--a really nice guy--played Leonardo's son, an oppressive man full of anger, and Justin did it in a way nobody else could have. Every actor did an amazing job.

Many of us learned about life and ourselves by working on this. I learned about commitment. It is amazing to have people so devoted to a commitment as Dr. Madera is. With the support of Principal Santi Taveras and a group of Spanish class actors, we set up a show that nobody will forget.

Many teachers came to watch too. Dr. Julio Saint Surin in his letter to the class wrote, "The play was fantastic, lovely and well-crafted. It gave me hope that one day love will be our anthem, forgiveness our flag, and tolerance our foundation. Thank you Dr. Madera for a job well done. Thanks also to your amazing Spanish class and Jejomar for this unforgettable night. I am proud to be a "Clintonite."



Dr. Teonilda Madera

## Kinky Boots

Play Review

By Alpha Velez '15

"Red is the color of Sex. Sexxxxxxxx."

Inspired by true events, this musical has all the ups and downs of real life: serious dilemmas, humorous situations, friendship, and passion. It is captivating!

It retells the story of Charlie Price, pressured to save the family shoe business. His unusual new friend, Lola, a fabulous drag queen, offers a creative if not outrageous idea that will save both the company and Lola's future. It's all about the footwear.

The stage set was simple yet ingeniously conceived. In one musical number, Lola and the other drag queens dance on the shoe factory line while pulling apart and adjusting the stage as they went; it was pure genius. The audience was mesmerized.

It is a story about finding friendship and inspiration where you least expect it and it proves that you can change the world by changing your mind.

Go see it at the Hirschfeld Theatre 302 West 45th Street. In fact, go first to the TICKETS booth in Times Square for student discount tickets.

Written by Harvey Fierstein  
with music by Cyndi Lauper



## A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder

Play Review

By Alpha Velez '15

2014 Tony Award winner written by Robert L. Freedman

with music by Steven Lutvak

O.M.G!!!Amazing!!!Fabulous!

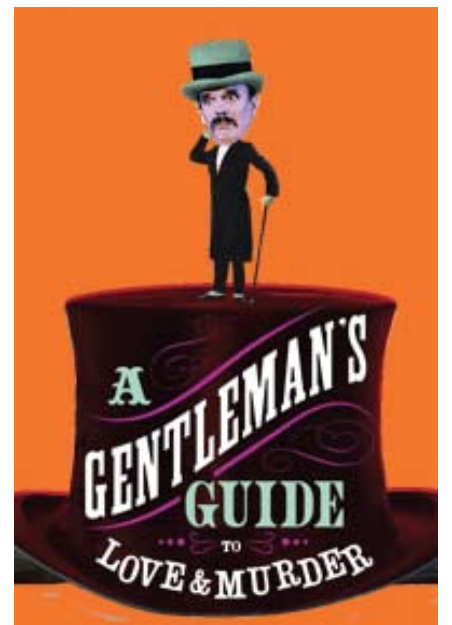
I love musicals, but this one is amazingly witty, clever, well organized, and brilliantly cast. The storyline is phenomenal, the actors left me speechless, the costumes took me back in time; overall I loved every minute I spent in that seat.

"Stop! Wait! What?"

The music you ask? Well it was transformational, made me kind of sad because of my lack of talent in that department. The song "Why are all the D'Ysquiths dying?" was one of my favorites because the increasingly shrinking family is together at funerals all the time and complaining about always having to wear black. Someone is killing off the family to inherit the wealth!

Jefferson Mays plays eight doomed characters and never once were they the same. It wouldn't be the same show without his skills. Jeff Kready, as Monty, transitions from love struck and in mourning for his mother, to murder. I enjoyed his character's cleverness in never getting his hands dirty, and his inventiveness in creating the "accidents" that led to many D'ysquith's deaths. He killed with a perpetual smile.

Go. Go now to the TDF TICKETS box office in Times Square and get your tickets to see this show! Walter Kerr Theatre 219 West 48th St.



## Between Riverside and Crazy

Play Review

By Andru Anderson '15

Written by Stephen Adly Guiris

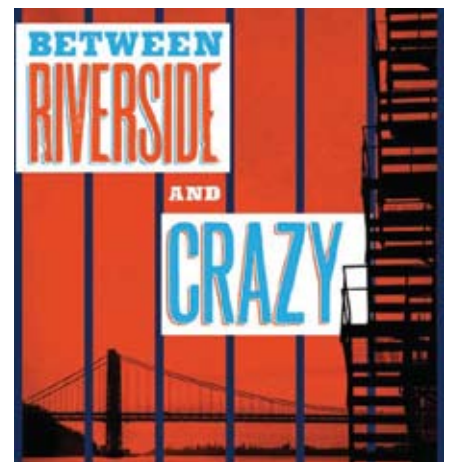
Winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama

The story is about a tough, retired African-American NYC police officer still bent on receiving justice from a long ago lawsuit against the city. He is also facing eviction from his rent controlled apartment, has a son recently released from jail, harbors his son's drug addicted pal as well as the son's not too bright, sometimes girlfriend. Phew! And his long suffering wife recently died.

Emotions run from pity to affection for each and every character and the church lady "sex" scene is hysterical.

It's a play worthy of the coveted Pulitzer. Sadly, it has closed in NYC but keep your eyes peeled for any play by this playwright! Well worth watching his work.

We thank the Second Stage Theatre for inviting us to these events.



## Which Is the Best Way to Learn a Play?

By Jocelyn Bautista '15

As an experiment, the Journalism class accepted a challenge from Michele Cobb at LATW (LA Theatre Works) in LA. LATW produces audio versions of plays and other works of literature recorded by famous television and performing artists. They asked willing teachers in NYC to "test" their work to see if it would be helpful for learning.

Mrs. Neary searched the extensive library of offerings and selected *Broadway Bound*, a play by Neil Simon, a DWC alum. Students researched Neil Simon first to become acquainted with his life and work. We learned that the play we would hear was part of a trilogy about two brothers (the Jeromes) returning from war and trying to make it big on radio.

Our other discoveries?

Neil Simon's work is hysterically funny and not dated at all. Sometimes we missed a reference to a radio personality (Mrs. Neary told us they were

referring to real people) but generally we had good understanding. As we listened, we took notes about each character and asked questions as if we were going to interview them for the newspaper. Sometimes our questions were answered the next day as we listened further.

One thing we noticed was that because the Jerome brothers were trying to write a radio show skit in the play, they laid out the rules for playwrighting for us: it must have characters with wants, there must be a conflict between the characters, there must be rising tension (the dramatic arc) and a resolution. A lesson, in the lesson!

Collectively, we agreed that this was a really good way to learn a play because when you hear the voices and the intonations, words come alive in a way that may not have happened when reading silently to yourself.

Look up at store.latw.org to see other offerings.





# Wide World of DWC Sports

Baseball Basketball Bowling Cricket Cross Country Flag Football Football Gymnastics  
Handball Indoor Track Outdoor Track Soccer Softball Swimming Tennis Volleyball Wrestling

## Clinton Teams Wear the Red and Black with Pride and Determination



Boys varsity volleyball (Coach Andrea Milsome) went to the second round of the play-offs, losing to Bryant 2-0. Its record for the regular season was seven wins and three losses. Xayveon Williams, Robert Torres, Juan Saavedra-Vidals, Mateo Rivera, Yancarlos Diaz, and Tairou Diaman played in all twelve games.



### Spotlighting Coach Omar Osario...and Flag Football

Coach Osario

#### *In His Own Words:*

I am proud to be a Clinton alumnus (1987) and to coach and teach physical education at this great school. It was former coach Howard Richter (DWC 1951) who inspired me and encouraged me to become a physical education teacher. I know that he would be pleased to see that my gymnastic classes have been the training ground for the gymnastic teams of today. Fifteen years ago, I began coaching girls soccer and am happy to see that the team is still going strong under a new coach.

Two years ago, I started the girls flag football program, and I am also proud of this successful program. We ended our season this year with a record of 8-2; and we went into the playoffs as the #11 ranked team. On May 27th the team won the first round of the playoffs defeating Queens High School of Teaching 12 to 6. I'm hoping to go far into playoff and hopefully make it to the semifinals at least. My captain this year is Zaria Powell, a graduating senior and a great leader. Destini Febus is my second senior captain, who also played soccer and gymnastics for Clinton HS, a great athlete. Xiomara Peña and Marilyn Mendez are my two co-captains with the potential to be my leaders next season.



Girls tennis (Coach Mark Morey) lost in the second round of play-offs against Robert F. Kennedy, 3-2, finishing the regular season with six wins and four losses.



Boys varsity baseball (Coach Dennis D'Alessandro) lost a heartbreaker 5-4 to Lehman in the second round of the playoffs. The Governor's record for the season was five wins and eleven losses. Team captains were Eddy Garcia and Kelvin Paulino.

(continued from page 1)

### A Terrific Season for Boys Basketball

rock of the team. His ability to get to the rim at will and score over bigger players was Toure's calling card. Junior Espinal, also a senior, was the three point specialist of the team and averaged 10 points per game. Seniors Kenneth Bamboulia and Joseph Kennedy were two strong additions from the football team whose brute strength and love for competition allowed them to be defensive specialists. Kennedy was also a highlight reel at times with his dunk over Walton being an Instagram favorite and going viral over the internet.

Senior Rashaun Morgan was the inspirational story of the season when he rejoined the team after being seriously wounded by a gun shot in June of last year. Rashaun was able to provide critical minutes in the center position and to be an inside presence that was sorely lacking at times for Clinton.

The DeWitt Clinton basketball team challenged themselves throughout the season with top state competition. Clinton played the number one ranked Wings Academy, from the Bronx, who would go on to win the AA Federation title (essentially champion of all elite teams in the state), as well as Mount Vernon who were the Section 1 champions and were ranked 7th in the state. The challenging schedule allowed for Clinton to peak at the end of the year with a semi-finalist place in the Bronx Borough Tournament as well as winning two hard fought city-wide playoff games held at Clinton.

Even though the year ended in a disappointing loss, the season as a whole could not be considered anything but a success. The team represented the school with class and dignity throughout the season and put the school back on the map in basketball circles throughout the city.

### Random Shots by the One and Only Henry Ordosgoitia '77



### OMG! Are We Already Talking Football?

Yes, head coach Howard Langley (standing center in the first photo to the right) is already preparing the football Governors for the fall 2015 season. This past season, the Governors had nine wins and one loss in the regular season. No school in the city had a better regular season record. Okay, we admit, Erasmus Hall also had nine wins and one loss.

Pride, Determination, Quality--24/7.

