

HONORING COURAGE. PRESERVING LEGACY. INSPIRING EXCELLENCE.



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15TH ANNUAL

GOLF
TOURNAMENT

Program

2026





The Poly-Western Trailblazers

Honoring Courage. Preserving Legacy. Inspiring Excellence.

A Legacy of Firsts: Courage in the Face of Change

As we gather for the 15th Annual Friends of Poly–Western Golf Tournament, we pause to honor a defining chapter in the shared history of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Western High School, one marked by courage, resilience, and an unyielding pursuit of opportunity.

In 1952, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, then an all boys public high school, opened its doors to its first African American students. Just two years later, in 1954, Western High School followed, integrating its student body and expanding access to its tradition of academic excellence for young women of color.

These moments were more than institutional milestones, they were acts of quiet bravery carried out by young scholars and their families, who stepped into unfamiliar and often unwelcoming environments with dignity and determination.

Trailblazers Who Changed the Course

The first African American students to integrate Poly and Western did more than attend classes, they reshaped the identity and future of their schools. Their presence challenged long-standing barriers and helped lay the groundwork for generations.

A Shared Commitment to Excellence

Today, Poly and Western stand as symbols of academic rigor, leadership, and diversity, schools enriched by the very change those early pioneers made possible.

Honoring the Past. Driving the Future.

This booklet serves as a keepsake, a reminder of where we have been and where we are going.

Friends of Poly–Western
“Going Back to Give Back”



The Historic Integration of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1952

The integration of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (Poly) in 1952 stands as one of the most significant and courageous milestones in the history of American public education and the Civil Rights Movement. Two years before the landmark United States Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, fifteen young African American students bravely crossed the racial barriers of segregation to enter Poly's prestigious "A" Course engineering and advanced academic program, making Baltimore Polytechnic Institute the first public high school below the Mason-Dixon Line to integrate.

This historic achievement was not accidental, it was the result of deliberate legal strategy, courageous advocacy, and the unwavering determination of families and community leaders who believed that equal opportunity in education was a constitutional right. The effort was led by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), under the legal leadership of future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, alongside the Baltimore Urban League led by Furmon Templeton. Together, they challenged Baltimore's segregated school system after determining that no Black high school in the city offered academic opportunities equivalent to Poly's nationally recognized engineering and college preparatory curriculum.

At the center of the legal argument was the constitutional failure of the doctrine of "separate but equal." The NAACP successfully argued that Baltimore could not provide truly equal educational opportunities while maintaining segregated schools. The Poly case became one of the practical and legal foundations that helped shape the arguments later presented before the United States Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), the landmark ruling that ultimately declared segregated public schools unconstitutional nationwide.

Despite the significance of their achievement, the young men who integrated Poly endured extraordinary pressure and sacrifice. Students such as Milton Cornish Jr., Victor Dates, Carl Clark, Leonard Cephas, Clarence Daly, Alvin Giles, Linwood Jones, Edward Savage, Everett Sherman, Silas Young, Robert Young, and others entered an environment where they often faced racial isolation, intimidation, and hostility. Yet they persevered with dignity, academic excellence, and quiet courage, fully aware that their success represented something far greater than themselves. Their determination helped open doors for future generations of students across Baltimore and throughout the nation.

The legacy of the 1952 Poly Trailblazers extends far beyond the walls of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. Their courage helped advance the dismantling of legalized segregation in American education and demonstrated the transformative power of resilience, scholarship, and leadership. Today, their contributions remain a source of inspiration and pride for the Poly and Western communities and serve as a powerful reminder that progress is often achieved through the sacrifices of those willing to challenge injustice.

As we honor these historic pioneers during the 2026 Friends of Poly-Western Golf Tournament and Scholarship Fundraiser, we recognize not only their role in changing Poly, but also their lasting impact on the course of American history.

Historical References

- Furman L. Templeton, "The Admission of Negro Boys to the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute 'A' Course," *The Journal of Negro Education*, Winter 1954.
- Baltimore Polytechnic Institute – History and Integration/Desegregation Records.
- Maryland Historical Society archives, "Breaking the Color Barrier at Poly in 1952."
- Baltimore Heritage Civil Rights History Project.
- *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund historical records and Thurgood Marshall archives.



1952 Poly Trailblazers

The following headshots and biographical profiles are presented with the consent and collaboration of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (BPI) Alumni Association and the BPI Hall of Fame Committee. Friends of Poly-Western (FOPW) is deeply grateful for the Alumni Association's partnership in helping recognize and preserve the legacy of these distinguished and courageous Poly Trailblazers who integrated Poly in 1952. Each of the individuals featured has also been honored with induction into the prestigious BPI Hall of Fame in recognition of their exceptional achievements, leadership, and enduring contributions to society and to the legacy of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

2004 BPI HoF

- Carl Clark '55

2026 BPI HoF

- Leonard Cephas '56
- Milton Cornish, Jr. '56
- Clarence Daly '56
- Victor Dates '56
- Odoch "Bucky" Hawkins '57
- Linwood Jones '56
- Edward Savage '57
- Everett Sherman, Jr. '57
- Silas Young '56

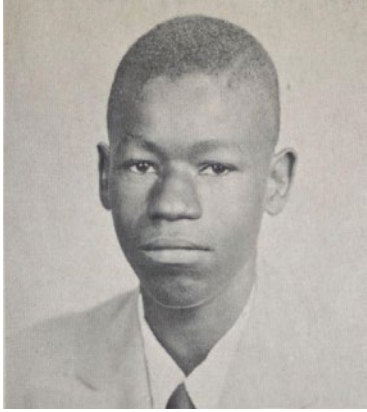
Scan this QR code to learn more about
the Poly-Western Trailblazers



Additional Class Members

- William Clark
- Alvin Gene Giles
- Robert Bruce Young

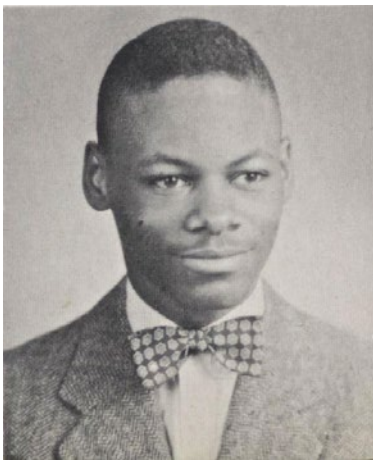




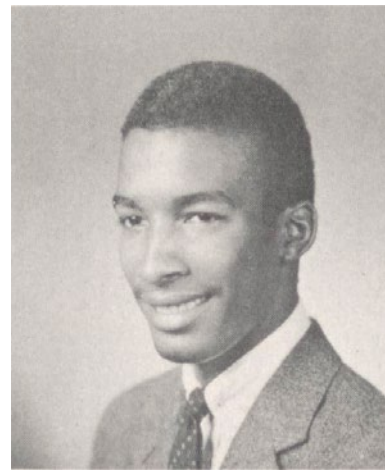
Leonard Cephas '56



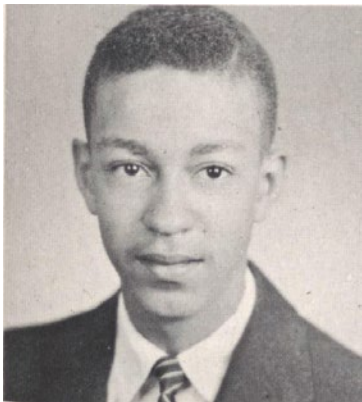
Victor Dates '56



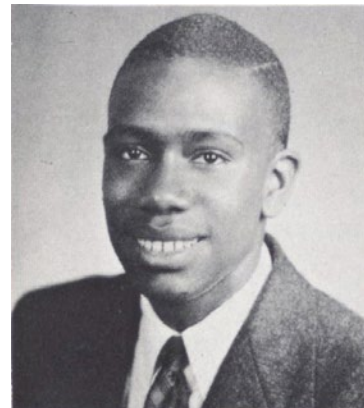
Milton Cornish, Jr. '56



Odoch "Bucky" Hawkins '57

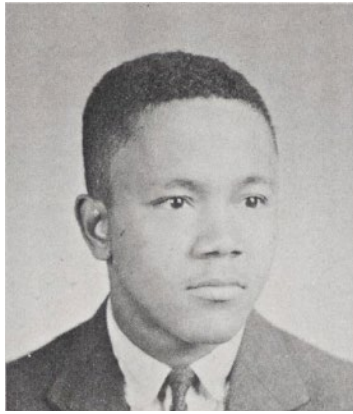


Clarence Daly '56

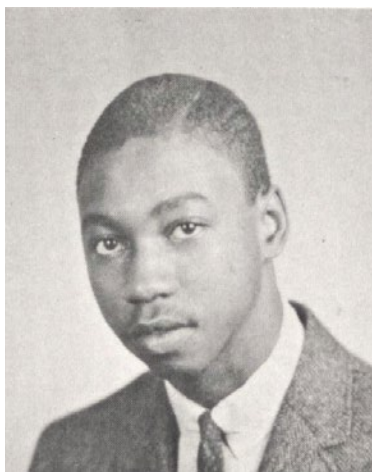


Linwood Jones '56





Edward Savage '57



Everett Sherman, Jr. '57



Silas R. Young '56



1954 Western Trailblazers

The following information was compiled through research conducted by the Friends of Poly-Western (FOPW) Team, including newspaper archives, historical records, interviews with Monique Cox of the Western High School Foundation staff, and personal interviews with Dr. Iantha Lake Tucker and Dr. Janette Lake Dates. FOPW is deeply grateful for the invaluable support, insight, and contributions provided by Dr. Tucker and Dr. Dates as we work to recognize and preserve the remarkable legacy of the courageous young African American women who first integrated Western High School in 1954.

In 1954, fourteen African American young ladies bravely stepped forward to integrate Western High School during a pivotal period in American history. Their courage, perseverance, and determination helped break barriers and paved the way for future generations of students. Unfortunately, the information currently available to FOPW is limited to only six of the original fourteen trailblazers. Nevertheless, we remain committed to continuing our research efforts to identify and honor all of these pioneering young women whose strength and sacrifice helped shape the legacy of Western High School.

The accomplishments and impact of these distinguished trailblazers extend far beyond Baltimore, Maryland. Through their leadership, professional achievements, and service to their communities, they have left an enduring mark on society and continue to inspire generations to come.

- *Marsha Abney*
- *Marjorie Ann Flanagan*
- *Alfreda Hughes*
- *Iantha Lake*
- *June Lee*
- *Ann Williams*





Marsha Abney



June Lee



Marjorie Ann Flanagan



Iantha Lake



Alfreda Hughes



Ann Williams

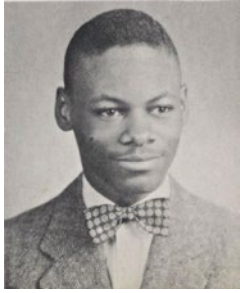


2026 Friends of Poly-Western Honorees

The Friends of Poly-Western is profoundly honored to recognize and celebrate three extraordinary trailblazers whose courage, resilience, and determination helped shape a defining chapter in Baltimore's educational and civil rights history. We proudly pay tribute to Mr. Milton Cornish Jr. and Mr. Victor Dates, two members of the courageous group of young men who first integrated Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1952, and Dr. Iantha Lake Tucker, one of the pioneering young women who first integrated Western High School in 1954. Their willingness to step into unfamiliar and often hostile environments required uncommon strength, dignity, and perseverance at a pivotal moment in American history. Through their actions, they not only opened doors for future generations of students, but also helped advance the broader movement toward equality and opportunity in Baltimore and beyond. Today, we are deeply privileged to honor these distinguished pioneers, to share in this celebration of their legacy, leadership, and enduring impact. Their stories continue to inspire us and serve as powerful reminders that courage and conviction can transform institutions, communities, and lives for generations to come.



Mr. Milton Cornish, Jr. '56



Milton Cornish, Jr. entered the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1952 after attending Booker T. Washington Middle School, in West Baltimore. He would end up helping to change the trajectory of engineers forever, as a member of the first group of African American men to attend and graduate from the school. His decision to attend Poly came two years ahead of the infamous *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, making him part of one of the pioneering groups to lead the charge of successfully integrating schools throughout Maryland and the entire United States. Because of the bravery of him and the other men admitted alongside him, Poly was Maryland's first public high school to racially integrate its student body.

Cornish graduated from Poly's A-Course in 1956 and went on to have a successful career with the City of Baltimore, working with the Department of Planning. He also had a 36-year career with the Army Corp of Engineers, where he was a Project Manager for flood control navigation efforts and would later retire as the Chief of Emergency Management. Cornish is the father of four children, a son and three daughters, has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

While in pursuit of an incomparable education to which they previously had no access, these group of men became pioneers, before a landmark Supreme Court case ruling and ushered in a new demographic of successful students to continue building on Poly's legacy of excellence. These young men successfully overcame doubts of their own ability and questions of their motives for wanting to attend such a school, to successfully complete the rigorous academic program.

Milton Cornish is a courageous leader, responsible for making Poly what we know it to be today and is the personification of Freedom, Responsibility, Perseverance, Achievement, Goodness, and Mercy.



Mr. Victor Dates - Poly '56



Victor Dates entered Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1952 and subsequently altered the trajectory of students of color forever, as he is one of the first African American men to attend and graduate from the school. His decision to attend Poly came two years before the infamous *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, making him one of the trailblazers who led the way in successfully integrating schools throughout Maryland and the entire country. Because of Dates and his peers, Poly was Maryland's first public high school to racially integrate its student body.

Dates graduated from Poly's rigorous A-Course in 1956 and had a very successful career spanning several years, in various industries. To name a few of his successes, he attended the Johns Hopkins University for his undergraduate studies, obtained a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and also served two years in the U.S. Army. He later became the first African American to hold a "high administrative post" at Johns Hopkins University, as he reported on all civil rights and equal opportunity matters, directly to the President of the school. Dates was a professor at Howard University, Coppin State College and held leading roles within notable organizations like Planned Parenthood and Common Cause.

Victor Dates is a prime example of the necessity of access to adequate education for all and makes evident the power behind a Poly education. His story serves as proof of life's possibilities when given the proper tools to thrive and also the possibilities that arise when shying away from a challenge is not an option. He overcame any doubts of his ability and helped usher in a new demographic of successful students to continue building on Poly's legacy of excellence.



Dr. Iantha Lake Tucker – Western '57



Iantha Lake Tucker emerged as a woman of resilience, courage, and determination during one of the most transformative periods in American history. Inspired by the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, she became one of fourteen young African American women who courageously integrated Western High School in the mid-1950s, entering an environment marked by hostility, protests, and racial tension. Despite discouragement from school officials and the challenges of integration, Iantha remained steadfast in her pursuit of academic excellence, supported by the unwavering encouragement of her mother.

Graduating from Western in 1957, Iantha pursued nursing at Harlem Hospital School of Nursing before returning to Baltimore, where she became the only Black operating room nurse at St. Agnes Hospital. Facing racial discrimination from patients and colleagues alike, she refused to compromise her dignity and later continued her career at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where her professionalism and talents were embraced.

In 1962, Iantha joined the Air Force Reserve and served for ten years at Andrews Air Force Base, earning an honorable discharge. Throughout her life, however, her passion for dance remained central to her identity. While working as a nurse, she attended Morgan State College, earning a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education with a concentration in dance, followed by a master's degree in 1972.

Iantha devoted much of her career to education and the arts, teaching in Baltimore-area schools and founding student dance performance groups that inspired generations of young people. Her commitment to cultural expression and excellence continued through her work with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, where she choreographed cotillions for nearly three decades.

Never one to stop learning, Iantha enrolled at New York University in 1982 and earned a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Dance Education. Her dissertation, "The Role of African Americans in Dance from Slavery to the Present," reflected her lifelong dedication to preserving and celebrating Black artistic contributions.

Dr. Iantha Lake Tucker's life stands as a powerful testament to courage, perseverance, education, and service. As a trailblazer in school integration, healthcare, education, and the arts, her legacy continues to inspire future generations.





2026 Scholarship Award Recipients

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership, and Achievement

The Friends of Poly-Western proudly recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Western High School students through the annual FOPW Scholarship Program. These scholarships honor academic excellence, leadership, perseverance, and community impact while investing in the future of Baltimore's next generation of leaders.



2026 Gerald A. Perrin Memorial Scholarship \$1,000 Scholarship Award Recipients

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute



Zoe McFadden

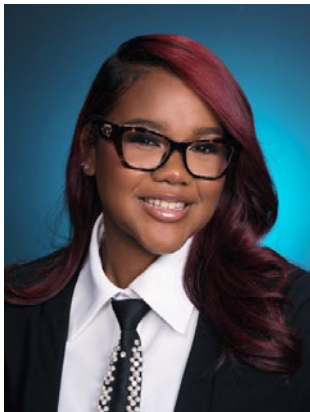
Grade Point Average: 3.8 GPA

Field of Study: History & Literature / Creative Writing

College Attending: St. Mary's College of Maryland

Zoe McFadden has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and a passion for literature and creative expression throughout her time at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. Her dedication to excellence and commitment to academic growth make her a deserving recipient of the 2026 Gerald A. Perrin Memorial Scholarship.

Western High School



Alyssa Duncan

Grade Point Average: 4.19 GPA

Field of Study: Nursing

College Attending: University of Maryland

Alyssa Duncan has distinguished herself through exceptional academic performance, leadership, and a commitment to service. Her pursuit of a career in nursing reflects her compassion, determination, and desire to positively impact the lives of others.



2026 Robin Kane-Prater Memorial Scholarship \$500 Scholarship Award Recipient

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute



Julian James Lardner

Grade Point Average: 3.7 GPA

Field of Study: Computer Science

College Attending: University of Maryland, College Park

Julian James Lardner has demonstrated academic excellence, innovation, and a strong commitment to his educational pursuits. His passion for technology and computer science reflects the leadership and determination celebrated by the Robin Kane-Prater Memorial Scholarship.

The Friends of Poly-Western proudly recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Western High School students through the annual FOPW Scholarship Program. These scholarships honor academic excellence, leadership, perseverance, and community impact while investing in the future of Baltimore's next generation of leaders.



To Our Sponsor and Donors

The Friends of Poly-Western extends its deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to all of the sponsors, donors, participants, and supporters of the 2026 Friends of Poly-Western 15th Annual Golf Tournament and Scholarship Fundraiser. Your generosity, partnership, and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in making this year's event an outstanding success. Through your continued support, FOPW is able to fulfill its mission of investing in the educational excellence, leadership development, and future success of students at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Western High School. Since becoming a 501(c)(3) approved organization in 2008, Friends of Poly-Western has proudly donated more than \$45,000 in scholarships to deserving students and over \$20,000 in special project funding to support programs and initiatives at both schools. These contributions have made a meaningful and lasting impact on countless young lives and have strengthened the enduring legacies of Poly and Western. Your support not only helps preserve the proud traditions of these historic institutions, but also empowers future generations to achieve excellence, pursue opportunity, and become leaders in their communities and beyond. We are truly grateful for your belief in our mission and your dedication to the students and schools we proudly serve.

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Darlene sponsors the Gerald A. Perrin scholarship to honor a dear friend who genuinely cared for others and was always willing to support the dreams of students he mentored.

Darlene is a licensed CPA in the State of Maryland. She has been a tax preparer for approximately 30 years. She is a licensed Investment Advisor Rep and a Regional Leader with more than 20 years of experience in the financial services industry. She is licensed in MD, NC, PA, VA, GA & FL (Life Insurance, Securities (Investments), Annuities, Home & Auto, Legal Protection, & 529 Educational Plans)

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