

Bennett Beacon



Winter 2023 • Volume 25/Issue 1

Alumni Edition

Bennett High School • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14214 • (716) 816-4250 • (716) 308-5451 • www.bennetalumni.com

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Mark Overall, '03

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-Cecilia Henderson, Faculty
-Margaret Lanz Puzio, '68
-Lawrence Levin, '57
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-Amy Visniesky, Faculty
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Class of 2024

-Linda Barker Moore, '68
-Carol Newman Caserta, '60
-Marsha Jadd, '58
-Mark Overall, '03
-Christine Salamone, '73
-Joanne Szwejbka, Faculty

Class of 2025

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-Christopher Hough, '73
-Neil Lange, Faculty
-Irene McLeish Greene, '57
-Marilyn Wittman, Faculty
-Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72

BY CARLOS ALVAREZ, JR.

News From Our Principal



As we approach the end of the first semester, it is amazing how fast this school year is passing. Data driven instructional decision making, as well as providing students with timely, relevant, and impactful feedback continues to be at the forefront of our instructional model. Our tremendous teaching staff continues to incorporate strategies that identify learning gaps and develop plans of actions, with a laser-like focus, to address their students' needs.

We have worked tirelessly with this year's graduating class, and the fruits of our labor are beginning to show. We are truly excited about the current and future successes of our senior class. Students in grade 12 are beginning to receive their college acceptance letters at a feverish pace - sharing their acceptance letters on a daily basis, which are in turn posted in the hallway, as we acknowledge their academic successes. Along with their college acceptance letters, we have posted a "Scholarship Goal Thermometer" that demonstrates a goal of 1.5 million scholarship dollars. As of January 2023, our seniors have earned \$978,000. We truly believe that we will surpass that goal, as we are still in the early stages of college acceptances.

The Lewis J Bennett school community celebrated our student successes during the first semester by hosting our quarterly Academic Achievement Celebration. Each student that earned Merit Roll, Honor Roll, and High Honor Roll academic successes was invited to the Academic Achievement Celebration.

Our Bennett football team had an unbelievable season. Our Tigers won the New York State Class AA high school football championship! Our Bennett Tigers are the first Buffalo Public School to win a Class AA football cham-

pionship.

Along the way to our championship, our Bennett Tigers overcame every obstacle put in front of them. The largest obstacle was when Section VI deemed one student ineligible due to a clerical error. This led to our Bennett Tigers having to forfeit the first six games of the season and jeopardized the team making the playoffs. The team rallied to win their final two regular season games to make the playoffs and brought home the championship!

We held a championship parade, from Bennett High School to City Hall, for the team on December 22, 2022. The team was honored by having December 4th, 2022 titled "Bennett High School Football Day". Our Tigers finished the year ranked #1 in New York State Class AA and #5 in all of New York State high school football!

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, I would like to thank the Bennett Alumni Association for their continued support!

"Optima Futura- The Best is Yet to Be"

**Be sure to check out all of
our
sports team photos
on our website:
bennetalumni.com**

Our President Reports... You make a difference at Bennett High School



I can't begin to tell you how excited I am to report to you as your President. I am honored to take the lead of this most auspicious organization. Our Board of Directors isn't about me. It's about all of our directors. What a team we have - a convergence of hard-working and dedicated individuals who are looking to promote social justice and equity through supporting our beloved Bennett High School.

And the power of this organization goes well beyond the Board. We have **committees members** who give of their time, talents and treasures to make our Alumni Association one of the best! And beyond this, we have so many

generous members who are giving their financial support to many different areas. If you know me well, you know I'm going to ask you to be part of this team! But first, let me give you some details of what we do.

COMMITTEES:

Committees meet beyond the regular monthly Board meetings, planning how to best impact the students and their academic and mental health needs. We also are doing a better focus on supporting our sports teams. We are advocates for **all** that will benefit Bennett. We also plan how best to **best utilize the resources** that our members donate. You can learn about many of the things that committees do elsewhere in this newsletter and on our **website**.

Our committees can best grow through **additional members** and their ideas. Would you like to join us? Our Board meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm at Bennett or we can provide you with a ZOOM link. We are always looking for your input. Feel free to give me a call - 716-308-5451 - if you have any questions or suggestions.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

We each have choices to make on how we would like to support worthy causes. I hope Bennett is important enough to you and your early development that you would like to give a little back to help the current students. Here are the areas that we offer:

MEMBERSHIPS: Your dues support our day to day operations, programs in the school, Mini-Grants, Academic Celebrations, and mental health initiatives, among many others.

ENDOWMENT FUND: Our endowment fund was established about one year ago and we have been so blessed to have raised about \$72,000.00 for the students of Bennett. This fund is managed by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and will give back annually to our school. I was especially excited by the Nash Family contributions! They decided to forego traditional Christmas presents and gave to the students at Bennett! If you have any questions about donating to the Endowment Fund or legacy planning, give me a call!

SCHOLARSHIP FUND: We have a dedicated fund to supply money to students in the form of academic scholarships beyond the scholarships endowed at the Community

Foundation. You can contribute in honor of, in memory of or in thanks for!

BASKETBALL MACHINE: As a Board, we recognized that we need to support our sports teams as well as our academics. We have launched a specific campaign to fund a Basketball Rebound Machine. There are more details on our website (bennetalumni.com) and on our Facebook page. Please support our athletes with your donations!

So, here's the ask... At our beloved School on the Hill, 2885 Main Street, there is so much need. Over 90% of last year's seniors got their diplomas. We have an amazing staff that works tirelessly to promote excellence and we are fortunate to be able to provide the necessary assistance.

How will you help? What is your calling? Are you ready to be a member? Are you ready to serve on a planning committee? Are you ready to support our sports teams? Are you ready to spread the word about all of the good things that are happening at Bennett?

I thank all of those who have already made a commitment. I also thank those who are ready to respond with their help!!

Happy 2023 and blessings to you as we continue our mission of support! I am forever grateful for all you do!

Neil Lange

BY MARSHA JADD, '58

14208 Scholarship to Honor May 14th Shooting Victims

The Bennett Alumni Association is proud to announce the creation of the 14208 Scholarship to honor the victims and survivors of the terrible tragedy of May 14, 2022, at the Tops Market on Jefferson Avenue. The Scholarship will be given at graduation to a Bennett senior who exemplifies honesty, fairness, unbiased friendship, equitable treatment of all students and staff, and positive contributions to school and community. This student will reside in the 14208 ZIP code or was directly affected by this tragedy.

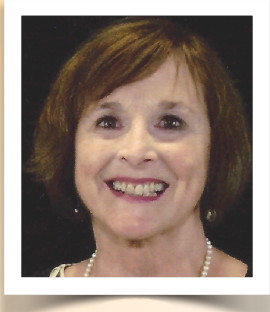
We are asking for your help! We would appreciate donations to make this scholarship as viable as we can.

Please send a check, large or small, to Bennett Alumni Association, 2885 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14214. Be sure to mark the check **14208 Scholarship**.

Donations also can be made on our website through the Scholarship feature.

Remember, your donations may be tax exempt. Please consult your financial expert for details.

Thank you so very much for your generosity.



Almost Nothing of Consequence Can be Accomplished Alone

Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund

It is with tremendous gratitude that The Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund Committee announces a milestone; at the end of its first year, contributions to the fund stand at approximately \$72,000.00. Due to your generosity, we have been able to invest in leadership for the future. Few will argue with the transformative power of education and for so many of us, our experience at Bennett High School is a key turning point in our personal stories. Together we have established a foothold in the future of urban education at Bennett High School.

It was only a short time ago that our iconic building was being sized up by charter school organizations as the school board was on the cusp of closing our public high school and leasing the space. We, the alumni, stepped into the fray, bringing our talents and resources to bear. And as the story goes, a new chapter in the history of one of Buffalo's most renowned public high schools was written. Together our Bennett alumni rose to meet the moment.

With the establishment of the endowment fund, we have invested in a new generation of high school graduates who will shape the future of our society. So many wonderful opportunities abound at Lewis J Bennett High School today. From the sports teams and other co-curricular activities to the state of the art technology curriculum that prepares students for post-secondary education and jobs in industry, our alma mater has become a very popular option for today's Buffalo students. A P-TECH grant, in its second year at Bennett, focuses on developing and sustaining healthy partnerships among our high school, community college (ECC) and a major employer (IBM). Students enrolled in the P-TECH program will graduate high school with college course

credit and essential experiences in real world employment. We can certainly celebrate the impact our gifts have had on the success of our students.

The Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund is a unique opportunity for alumni and friends of Bennett to make tax deductible charitable contributions

...we have invested in a new generation of high school graduates who will shape the future of our society.

that will support public school students for generations to come because only the income earned on the fund will be distributed while the principle is preserved. Be assured that your gifts

will have an enduring impact on the lives of urban students at Bennett.

For your opportunity to become a part of this fund or to talk about Legacy and Estate planning, feel free to call Neil Lange at 716-308-5451.

Founders' Circle Feature

President of the senior Class of 1970, **Renee T. Alexander, PhD** enclosed a heartfelt note with her contribution to the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund.

"Bennett High School transformed my life. Period," she reported. She included a picture of the prestigious Sanford D. Greenberg Leadership Award - "the most meaningful award I have ever received."

Bennett is a family tradition. Her late brother **Joseph S. Alexander, MD, '69**, played on the championship football team and made All High for the 1968 season. He was a graduate of Yale in 1973 and Howard University Medical in 1978. He practiced dermatology in Houston, Texas until his death in December 2000 at the age of 49 - a result of leukemia.

Working on the Best School Environment

It is the goal of the Bennett Alumni Redesign Team to advocate for any project, obstacle, or initiative that levels the academic playing field for our students. We believe that their high school experience should rival that of those attending another city, suburban, or private schools. It is a matter of equity, and that is our mission.

One Down and One to Go . . .

Bennett is thriving. The 2022 graduation rate was 92 percent. There are hundreds of applicants for limited space. Until September, three schools were housed on our campus. We were successful in having one school moved to a new location. It is our goal this year to keep insisting that the second school be relocated. We have enjoyed the support of Superintendent Tonja Williams in this effort. She provides funds and removes obstacles. The process, however,

is very complicated. We are committed to monitoring, tracking, and following District actions until Bennett is a single-school campus once again. This will enable us to expand our enrollment to about 750 - up 350 from our current capacity.

Mental Health First Aid. . .

Our children are living in a world filled with threats. The pandemic created conditions that are unprecedented for students. Further, every day they are reminded of their personal safety as they are greeted by security, and they are wanded as they come through the school's doors. Many are seeking help in coping.

The Redesign Team offered help that was funded by the donations that you make to your Alumni Association. Partnering with local agencies, Compeer and BestSelf, students have been offered a Mental Health First Aid course. The

staff has also been trained. We are working with the Support Staff to design and communicate a way for anyone hearing or seeing anything that triggers a warning to report it to a trusted adult. All of this effort is to help our young people feel safe and secure. We will work tirelessly to that end.

Coach Steve McDuffie

Congratulations to Bennett football coach Steve McDuffie who has been nominated by the Buffalo Bills for the 2022 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award. His nomination comes after he led the Tigers to a New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class AA Championship. In doing so, Steve has become the first Black coach to win a NYSPHSAA football title.

Our second Bennett Alumni All Class Reunion and Honor Roll Induction is scheduled for Friday, June 9, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The theme will be **Prom - Reunited!** and it proves to be a spectacular evening. . You can use the form on the website to reserve your spots or the form on this page. Spread the word and reserve your spots early. Tickets will be mailed to everyone two weeks before the event.

The **prom** will start with the induction of our Honor Roll recipients. Following, we will celebrate Bennett with a Happy Hour including dancing on the stage. A delicious appetizer display will be served and a cash wine bar will be available. Soft drinks and water will be provided.

All-Class Reunion and Honor Roll

You are invited to be a part of the All-Class Reunion and Honor Roll Ceremony on Friday, June 9, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. Please make your reservations before May 26, 2023. Tickets will be mailed to you.

Please PRINT! • Question? Call Neil Lange at (716) 308-5451

Name _____ Class of _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to **Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.**
Please attach Additional Names to this form and mail to:
 Bennett All Class Reunion • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14214

Robert Glover, '44, December 16, 2000
 Graham McGregor, '53, age 65,
 March 29, 2001
 John Heron, '53, September 16, 2004
 June Miller Riley, '45, August 31, 2005
 Shora Levite Blumberg, '55,
 August 18, 2009
 Burton W. Platt, '56, age 71,
 October 19, 2010
 Barbara Frankel Rosenfeld, '51, age 77,
 April 5, 2011
 Ann Herman Schruttt, '53, March 12, 2014
 Ron Sugnet, '52, June 29, 2016
 Florence Cuthill Clouse, '42, age 92,
 December 22, 2016
 Clayton Crawford, '51, January 10, 2018
 Milton Kalnitz, '52, June 4, 2018
 Keva Richman, '53, age 82,
 March 31, 2019
 Francis Thomas, '60, age 76, May 9, 2019
 Charles Ferella, '72, age 64, June 8, 2019
 Herbert Johnson, '55, November 12, 2019
 Alfred Cohen, Jr., '43, December 24, 2019
 Theodore J. "Teddy" Henry, '53,
 July 24, 2020
 Arnold Chernick, '54, July 25, 2020
 Barbara Holfelner Lenhart, age 87,
 December 1, 2020
 Mildred Weiss Swados, '50, age 93,
 July 5, 2021
 Lorraine Jadd Freeman, '60,
 September 2021
 Neil Savage, '61, November 17, 2021
 Janet Roundtree Heron, '53,
 January 5, 2022
 Judy Safran Benjamin Goodyear, '56,
 age 83, January 21, 2022
 D. Rudy Reem, '45, age 94,
 January 23, 2022
 Gary M. Cohen, '61, age 78,
 January 28, 2022,
 Brian R. Grood, '59, age 80,
 January 31, 2022
 Milton Pitterman, '53, February 4, 2022
 Mary Mitchell Lopian, Science Teacher,
 February 15, 2022
 Eldene Jaffe Mohl, '51, age 88,
 February 26, 2022
 Thomas L. Cechini, '56, age 83,
 February 28, 2022
 James C. Van Slyke, '53, March 2, 2022

• In Memoriam •

(Reported since Summer 2022 Bennett Beacon)
Your additions or corrections are requested.
Please forward to the Bennett Beacon staff.

Phyllis Kolbe Mattar Margrey, '54, age 85,
 March 3, 2022
 Lawrence David Freedman, '54,
 March 3, 2022
 Karen Jacobson Feinberg, '64,
 March 16, 2022
 Gretchen Ann Miller Eichorn, '62, age 77,
 March 16, 2022
 Major Henry "Harry" Carl Switzgable, Jr., '42,
 March 21, 2022
 Charles M. Breinin, Science Teacher,
 March 22, 2022
 Evelyn Baker Bruce, '51, March 23, 2022
 Paul L. Emerick, '58, March 25, 2022
 Wendell H. Hughes, '52, age 87,
 March 29, 2022
 Joan McLennan Mangano, '50,
 March 29, 2022
 Robert J. Hunt Sr., '53, age 86, April 5, 2022
 Nancy Bateman Full, '58, age 81,
 April 18, 2022
 Joseph C. Orsolits, '75, age 65,
 April 22, 2022
 Janet Anne Kelly Doan, '48, April 23, 2022
 Elenie Dellas Basil, '50, age 89,
 April 23, 2022
 Bob Lanier, '66, age 73, May 10, 2022
 Herbert M. "Herb" Siegel, '54, age 85,
 May 13, 2022
 Margus Morrison, '90, age 52, May 14, 2022
 Susan Busch Cullen, '56, age 83,
 May 15, 2022
 Carmen J. Iannaccone, '57, age 82,
 May 20, 2022
 Marvin Elster, '50, May 21, 2022
 Lorine McLeish Salley-Williams, '57, age 83,
 May 31, 2022
 Dr. Robert Milch, '60, age 79, June 4, 2022
 Margaret W. Klein Kubisty, '53,
 June 18, 2022
 William O. Gorenflo, '53, age 86,
 June 24, 2022
 Ralph Lubick, '54, age 86, July 21, 2022
 Ronald Louchren, Science Teacher,
 July 22, 2022

Judge Joseph David Mintz, '51 age 89,
 July 30, 2022
 Gerald C. Meyers, '46, August 2022
 Dr. Leon Henderson, Science Teacher,
 age 90, August 2, 2022
 Roger M. Stevenson, '51, age 90,
 August 9, 2022
 Reginald C. Eyre, '59, age 80,
 August 10, 2022
 Fern Weinstein Woldman, '51,
 August 16, 2022
 Douglas Baker, '60, age 79,
 August 19, 2022
 Ellen Beagle Tomoser, '53, age 86,
 August 19, 2022
 James F. Creighton, '51,
 August 26, 2022
 Theresa Harris Tigg, '72, age 67,
 September 6, 2022
 George "Jack" Willer, Jr., '43,
 September 27, 2022
 Richard L. Hirsch, '50, age 89,
 October 1, 2022
 Lawrence D. Joseph, '51,
 October 1, 2022
 Donna L. Johnson Ruth, '74, age 66,
 October 13, 2022
 Maureen Mitzkoff, English Teacher,
 October 24, 2022
 Steven "Clean" Segal, '64, age 76,
 October 28, 2022
 Walter Niblack, '56, November 4, 2022
 Diane Lindermeier Green, '61, age 79,
 November 15, 2022
 Alice Boersma Haberly, '37, age 102,
 November 21, 2022
 William D. Mackolin, '50, age 90,
 November 23, 2022
 Jerome R. Schweitzer, Science Teacher,
 age 97, December 8, 2022
 Roland Turk, '58, age 82,
 December 19, 2022
 Thomas Anthony, '51, age 89,
 January 1, 2023
 Stephen Guard, Custodian, age 55,
 January 3, 2023
 Katherine A. (Kay) Phillies, '54, age 86,
 January 9, 2023
 Sheldon Mayer Berlow, '50,
 January 12, 2023

Bennett Moving Forward Committee

BY MARILYN WITTMAN, RETIRED PRINCIPAL

A New Logo for Our Dynamic Association

Your Alumni Association has grown into a dynamic organization that remembers the past and embraces the future. Our next "moving forward" initiative is to upgrade and streamline our "branding." The graphics, logos, and designs we have been using were a good amateur effort. Our status as a vibrant, growing organization requires a new look. Working with our design partners, the Board has adopted the new logo at the right for use in all our media outreach. Each aspect was carefully planned to reflect where we have been and where we are going. Special attention was given to equity. The Alumni Association is here to be sure our current students have a high school experience second to none in WNY.



Look for the new logo in the mail and online.

The History of Bennett High School

This installment is the continuation of the History of Bennett that we have been publishing in the Beacon. The full version can be found at www.bennettalumni.com.

INSTALLMENT FIVE - THE 1950S

Rock & Roll is Here to Stay - The Fun Times Accompanied by the Serious

The 1950s marked the beginning of space exploration. This had a huge impact on the educational system. Sputnik, launched by the USSR (Russia) forced the US into a game of catch up. Through the National Defense Education Act, teachers were better trained in the arts, math and science. Honors classes were introduced to better prepare students and make them more competitive.

It isn't possible to look through a *Beacon* of the 1950s and not see crowds of students attending every club, activity, sporting event, and, yes, even studying in the library together. This excitement for learning carried over into excitement for everything happening in the 50s.

The landmark desegregation order of Brown vs The Board of Education in 1954 started the impetus for redistricting Buffalo schools. Also, many houses were torn down in Buffalo to make way for the Kensington Expressway. These all changed the demographics of students attending Bennett.

But the change made for new challenges. As the increase of technology took hold on America and the realization of the Cold War, a new emphasis was placed on being ready.

The Bennett Community Association took part in making changes. They raised money to seed and level the practice field. They sponsored a

get-acquainted dance for the freshmen and a Halloween Hop for 1000. They worked to reduce freshman hazing and established a Sunshine Fund for members. Most importantly, the group raised money to help support activities at the school. A Pop Concert at Kleinhans Music Hall netted \$1050.

The 1950s were a magical time full of all kinds of experiences and activities. There were challenging classes with honor societies in every subject. We reached out into the community through our Hi-Y clubs, Red Cross and Civil Defense Club. There was a club for everyone: chess, drama, languages, professions, sports, monitors, skating, fencing, photography, stamp, coin and more.

Probably the greatest memories of all were the assemblies. There was so much talent and so many wonderful performances of plays and variety shows.

It was a time of rock and roll. Dances were held at the Statler Hilton, Trap and Field Club and the Grover Cleveland Country Club. There were movies at the Granada, North Park, Amherst, Central Park and, yes, the Drive-In.

In 1950, Bennett had 91 staff members. Fifty-eight of these were teachers with more than 25 years' experience in the Buffalo Schools.

Students Identify Their Needs

BY MARILYN WITTMAN, RETIRED PRINCIPAL

SBMT - School Based Management Team

SBMT means School-Based Management Team. This group meets monthly and consists of students, parents, faculty, administrators, and alumni. Your Board Members always represent the Alumni Association. The highlight is often listening to the students' point of view.

The students are very candid in saying that everything that stressed them before the pandemic is magnified now and that they are asking for mental health help. The Alumni Association has sponsored a course called Mental Health First Aid which many staff and 10th,

11th, and 12th-grade students have taken. This is an ongoing initiative.

Also, the students want their school to be cleaner. Recent changes in the custodial staff are welcomed. It is now time to turn to student responsibility in this effort. The next steps will be to identify areas of focus and to increase student awareness of what they can do to help keep areas clean and sanitary, likely starting with lavatories. It is gratifying to know that the students care about their environment and want to make the care and maintenance of our beloved school a priority.

BY MARGARET LANZ PUZIO, '68 & FACULTY

Founders' Circle Feature

Paying It Forward

The simplest way to define “paying it forward” is when someone does something for you, in lieu of paying that person back directly, you pass it on to another person instead. **Chris Wende, '68**, found a way to pass his good fortune forward. He made an incredibly generous donation to our **Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund**. When his checks were received, we contacted Chris to thank him and he shared a bit of his story with us.

It turns out that Chris has an outsized generous streak that motivated him to give of his time and talents throughout his adult life. Along with his financial contributions to

our **Bennett Alumni Endowment**, he and his wife, Barb volunteer at their church, St. Andrew's in Tonawanda. While on a ladder decorating the church for Christmas, he asked himself, “What am I doing here?”

Then the answer came to him and he loved it! Contribute!

Besides Bennett, Kevin Guest House and the Ride for Roswell are additional beneficiaries. Currently, they are preparing to volunteer at White Whiskers Senior Sanctuary, founded by **Polla Milligan, '66**. The shelter will house and care for senior dogs whose owners can no longer care for them or may have been admitted to nursing homes.

Chris keeps in contact with many of his lifelong friends from Bennett, and that works well with his passion for travel. Chris said, “I love flying. I love to travel.” After graduating from Bennett and Canisius College, he went to work for Allegheny Airlines for 33 years, retiring in 2005 from what was then USAirways. He worked part time at Prime Flight for a while to keep in contact with his friends in the airline industry, but was offered a position with the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) in 2010 and re-retired five years later. His wife said the airport is his happy place. He loves the dynamics of it all.

He and Barb have traveled all over the world, but he is working through his personal goal of visiting all fifty states in the U.S.A. He recently visited West Virginia, while Oregon, North Dakota, Michigan, and Wisconsin are still on his bucket list. Chris said that he has met so many interesting people while traveling and he maintains contact with many of them.

Chris reported, “I've said time and time again the quality of the education that I received at Bennett helped shape

Your Alumni Association is forever grateful for those who make contributions in honor of or in memory of or in thanks for Bennett Alumni.

•Gifts Received in Honor of...

- Roger Dayer, '51
 - by Cynthia Dayer Erb, '80
- Roberta Allbert Dayer, '53
 - by Cynthia Dayer Erb, '80

•Gifts Received in Memory of...

- Dr. Gary N. Cohen, '51
 - by Hon. Paul L. Friedman, '61
- Lavenia Pitts Dixie, '86
 - by Karen Ballard McKinnie, '86
- Robert J. Hunt, Sr., '35
 - by Robert F. Kreinheder, '53
- Donald E. Smith, '48
 - by John E. (Gene) Garrison, '49
- Fred “Fritz” Shelgren, '47
 - by John E. (Gene) Garrison, '49
- Arthur Reynolds, '47
 - by John E. (Gene) Garrison, '49
- James L. Shanks, '50
 - by Sharon E. Perez, daughter
- Richard Roberts, '67
 - by Paul Cain, '67
- Ronald Louchren, Faculty
 - by Joanne Szejbka, Faculty
- Dr. Leon Henderson, Faculty
 - by Joanne Szejbka, Faculty
- Marjorie Hoffman, '62
 - by David E. Manch, '60
- Floyd Hill, Guidance Counsellor,
 - by Stephen Gosch, '59
- Maksym Sugorovskiy
 - by Daniel J. Cantor, '61
- Kathryn Switzer Tiffany, '56
 - by Marjorie Koontz Verrico, '56
- Diane Gartler Martinelli, '66
 - by Carolyn Price Singletary, Ph.D.
- Alice Boersma Haberly, '37
 - by Jeffrey & Karen Rathman
- Alice Boersma Haberly, '37
 - by Brian Skelton

me as a person and has enabled me to discuss a wide variety of topics with people we have met in our travels. At the time, I thought everyone received the same quality education that I did. It was only years later that I realized this was not the case. As I have bragged about my school, people have been amazed at the courses offered, the care of the teachers, the great location and a stadium behind the school ! Going back to the school for reunions I've been so impressed at all the advancements! “

(ed. Many thanks to Chris Wende for allowing us to feature a few of his accomplishments in this edition. His story is certainly a testament to our motto, Optima Futura, The Best is Yet to Be and we are truly grateful for his generosity.)

Class Notes

The Faculty

Ronald B. Louchren died July 22, 2022. He was a Chemistry teacher and retired from Bennett . He earned a degree from Buffalo State and held two master’s degrees. He was a gifted athlete and set a record in track and field for the “440” which stood for over 40 years. He was on the Lafayette Championship Crew from 1952 to 1954. He enjoyed acting in local theater. He was married to Sharon Caher, - a Bennett High School English teacher.

Dr. Leon Henderson died on August 2, 2022. He was known as “The Gentle Giant“. In 1958, Leon began his career as a science teacher at Clinton Junior High. He transferred to Bennett as a Biology, Chemistry and Earth Science teacher. He was promoted to the position of homeschool coordinator and Supervisor of Personnel. He retired in 1992 after 34 years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Cecilia Brown Henderson - a Buffalo educator and a member of our Board of Directors.

Class Notes

The 1960s

Hospice and Palliative Care Buffalo has renamed its Mitchell Campus in Cheektowaga to the Milch-Mitchell Campus to honor the late **Dr. Robert Milch'60**, the organization's co-founder.

Class Notes

The 1970s

Justice E. Jeanette Ogden'77 was appointed to the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court, Fourth Department, based in Rochester by Gov. Kathy Hochul.

Class Notes

The 1980s



Kim Collins-Jones, '81 is no stranger to her Buffalo community. Anyone hungry and looking for a great place to go for food, friends,

and fun can stop by Phat Catz Restaurant & Bar where you will likely see her serving food and greeting everyone with a smile. Stop by and see her sometime and when you do, say, “Go Tigers!”



Antoine Thompson, '88, former NYS Senator and Buffalo Masten District Council Member received an Alumni Award for Leadership

and Service from the SUNY Brockport Alumni Association. Thompson is the Executive Director of Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition. He is the immediate past Executive Director of National Association of Real Estate Brokers. He is a partner in Creative PMO, a consulting firm and a licensed real estate agent.

Tameki Hollie-McGee, '89 has been appointed Chief of Human Resources for the Buffalo School District. She has been working as Deputy of H.R. in the district for nearly 4 years.

Class Notes

The 1990s



Kenya Hobbs, '90 was a student destined for leadership, serving as Senior Class President at Ben-

nett. Kenya obtained a Bachelor’s in English from UB and a Master’s in Organizational Leadership from Medaille. Kenya serves as the Interim Vice president for Student Development, the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Senior Advisor to the President, and an Adjunct Professor at Medaille University. He is a devoted family man and is an active and engaged member of his Buffalo community.



LaShawn Chinn, '93 currently serves as the Director of the Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry and as an Adjunct Instructor at Villa Maria College. LaShawn re-

cently launched Let’s Make Changes, a consulting business focused on customer service training, alternative dispute resolution, board training and D.I.S.C Personality analysis. She is a proud mother. She serves as an active member of Prince Hall Eastern Star and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.



Melodie McAlister Baker, '99 was elected vice chair in the national policy director for Just Equations at SUNY Erie

Community College. She was also recently featured in the Learn Magazine in an article entitled Solving the Equity Equation. She continues to advance math policy and opportunity for students.

The 2000s



Andrew Dockery, '03 has a passion for teaching people how to develop multiple streams of income. As a Sales and Marketing

Strategist, author, and founder and owner of The Dockery Firm, LLC, he is a subject matter expert in financial literacy and education. He holds seminars on how people can earn passive income in various ways. He recently published a book, The Connector's Handbook.



Mark Overall, '03 was recently recognized by Buffalo Business First as one of the Power 100 Business Leaders of Color in

Western New York who use their platform and influence to expand diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the workforce. Mark is President of the Buffalo Urban League Young Professionals, Second Vice President of the Bennett High School Alumni Association, and a member of Emerging Philanthropists of Color.



Rayshad Russell, '01, serves the community he loves as a Buffalo firefighter. He also serves in many other ways, volunteering

much of his spare time with his church, participating in various community initiatives, and being an overall positive example to youth in the Greater Buffalo area. Ray is a loving husband, a devot-

ed father, and an active and engaged community member.



Jason Cathcart, '07 went on to receive a Sociology degree from Buffalo State College. He is a Health Educator in the youth ser-

vices department at the Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers. Jason also engages as a part time community and arts organizer. He loves bringing people together - building a better community.



Deonna Jones, '08 graduated from Bennett's Law Magnet Program. Deonna went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree and a law

degree from the University of Buffalo. As an attorney, she strives to improve her community. After serving as an Erie County Assistant District Attorney, Deonna recently accepted a new position as Assistant Legal Counsel for the Buffalo Public Schools Board.



Lashema Worthy, '07 graduated from the International Studies Program, and earned an Associate's Degree in Business from SUNY Erie and a

Bachelor's in Psychology from Buffalo State College. Lashema is the owner and CEO of Safe & Sound Transportation LLC, a medical transportation company. She also recently established 2Morrow LLC, a real estate company. When she's not working, Lashema enjoys reading, yoga, and cooking.



Medical Assisting and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Bryant and Stratton College. She is an Associate Software Engineer

at Key Bank and is celebrating her tenth year with the company. Vanessa is a proud wife and mother of one son and is an active member of the Buffalo Urban League Young Professionals.



Yolanda Smith, MHC '03 graduated from the International Studies Program, and earned her undergraduate degree from UB and

her graduate degree from Medaille. Yolanda currently serves as the Director of Adult Community Services at the Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers and is also an adjunct professor at Hilbert College. She is a proud wife and mother and is often seen serving in her community in various capacities.



Shnikie Slaughter Smith, '03 attended SUNY Erie. Today, she is a woman of many talents, working as a realtor, personal care aide, and interior decorator.

Shnikie is a loving mother and can usually be seen with a smile on her face.

We'd love to report about you! Please send your updates to us. Your friends would love to know what you're doing. We'd love to know about your accomplishments!

Alumni Honor Roll

2023 Nomination Form

please use this form to make your nomination to honor an alumni

Check Category:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artisans & Crafters | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Professions | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Principals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Aerospace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dentistry | <input type="checkbox"/> Management/ Consulting | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Professionals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel/Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Responders | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteerism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Careers | | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |

Nominee _____ Class of _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Briefly describe the accomplishments of this graduate in the field of endeavor.

Information of person submitting the nomination.

Name _____ Class of _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please feel free to duplicate this form and send in as many nominations as desired. We would like to recognize all those Bennett Alumni who have done so much for our community. Please submit your nominations before February 21, 2023!

Return this form to: Bennett High School Alumni Honor Roll
 2885 Main Street
 Buffalo, New York 14214

BY MARK OVERALL, '03

What to Do With Your Free Time?

The Answer is Simple:
 Serve

As many of you are aware, we are in the midst of a seismic shift in the American workforce. Baby boomers are retiring and exiting the workforce in mass numbers, and millions more are expected to do so in the upcoming years. I often find myself engaged in conversation with many members of this demographic and the question that keeps coming up is **“What will I do with all this free time?”**

The answer is simple: serve. Serve your community. Volunteer to be a mentor. Work at a polling place during elections. Referee a local basketball game. Participate in neighborhood cleanups. Volunteer at a Saturday Academy. Get involved with your local block club.

Don't get me wrong. I do realize that retired life is supposed to be a blissful reward of peace and tranquility after a lifetime of working. It is something that many of us look forward to. However, with more time to travel, relax, read, and engage in hobbies, there is also more time to volunteer and serve your community without the pressing engagement of having to go to work every day.

Our Bennett Alumni Association Board of Directors is a shining example of this. With many board members being retired, they have such a love for Bennett and their community that they do their part in ensuring that students have the best high school experience possible. My fellow board members give me so much motivation because many of them have worked their whole lives only to retire and continue working for our Bennett students without being paid.

I look forward to the day when I am able to do the same.

Founder Circle Endowment Fund Donors of \$1000 or More

Our thanks to the following for their vision in promoting and contributing to the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund. We are forever grateful for their belief in the future of our students.

Dr. Renee T. Alexander, '70
 Arlene (Susie) Alt Hogan, '58
 Marleen Bengel Varner, '49
 Marland L. Berdick, '49
 Alice Boersma Haberly, '37
 David M. Braunstein, '70
 Phillip Brothman, '56
 Philip Celniker, '54
 Dr. Joseph Chazan, '52
 Paulette Coles Gallagher, '61
 Tony Cox, '71*
 Elaine Diringier, Faculty
 Frank G. Emerling, '60
 John P. Emerling, '64
 Robert S. Fink, Ph.D., '65
 Deborah Fox Hahn, '60
 Hon. Paul L. Friedman, '61
 Gwendolyn Garr, '66

John E. (Gene) Garrison, '49
 Scott W. Gehl, '70
 Don A. Gilbert, '60 & Faculty
 Linda J. Greenberg Shohet, '68
 Cecelia B. Henderson, Faculty
 Thomas C. Hendricks, '57
 Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72
 Salvatore J. Illuzzi, Ph.D., '64
 Robert L. Johnson, Jr., '68
 Neil J. Lange, Faculty
 David J. Lanz, '65
 John C. Lanz, '67
 Margaret M. Lanz Puzio, '68 & Faculty
 Sally Laurie Murphy, '51
 Suzanne Marble Sykes, '56
 Corinne Elliott Marillo Carter, '53
 Miriam Maslekoff Ganz, '68
 Kenneth W. Matasar, MD, '60

Dr. Susan C. McCurdy Hendricks, '59
 Major Anthony M. Nash, '06
 Margaret J. Nash Carestia, '08
 Teresa R. Nash, Mother
 Helen Nelson Gibson, Faculty
 Danis J. Norman Gehl, '70
 Thomas O'Dell, '61
 Nancy Preston Broderick, '36
 Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48
 Robert L. Sloan, '53
 Thomasina R. Stenhouse, Ph.D., '68
 Donald Sykes, '54
 Bruce R. Thielking, '66
 Nils A. Vigeland, '68
 Christopher H. Wende, '68
 Marilyn Wittman, Faculty
 Anonymous
 Anonymous

Bennett All-Class Reunion & Honor Roll Ceremony

Friday, June 9, 2023

5:00pm - 9:00pm

At Bennett High School

- Honor Roll Induction at 5:00pm
- All Class Celebration follows
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm.
- \$25.00 per person includes:
 - Finger Foods
 - Gift Bag
 - Souvenir Glass
 - Soft Drinks & Water
- Cash Bar



Tickets are limited to the first 200 replies.
 Dress is Business Casual

Tickets may be purchased by mail (see form on page 4) or online at bennettalumni.com. Include your name, address, phone number and your guests' names. Please make checks payable to *Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.* and mail to:

Bennett Alumni All Class Reunion
 2885 Main Street
 Buffalo, NY 14214

Bennett Alumni Ambassadors

Committee to Connect with Bennett Grads

The newly formed **Bennett Alumni Ambassador Committee** has been established to reach out to all of our Alumni. As we look towards our 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2025, we want to verify the accuracy of our class lists. There are many years, especially from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, where we have very few accurate addresses and phone numbers. This needs to be fixed and we are hoping some class leaders will take on the task of gathering and supplying the Association with up-to-date data.

Board member Linda Moore is leading this effort. If you are a reunion leader from your class, Neil Lange would love to hear from you and your willingness to help gather this much needed information. He can be reached at 716-308-5451. Optima Futura!!!



Do you know someone who is celebrating a **special occasion** and you can't find that perfect gift? Have you ever thought that it might be nice to **honor the memory** of a departed classmate? How about sending a **thank-you** for all that someone has done for you or a classmate?

In our efforts to augment our **scholarship fund**, we have created this opportunity. This past year, we were able to assist graduates with almost \$10,000.00 in monies for college. We'd love to be able to do more!

Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. Scholarship Fund

In honor of _____ on the occasion of _____

In memory of _____

In thanks for: _____

Please notify: Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

[Please make checks payable to: Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.](#)

Your Gift of \$ _____ will be placed in the Scholarship Fund. (A \$10.00 minimum would be appreciated.)

Your Name _____ Class _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ email _____

Mail to: Bennett Alumni Association, Inc • 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, NY 14214

CARING

Thanks for making a difference in the lives of our students!

Is Your Membership Paid?

Bennett Alumni Dues

Dues to the Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. make such a huge impact. Through your generous contributions, you have helped level the playing field for our students. If you haven't joined before, we hope you will consider adding to our growing membership! If you have yet to renew, please remember to do so today! We thank you for your support!

Membership runs from September 1, 2022 until August 31, 2023

Please make checks payable to Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.

If you prefer, use PayPal! Visit us at www.bennettalumni.com

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 • Basic Dues | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Century • \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold • \$101 - \$199 | <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum \$200 - \$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond \$500+ |

Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Please Mail to: Bennett Alumni Membership
2885 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14214

*** For any questions about your DUES, to make additional contributions, or to find out about our legacy program, call Neil Lange at 716-308-5451!

2022 - 2023 Major Alumni Donor

** As of January 10, 2023. We apologize for any omissions or errors.*

Diamond Club - \$500+

Marland L. Berdick, '49
Joan Broderick Mooney, '64
Philip Celniker, '54
Sally Laurie Murphy, '51

Bruce A. McNallie, '56
Donald H. Meyncke, Jr., '49
Robert A. Russell, '63
Gordon T. Warme, '66
Anonymous

Platinum Club - \$200 - \$499

Phillip Brothman, '56
Elaine Diringler, Faculty
Frank G. Emerling, '60
John E. (Gene) Garrison, '49
Stuart A. Gellman, '54
Don A. Gilbert, '60 & Faculty

Judith Lynn Green Brothman, '59
Salvatore J. Illuzzi, Ph.D., '64
Robert L. Johnson, Jr., '68
Dr. Ed & Linda Lazzaro, Faculty
Dr. James D. MacLowery, '53
Kenneth W. Matasar, MD, '60

Eva Roeder MacLowery, '53
Ann Rynne Lozeau, '60
Leslie Ann Sapecky Gray, '69
Linda M. Scheffer, '61
Rhoda Stein Greenwald, '59
Robert C. Sugarman, Ph.D., '59

Gold Club - \$101 - \$199

Linda Barker Moore, '68 & Faculty
Roger H. Bennett, '60
Peter M. Cammarata, '75
Richard F. Carver, M.D., '55
Ronald K. Dollmann, '60
Laurence D. Edelman, '57
Larry Fink (River), '68
Linda Franklin Harris, '60
Hon. Paul L. Friedman, '61
James Friedman, '65
Marna Gale Burstein, '54
Scott W. Gehl, '70
Jerome M. Giordano, '54
Seymour Gitin, '52
Jacqueline Hillary Jordan, '72

Ada Hopson Clemons, '70
Sanford Horwitz, '69
Christine Beebe Jehle Whitman, '68 & Faculty
Robert J. Klein, '68
Carolyn "Cookie" Kulick Weil, '60
Douglas A. Lang, '56
Neil J. Lange, Faculty
Lawrence H. Levin, '57
Evelyn Miller Swarts, '59
Kenneth J. Munro, Jr, '57
Carol Newman Caserta, '60 & Faculty
Marilyn Newman Walsdorf, '53
Danis J. Norman Gehl, '70
Harry L. Powazek, '73
Carolyn Price Singletary PhD, '66

Don W. Rappold, '63
Margie Redstone Rosenstock, '65
David A. Rosen, '71
Allan H. Rosenblitt, '65
Rebecca Savage Jones, '63
Owen W. Schultz, '92
Harvey S. Serota, '61
Clifford L. Shisler, '56
Frances Siskar Dickman, '57
Alvin H. Spector, '71
Jean Travis Boccuti, '57
Deirdre L. Webb, '89
Lynn S. Weissman Klein, '68
Richard L. Wexler, '64
Marcia Weymouth Coleman, '61

Century Club - \$100

Barbara Aaron Snyder, '57
Essie Ablove Schloss, '61
Gregory Dale Abram, '71
David M. Braunstein, '70
Karima Carol Aiken Amin, '65
Carol Cicarell Ottaviani, '60
Tony Cox, '71*
Joel L. Daniels, '56
Hon. Crystal Davis Peoples-Stokes, '69
Francis J. DeYoung, '57
Michael K. Ferber, '62
Thomas L. Freudenheim, '55
Terrence Gamble, '65
Daniel M. Gerstman, '66
Lynn Gilmore Canton, '66
Jeannette Guardalibene Rodak, '59
Cecelia B. Henderson, Faculty
Kenya Hobbs, '90
Joanne Kaplan VanDerveer, '71
Merle Katz Goldstein, '55
Kathleen Kinney, '91

Glenn Kraemer, '68
Kenneth A. Kreinheder, '57
Margaret M. Lanz Puzio, '68 & Faculty
Leonard Ludwig, '55
Carolyn Milius Weber, '55
Diane Popper Pachman, '53
Paul H. Riestler, '70

Janet Severance Reynolds, '61
Sue Shaffer Gardner, '48
Hon. Shirley Troutman, '78
Lawrence A. Veronica, Faculty
Daniel Wood, '04
Leslie Wright Jones, '60
Judith Zent Deck, '59

Have you considered supporting Bennett High School through the Bennett Alumni Endowment Fund as a part of your legacy or estate planning? Please contact Neil Lange at (716) 308-5451 to learn how you can make a difference.

Please let us know if there are omissions or errors in our records. We'd be happy to check!

In a Season for the Ages

Bennett Tigers are Class AA State Champions

William Faulkner wrote, “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” For the 2022 Bennett Football Tigers, this line would ring profoundly true in a couple of ways. First, the Tigers spent the offseason preparing for a successful campaign that would return them to the state finals and allow them to scale the last summit which had eluded them in 2021. For the coaches and players, this meant studying the Carmel game film,



hitting the weights and cardio, and attending multiple football skill camps. Preparations like these are the usual ingredients for Bennett football success, but in this offseason,

the focus and refortifying were particularly in earnest. The unraveling at the Carrier Dome weighed prominently.

Secondly, the Bennett football program faced, after earning one of its most important wins of the season against Lancaster in week six, an unfathomable challenge from a Section VI ruling. The Section notified Bennett that its four victories up to that point would now be forfeits due to a clerical error in filing transfer paperwork for one of the Bennett players. The new challenge seemed to resemble past adversities faced by Bennett and the Buffalo Public Schools in dealings with Section VI. Now, Bennett would have to win its final two games against Niagara Falls and

Hutch Tech just to qualify for the playoffs, and from there, the team would have to play on the road the duration of the postseason.

But the 2022 football Tigers possessed a destiny and determination like no others. Week seven was senior week and the team held a meeting with Coach McDuffie. The coach advised, in one of the toughest talks he’s ever had to deliver, that the team’s wins to that point would be forfeits, and that the next two games would determine Bennett’s playoff fate. The team leaders stepped up and confidently and resiliently declared that they could win the next seven games straight on the road to bring the football program to its highest height -- a Class AA New York State title. And this is exactly what the Bennett Tigers did! They defied daunting adversity and historical challenges to emerge triumphant as Lewis J. Bennett’s first state championship team. And they did it with resounding and emphatic play, defeating Section IX’s Newburgh Free Academy, 42 - 8, in the Carrier Dome on December 4th.

The Tigers were led this year by their senior captains, QB Antonio Davis III, lineman Rashard Perry, center and linebacker Xzavier Goodman, lineman Jason Gwan, and wide receiver and linebacker Jayden Lewis. Rashard Perry and Jayden Lewis were All New York State in 2021 and all five captains returned as All Western New York. These five were joined during the offseason by six transfer student-athletes who would figure big for the Tigers in 2022: Aaron Roseboro from St. Francis, Cureem Hathcock and Darrell Hamilton from Canisius, Demario Clemons from Sweet Home, Kahmari Cook from North Carolina, and Ja’Meer Thomas from Maritime

Football Cheerleading

Football Cheerleading season was in full force this Fall. The LJB Tiger Squad worked extremely hard all summer to prepare for the upcoming season. The cheerleaders wanted to take their hard work to the next level by adding multiple stunts and tosses to their routines.

Every game they dazzled the fans with a new halftime routine and multiple stunts and tosses. The LJB squad uses the Stomp-N-Shake style of cheer that originated in the 1970s by African Americans in the south and is the style of cheer that HBCU’s use today. You will see these cheerleaders stomping and shaking at every single game.

Some our highlights include our Senior Night and our Big Sister/Little Sister Night with our Buffalo Vets little league cheerleaders within our community.



Girls Swim Team is Fun

The L. J. Bennett Girls Swim Team is in its second year of existence and the word is getting out that swimming is a lot of fun!

This season we had amazing girls on the team. Several key contributors include Valarie Myers, Grace Olonbengla, Natalia Miller and D'Money Jefferson. The girls gave their maximum effort, and we are already preparing for and looking forward to next season.

The girls swim season picks up again this August. During the spring and summer, we will be offering swim clinics and swim lessons in order to get more involvement in the sport.

A special thank – you to the Alumni Association for our New Era Swim Hoodies.



Bennett Athletics

Undefeated Boys Soccer

Posting a 8-1 league season record, the LJB Boys Soccer Team returned as back-to-back Division II Champions.

Under the leadership of Head Coach, Khalil Cottman, the Tigers also won their first sectional playoff game in history. The team was unable to go undefeated for the season but continued to show that they are the team to beat for years to come. Led by a strong senior class and several outstanding underclassmen, next year, the Tigers are preparing for a reload, not a rebuild.

Recognitions were achieved by: 1) Prince Kiruhura - 1st Team All-High. 2) Ahmed Badawi - Honorable Mention 3) Jackson Kamanzi - Second Team All-High. 4) Muhammad Imran - First Team All-High.

Tigers Cross Country

The LJB Tigers finished another winning season for both the boys and girls teams in 2022. The boys finished with a record of 5 - 3, placing them third overall in Division 2. The girls finished with a record of 6 - 3 and placed second overall in Division 2.

The Tigers were successful during the All-High meet, as sophomore Imire Oakes placed fourth overall for Division 2 and freshman Journee Tyus placed second overall for Division 2. Logging the fastest time of the year was senior Omarion Williams at 18:57.

Congratulations to the Tigers on another successful season.



Support for Our Basketball Rebound Machine

As a new initiative of your Alumni Board of Directors, it was decided last August to support one major project each year for our sports teams. This year, we will be working with our Basketball Team. Coach Khalil Cottman came to our Board with a request for a rebound machine. All of the suburban districts have these machines which help improve practices and shooting skills.

The Board decided to work in partnership with the Basketball Team on an incentive fundraiser. The team has committed to paying half of the costs of the machine (a \$8700.00 total cost) and your Alumni Board will contribute the remaining \$4350.00.

This is the first time that your Board has endeavored to assist the athletics in our school. Up until this

point, most of our focus has been on supporting academics.

We are looking for your support. As we acknowledge our role in providing equity for our Bennett Tigers, we know we can count on your continued generosity. Our Boys Basketball Team is rated number 10 in Western New York, and we would love to see them become champions!!

Please send your contributions to us at: 2885 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14214. Make the check payable to Bennett Alumni Association with Basketball in the memo. You can also make your contributions online at our website bennettalumni.com. Our Bennett athletes thank you for your support!!!

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Buffalo, New York 14214



Time Sensitive Publication
February 12 2023

Girls Tennis

The Girls Tennis Team finished the season with a 6 - 3 - 1 record under coach Mary Del-Signore.

Senior captain Alifa Chowdhury

led the Tigers winning all of her

matches except for one. Also, making up the team were seniors, Jasmin

Williams and Num Saie, sophomores, Kariah Kulu and Semiah Strong, and freshmen, Mariah Strong and Journee Tyus.

The Most Valuable Player award

went to Alifa Chowdhury, Most Im-

proved award went to Mariah Strong

and the Sportsmanship award went to Semiah Strong. Earning All WNY

Scholar Athlete awards were Alifa Chowdhury and Num Saie.

Mission Statement

of the
Bennett Alumni Association, Inc.

We, the Bennett Alumni Association, Inc., believe in the power of education to transform lives. We are committed to educational equity, dignity and social justice for all. We will strive to remain mindful of our ever-changing society and its effect on our students.

The Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. supports students, staff, and administrators in their work toward graduation for all. It endorses the creation of an atmosphere of affirmative problem-solving to create and maintain positive relationships among students, faculty, administrators and the community.

The Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. is committed to being substantive and creative and to continually evaluate the fulfillment of our mission. We are proactive as well as preventative in establishing and maintaining the belief system and values of our Alma Mater.

The Bennett Alumni Association, Inc. respects the traditions of the past, is engaged in the issues of the present, and has aspirations for a great future for we know "The Best Is Yet To Be."