



E-NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

Class of '57 Spearheads Fund for New Trophy Case

A year ago, the WAA was approached by Stan Peters, of the Class of January 1957, about the lack of a trophy case at Oakland High. Through the efforts of Mr. Peters and his classmates, who held their 55th reunion this past January, a trophy case is being designed and built. The goal is to install the case in the Commons area of the school this summer.

Currently trophies are not able to be displayed and are locked away in the archive room. "It is a shame that students cannot share in the legacy of excellence that these trophies represent, and that they know that others will not see the awards that they win," stated WAA board member Georganne Ferrier.

Wood for the case has been donated, as has the cost of design and drawing of the plans; the remaining cost at this point is glass and labor, estimated at \$6980. The Class of January 1957 has generously donated \$3300 toward these costs. Another \$3680 is needed to complete this WAA project. Donations are gladly accepted. The names of all donors will be included on the plaque that is to be placed on the trophy case. Donations should be payable to the Wildcats Alumni Association and can be mailed to Wildcats Alumni Association, P.O. Box 11436, Oakland, CA 94611. Please indicate "OHS trophy case" on the check. Donations may also be made online through PayPal at the WAA website:
<http://www.oaklandhighalumni.org/donations>.

Generous Classes of '66, '67, '68

The combined Classes of 1966, 1967, and 1968 not only partied together at their combined reunion, but gave a total donation of \$5728 to Wildcat Alumni projects. In addition to their \$2000 donation to the scholarship fund, the remaining \$3728 will also help provide needed funds for audio/visual equipment, nutrition during study hall and equipment for the football team, and repair and maintenance of the bleachers at Jackie Jensen Field. Many classes, starting with the class of 1939 over ten years ago, continue their connection with Oakland High by making class donations at the time of their reunions.

Contact Us

Send information for newsletter to waa@oaklandhighalumni.org
Use subject line "WAA Newsletter"

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WAA Spring Calendar March

- 1 Career Day
10-12, OHS Library
- 20 WAA Board Meeting

April

- 17 WAA Board Meeting

May

- 9 & 16 Senior Project Presentations
- 15 WAA Board Meeting
- 31 Senior Awards Night
6 pm, OHS Theater

June

- 13 Graduation



US Open Golf Tournament fundraiser will help football and basketball teams buy needed equipment.

U. S. Open Golf Helps OHS Football & Basketball Raise \$\$\$

Oakland High's football and basketball coaches need your help! Jayce Goree '94, football coach, and Orlando Watkins, basketball coach, have arranged a fund raising effort at the 2012 U.S. Open [Golf] Championship at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, June 11 - 17. Goree and Watkins need volunteers who can work for a morning, an afternoon, or all day to help staff a food concession booth that week. Oakland High's football and basketball teams will benefit from the booth's sales. All one has to do is sell food and beverages (provided by the tournament), meet some good people, and probably get to see some great golf.

If you are interested in helping with this fundraising activity or have questions, contact Coach Goree at Oakland High, (510) 874-7152 or at (510) 719-7629.

WAA Scholarships for Graduating Seniors

The WAA scholarship, which has been awarded for the past eight years, is now named the Alden McElrath Wildcats Alumni Scholarship to honor the longstanding and devoted commitment and service of recently deceased WAA Board member Alden McElrath '39. The purpose of the scholarship, which will be awarded to a graduating senior each year, is to provide financial assistance for post-secondary education to graduates who have had exceptional experiences during their years at Oakland High and have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5. This year's \$3000 scholarship will be awarded at the annual Senior Awards Night, May 31, 2012.

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OHS Trivia

Question: "Who at age 14 was the youngest Eagle Scout in the history of Oakland when he earned the award?"

The answer is in one of this quarter's newsletter articles.

Join WAA Today

The Wildcat Alumni Association is the only official alumni association affiliated with Oakland High School.

Membership fees are
\$ 35 for one year
\$ 450 for a lifetime membership

To join, fill out the application at the end of the newsletter and send with a check to Wildcat Alumni Association, P.O. Box 11436, Oakland, CA 94611

Wildcats, Get SHARES!

Support Wildcats Alumni school projects by using a SHARES card at Lucky's/Save Mart stores. Swipe the card at purchase and the store will pay Wildcats Alumni 3% of total qualified purchases quarterly at no cost to the shopper. Obtain a free SHARES card at waa@oaklandhighalumni.org Or WAA, P.O. Box 11436, Oakland, CA 94611

For more Student News

Check out Oakland Aegis
Oakland High's On-line
Student Newspaper
<http://oaklandaegis.com/>

Notable Alumni

In December 2011, we lost two alumni who gave years of service to Oakland High.

Barry Ferris August 8, 1939- December 25, 2011



Barry Ferris

1993 Oakland High
School yearbook The Oaken Bucket.

Barry Ferris, class of 1957, and former OHS teacher, died December 25, 2011. Barry Ferris transferred to Oakland High from Piedmont High in his senior year and was an outstanding member of the baseball team.

In 1968, Barry returned to teach at his alma mater. In his 27 years of teaching at Oakland High, Barry taught physical education, social studies, and woodshop and coached in almost every sport. When shop classes were being closed because qualified shop teachers were retiring and could not be replaced, he volunteered to teach some sections of woodshop, the only remaining shop elective, which he offered until he retired.

While at Oakland High, he coached varsity basketball, baseball, football, soccer, track and field, and golf. Far ahead of his time, he had his athletes doing dance stretches along with their jumping jacks to help their game and prevent injuries. He often spearheaded projects that needed to be done helping to build the press box on the field, a trophy case, and art display bulletin board.

We'd like to help you stay in touch.
Send Alumni news to
waa@oaklandhighalumni.org
Use subject line
"WAA Newsletter—Alumni Notes"

Alden "Mac" McElrath, Jr. February 14, 1921- December 22, 2011



Berkeley Tennis Club 2011

Alden "Mac" McElrath, class of 1939" died unexpectedly on December 22, 2011. While a student at Oakland High School, Mac served as Senior class president, and at 14 was the youngest Eagle Scout in Oakland's history. He attended U.C. Berkeley, served in the US Navy in WWII, and graduated after the war with a B.S. in mining geology. His work for Kaiser Engineers took him all over the world. Mac lived a life of giving to his city. In the late 1980s, he headed the project to restore the necklace of lights around Lake Merritt. He served on the Board of Directors of Children's Hospital and remained interested in Scouting.



Career Day 2012

Oakland High held its annual Career Day March 1, 2012 with most of the presenters being OHS alumni. Each speaker presented in two classrooms, during periods 3 and 4, touching upon several aspects of their occupations and careers: education needed, the job outlook in their field, pay and benefits, and the routine of the occupation as well its pleasures and challenges. To give students a realistic view of the world of work, speakers also pointed out sacrifices that may be necessary to accomplish career objectives and gave resources to acquire more information. Students and teachers enjoyed the many stories and anecdotes speakers related about their careers and how they chose them.

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In 1990 as a representative of the class of 1939, Mac presented an Oakland High graduating senior with the first of several annual scholarships with funds donated by his class.

Mac served on the Wildcats Alumni Association Board for many years and hosted meetings at his home. He contributed his expertise to many projects including research into the restoration and maintenance of the bleachers and improvements to the theater equipment.

In a letter to other Board members, Steve Johnson expressed feelings shared by other members of the Board: "A most wonderful individual will be very much missed." Fellow Board members remembered his wonderful qualities. Roy Owens wrote, "Alden was a great gentleman and just a nice person; he will truly be missed by all." Jarrett Chin said, "[Mac] was the conscience of the group. Just when we're about to vote to pass a motion, he'll ask the questions to double check that our decision will best serve the school and students at all levels." Georganne Ferrier wrote, "It was a privilege to know Mac. He was generous and truly interested in others. I will miss his twinkling presence at meetings." Frank Kao summed up what we have lost, "The fact that he and Barbara opened their home to WAA for the board meetings all these years demonstrated his continuing concern for the work in support of our alma mater. I will miss his advice and counsel, but mostly I will miss his humanity and his friendship."

The annual Wildcats Alumni Association scholarship has been renamed in Alden "Mac" McElrath's honor. (See article in this newsletter.)



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Alumni Association Elects New Board for 2012-2013

In January, alumni association members elected the new board for 2012-2013. Members of the Wildcat Alumni Association Board are elected at the annual meeting held each January and serve one-year terms. Members may serve multiple terms. Here are the members of the 2012-2013 Board:

Jarrett Chin - Class of 1987

His uncontrolled addiction to online social networking having gotten too out of hand, Jarrett Chin now serves on the WAA Board as a consequence of his uber denial. Jarrett has been on the Board since January 2010.

Julia DeGuzman - Class of 1999

Julia is a UCSC Banana Slug, Class of 2003, and a California College of the Arts 2006 Alumna, who enjoys baking, cooking, and gardening, and has co-coached the Oakland High's Badminton team for the last 3 years.

Georganne Ferrier - Class of 1963

Georganne taught English at Oakland High from 1968-2009 and has been on the WAA Board for 3 years.

Stephen Johnson - Class of 1958

Stephen Johnson, class of June 1958, has been a WAA Board member since 2005, upon retiring from teaching in the Oakland schools, the last 13 years at Oakland High.

Frank Kao - Class of 1966

Frank, a retired Commercial Real Estate Financier, has been on the WAA Board for over 10 years.

Creighton Lee - Class of 1972

Creighton Lee, the newest board member, was elected to the board in 2012 and practices as a Certified Public Accountant in Oakland.

Vanessa Lee - Class of 2004

Vanessa Lee has been a WAA Board member since 2010 and is currently student teaching in a 5th grade class at Cleveland Elementary as a part of her teaching credential and master's program at Mills College in Oakland. She plans to teach upper elementary school beginning this fall.

Roy Owens - Class of 1964

Roy Owens has been an active member of the WAA Board since 2009. He retired from AC Transit's Management Team in 2010 after 40 years of service which included: Schedules (10 yrs), Human Resources (15 years), Training and Education Department (15 years). Roy's hobbies include photography, bowling and most sports.

Nancy West - Class of 1975

Nancy enjoys her time being involved with Oakland High via the WAA, and has been a member since 2001.

Gene Zahas - Class of 1958

Gene has been a member of the WAA Board since 1997. He is the owner of Johnstone Supply.



Career Day continued:

The OHS alumni speakers, representing 6 decades, were Richard Beckett ('56), Jerry Blueford II ('90), Jarrett Chin ('87), Jeremiah Chuck ('00), Nashwa Emam ('04), Norman Eng ('70), John Ginn ('66), Robert Hemphill ('71), Aaron Jones ('04), Randelee Kanouse ('67), Steve Kauzlarich ('72), Creighton Lee ('72), Jonathan Leong ('70), Cynthia Lim ('65), Chris Mosley ('89), Leonard Pierce ('72), Kent Sharrar ('84), David Spencer ('85), Judy Sue ('67), and John Swartzberg ('62).

Students always get a lot out of hearing from and talking with the presenters, and this year was no different. Participating students and teachers gave rave reviews. Students gained a realistic perspective of what their futures can be, and that is extremely important. It is equally important for them to see that Oakland High graduates have done well. The effort of these alumni helps Oakland High maintain its strong tradition of excellence, and their participation is very much appreciated.

If you would like to be contacted about speaking next March send your name, occupation(s) and email address to Stephen Johnson '58 at waa@oaklandhighalumni.org.

Scholarships continued:

As part of a very generous donation to Oakland High from the combined Classes of 1966, 1967, and 1968 two additional \$1000 scholarships will be presented this June, 2012.

In June 2011, with help from a generous donation of \$1000 by the Class of 1960, WAA presented a \$3000 scholarship to Jamaya Clay, now attending UC Riverside; and thanks to another generous donation, by Gene Zahas '58, a \$1000 scholarship was given to Jessica Liu, who is at UC Berkeley. Thanks also to the generosity of the Class of 1971, two additional \$1000 scholarships were awarded; one to Jessica Thach, attending UCLA, and one to LaJuan Payne, attending Northern Arizona.

Donations for scholarships make these awards possible. The more we have the more we can award. One can donate by mailing a check payable to the Wildcats Alumni Association to WAA, P.O. Box 11436, Oakland, CA 94611 or online via PayPal by clicking on "Donations" on the WAA webpage <http://www.oaklandhighalumni.org/donations>.

WAA Board Members 2012-2013

President:

Stephen Johnson '58

Members:

Jarrett Chin '87
Julia DeGuzman '99
Georganne Ferrier '63
Frank Kao '66
Creighton Lee '72
Vanessa Lee '04
Roy Owens '64
Nancy West '75
Gene Zahas '58

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