



Founded 1913

# THE Clinton News

DEWITT CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL, BRONX, NEW YORK

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Wednesday, June 11, 2014

## Stepping Up for the Bronx

### Michael Blake, Class of 2000, Announces Run for State Assembly

#### Former White House Aide Seeks Seat for the 79th Bronx Assembly District

After holding key-level White House positions since 2009, Michael Blake is ready to work directly for the improvement of his native Bronx.

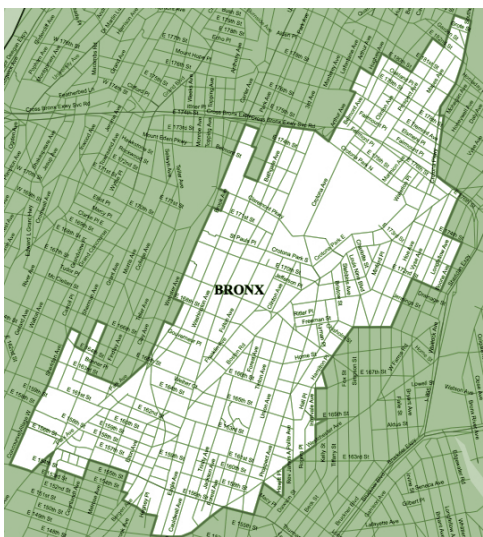


Michael Blake

In April, the class of 2000 graduate announced his candidacy for the assembly seat for the 79th district. He must first gain the Democratic party nomination in the primary vote on September 9. The general election will be held on November 4.

Blake is a 2004 graduate of the prestigious Medill Journalism School at Northwestern University. In 2008, he worked for presidential candidate Barack Obama in Michigan and then went on to help the campaign in 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 and entrepreneurship.

It is his desire to help the Bronx, he recently told the *Clinton News*, that prompted him to enter the race for the borough's 79th Assembly District seat.



79th Assembly District

### Junior Achievement Program

## Students Take On Teaching

By Sharowna Perch

Annually, DeWitt Clinton students, under the direction of history teacher Ms. Gold, have participated in the Junior Achievement of New York (JANY, for short) program. This program is dedicated to giving high school students the opportunity to educate elementary school students on the financial essentials of being an entrepreneur and a responsible consumer in this economy. The participants of this program are transported to the closest public school and spend the whole day (roughly from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.) teaching and interacting with classes from kindergarten to the third grade.

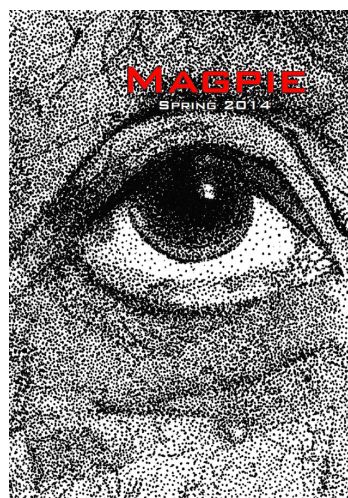
On May 22, 2014, fifty-nine Clintonites took part in what would be a day filled with younger children and excitement. Initially many of the high school students were anx-

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## DWC LOOKING GOOD IN 2014

### 2014 MAGPIE EYE CATCHING

Publication Features Student Poems, Fiction, Essays and Art



Story on page 3

### Aspiring Journalists Praise DWC

Matt Collette & Alexandria Neason  
Columbia Journalism School  
Class of 2014

We weren't sure what to expect the first time we visited DeWitt Clinton High School. There's a certain way a lot of reporters write and think about schools like this one; until we got through the front doors, everything that we had heard about the school was troubling.

But the DeWitt Clinton we found wasn't the same school that's so often presented in the press. We met students committed to going to great colleges and teachers dedicated to getting them there. We met administrators who managed daily crises

(Continued on page 2)

### More Scholarships Flow to Clinton Seniors

By Ghislain Cohen & Gaby Ceron

DWC's 2013-2014 school year has been packed with academic achievements. In their efforts to seek higher education, seniors have struck gold with scholarships and acceptances to prestigious colleges. Princewill Umeh and Lucretia Williams are just two of the many students whose ambitions helped them reach their goals and paved the way to their attending reputable colleges.



Princewill Umeh



Lucretia Williams

Princewill was awarded a good-through-graduation college scholarship from the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program. With the help of the website Fastweb.com, his family, friends, parents and college advisor, Princewill heard about this amazing financial opportunity. But to win it, he had to meet certain qualifications, such as being of a particular ethnic group, being a U. S. citizen or a legal permanent resident of the United States, and having a GPA of 3.3 or more.

"The moment I opened the 'big package,' I started to jump joyfully and I sang songs of praise to God for giving me such a wonderful opportunity!" Princewill exclaimed. "It was a joyous moment and I still feel that positive emotion inside my heart. It is a blessing from God and I know that he has a purpose

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## Student Leadership Weekend Great Fun

Twenty-three Student Leaders Carry On 60-Year-Old Tradition

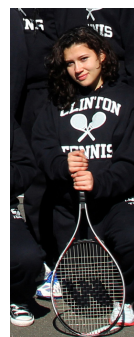
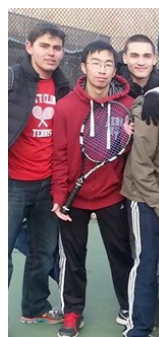
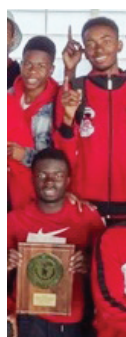
From Friday, May 30, to Sunday, June 1, twenty-three Clinton students had the opportunity to spend a weekend in the country. The venue was the Clearpool Education Center in Carmel, New York. The purpose of the Leadership Weekend was to bring student leaders together with teachers and alumni to discuss ways to improve DWC.

The first leadership weekends were begun in the 1950s by that legendary teacher Irwin "Doc" Guernsey, a polio victim whose association with DWC lasted from 1914 until his death in 1970. It is John Barbarette, class of 1964 and the current president of the DeWitt Clinton Association, who deserves the credit for keeping the weekends going strong today. Of course, none of this would happen with the generous financial support of alumni who want to give back to their alma mater.

It was also a time to celebrate Clinton's great traditions. Gerard Pelisson, former faculty member and honorary alum, spoke Saturday afternoon on the history of the school

(Continued on page 6)

## Clinton Governors Triumph in Sports



CN Staffer Ming Yuen Assessess the Successes

### Boys Track Team

As for prepping the track team for victory, Coach Christopher Lockett typically meets with the team from Monday through Thursday. If there is a Saturday meet, the student athlete rests Friday.

During workouts, Lockett implements intensive drills consisting of squats, power cleans, and deadlifts. The team works out in the weight room on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Even after being exsessed from Clinton, Lockett has remained the track coach. "I never lost my coach-

ing position," he recently told the *Clinton News*. "I have a great group of men and want to contribute the great tradition and success of Clinton track. I will always be red and black. We have a bright future with new young athletes who will continue the tradition of winning."

As to the latest season of the track team, Lockett mentioned that "the outdoor season was great. Ernest Agyeman finished as the City Champ in the 100 meter, with a time of 10.66, making him the 2nd fastest in the state this outdoor season. The 4x100

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

Facebook- [ichooseclinton](#) Instagram- [#ichooseclinton](#)

For fun, see what past Clintonites are saying about their time at DWC

Simply go to [www.facebook.com/DWCAlumniAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/DWCAlumniAssociation)

Or follow the fun with Instagram [@DWCAlumniAssociation](#)

### What You Will Find Inside

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Inspirations and Aspirations of DWC Teachers

By Oma Naraine

We’ve all heard from at least one teacher before that becoming an educator wasn’t always their plan. Some wished to pursue other dreams and happened to stumble across teaching along the way. Others knew from the very start what they wanted to do with their life, and that path led them to DWC. It’s odd to imagine, but they were once teenagers too. They had dreams, goals, struggles, and achievements that we can all certainly relate to now. So how did they get from being indecisive teens to well respected teachers here at Clinton?

When asked to think back to when they were seniors in high school and their dreams for the future, Mr. Ebea, English teacher, and Mr. Chessler, Latin teacher, said they had both decided on Pre-med careers. Mr. Ebea had his mind set on becoming a pediatrician as he “always wanted to help people.” He knew he wanted to reach this goal, but he had some ups and downs along the way. From Hampton

University he transferred to SUNY Albany where he found himself “falling by the wayside.” He applied to Lehman College where the path to become an English teacher opened. He worked with an NYC Teaching Fellow program that specialized in working with career changers and introduced him to the idea of becoming an educator. After graduating, he went to Hunter College for grad school, which led to his job here at Clinton. “Teaching is a way to help young people but in a different capacity,” Mr. Ebea stated after being asked about his unaccomplished dreams of becoming a pediatrician.

Mr. Chessler also had dreams of working in the medical field, but that all changed once he started attending Grinnell College in Iowa. He grew tired of the science classes he had to take, and ended up majoring in Latin because of his amazing professor. Much of his inspiration growing up simply came from the era of the 60’s, which made him “perceive the



(From left) Mrs. Ann Neary, Mr. Charles Ebea, Mr. Sean Sullivan, Mr. Michael Chessler.

world in a unique way.” He then went off to Columbia University for grad school and landed a job here at Clinton in the 90’s. Although he is happy with his current career, he wishes to “travel to other places: Asia, sub-Saharan Africa. Traveling alone forces me to meet new people. Also, read new books, and experience more food that the world has to offer.”

AP literature teacher Mrs. Neary and AP biology teacher Mr. Sullivan had smoother paths when deciding what they were going to major in. Mrs. Neary loved reading and always aspired to become a writer herself. She took inspiration from “Anything creative--poets, artists, de-

signers, and nature. I was always thrilled to see a beautiful cloud, tree, or to see the sun shining.” She attended Colby Sawyer College in New Hampshire and Boston College where she continued with her love for literature. Her father impacted her career choice by taking the family to see plays when she was younger. When asked what she would like to do if she wasn’t a teacher, she replied, “I’d be a forest ranger. I’m certified by Cornell University as a master forest owner.” She has unaccomplished dreams that she wishes to one day cross off her bucket list such as “hike the Appalachian Trail and

(Continued on page 6)

The Clinton Community Mourns the Passing of Arthur Gelb ’40 and Basil Paterson ’42

Arthur Gelb passed away on May 20 at the age of 90. He began with the *New York Times* in 1944 working as a copy boy on the night shift. He rose through the ranks to become paper’s managing editor from 1986 to 1989.



Gelb’s leadership at the *Times* led to the creation of the now-familiar Sports Monday, Science Times and other daily sections.

From 1989 to 2009, he was president of The New York Times Company Foundation.

In 1982, Gelb was honored at the annual DWC Alumni Association dinner for his successful career, charitable endeavors, and loyalty to alma mater.

His son, Peter Gelb, is the general manager of the Metropolitan Opera.

Basil Paterson, who passed away on April 16, held important government positions in New York State and City. He was elected to the state senator and served as state secretary of state and New York City deputy mayor.



By profession, he was an attorney. At the time of his death, he was a member of the law firm of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C., where he was co-chair of the firm’s labor law practice. He was also the father of former New York State governor David Paterson.

A loyal son of Clinton, Paterson attended many school and alumni functions over the years. In 1997, he was honored at the gala at the New York Hilton celebrating the 100th anniversary of the opening of DeWitt Clinton High School.

From the Principal



Dear Children of the Castle,

I hope you are well and that you have accomplished the goals you set last September at the start of the new school year.

I remember all of the goals I set for myself as I began my first year as the 13th principal of our beloved DeWitt Clinton High School, or as I often call it, the Castle on the Parkway, the name given to our school way back in the 1930s. One of my goals was to make the school more welcoming. I aspired to make the school year fun and to build school spirit.

You judge for yourself if these goals were accomplished.



Principal Taveras

A goal I expounded to our faculty during my first staff meeting is still a work in progress. That goal was to make DeWitt Clinton the high school of choice for ALL families in the Bronx. I believe we have moved towards making this a reality. But we have yet to accomplish it fully. I am positive that as we continue to work hard toward meeting that goal, we WILL accomplish it.

As the humble servant of the Castle, I take with me many memorable moments from this school year. I will keep them in my treasure chest of memories. They include the many pep rallies, assemblies, awards ceremonies, concerts, recitals, the Halloween assembly, staff vs. seniors basketball game, International Festival, Homecoming, the Big Apple Crunch, the thousands of letters written by you, the many athletic games, competitions among our many teams and clubs, our beautiful school song, our *Clinton News*, our *Magpie*, and the many students who won prestigious scholarships. Ravina Persaud’s passing will also be part of my memories because we will never forget her bright smile.

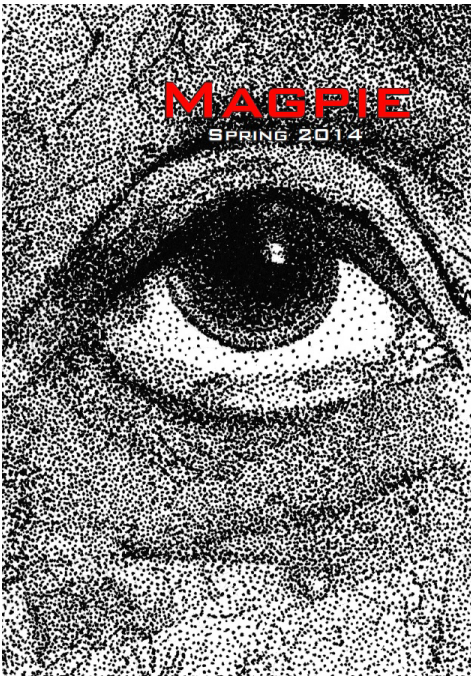
To my seniors, I hope you continue to shine and make us proud. I expect that you will continue to grow the DWCHS legacy of great graduates who have moved to change the world for the better. I will miss you and wish you continued success. Come back to visit often.

To the rest of the students, I wish you a fun-filled summer, where you continue to grow intellectually by attending classes in our school, Lehman College, or by visiting as many museums and cultural events our city has to offer. Think about what you want to accomplish next school year and make a plan of action that will ensure your successful implementation and completion of that plan.

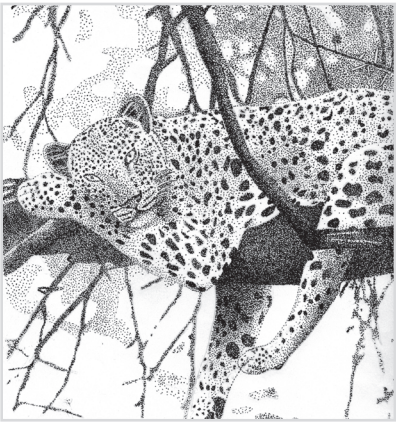
I will continue to work hard to accomplish our goal of being the high school of choice for all families in the Bronx. I am totally committed and thrilled to be the humble servant of the children and faculty of the Castle on The Parkway.

Much love,  
Santi

2014 MAGPIE IS EYE CATCHING



Student Magazine,  
First Published in 1903,  
Features  
Poems, Fiction, Essays and Art



Illustrations by  
Vielka Cruz Pimental

By Mrs. Ann Neary

Each year brings a new dynamic to our school environment. Gone is the threat of closure from last year, replaced by the optimism infused by a new principal, Santi Taveras. What remains constant, thanks to the alumni who support this publication, is our *Magpie* and the creativity of our students.

With an eye turned inward as well as focused on the past, present and future,

look at what they have to offer, “care to look at what is beautiful” (Antonio Ostolaza), “dance to a jingle” (Sharowna Perch), “take the plunge” (Sushmita Jitlall). They “come with great plans” (Princewill Umeh); they have “a bucketful of thoughts” (Ashley Gayle).

“You will be victorious” (Jasely Molina). They are.

The *Magpie* is available from the English office (Room 201A) or Mrs. Neary for \$2.00. Begun in 1903, the *Magpie* gives students the opportunity to display their stories, plays, and poems and their art work for the enjoyment of the entire Clinton Community.

A color version is available for downloading at [www.dewittclintonalumni.com](http://www.dewittclintonalumni.com).



# 117th Alumni Dinner Filled with Memories from the Past and Hopes for the Future

By Phillex Esquela

The Marina Del Rey was filled to the brim with Clinton pride on the night of May 29th as the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association held its 117th annual Alumni Dinner. Love and conversation filled the rooms as Clinton alumni reunited with former classmates and teachers.

Alumni president John Barbarette, class of 1964 and one of the night's honorees, gave a heartfelt speech on what it means to be a Clintonite. Faces lit up, a communal feeling of belonging swept through the crowd. ROTC members Joshua Borrego, Kwandel Joseph, Tess Larch,

and John Nunez, led by Sgt. Kurt Duncker, carried the American and DeWitt Clinton flags as the national anthem was sung.

Sgt. Duncker was also an honoree and, at the same time, he was made a honorary member of the Class of 2014 as he is retiring at the end of this term. Duncker expressed his affection for his ROTC students and the entire Clinton community.

The third honorary was Stephon Alexander, class of 1989 and a noted physics professor at Dartmouth University. He was especially thrilled to receive a hand-written congratulatory note from Spider-Man creator Stan Lee,

class of 1939.

Principal Santiago Taveras, recognized the valedictorian Mohamed Mohamed, salutatorian Salma Ahmed, and laudatorian Derek Darko for being outstanding students. Additionally, he spoke of his pride as part of the DeWitt Clinton community.

Reginald Grier, class of 1946, had the distinction of being the oldest alumnus in attendance. He had come all the way from Washington, D. C. for the event and, of course, led a rousing rendition of DeWitt C-L-I-N-T-O-N Boom!

The night ended with dancing. But even as the room slowly emptied, the feeling of belonging still lingered.



Members of the 1964 50-year class were having too much fun to look at our photographer.



Seniors and Jr AFROTC members enjoying the event and looking forward to being part of the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association.



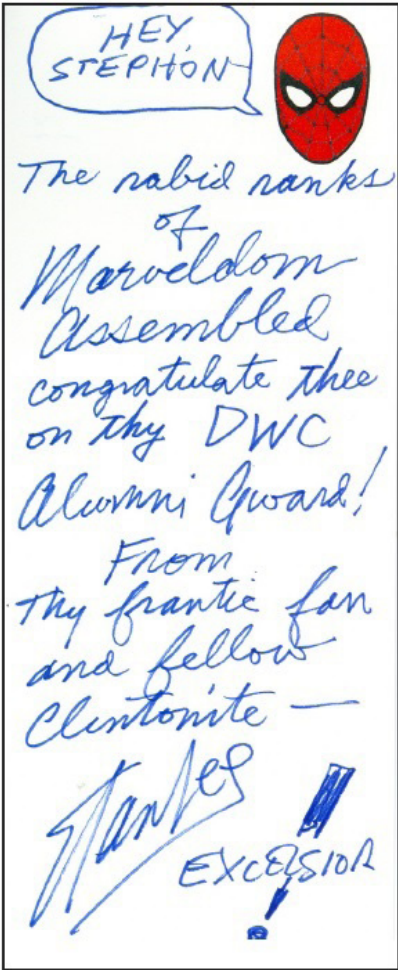
(From left) faculty Lisa Benton, Peter Boyd, retired faculty Jocelyn Boyd, Michael Blake '00, retired faculty Gerard Pelisson, and Cedric Fergus '78.



Principal Santiago Taveras greeting Daniel Quintero, class of 1978, who is the executive director of the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club.



Honoree Stephon Alexander showing his congratulatory note from Stan Lee.



Former principal Geraldine Ambrosio being introduced to a warm round of applause.



Retired faculty Bert Blanco surrounded by alumnae all: (from left) Courtney Flowers, Camilla Marsh, Sydney Valerio, and Adelyn Robinson.



Honorees Alumni President John Barbarette (left) and Jr ROTC head Kurt Duncker, who was also given an honorary DWC diploma.

## One More Clintonite Who Likes to Think Big

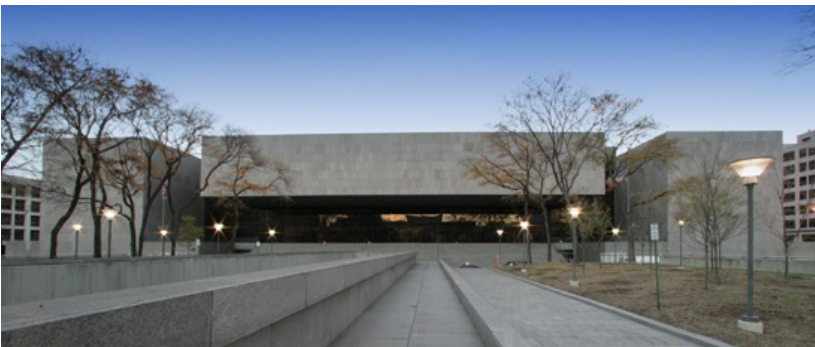
### New Documentary Praises Architect Victor Lundy '39

Watch the recently released documentary *Victor Lundy: Sculptor of Space* at <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/185759> and you will hear Victor Lundy, class of 1939, describe the influence his Clinton art teacher had on his life. And what a life he has had, as one of America's foremost architects!

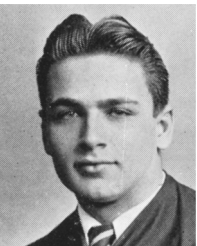
Among Lundy's greatest accomplishments was his 1972-1974 design for the U. S. Tax Court in Washington, D.C. In 2008, the U. S. Government Services Administration, which operates the U. S. Tax Court, nominated it to

the National Register of Historic Places, making it the youngest of GSA's more than 1,600 buildings to receive this designation. Realizing an unprecedented opportunity to capture on film the recollections of the original architect for this exceptionally significant building, GSA preservationists began working with Lundy to create a documentary on his life, work, and legacy.

Here is a chance for every Clintonite to watch the documentary and be inspired to think as big as Lundy does.



U. S. Tax Court in Washington, D.C. (designed by Victor Lundy)



Clinton Senior 1939



WWII Purple Heart



Budding Architect



Architect Extraordinary



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## More Scholarships Flow to Clinton Seniors

for me and for everyone on earth.”

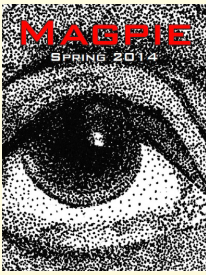
Some of the perks of this renewable full scholarship include Princewill’s choice of attending any U. S. accredited college of his choice. As for choosing a major, Princewill has two majors in mind: International Relations and Economics, alongside a minor in French Language. Why French? He says, “I need to minor in French Language because for my primary major, International Relations, I have to demonstrate competency in one modern language. I chose French because it is a beautiful language and it sounds good. My dream is to live in Paris for some time of my life.” Princewill aspires to become a Foreign Service Officer or an economist in the future. However, after graduate school, he plans to join the Peace Corps because he sees himself as a “protagonist for the underserved.” Long-term he plans to attend law school to round out his education. Winning this scholarship definitely gives Princewill a good launch pad to achieve his numerous goals.

Lucretia Williams has received a college scholarship from Camp Anita Bliss Coler (ABC, for short) in Fishkill, New York, where she has worked for several summers. The goal of the camp is to take inner city kids out of the city environment and have them live in rural area and experience new things they wouldn't have the opportunity do in the city. As an ABC counselor, Lucretia has positively influenced many girls become empowered leaders. Her contagious and bubbly personality wins them over. Because of her previous experience as an ABC camper, Lucretia was inspired to become a counselor in the ABC camp; hence she participated in the counselor-in-training (CIT) program. The training program consisted of aspiring CITs having to endure physical and mental challenges such as the four day hike along the Appalachian trail. Williams came out victorious, thanks to the bond she had with her camp sisters. Lucretia intends on working in the camp every summer. She mentioned that being in there helped her “develop confidence and get a sense of who I am.” In regards to the college process, “My college essay was actually about the 4 day hike I went on along the Appalachian Trail and how being positive helped me finish the hike.”

Both students had set their goals and are on their way to accomplishing them. As of fall 2014, Princewill Umeh and Lucretia Williams will be attending American University and Howard University, respectively. The Clinton Community wishes them the best. As Clinton counselors like to say, the key to success is to take any opportunity given and take full advantage. You never know where it will take you.

Read Princewill Umeh’s chilling account of going to school in his native Nigeria in the spring 2014

**Magpie**



## Did Clinton Students Get Their Talents Overnight?

### Clinton’s Spring Recital a Great Success

By Abigail Clarke

From guitars to drums to violin and bass, Clinton has it all! Fabio MoMaster opened and closed this year’s spring recital on May 22 with his majestic piano pieces that had the audience wanting more. Tran Nguyen was the highlight of the recital as the audience sang aloud with her “Here without you by 3 Doors Down.” Tran’s pieces were complemented by the acoustic music played by musicians Michael Hernandez, Justin Jimenez, Kelvin Rodriguez, and others. Tigist Benti played a flawless “Castlevania by Kenichi Matsubara” on the piano. After her performance, she admitted it was her first time doing it for an audience! Ms.Sotello and Mr. Bayless were proud of the students who performed. Ms. Sotello introduced senior Jasely Molina by saying, “Teaching is like watching a caterpillar turning into a butterfly.” Jasely performed “Glimpses by Alex Ebert,” a piece she wanted to play since sophomore year but didn’t have the nerve to until now. As practice and time channels musicians into a path of perfection, many of Clinton’s musicians are butterflies.

# In Tribute to the Written Word

## What is life without pen and paper?

By Abigail Clarke and Latoya Laud

“The sky’s the limit,” although a clichéd phrase, is a favorite quote of Sharowna Perch, one of the *Clinton News* staff members. As it turns out, the fact is that the sky is indeed the limit. As DWC students, we should all aim high and try to move forward every day.

So what does having the sky’s the limit to do with the title of this article? In this world of iPads and laptops, the title is really poetic. If analyzed, the title is basically asking “What is life without writing?” No writing equals the mind and its thoughts going to waste and history not being recorded. So if you want to write, why not begin with writing for the *Clinton News*?

Writing starts in depth when one is inspired. But being inspired to come up with the right words can be dif-

ficult. The solution is that you can more easily become a great writer by first becoming a great reader.

The words and phrases you meet in great novels, for example, stay in the back of your mind. Without realizing it, they come to you when you are writing and you can choose the correct words.

But even great writers can be stuck at writing? The key is to keep writing,” just like another cliché says, “Practice makes perfect.”

So if you would be interested in writing for the *Clinton News* in September, contact Mrs. Neary. In the meanwhile, keep reading and remember, “The sky is the limit.” Don’t doubt yourself; you can write for the *Clinton News*!

## AP Literature Has Great Expectations!

By Fatoumata Sow

An ordinary classroom was transformed into an art gallery when Mrs. Neary’s AP Literature classes took Charles Dickens’ novel *Great Expectations* and brought it to life by creating body biographies of the main characters. The “bodies” showcased the hard work and dedication the students put in to understanding the characters.

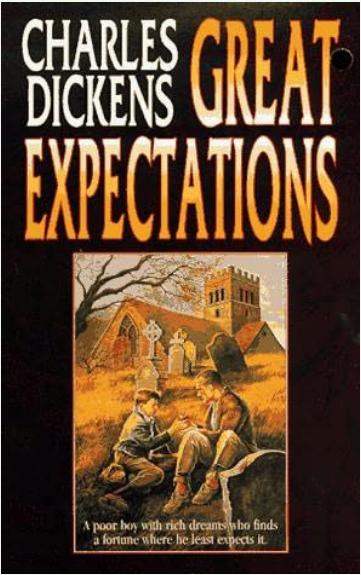
Each group of about three to four students received a character from the book to become experts on. The students did not take Mrs. Neary’s challenge of understanding the characters lightly. They were professional in their research and then in their presentations, whether before their classmates, various Clinton teachers, or visitors to the school.

The “art gallery” presented captivating large drawings of the characters. Mrs. Havisham outlined in black-highlighting her soul, Pip radiant with London behind him. Full length colorful paper included character quotes and symbols. Observers connected with the characters by discovering that they had similar ideologies with those living in mid-nineteenth century England.

Mr. Buonnano, a visiting art teacher, responded, “The first thing that I noticed was the tremendous drawings of great quality. It was refreshing to see how proud and involved students were of their creative displays. The excitement was genuine. I was pleased to see other faculty and students visiting the class. The impact of this assignment extends beyond just the AP students.”

It was a fresh and new approach allowing the students to make use of many different skills that a traditional classroom setting does not usually allow for. The students exercised their creativity, organizational skills, abilities to work in groups, and presentation skills.

And in the end, the students lived up to the great expectations of Charles Dickens’ nineteenth century novel with the body biographies; impressing everyone that was able to witness the event. So if you missed it this year make sure you keep your ears open for it next year -- it is definitely a sight to see. Make sure you come with great expectations....



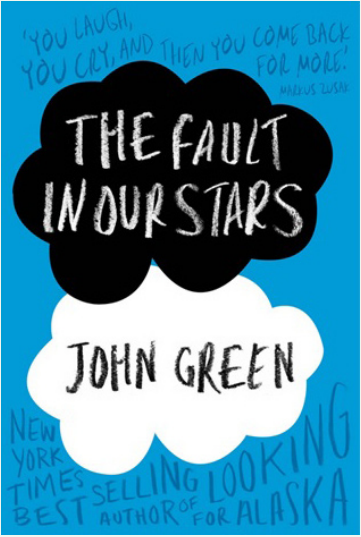
Charles Dickens,  
with Great Expectations

### Book Review by Nishat Islam

### The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Here’s to the novel that has swept many readers off their feet. For those of who have not read the book or watched the movie but plan to, keep from reading further. *The Fault in Our Stars*, written by John Green, explores the blossoming yet difficult relationship that is maintained between the two main characters. This epic story revolves around two teenagers, Hazel and Augustus Waters; both affected by cancer, and yet still able to find humor in their lives. John Green’s characters deal with so much adversity and put up with so much. Yet he is able to make them feel real. Thus, a strong connection is made between the audience and the characters in the story. Readers understand the emotions the characters are feeling.

Of course, this isn’t your typical teenage romance. This romance is mature and focuses on the couple as well as their friends. Being in love and dealing with their cancer didn’t mean they wallowed in self-pity. Instead, they helped each other fulfill their goals and kept their friends strong by helping them with their issues. The message becomes: enjoy the life that you have and live it to the best of your potential. Like Hazel and Augustus, you may face obstacles that feel impossible to deal with. Don’t go it alone. Reach out to your loved ones and keep them close. Hazel and Augustus definitely did.



### Summer Reading Suggestions -- All Biographies and All Written by Clinton Alumni

- A House Divided: The Lives of Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee*, Jules Archer (1995)
- Elizabeth Blackwell: The First Woman Doctor*, Ira Peck (2000)
- Rockne of Notre Dame: The Making of a Football Legend*, Ray Robinson (2002)
- JFK: Young Man in the White House*, Israel E. Levine (1991)
- Madiba A to Z: The Many Faces of Nelson Mandela*, Danny Schechter (2013)
- Richard Nixon and His America*, Herbert Parmet (1990)



(continued from page 1)

### Student Leadership Weekend Great Fun

and the influence its alumni have had on the world.

Mr. Pelisson told the student leaders that it would be wonderful if they all became famous. But rather than coming back to Clinton a great person, he would be more pleased if each of them came back a good person. “The world has enough great people,” he said. “It never has enough good people.”

Another important part of Mr. Pelisson’s talk was to tell the youngsters that they are the most important students who ever attended Clinton. It falls on them over the next year or two, he said, to lead their classmates in working hard to save Clinton and to “lead” eighth graders to choose Clinton for their high school. He told them that they have the chance twenty years for now to boast, “We’re the class that saved Clinton.”

Besides discussions on helping DWC, there was plenty of time for fun. The students who attended were Joshua Padilla,



Adelaide Dookwah, Marylin Mendez, Ryon Cricklow, Nathalie Ramsaran, Sebashan Batista, Marlana Osei, Michaela Osei, Matthew Loras, Anaisbely Fransol, Alyssa Lumley, Juan Manon, Eduardo Bengochea, Hope Okoro, Amber Ramirez, Gabnel Beltran, Selenis Gomez, Mark Foster, Nadja Johnson, Elaine Edmondson, Janee Johnson, Jimmy Lind, and Natasha Harris.

In addition to Mr. Barbarette and Mr. Pelisson, the alumni were represented by Joel Weisvogel, class of 1969, and Clinton staffer Leslie Lambertson.

(continued from page 3)

### Inspirations and Aspirations of DWC Teachers

write several books including novels and plays.”

Mr. Sullivan, on the other hand, always had an affinity for science. He knew that going to college was a necessity and dreamt of becoming a physical therapist. He attended Manhattan College after high school and had an internship at a nursing home that would change his mind drastically about his goals. He realized that even though he loved science, the job of being a physical therapist wasn’t right for him. He tutored fellow students while attending Manhattan College and, through this experience, he began to shape a new path for himself. He realized that he enjoyed teaching others much more than working as a therapist. He enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking and roller blading, and when asked what he would be doing if he wasn’t a teacher, he responded by saying, “I’d be a climbing bum. I’d be

committed to a very frugal lifestyle. I also want to climb “The Nose” on El Captain in Yosemite.”

These four teachers were at a stage that we’re all facing now, deciding what comes next in life. But from their experiences, you can tell that you may decide one thing now and have a completely different career in ten years. So when all of them were asked what advice they would have for seniors graduating and starting a new chapter in their lives, they replied distinctively:

- “Whatever you do in life, give it one hundred percent. Prioritizing, organizing, and executing is key.”- Mr. Ebea
- “Stay away from the losers, those who will bring you down.”- Mr.Chessler
- “Dream big and be kind. Kindness counts.”- Mrs. Neary
- “Enjoy your newly found freedom, but be responsible.” - Mr. Sullivan

### Trumpery\*

By Darnisha Buckley

\*I’ve changed the name of this column from Tarradiddle to Trumpery. Tarradiddles mean “a small lie or pretentious nonsense.” I thought it was funny to choose a name that meant lies, when I was revealing many truths. Ironical as it is, I changed the name to fit the subject matter. Sorry if I confuse the reader with the title.

1. In the summer, France’s Eiffel Tower can grow by more than 6 inches due to the expansion of the iron on hot days.
2. July is the month when the most ice cream is sold in the US. That’s why it’s National Ice Cream Month. Americans eat about 5.5 gallons of ice cream per year on average, making us the No. 1 ice cream consumers worldwide.
3. The frequency of a cricket's chirps fluctuates with the temperature. If you count a cricket's chirps for 15 seconds and add 37, you will have the approximate outdoor temperature (in Fahrenheit).
4. The Frisbee was originally designed as a tin pie plate in the 1870’s.
5. The first "bathing suits" for women were introduced in the early 1800’s.
6. Dog Days of Summer are between July 3 and August 11, usually considered to be the hottest time of summer, when the Dog Star, Sirius, is in conjunction with the sun.
7. Eighty-two percent of households in America own a grill or smoker.
8. Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest is held every July 4 and has been since 1916. The record for the most hot dogs eaten in 10 minutes is 68, set by Joey Chestnut in 2009.
9. Everyone should thank educator Horace Mann, who in the 1800’s invented school summer vacations.
10. Most farmers grow crops in summer, making it nature’s busiest growing season.
11. The average person eats about 60 hot dogs a year. During the average summer festival in America, 5 tons of hot dogs, 20 gallons of mustard, 930 pounds of onions, 125 gallons pickles, 40 gallons of ketchup, and more than 3,000 rolls are consumed.
12. Although only 35% of Americans know how to swim, The United States has nearly 4x more gold medals (214) in swimming events.
13. Ice cream became popular in the United States after the American Revolution.
14. Vanilla is the most popular flavor- of ice cream
15. The oldest depiction of swimming was found in Egypt and dates back to 2500 B.C.E.
16. Benjamin Franklin invented swim fins.



### Hot Weather Beauty Essentials

By Safa Alisaleh

As we finalize the last days of spring and head into summer, the weather goes from hot to even hotter with the addition of humidity. This can translate on most people’s skin as shine or even worse ... oil! Now as for your makeup on the other hand, it just means that it melts away faster than an ice cube in the mid-day sun. Most of us expect makeup to stay in place. So here is a list of beauty essentials to help avoid that embarrassing nonsense.

#### Beauty essential # 1: Blotting Paper

Blotting paper resembles a really thin tissue. Blotting paper is used to absorb excess oil, reduce shine and help matt the face. All you do is pat the paper on the chin, the nose and the forehead - areas where oil tends to build up. Remove and you’ll see the oil residue on the paper. It’s sort of like magic!

#### Beauty essential #2: Primer

Primer is incredibly essential. It works as a base providing an even and smooth canvas for your makeup to glide on and it acts as a barrier between your skin and your makeup so your overall look is perfectly sealed and prolonged.

#### Beauty essential #3: Translucent Powder

Translucent powder is a very fine loose powder that has minimal to no color. When applied with a big, fluffy brush it covers a large surface area of the face, instantly absorbing oil and helping to combat shine, while still feeling light on the skin.

All in all, these products will work magic in protecting our makeup from slipping and sliding caused by the burning sun.



Members of the Junior AFROTC cleaning the trophy cases in May. They are not available to make house calls, so don’t even ask.

(continued from page 1)

### Students Take On Teaching

ious to teach in front of a class of twenty or so. However, as the day progressed inside the classrooms of P.S. 95, the anxiety was replaced with newfound confidence, enthusiasm, and love for the bright-eyed elementary school children. Senior Mariabel Vitagliani told the Clinton News that “[teaching] wasn’t as much of a challenge as we thought it would be; the kids were cooperative and enthusiastic, so we were pleased to teach them.”

Although the Clinton students were prepared to teach the children some ba-

sics in economics, many soon realized that interaction was key to building a connection with them. So chatting with the children while accompany them to either their music class, the cafeteria or auditorium added another dimension.

The students at P.S. 95 were very welcoming, barely able to hold in the joy associated with meeting their new teenaged teachers. And the Clinton students, who spent months preparing, walked away happy and fulfilled. Maybe some of them will become professional teachers.

### School Terms

by Darnisha Buckley

Find the words below on the grid to the right and circle them.

SUMMER  
FINALS  
REGENTS  
GRADUATION  
COLLEGES  
JUNIORS  
SOPHOMORES  
FRESHMAN  
SENIORS  
ALUMNI  
PROM  
SPIRITWEEK  
VACATION

D H C S H X C C F K Y A T U X  
O J G S X H H L I V T E X S O  
N O I T A U D A R G I R C T L  
S S L Z J D D L G M E C K N M  
I R L W S S E G E L L O C E U  
Z O X F O L X L F U H A H G J  
M I F R P S P I R I T W E E K  
F N R A H F H P V Z V Y B R S  
W U E Z O I R L M H A P Q S U  
V J S Z M N R N J I C R A R M  
Q T H N O A D V N S A O U O M  
P W M S R L Y M G J T M H I E  
M X A T E S U J D Y I Y C N R  
Y Z N P S L P C X B O J D E D  
H X S W A C U S X N N T F S I



# Antonio Ostolaza: Actor On The Rise!

By Fatoumata Sow



Photo: Da Ping Luo

Antonio Ostolaza looking born to be upon the stage.

### The Actor's Vow

"I will take my rightful place on stage and I will be myself.  
I am not a cosmic orphan.  
I have no reason to be timid.  
I will respond as I feel;  
awkwardly, vulgarly,  
but respond.  
I will have my throat open,  
I will have my heart open,  
I will be vulnerable.  
I may have anything or everything  
the world has to offer, but the thing  
I need most, and want most,  
is to be myself.  
I will admit rejection, admit pain,  
admit frustration, admit even pettiness,  
admit shame, admit outrage,  
admit anything and everything  
that happens to me.  
The best and most human parts of  
me are those I have inhabited  
and hidden from the world.  
I will work on it.  
I will raise my voice.  
I will be heard."

DeWitt Clinton High School is filled with talented students, and one such junior has taken the initiative to follow his dreams as an aspiring actor. We first met him in the fall as he began his after school work with MCC ([www.mcctheater.org](http://www.mcctheater.org)).

Antonio Ostolaza is very talented, dedicated, and ambitious. As a participant at the MCC Theater Company, a program that allows for students to showcase and develop their acting skills, he follows his dreams. With the help of his freshman year English teacher, Mrs. Neary, Antonio found himself amongst a class of gifted actors and actresses. Through hard work, his company was able to put together their own production, titled *Uncensored*. *Uncensored* is an accumulation of pieces from each of the students that allowed them to express anything they were feeling without censorship. The production was performed down at the Theatre at the 14st Y during the month of April. Several teachers and students from DWC were able to see the fantastic show during April break.

Antonio has also recently done a musical called *Carrie*, which is a remake of the horror movie.

It is clear to all who meet him that he takes show business very serious. A piece of advice that Antonio leaves for other people who want to get into the acting business is to "look around the city, get involved, go for any opportunities available." So if you're an aspiring actor, read the Actor's Vow (to the left) that actor Michael Oberholtzer shared with Antonio and that inspires him to do what he loves and hopes it will do the same to others.

Read two pieces  
*Offer* and *He Who Talks Is Heard* by  
Antonio Ostolaza  
in the spring 2014  
**Magpie**

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

TDF engages New York City students, from budding playwrights to first-time theatregoers, with programs listed below that connect the performing arts to their lives. Check out [www.tdf.org](http://www.tdf.org) for more programs and information.

#### Open Doors

A mentoring program offering select students an in-depth experience with arts professionals.

#### Stage Doors

Teaching artists collaborate with classroom teachers to prepare students for an engaged theatre experience.

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#### Residency Arts Project

An intensive program that integrates teaching artists into a classroom for 24 sessions that results in a final performance of original work.

#### Access for Young Audiences

Broadway performances for students with disabilities. Provides sign language interpreted and open-captioned or audio-described shows.

**tdf**  
Theatre  
Development  
Fund

Advancing live theatre and dance

## DR2 Gets a Taste of First Period

By Fatoumata Sow

Eleven plays, written by DeWitt Clinton seniors from Mrs. Neary's Humanities/Journalism class, were produced and performed on a real stage--DR2 near Union Square--with Broadway actors and Judy Tate as Director, this past Thursday, May 29th. The plays were mind-blowing. The audience--filled with classmates, students, and ordinary lovers of the theatre--was duly impressed by the quality of the plays and the writing ability of the students.

Since the beginning of the school year, the class has been working arduously with TDF (Theatre Development Fund) and Mrs. Neary in creating two character plays, in which each character handled conflict differently. The subject matter of the plays ranged from money problems to relationship issues, to death. The students were given the creative freedom that would normally scare many, but these seniors were not intimidated and rose to the occasion with grace.

The plays selected to be produced, after many edits and additions, included: *24 Point Lead* by Fatoumata Sow, *Piercing My Soul* by Phillix Esquea, *Luck: Where Are You?* by Ghislain Cohen, *Jessie's Girl* by John Nunez, *Something Worth Fighting For* by Ahd Elmori, *It's Not Dirt* by Justin Van, *Tomorrow* by Abigail Clarke, *Concerned* by Isaias Gil Rodriguez, *It Should Be Me* by Sharowna Perch, *The Protector* by Ashley Mangaroo, and *8 Letters For A Very Long Race* by Oma Naraine.

The playwrights found their inspiration in different places. Some took it from personal experience, others from their favorite series, and some just woke up one day with the idea--having no clue where it came from--and went with it. No matter where the inspiration came from it made for amazingly drama filled pieces.

They brought laughs, tears, and smiles to the audience's faces. The plays made the audience feel something, as any theatre piece should do.

It was quite an amazing experience, one that won't be forgotten. According to Ghislain Cohen, first time playwright, "I liked the way the actors put emphasis on the words I wanted; especially as mine was the first." Phillix Esquea added, "I never noticed how my play truly sounded until actors performed it on stage." And John Nunez responded to his play being produced with this comment, "If you believe that you can imagine a play in your head, then you are wrong. You must see it performed to understand how to write it well."

Honorable Mentions for Excellence went to Sarpong Adjei, Esteban Arzu, Darnisha Buckley and Magic Washington.

Below are a list of short summaries of the plays produced:

*24 Point Lead* by Fatoumata Sow - A drama-filled play where two siblings must decide whether they are going to jeopardized their futures by lying to the Texas judicial system to save their younger brother.

*Piercing My Soul* by Phillix Esquea - A dramatic play that depicts a relationship in which a couple begins to uncover a life changing event in each other's past, that connect the two, all because of a car accident.

*Luck: Where Are You?* by Ghislain Cohen - A comedic play where two brothers have been given the eviction notice on their childhood home, but it seems as though one is living in a fairytale and the other has already given up.

*Jessie's Girl* by John Nunez - A dramatic play with hints of comedy, where two friends uncover an underlying love conflict, all at a bus stop one really late night.

*Something Worth Fighting For* by Ahd Elmori - A drama in which a mother that was once a drug addict tries to return to her children years later, after walking out on them at a very young age.

*It's Not Dirt* by Justin Van - A dramatic play with comedic parts that shows that even though September 11 is in the past, families are still affected by the lost of their loved ones.

*Tomorrow* by Abigail Clarke - A drama that depicts how wrapped up people get in their own busy lives that they forget about the ones they care for.

*Concerned* by Isaias Gil Rodriguez - A drama that shows the struggle between a father and son when it comes to the way the son lives his life, as many people face with their parents when growing up.

*It Should Be Me* by Sharowna Perch - A comedy where a mother and daughter battle over the idea of how the daughter should live her life and not make compromises on her goals for anyone.


*The Protector* by Ashley Mangaroo - An upbeat play about a daughter that is on her way to college on a tennis scholarship and the one thing she wants is to have her father, who serves the country, at her graduation.

*8 Letters For A Very Long Race* by Oma Naraine - A play with twists when two sisters discover that they weren't on the same page, when it is time for them to move back to their parents' house.



Mrs. Neary's Humanities/Journalism class members gather to celebrate their plays with the crew from Tdf. To be or not to be in the theatre? Surely, some of the students have been inspired to pursue the performing arts.





# 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

(continued from page 1)

## Clinton Governors Triumph in Sports

### Boys Track Team



The boys track team took 1st place in the Bronx Outdoor Championship.

relay team placed 3rd at city's and was invited to run at the Adidas Grand Prix. Truvaurnie Proctor and Kevaughn Gordon both placed 2nd in their hurdle events and are going to compete in the state championships.”

The season would not have been so successful without the contributions of graduating seniors Ernest Agyeman, Rising Onyeukwu, Demitri Payne, Godfrey McDonald, and Junior Valerio.

Congratulations to Ernest Agyeman (shown right) for being recruited by Long Island University for Track & Field (Division 1). The Clinton Community wishes him the best.



Ernest Agyeman

### Lady Governors Track Team



The Lady Governors took 1st place in the Bronx Outdoor Championship.

Coach Cornel Johnson is looking forward to building another great team next year by making the girls even stronger. He plans to increase the volume of the weight work outs and include more squats, dead-lifts, and bench presses.

Johnson said, “This year was a good season. A lot of young ones gained good experience. The future looks bright for the team overall. We did core workouts including a lot of push-ups, sit ups; all which improve our runners. In addition we do speed dynamic workouts using speed ropes and sliding.”

Johnson wishes all of the graduating seniors well next year. They are Dypna Umunakwe, Tameka Wood, Betsy Alvarez, Shavon Fields, Dejeour Callender, Sasha Bentley, and Princess Ngwu.

He especially offers congratulations to Tameka Wood (shown below) for getting accepted by Keystone College for Track & Field (Division 2).



Tameka Wood

### Wrestling Team

Senior wrestler Kenneth Davis placed third citywide in his weight class (220.) The team, coached by Mr. Mark Morey, completed the season's regular schedule with a 7-3 record.

(From left) Abdoulaye Bassirou, Kenneth Davis and Emmanuel Rosario.



### Boys Tennis Team



The boys tennis team won its 2nd Bronx Championship title since 2010.

Mr. John Maguire stepped in as coach mid-season to keep the tennis tradition running. And running well!

“I inherited a team with many experienced players. They acted with extreme maturity, which led to a near perfect season. The team made it very easy to coach. Many players, as veterans, were eager to win every match possible.”

Coach Maguire also coaches swimming and found, “At first it was very different

from swimming. Swim meets last 45 through 55 minutes and tennis matches can last for a longer period. So patience often proves fortuitous for the team.”

He noticed, “Overall I would have to say there has been a tremendous amount of maturity by the team. They lost their original coach. I stepped in and the team consistently remained focused upon each match with raised spirits and competitive luster. “

### Girls Tennis Team



The girls tennis team, coached by Mr. Mark Morey, completed the season with a 9-1 record, a division championship and advancing to the second round of the

playoffs. It is the team's fourth consecutive division championship and fifth in six years.

## Keeping the Faith

### Coach Johnson Honored for His Commitment to Clinton, Its Students -- and to Life

By Ming Yuen

Coach Cornel Johnson was presented with an award at the Richter Meet in the recognition of his 31 years of tireless effort and dedicated service to DeWitt Clinton High School track team.

His Lady Governors team has won 24 out of 25 Bronx indoor and outdoor championship titles since 1989.

Johnson had no idea he would be back at Clinton after he graduated from college. He applied for multiple jobs in different states. But on a visit to DeWitt Clinton, football coach Joe Prezi-



Coach Cornel Johnson, DWC class of 1979

oso asked him, “Why don’t you come back to Clinton and work?”

His career at DWC began in 1983. The very next year he began a girls track team. But his girls didn’t win any championships until 1989. Coach Joe Prezioso mentored him and had faith in his work. And Coach Howard Langley was a constant support as he built the team. In addition, Coach Johnson gives a lot of credit to his parents for their inspiration and guidance throughout his career. Most of all, his own faith has kept him through it all.