



# BALTIMORE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

A PUBLICATION OF THE BALTIMORE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE FOUNDATION, INC.

FALL 2017

The Poly Parrot is a publication of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute Foundation, Inc. for alumni and friends of Poly.

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## REMEMBERING DR. CARL OLIVER CLARK: THE 1ST AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENT TO GRADUATE FROM POLY!



Join the Poly family in celebrating the life journey of Dr. Carl Oliver Clark who passed on August 8, 2017-- a husband, father, brother, and an educator who touched the lives of many people in so many ways. He was 81 years old.

A long-time faculty member and Dean of Natural Sciences at South Carolina State University from 1959 to 1995, Dr. Clark also worked at Morgan State University from 1995 to 2000. He taught hundreds of students throughout his 41-year teaching career, always a trailblazer in education, becoming the first African American to graduate from the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1955. He earned his bachelor's degree from Morgan State University in 1958. In 1976, he was the first African-American to receive a PhD degree in Physics from the University of South Carolina. In 1984, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Dr. Clark was a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and was initiated at Morgan State University in the Fall of 1956. Active for all of his 62 years in Alpha, he served as a long-time college advisor for the Beta Delta Chapter at South Carolina State University while being a member of Delta Zeta Lambda Chapter in Orangeburg, South Carolina. In Delta Zeta Lambda, he served as vice president, president, and various chairman of chapter efforts. In 2006, he was awarded the Alpha Living Legend Award by the South Carolina Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Dr. Clark was extremely active in other community and alumni organizations including being a charter member and the first president of the South Atlantic Chapter of the Morgan State University National Alumni Association. He was a charter member of Phi Delta Kappa Honorary Society at South Carolina State University. He was inducted into the Polytechnic Hall of Fame in 2004 and named Polytechnic Distinguished Award Winner in 2005. Being a baptized catholic from birth, he held membership in the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Barbara Randall Clark and their children: a son, Carl Robert "Bobby" Clark (Jennifer), and a daughter, Angela Teresa Clark.

His final wish to donate his body to science was honored by his family. Donations in honor of Dr. Carl Oliver Clark are being accepted at the BPI Foundation, Inc. Please feel free to donate online at: [www.BPI.edu](http://www.BPI.edu).

## POLY AIR FORCE JROTC WINS 2017 CEO'S CUP FOR BEST ANNUAL JROTC UNIT IN BALTIMORE CITY... SETS SIGHTS FOR 2018 REPEAT!



On September 26, 2017 Poly's Air Force JROTC unit was named the 2017 Best Annual JROTC in Baltimore City. The CEO's Cup was created to provide all Baltimore City Public Schools JROTC cadets the opportunity to participate in city-wide activities and competitions and promote esprit de corps, teamwork and self-confidence among cadets. Cadets participated in seven events throughout the 2016-2017 school year including a 5K Run, Academic and Leadership Bowl, Raider's Challenge, Drill Competition, and Community Service Project. From the first event to the last, Poly cadets were committed to winning the CEO's Cup. They took 1st place in 12 individual/team categories, including 1st place overall in the Raider's Challenge and Drill Competition. Cadets also showed their Poly Pride by helping to collect and assemble 800 care packages for local military and their families!

The CEO's Cup will be proudly displayed in the JROTC showcase for the next year. When asked about a repeat in 2018, the Corps Commander, Cadet Major Ronnie Huggins, stated confidently that the cadets are ready for the challenge, recalling Aristotle's famous words, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."



## POLY ALUMNI ENTER THE 'BOURBON BOOM'! TWO MEMBERS OF THE POLY CLASS OF 1996 CREATE "RAMS & PARROTS"



More than 30 years ago, in the heart of West Baltimore, the lives of three childhood friends were being shaped towards a future of success, but little did they know they would find their niche by developing the next generation of what is commonly referred to as "America's favorite spirit"!

Rodney Dotson and William Jennings

III, both west Baltimore natives, became best friends while in Elementary School at Ashburton, followed each other to Roland Park Middle, and then both got accepted into the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

And while they roamed the halls of BPI and shuffled from class to class, they may have been uncertain of their career paths; however, they were sure of one thing - Baltimore Polytechnic Institute was preparing them for a chance at greatness.

After graduating from Poly in 1996, William left to attend Temple University to study Architecture (note: William and Reggie Jones - who handles the brands' social media - were roommates at Temple as well). Rod attended Morgan State University to study Business. William and Rod collaborated on several projects over the years, even exploring their love of music with writing and singing in a R&B group named NUANCE.

Their travels introduced each of them to new places, new ideas, and new appreciations for diverse qualities in people. Rod routinely found himself visiting extended family in the remoter parts of North Carolina. It was here, in the backwoods and open country during a family cookout that he was first introduced to what some of his cousins called "Holy Water". Amidst laughter and friendly conversation, under the sun's sweltering heat, these first sips of this crystal-clear liquid served in a jar would eventually become the inspiration for what is "Rams & Parrots" Bourbon.

While the concept for Rams & Parrots was being shaped, it was a chance encounter with Jonathan Ortiz, who hails as master distiller, that allowed Rod and Will to take this "Holy Water" and create their own signature recipe. All the partners needed at this point was a brand name that both paid homage to the 2 schools that shaped their lives as well as encompassed the core components of their Bourbon – Strength and Intelligence. VOILA – "Rams and Parrots" was born! "Rams and Parrots" is slated for release in early 2018. And on behalf of Rodney and William, they want to welcome everyone to the "bourbon that brings people together!"

For inquiries contact: [Rodney@ramsandparrots.com](mailto:Rodney@ramsandparrots.com)  
and follow them online at: [@ramsandparrots](https://www.instagram.com/ramsandparrots)



**Rodney Dotson, '96**  
Co-Owner  
**William Jennings III, '96**  
Co-Owner  
**Jonathan Ortiz**  
Co-Owner/Master Distiller  
**Reggie Jones**  
Co-Owner

## POLY IS ENGINEERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ART!



Growing up in Baltimore, Matthew Adelberg never really envisioned himself as an artist, let alone an art teacher. He fell into the arts after a lacrosse injury.

Yet in art Adelberg found a voice and an identity, exploring who he was and his past. When he was accepted as a transfer student into Carver Center for Arts and Technology in his Junior year of high school, Adelberg was able to begin defining himself and his future through and in painting. He studied painting in Colorado and Italy, and was named a NFAA YoungArts finalist and National Silver Medalist

Adelberg received his Bachelors of Fine Art in Painting and Art History and Masters of Arts in Teaching from MICA. He has taught at MICA, Wesley Theological Seminary, The Yitzhak Rabin Peace School in Israel, Beth Am Synagogue, and Monarch Academy. Adelberg has presented at the National Art Education Association Convention three times, focusing on teaching art with purpose and meaning and art education as social action. Adelberg's artwork has received numerous awards including the prestigious Elizabeth Greenshields' grant and being named a Master of American Realism in 2016. He has had numerous solo and group exhibitions including in New York, Miami, Arizona, Washington, D.C., Norway, Israel, and Italy.

### **Matt is excited to join the Poly community as an art teacher!**

He believes that teaching art is similar to teaching a language, and encourages students to approach art making as a means of expression. He is excited to join a community as dedicated to excellence and achievement as Poly. There will be monthly professional art shows in the new BPI gallery, culminating with each showing artist giving an artist talk to the Poly community. We have artists coming from Chicago, DC, Baltimore, Florida, New York, and China this year! There will also be many art colleges coming to Poly this year for in person interviews and portfolio reviews by admissions counselors. We also have a new partnership between the Social Justice Sewing Academy and Poly! SJSA will be traveling from California and Boston to work with 180 Poly students to construct 4 Social Justice Quilts. The finished quilts will go on a national tour, starting at the African American Museum in D.C. and ending all the way in the San Francisco De Young Museum and the Oakland Museum of the Arts!

Adelberg's *The Good and Bad Inclination*,  
Oil on Board, 18x24in

in Painting, culminating in a show at the Miami Art Museum. In the summer of 2014 Adelberg was chosen to be the apprentice of famed figure painter Odd Nerdrum in Norway after debuting his work in his first solo show at The Dadian Gallery in Washington, D.C. and developing a relationship with the family of Andrew Wyeth.

## POLY CLASS REUNION SCHEDULE

### CLASS OF 1977

**Date:** Nov. 4, 2017

**Location:** Poly/City Game and then meet at Café Hon afterwards for cash bar and menu!

**Contact:** Charlie Shaw

**Email:** Charles.Shaw@RADNET.COM

### CLASS OF 2007, 10TH REUNION

**Date:** Saturday, November 4th, 2017

**Time:** 9:00PM – 1:00AM

**Where:** La Fontaine Bleue- Glen Burnie

**Address:** 7514 Ritchie Hwy Glen Burnie, MD 21060

**Cost of Tickets:** Single- \$85, Couple- \$160, Table for 10 people- \$800

**Attire:** Formal- Men (Tuxedo, dark suit and tie); Women (gown, dressy suit, cocktail dress)  
Link for more info & to purchase tickets:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/baltimore-polytechnic-institute-co-2007-ten-year-reunion-tickets-36597824077>

**Contact:** Attilah Edges amsedges11@gmail.com; Airis Thomas airdanae89@gmail.com  
**Class email:** send pictures/videos for the slideshow and songs for the playlist to poly2007reunion@gmail.com

### CLASS OF 2008, 10TH REUNION

Tentative plans are for an evening event on Saturday November 10, 2018, same day as the Poly - City game. More information to follow.

**Contacts:** Elisha (Clayton) Urquhart  
eclayton1014@gmail.com, TyKera Marrow  
kerah823@yahoo.com, Tavon Hannah Tavonjh@yahoo.com

### '71 VARSITY LACROSSE REUNION

Members of the '71 Varsity Lacrosse team are looking for other members for a get together! If you were a member of this team, please contact Ken Lackey at Klackey534@aol.com!

### CLASS OF 1999, 20TH REUNION

The Class of 1999 is planning their 20th reunion!

**Date and venue TBD** - please offer your input on the Facebook page at <https://m.facebook.com/groups/6017796643?ref=bookmarks> or contact Kezia Black 443-653-0767, Charne Owens 410-336-4505, or Onida Haskett 862-203-0221.

### CLASS OF 2009

Plans for the Class of 2009's 10 Year Reunion are underway! For more information, please contact the committee lead, Erin Wilson: erin.wilson710@gmail.com.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



### "HOLISTIC PREPARATION FOR GLOBAL APPLICATION."

At Poly, we have always looked to prepare our students to take their place in the real world. The successes of our alumni speak to that. This year we are increasing our focus on holistic preparation through increased mindfulness for everyone on our campus. Consciously accounting for all of the needs and all of the talents of every student, this theme will guide the Poly faculty, staff, and students through the 2017-2018 school year. It is about preparing our students for college, but it is also about preparing them to take their places as responsible citizens as well as helping them to realize a future that is ethical and empathic, but not limited by borders or parochial thinking.

This school year we are continuing with the advisory program and twice a month students will meet in groups with their advisors to participate in holistic practices, such as meditation, to help them develop the mindfulness and stamina to take on rigorous learning and challenging tests. They will also develop conflict resolution skills, including the perception to proactively defuse conflict before it escalates. This has always been the Poly way, but by training ourselves to be mindful, we will be even better prepared.

We believe that this philosophy and training will help to build relationships among faculty, staff, and students outside of the classroom and give us the opportunity to share Poly's rich history, of which you are an integral part, with our students.

Class gifts such as the Timeline, the Brick Walk, the Fab Lab and the Archive display cases, just to name a few, reinforce both our history and our current theme and I am grateful to the classes and individuals who took the time to make these wonderful ideas a reality. We could not be the school we are today without the support of our alumni – so thank you! The Poly of today is a place to learn and grow and receive the best education in Baltimore City. GO POLY!

Sincerely,



Jackie Williams '81

BPI Director

PS: Gifts can be made online at [www.BPI.edu/give](http://www.BPI.edu/give)

## MY EXPERIENCE WITH PAY IT FORWARD

By Vernon Stepney, Jr., BPI 11th Grade



The *Pay It Forward* program was truly a one of a kind offer I am so glad to have been able to be a part of. This program has not only opened up my eyes to what I am able to do, but also has shown me that I have so much untapped potential just waiting to be used. Being able to say that I had an internship with the Baltimore City Health Department at 16 years old with real projects and work assigned to me is something that very few people get to say. And when I tell you that working with people who really have a love for what they do has an effect on you... I mean it!

Being an engineer, either chemical or civil, has been the two careers I'm most passionate about pursuing. Thanks to BPI and *Pay It Forward*,

I am being exposed to a level of STEM that has taught me resilience - as I am constantly being seriously challenged. Enrolling in the BPI Pay It Forward Internship ensures that we are not only ready for college, but also ensures that we are so much more ready to work after.

The *Pay It Forward* Internship Program needs to continue because it offers opportunities no other program will and it's all thanks to alumni, the Class of 1966, and the BPI Foundation. It begins with the alumni and it ends with the students who have been given a chance to be in the program. Funding the program means funding the future by putting money toward programs that will educate, enlighten and strengthen the youth. This is why it needs to continue because yes we are the future, but we could use some help getting there.



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## THE BALTIMORE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE FOUNDATION, INC. REVEALED ITS NEW STUDENT-BUILT AND STUDENT-LED VIRTUAL REALITY LAB



The Baltimore Polytechnic Institute Foundation, Inc. revealed its new student-built and student-led Virtual Reality Lab on Thursday, October 5 at the Ribbon Cutting ceremony held at the school. This event marked the remarkable accomplishments of both the vision of Poly seniors and the generosity of the Poly alumni Class of 1963. The idea and creation of the Poly VR Lab was led by the efforts of the VR lab founders - Anders Hartmark, Max Breitmeyer, Xander Easton, and Iven Chen-Van Dyk - all members of the Poly Graduating Class of 2018.



After completing two of the highest-level AP courses at Poly – AP Computer Science A and AP Capstone – these seniors put together a compelling proposal to the BPI Foundation to build a virtual reality (VR) lab. While conducting various research projects for their AP Capstone class, these students were drawn to the growing field of VR and wanted to create a space in their school where they could more deeply explore this field using the actual tools of the trade.

“Essentially, with the creation of this VR Lab we can not only learn more about this growing field of computer science, but we can actually create our own VR simulations, train other Poly students in VR tools, and use VR to enhance learning through utilizing the compelling and interactive world of VR,” states one of the VR lab’s founders Max Breitmeyer.

“When alumni take the time to listen to what kids need and quickly mobilize to respond, it is simply amazing what these kids can and will accomplish,” states Eric Johnson, Poly Class of 1963. Eric, along with classmates Wendell Leimbach, Arnold Miller, and Thomas Fekete stepped up to the plate and agreed to provide the \$10,000 grant needed to create the lab on behalf of the alumni Class of 1963.

And the positive return on their investment is already remarkable. During the pre-launch testing phase, these Poly seniors have already created a VR simulation of a human blood vessel. Using VR simulations that these Poly students created themselves, anatomy students can journey inside a human blood vessel as an actual blood cell – learning about its various components and functioning along the way!

This official ribbon cutting celebration was hosted by the VR lab student founders and the Poly Class of 1963. Guests included representatives from Whiting-Turner and Johns Hopkins University, as well as Baltimore City Council Vice President Sharon Green Middleton. We invite you to check out the VR lab during your next visit to Poly! You are certain to be transformed and transported!