



THE ABAYARDE NEWS

SENIOR MEMORIES

By Angela Hernandez

While brainstorming ideas for articles to write for the school newspaper, we were curious to know what kinds of memories our 2015 seniors would keep with them after graduating from Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School. I interviewed a few of the seniors, and this is what they had to say —

Kelly Humanski:

I will cherish the memory of getting my first Principal's List award. I will never forget that Campos gave me a second chance. The school has influenced me to be a better person and to think before I take actions against something.

Wanda Martinez:

I will cherish Graduation! I appreciate that Campos treats you as family. To them, we aren't just students -- we're all family. The school showed me not to give up on anything.

Vanessa Rodriguez:

I will cherish the memory of bringing my son to the Family Learning Center daycare and going on field trips with my son. I will never forget the support I got as a parent and a student. Campos motivated me to finish school.

Danny Correa:

I will cherish the memory of the day I went to Six Flags for Fright Fest. I appreciate the teachers and their support. They not only care about your education, they care about me and who I am as a person. My Campos experience has made me appreciate education and want to become a teacher. The experience has helped mature me as a growing adult.

TOP PERFORMING SCHOOL!

With the students' hard work, dedication, and pure will to make it to graduation, Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School is now a top performing school!! The 2014-2015 school year launched, taking a significant jump to achieve **Tier 1 status!**

The good news continued! We received notification from Chicago Public Schools that our official graduation rate for 2013-2014 was 97.8%!

All yearlong, teachers, administration, and mentors have found tons of creative ways to motivate students to: Work Hard! Stay Focused! and Be Relentless!



But the main factor is that students are excited. We all rose to the occasion to finish with a win! We are absolutely ELATED to have our Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School family right alongside us as we close this chapter in our lives and further our education.

Rican High School family right alongside us as we close this chapter in our lives and further our education.

THE DEFINITE DOZEN: QUALITIES FOR LIFE!

BY ARIC BAKER, CLASS OF 2015 AND DEFINITE DOZEN AWARDEE

The selection of 12 students to represent the Definite Dozen qualities for success in life is announced once a month in the all-school meeting known as Unity for Social Analysis. The dozen students, along with the Principal, Matthew Rodriguez, go to eat at a restaurant during school hours, where they meet with very important people and get advice to use in the future. Being selected as Definite Dozen is an honor. It shows that we students are much more than a statistic, more than "just another delinquent," but a person who is on top of their schoolwork,

who cares about the community, and has a plan for our futures.

Not all students nominated by teachers will be picked for the Definite Dozen. But those who are, use this award along with other awards to defend their graduation. Students strive to be nominated, fulfilling the challenges, which are announced in Unity, to become a "Definite Dozen." Students also get nominated by possessing the dozen characteristics that can help make someone strive for a better self: Be responsible; Be honest; Be respected/ Be respectful; Be loyal; Work; Study; Emphasize character over

reputation; Believe; Be self-critical; Acknowledge the knowledge; Build with allies — influence the enemy; Be relentless.

"I'm happy to get nominated and I'm glad my work paid off," says Tanairis Torres, Definite Dozen Awardee.



Efren Morales, "The Definite Dozen" Awardee



The Abayarde News is the student newspaper of Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School! Join the Instituto Abayarde's "MJU," The Mobile Journalism Unit, to snap photos, zap interviews, and capture the newest news!

Poetry Team!

The Poetry Team toured Chicago in an amazing schedule of six public performances that included several Louder than A Bomb events and two professional gigs! The Instituto Abayarde team met after school in January, February and March. Daniel Correa, Efrén Morales, Kayla Toledo, Evette Morales, and Joel Kindelan all contributed to the effort. LTAB highlights included: Serving as judges at a Young Chicago Authors Regional Bout; performing with more than a thousand youth at Tilden H.S. in YCA's "Cross the Street;" and competing twice at Columbia College.

The school poetry team was also featured at "Palabra Pura," a professional poetry salon presented by The Poetry Foundation and The Guild Complex, at La Bruquena Restaurant — hosted by Zoraida Tañón, Spanish Teacher. The culminating event was at The Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, where students opened for award-winning Nuyorican poet, Willie Perdomo, who came from New York to read from his latest book.

STUDENTS COMPETE IN NEIU VEX ROBOTICS COMPETITION!

By **Diamond Montana**,
Science Teacher
and VEX Robotics Coach

Please congratulate our Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Vex Robotics Team for competing in this year's 2015 Northeastern Illinois University Upward Bound Vex Robotics Competition! After twenty-two weeks of hard work in our Instituto Abayarde after-school program,

eighteen students created and coded three fully functional robots to compete in the annual 2015 NEIU Upward Bound Vex Robotics Competition.

The first Saturday of Spring break our Robotics Team, adorned with their new Robotics Team t-shirts, traveled to NEIU Center for College Access and Success to test their robots against 7 other schools

in the Chicago area. Our team did very well in our second competition this year but hopes to do better in the coming '15-'16 school year. We will be having a summer program that will introduce new students to programming as well as mechanical engineering for next year's round of competitions.

**Join us this Summer
and continue into the Fall!**



Left:
Angela
Hernandez
& Jessica
Morales,
Mobile Journal-
ism Unit.

Below: Poets Kayla Toledo & Efrén Morales perform at "Palabra Pura," Feb.18, 2015 at La Bruquena Restaurant..



By **Saul Manon Arellano**,
Member, Vex Robotics Team
and Mobile Journalism Unit

The Robotics Program involves engineering a moving vehicle, built with wrenches, screws, and other metal pieces. The robot is then coded to respond to a controller so that it can carry and move miniature cubes and other objects with a small claw. The two coordinators of the program are Diamond Montana, Science Teacher, and Erick Anguiano, the mentor who volunteered for our team. The program ran from November 2014 to April

2015 every Tuesday and Thursday after school in the Vieques Science Lab.

The Robotics Program was initiated to provide students with the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity that is fun, challenging, and will eventually lead to college opportunities. This program also challenges students to learn new things.

"I really enjoy learning new things" said Campos senior, Victoria Garcia, "I enjoy the fact that I get to experience things that not many other people do. I learned how to code and I never knew what that was. I learned to work well with oth-

ers, to listen to the opinions of others, and I also learned how to work and maneuver the different pieces to make a robot."

Though the robotics program is finished, the initiative still remains. According to Victoria Garcia, "Diamond has initiated a whole new program which entails coding which involves video game creation and more." Robotics Club member Jennifer Chajon described the experience as, "very educational and fulfilling."

Also part of the program, I enjoyed learning about robots. It helped my teammates build a robot that represented our school well.



The Vex Robotics Team at the 2015 NEIU Competition

**“WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL”
THE NAMING OF THE STEVE WHITMAN COMMEMORATIVE GREENHOUSE**

By Saul Manon Arellano,
Angela Hernandez,
Efren Morales,
and Jessica Morales

On May 19th, 2015, there was a gathering at Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School to remember Steve Whitman and to name the greenhouse after him. Steve was a public health worker who brought lots of resources to the Puerto Rican community and a major supporter to our high school. Steve gave the community the research that proved we must do something about the food deserts in Humboldt Park. Friends and family of Steve spoke to

remember him on his birthday.

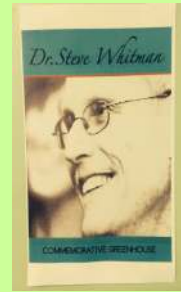
Every seat was filled with his friends and co-workers who raised the money to keep the greenhouse going by donating \$36,000! Steve wanted to see the greenhouse continue so youth can learn about food, grow it, and sell healthy food in the neighborhood. Steve was also angry over racism and that prisons are filled with Black and Brown people.

We got to meet people from the Sinai Urban Health Institute, Michael Reese Hospital, Cook County Hospital, and the “Polk Brothers” (Polk Bros

Foundation) who finally helped us reach the goal.

Steve is an inspiration to youth and gives a scholarship every year that is named for his father George. Steve’s wife, Nancy Kurshan, wanted us all to remember that Steve quoted the Russian writer Dostoyevsky who said, “We are all responsible for all.” Next, everyone went to cut the ribbon to open the new Dr. Steve Whitman Commemorative Greenhouse.

Dr. Bindu, who also spoke, wanted everyone in our community to remember that Steve wishes a quality education and a long healthy life for us all.



**Nancy Kurshan Opens
The Dr. Steve Whitman
Commemorative Greenhouse!**

NUTRITION CLUB VISITS DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

By Nicholas Cajigas

The Albizu Campos Nutrition Club went to Dominican University on April 23rd from 11:30-1:45. Every Monday, interns from the Nutrition Department of Dominican University join our Gym and Health Instructor, Lia Garcia, to present our own Nutrition Program! Interns Megan, Kelly, Crystal, and Gabby are doing their Internship in Nutrition at our school.

The interns and their mentor, Ana Irizarry, wanted to give us a tour of their university. The first thing we did was to go to the Nursing Department where they have mannequins so students can get practice before they work

with humans. Campos student Angela Hernandez commented, “When I saw how they teach you, I thought, maybe I should go into nursing! It was so cool!” Next, they served us a three-course vegan meal, with salad, followed by pasta with marinara sauce, zucchini, and a dessert parfait.

After lunch, administrators spoke with us about how to apply and get financial aid, including family grants. Campos student Jessica Morales thought this was important. “As a mother, I found out we could get extra support.” Campos senior Aric Baker commented, “Kelly said she’d help me apply!” Jessica Morales concluded, “It was a great experience.”

I bet it was fire!



Nutrition Club at Dominican U.

Honorable Toni Preckwinkle Visits Dr. Pedro A. Campos H. S.!

On May 7th, students and staff welcomed a visit from the Cook County Board President, The Honorable Toni Preckwinkle. Students prepared to extend both a warm “bienvenida” and to share critical questions with our guest, considering her role with key decisions related to the prisons and hospitals in Cook County. “Toni” spoke about some of the challenges that she confronts with disproportionate rates of Black and Brown people incarcerated. Students were shocked by her honesty, stating, “We have never heard a politi-

cian speak so openly about real problems.” Students posed questions about economic development, mental health services being cut in Chicago, and about full access to appropriate healthcare. Toward the end of the exchange, our students presented The Honorable Preckwinkle with some “Albizu Gear” and explained to her what we are learning about urban agriculture in our school’s greenhouse. Students left the exchange excited, hopeful, and interested in doing more to make our world a better place.

THE DEFINITE DOZEN

1. Be responsible.



2. Be respected;
be respectful.



3. Be honest.



4. Be loyal.



5. Work.



6. Study.



THE DEFINITE DOZEN



7. Believe.



8. Character over reputation.



9. Be self-critical.



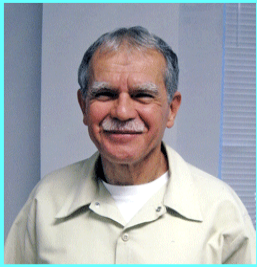
10. Acknowledge the Knowledge.



11. Build allies; influence the enemy.



12. Be relentless.



A Message from Oscar

“Take care. Never lose hope or courage and make sure to enjoy all the good things life offers.

A better and more just world is possible as long as we dare to struggle for it.

En resistencia y lucha,
Oscar López Rivera”



Join us in the Parade!

Join us in the Puerto Rican People's Parade on Saturday, June 20th, 2015. The parade steps-off from Division and Western at 2pm. Students and staff will line-up well in advance to represent our school and our community! Folkloric garments are available (Vejjigantes and more!). See Ms. Brenda Torres, Art Teacher, to join the effort and sign-up with PANA teachers to be featured in the float and procession.

Summer Jobs!

If you still need a summer job, contact Ms. Marie or your mentor as soon as possible! There are still opportunities available. Some students will be joining the school's Theatre Program at Batey Urbano. Other students will work in nearby organizations doing jobs that involve bike repair, digital media, hip-hop dance, yoga, cooking, news, graffiti art, mentoring children in summer camps, and a wide range of other jobs.

Hurry -- jobs are limited!

Support Oscar López Rivera!

By Angela Hernandez, Mobile Journalism Unit

On Saturday May 23rd, 2015, supporters and the family of Oscar López Rivera gathered at “La Casita de Don Pedro” on Division Street to get petitions signed to send to President Obama, asking him to release Oscar López Rivera from jail. On May 29th, Oscar, now 72 years old, will have been in jail for 34 years. He was not charged with any violent crime. He was charged with “seditious conspiracy.” Oscar was put in prison for thinking that Puerto Rico should be independent.

Jan Susler, an attorney who started working with the Puerto Rican political prisoners in 1980, explained, “Conspiracy is something you do with other people. An example of sedition would be trying to force the United States to leave Puerto Rico.” Oscar is a founder of our amazing high school which is now over forty

years old.

At this event, I also interviewed Ricardo Jimenez, another political prisoner, who was arrested in 1980. With Oscar, Ricardo was also part of the committee that founded Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School! He explained that he was released because an international campaign began the day he was arrested. “We said, ‘We are political prisoners, not criminals,” Ricardo explained. He was released by President William Clinton in 1999. Now, Ricardo is working full time for the Puerto Rican community. He works with the Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Vida Sida and El Rescate. He is also part of the National Boricua Human Rights Network and coordinator of the campaign to free Oscar López Rivera.

After hearing from speakers, supporters went to talk about Oscar with people in Humboldt Park, outside grocery stores, and at the train station. Neighbors were very interested. Most had heard of Oscar and couldn't believe he was still in jail.

The petitions from Chicago will be carried on the bus going to New York City to join the big march on May 30th. Representatives from our school will be on the bus. The Chicago petitions will be added to petitions from around the U. S. and from forty cities in Puerto Rico. Finally, the petitions will be given to President Obama in the winter. Everyone is hoping that, before he finishes his term, President Obama will

THE YES PROGRAM!

By Efren Morales,
Mobile Journalism Unit

YES stands for Youth Empowering Strategies. The program takes place with the Physical Education and Integrated Science classes, and pays \$9 per hour. The subjects of the YES program pertain to nutrition, health, fitness, and sex education.

I was introduced to the program in November by two YES program instructors, Katy and Sandra. They trained us to become peer leaders. That means you are the teaching educator, while you're also learning from other people's experiences. In nutrition, I learned you don't have to starve yourself to lose weight. I am more fit now than when I started. (But, truth be told, when the school began serving breakfast during PANA, my eating schedule really improved.)

As part of the YES program, I was a facilitator at the “Move For Life” event held on April 4th in Humboldt Park. Different organizations promoted services. There were dances, doctors, bicyclists, zumba and yoga instructors. With

the YES program, we ran an 8-minute work-out for youth without the need of any gym or materials. The youth had fun. They wanted to tell their parents about it so they could do it at home.

Jessica Morales is another YES peer educator, “I was part of the Move for Life event too. We also held a ‘Challenge,’ asking people to guess how much sugar was contained in various drinks. Those who guessed correctly won granola bars. Now, I'm preparing a sex education lesson plan. I'm working with Sandra to teach the Campos students to be protected and cautious in their private lives. The YES payment helps out. You get opportunities and find out things you don't know.”

At YES, you're able to network with a variety of people, of different ages and different races. I'm proud to be a Mexican peer educator at a Puerto Rican High School.

Efren and
Jessica Morales



La Taina,”

by Senior Evette Morales,
who was awarded
*The 2015 George Whitman
Scholarship for the Arts.*

DR. PEDRO ALBIZU CAMPOS PUERTO RICAN HIGH SCHOOL

A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



Abayarde Scholars! If you have not learned yet, scholarly achievement starts with a scholarly state of mind. Your attitude has a tremendous influence on your “altitude” when it comes to attaining your goals. This year, did you achieve all the goals that you set out to accomplish? If so, excellent! Keep it up. If not, that is okay, so long as you take some time to learn from your mistakes.

We want you to be successful; we want you to achieve; we want you all to RISE TO THE CHALLENGE! We believe it is our mission to ensure that you are fully prepared to reach your fullest potential as a human being. We, as a staff, work extremely hard to help you in your educational journey and your life’s path. In the process, we also try to have some fun!

That is why we celebrate your achievements with trips to the Bulls games, to Dave and Busters, to Six Flags, with certificates, pins and even a little “busting a move down the line” — because “you’re never too cool to move!”

For those graduating, we are going to miss you a great deal! PLEASE, do not be a stranger. If you ever change your home address, your phone number or your email address, please keep us posted. Stay connected with the school on Facebook. We want to know about your future success as you step beyond the walls of Dr. Pedro-Albizu Campos High School.

For those returning next year – GET READY. Below are some ways to prepare yourself for this upcoming year:

- * Meet with your mentor before you leave to ensure that you are still making good progress towards graduation;
- * Be sure to return all Albizu Campos books and property

before you leave;

*Clean out your locker;

*Buy your polo now for next year;

*Stay connected over the summer through our summer jobs program – talk to your your mentor for more details;

*Earn Pa’Lante hours for next year by participating in the Puerto Rican People’s Day Parade on Saturday, June 20th– YOUR SCHOOL HAS A FLOAT

— See Brenda for more details.

Back to School Orientation will be held on Thursday, September 3rd (time and location will be shared during the summer). This is a mandatory activity, where students receive their schedules and other key items for the school year.

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL is Tuesday, September 8th, 2015.

With love,

Matthew A. Rodríguez,
Principal



Good Times!

Matthew A. Rodríguez,
Principal

Unity is a Skill

By Joel Kindelan,
Mobile Journalism Unit and
Class of 2015

Once a week, the entire school gets together for "Unity." According to Juan Rodríguez, Math Teacher, "The full name is, 'Unity for Social Analysis.' It was originally started to deal with student concerns. Now, it's also a time to celebrate achievements of the students, the school, and the community." Some of the Unity programs have honored student achievements, such as perfect attendance and students who embody the Definite Dozen characteristics; other programs include student and staff talent shows, poets, dancers, rappers, beat boxers, bongo players, and singers.

Our principal, Matt Rodríguez, says, "Unity is a skill." He explains that when you build unity, you have to sacrifice a selfish need for the greater good. At Unity, we celebrate being Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School and being in Humboldt Park.

THE LOLITA LEBRON FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

By Angela Hernandez

The Lolita Lebron Family Learning Center (FLC) is the daycare center on the first floor of the school. The Center was created by the Puerto Rican Cultural Center “to address the issues of single mothers who lacked a high school diploma because they dropped out of school to raise a family.” My own daughter, Rosalinda, attends the Center. It is because of the day care that I can go to school. It means so much to know that my daughter is safe

and well cared for. She is growing and learning, gaining confidence, and playing with other kids.

Ms. Danette Sokacich, our Assistant Principal, is also the Director of the FLC. Ms. Danette also teaches The Social History of Parenting to students whose children attend the Center. I interviewed the staff to discover, “This daycare is special because each and every one of the children is welcome. No matter what your race or culture, everyone is welcomed with open arms.”

For those interested in having their children attend this wonder-



ful Center, the requirements are that the parents or guardians of the children have to either work or be attending school. So, if you are a young parent who would like to earn your high school degree, this is a great school for you!

A School Built on Pride and Equality

By Rosemary Clinton, Graduating Class of 2015

(The following is an address given by Senior Rosemary Clinton to honored guests visiting the school. See photo right.)

When I think of Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School, I think of more than your everyday school. I think of hope, a second chance, and opportunities beyond your wildest dreams. I think of a school built on pride and equality, where we're not just peers, but family. How many people can honestly wake-up to be greeted on a first-name basis by their Principal, to feel as if, after everyone gave up on you, people you had just met picked up the pieces to help you succeed?

I stand here today to explain to you how amazing my school really is. With after-school programs for EVERY subject, with teachers gladly waiting to help you, pushing you everyday to go a little bit farther and to never settle — because you can achieve so

much more. Dr. Campos High School wants nothing but for us to succeed. For example, last summer I was sitting at home doing nothing. Out of the blue, Judy Diaz-Rodríguez, our Dean of Students called, asking me what I had been doing. After I explained that I had no summer job, within a week Judy had set me up with a summer job working more than 30 hours every week. I worked at a doctor's office where I gained experience working in the medical field. The experience gave me groundbreaking background knowledge on what the life of a doctor is really like. Not many teenagers my age are awarded this opportunity. For me to have the advantage of partaking in this was a blessing. So, when I think of my school, I can't help but be grateful for the opportunity to be blessed with such amazing people in my life. When I walk across the stage, I know I will have

all the tools I need to be successful. Without Dr. Campos High School, I would probably just be another DCFS statistic, an African-American high school dropout. But today I stand before you as a Senior, graduating early from high school, an Abayarde Scholar, a 17 year-old girl

accepted into colleges. After June 6th, I will be an undergraduate student with a Major in Business and a Minor in Accounting... going for my Master's Degree.

I'll owe it all to Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School and staff.



L to R: Juan Calderon, Puerto Rican Cultural Center, State Representative Greg Harris, Student Rosemary Clinton, Jack Wuest, Executive Director of Alternative Schools Network (ASN), State Representative Cynthia Soto, and Matthew A. Rodriguez, Principal.

— SPORTS NEWS — SOCCER RETURNS!

By Saul Manon Arellano

There's a new after-school program in "Instituto Abayarde" — Soccer Training in Humboldt Park! The program started when Fito met with soccer player José Acosta, to talk about making a school soccer team. José played with Leones Negros, a Third Division Team that has moved to First Division. After José was injured, he decided to go to college to follow his dream to become a soccer trainer. Now, our school team is trained by him! Students have waited a long time for this. Soccer practice meets Wednesdays and Fridays after-school in Humboldt Park. We start off with warm-up, running time, and drills. If there's time, we have a little game afterwards. Finally, we talk with the trainer. Soccer helps keep students out of the street. It also helps keep youth fit and helps them to see their potential.

Think about joining the team in September!

Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School's mission is to provide a quality educational experience needed to empower students to engage in critical thinking and social transformation, from the classroom to the Puerto Rican community, based on the philosophical foundation of self-determination, a methodology of self-actualization and an ethic of self-reliance.

Check us out at: www.pedroalbizucamposhs.org
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Matthew A. Rodríguez, Principal
Marvin García, President,
Board of Directors

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**Dr. Pedro
ALBIZU
CAMPOS**



Puerto Rican High School



On Friday, April 17th, 2015 Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School was recognized as an organization that aspires to implement the vision of Brazilian visionary Paulo Freire. As such, our school was awarded the "Paulo Freire Democratic Project" Award by Chapman University. Being one of two awardees, our school was humbled and honored to share the stage with none other than the renowned educators Peter McLaren and Henry Giroux, (known as one of 50 top educational thinkers of the modern age!) In his comments, Dr. Henry Giroux referred to Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School as an "oasis," a thriving entity working to implement an educational practice of liberation where students and staff alike work toward self and social transformation in the Greater Humboldt Park area.