

# LAWRENCE OTIS GRAHAM

Lawrence Otis Graham, Class of 1979, is a best selling author of 14 books and a highly regarded columnist, advisor and expert on race, politics and class in America.

At White Plains High School, Mr. Graham played oboe in the orchestra, was on the tennis team and was editor-in-chief of *The Orange*.

It was at Princeton University that Mr. Graham started his career as an author, writing *The Ten Point Plan for College* when he was 19 years old. It sold 20,000 copies. He wrote a book a year while at Princeton, including *Jobs in the Real World* and *Conquering College Life*.

Mr. Graham went on to Harvard Law School where he continued his writing career, collaborating with his roommate on *Youthtrends: Capturing the \$200 Billion Youth Market*. That book led to the formation of a consulting company that advised businesses on the youth market.

While working at the New York City law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, Mr. Graham remained sensitive to issues of race and class. In 1992 he took a job as a busboy at Greenwich Country Club which led to an article, "The Invisible Man", originally published in *The New Yorker* and later reprinted in his book *Member of the Club*. His observations on "genteel racism" stirred significant national comment and established Mr. Graham as a sought after commentator on social issues.

Mr. Graham has continued to author provocative and ground-breaking works. His book, *Our Kind of People: Inside America's Black Upper Class* was a *New York Times*, *L.A. Times* and *Blackboard* bestseller. His most recent book, published in 2006, *The Senator and the Socialite: the True Story of America's First Black Dynasty*, is an important biography of Mississippi U.S. Senator Blanche Bruce, the first black to serve a full term in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Graham has appeared on more than 100 TV shows, from *Oprah* to *The Today Show*, has been profiled in many national publications, and has addressed the issue of diversity and culture at many colleges and corporations. He is a trustee of Purchase College and Horace Mann School.

He and his wife Pamela Thomas-Graham, a corporate executive and novelist, have three children, and live in Chappaqua.