



WILDCATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL, INC.
E-NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2012

2012 Summer Calendar

July

- 17 WAA Board Meeting
- 28 Class 2002 reunion at Lake Chalet

August

- 21 WAA Board Meeting
- 22-24 Teacher Planning Days
- 27 First Day of School

2012 Fall Calendar Preview

September

Classes of 1972, 1973 Reunion

October

Class of 1962 Reunion

OHS Trivia Question: 1)

For an entire television generation, this Wildcat was better known as "Grasshopper." Shortly before his untimely passing, Uma Thurman was in hot pursuit of him in two consecutive Quentin Tarrantino films.

Answer at the end of this Newsletter.

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/>



All three WAA scholarship winners this year happen to be students in the AVID program and are pictured here with AVID teacher Jennifer Howard.

Awards Night at Oakland High

May 31st Oakland High held its annual **Senior Awards Night**. The evening began at 5:30 PM in the Commons with the **Spring Sports Dinner and Awards**. Block 'O's and other awards were presented to members of the Swimming, Track and Field, Men's Volleyball, Baseball, and Softball teams. Two awards from Oakland High Alumni were also presented. The Stan Peters Award for Scholarship and Academics was given to **Hyowon Lihinag-Tam** (Volleyball) and **Princess Goodloe** (Softball). Each received a plaque commemorating the award. The Wildcats Alumni Association was happy to present the Jimmy Dix Award for the Most Inspirational Player on the baseball and softball teams.

Luis Inda received the award as most inspirational player on the baseball team and **Sabrina Ochoa** for the most inspirational player on the softball team. Each received a \$100 American Express gift check and their names will be engraved on the perpetual plaque. Photos of these award recipients can be viewed at the WAA website (www.oaklandhighalumni.org).

At 7:00 PM the Senior Award Night, conducted by **Head Counselor Carlos Padilla**, took place in the Theater. The Wildcats Alumni Association awarded the Alden McElrath Wildcats Alumni Association Scholarship for \$3000 to **Elihamira Hassizilon**. She will be attending CSU Monterey and plans to major in Psychology with a minor in Pre-Law. Barbara McElrath and other members of the McElrath family were in attendance for the presentation. Wayne Fabrizio and Frank Kao presented two \$1000 scholarships from the Classes of 1966, 1967, and 1968 Joint Class Reunion Scholarship Fund. The recipients are **Emanuel Baxter** and **Earvin Rojas**.

Article continued on page 3

**"Working Hard For the Money!"
OHS at the 2012 US OPEN**

The late songstress and music diva, Donna Summers, provides the anthem to a week of bare knuckle laboring during the week of June 11th through June 17th. That week was the **US Open** golf tournament held at the Olympic Club lake course in San Francisco. OHS Football **Coach Jayce Goree '94** and basketball **Coach Orlando Watkins** had committed Oakland High to participate in the staffing of a full menu food service tent on the 5th fairway for the three days of practice rounds and the four tournament days.

The coaches were intent on providing as many Oakland High volunteers as possible to work any or all of the 209 available 8 hour shifts that week at that food and beverage station because the food concessionaire, Prom Management, would donate to the football and basketball programs sixty dollars for each completed shift. I, as a retiree, on behalf of the Wildcats Alumni, personally committed to six days of volunteer work.

Virtually the entirety of my 53 hours of logged volunteer time was spent as the grill man or prepping for same. I should never have mentioned that I had spent a summer as a college junior at the now defunct Doggie Diner flipping hundreds of burgers daily. The last time I flipped a burger commercially was exactly 44 years ago.

Article continued on page 3



The grill team! Jayce Goree, Alum Frank Kao '66, Cliff Goodwin (football '13), Sean Beard (basketball '13) and assistant basketball coach Will Pon.

Contact Us

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Notable Alumni

The WAA Newsletter would like to help alumni keep in touch and celebrate what they have done since they graduated.



Damian Lillard, Wildcat B-Baller Headed North

Oakland High Wildcat alum **Damian Lillard**, Class of **2008**, who went on to become a Weber State University Wildcat, has been picked 6th overall in the NBA draft to join the Portland Trail Blazers. In his three years as a Weber State Wildcat, Lillard was twice chosen as Big Sky Conference Player of the Year. He may be a Trail Blazer next year, but once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat. Way to go, Damian!

Bev Shulster, Long-Distance Memories

Frank Kao Interviewer:
Although living in Israel since 1968, **Bev Shulster** has not forgotten Oakland High. She has provided her alma mater longstanding service by creating and maintaining an Oakland High School classmate and faculty on-line memorial site.



I asked her to tell us a little about her life growing up in Oakland and to share how, when and why she started the OHS memorial site.

Bev Shulster:
Here is the outline of my life story and my curious interest (some at my house would say obsession) with OHS, its history and alumni.

I was born and grew up in the Lakeshore district, on a small street off Sunnyhills. I attended Crocker Highlands, McChesney and OHS, graduating in **1965**. I went on to SF State, married an Israeli exchange student whom I met there, and in 1968 moved to Israel where I have lived ever since. We had two children, but unfortunately my husband was killed in the 1973 Yom Kippur War and I raised them alone, with the help of my parents and sister who had moved to Israel also. Both of my sons are now in their early 40s, one of them married with 3 children of his own. I am today happily remarried and living in the Tel Aviv area with combined families of 5 children and 9 grandchildren.

My involvement with the OHS Memorial Site had its beginnings back in 1985, at my 20th OHS reunion. For some reason that I cannot explain, I never expected to hear of classmates who were no longer alive, even though my own life had been rocked by my husband's early death. And I was completely unprepared to find out that my dear friend Benji Yamane had been killed in Vietnam in 1968. I knew that very evening that I would do something to keep his memory, and that of the others, alive. I was working as a computer analyst/programmer and I knew that this endeavor would somehow be connected to the computer, but only when the Internet became widely available in the late 1990s did the idea for the Memorial Site begin to take shape.

Article continued on Page 5

Retiring Faculty



Mrs. Rosa Romo is retiring after many years at Oakland High as an instructional aide (I.A.). Ms. Romo started as an aide in the bilingual department in the 1980s and later served as an aide in the special education department. Many of her children are alums of Oakland High, so Mrs. Romo has double ties to the school.

Mrs. Rosa Romo retires after 27 years at Oakland High.

The special education department celebrated her retirement with a potluck luncheon on June 12. Many students came to tell Mrs. Romo they will miss her and promise that they will continue to work hard, even though she won't be there by their sides. The warmth and camaraderie between teachers, aides and students made this a happy occasion.

Mrs. Romo says her first plans are to "clear a bunch of stuff" out of her house; after that retirement can really begin, and she can make plans for how to enjoy it. Part of that enjoyment will certainly revolve around spending time with her family, already begun with her grandson Jeremy's attendance at her retirement luncheon.



(Left) Mrs. Romo proudly shows off her photo taken with an A's player; she will undoubtedly spend part of her retirement at the ballpark.

(Right) Grandson Jeremy joined in the celebration.

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OHS at US OPEN continued:

Would this old Wildcats alum be able to withstand the searing heat and smoke between the two large propane grills and recapture his lost youth? Would any of the young Wildcats step up to learn the art of the grill? Would the young grilling Wildcats be able to withstand the heat, eat the smoke and tell the tale?

Most of the other volunteers were in the front of the tent serving as cashiers, food handlers prepping and wrapping, stocking inventory and filling orders. Every time Tiger Woods, Rory McElroy or Phil Mickelson raced past the 5th fairway, the legions of thirsty, hungry and impatient golf fans would line up 12 or more deep behind our 5 cash registers. By the opening round on Thursday, the lines would appear before 11 AM with golf fans wearing the "feed me" and "water me" look. The queues would last until 4 PM and longer when the champions had late start times, as Tiger did one day with a 3:05 PM tee time.

Quarter-pound cheeseburgers, grilled chicken sandwiches, quarter-pound Nathan's beef dogs, ready made wraps and sandwiches flew past the counter along with Hagen Das ice cream, chips, cookies, fresh fruit, soft drinks, bottled water and beer from the tap. As fast as we could grill, assemble and wrap all the menu items, they were being sold and consumed. With hot grills from 9 AM to 4 PM, it was a challenge to deal with emptying propane tanks, half-cooked grill items dripping hot grease igniting the nearby tall grass, and the incessant demands from the front of the tent: More food!

No doubt that this griller was able to turn thousands of burgers and chicken breasts daily with able assistance from Jayce Goree, Allen Hoshida (Saturday), Cliff Goodwin '13 and Deshawn Beard '13. We all proved that we could stand the heat in the kitchen, fight small grease fires and eat smoke! Coaches! Show us the money! Even more important than earning the money for both athletic programs, we all learned something about teamwork in a commercial enterprise. Better still, we learned it while working, not for ourselves, but for a greater purpose: our school and the teams.

The following are commended for their giving and helpful ways:

Jayce Goree (Head Football Coach)
Geraldine Goree (Head Football Coach's Mother)
Orlando Watkins (Head Basketball Coach)
Will Lew (Asst. Basketball Coach)
Coach Jeff (Asst. Basketball Coach)
Coach Rod (Asst. Basketball Coach)
Coach Mustafa (Asst. Football Coach)
Meriko and Allen Hoshida - Susan Yee in-laws
Elijah Green (Basketball Player)
Josh - (Basketball Player)
Lacresha Parker (Football Volunteer)
Frank Kao (Alum/Grillmaster)
Cliff Goodwin (Football Player)
Artesia Sanders (Head Football Coach's Girlfriend)
Mikail Meador (Football Player)
Latecia Parker (Football Volunteer)
Remy Brannan (Football Volunteer)
Kiera Garcia (Football Volunteer)
Meshawn Beard (Basketball Player)
Jamariae (Basketball Player)



Elihamira Hassizilon winner of the \$3000 Alden McElrath Wildcats Alumni Association Scholarship is congratulated by Barbara McElrath.



Emanuel Baxter (center left) and Earvin Rojas (center right) were each awarded \$1,000 from the classes of 1966, 1967 and 1968 Joint Class Reunion Scholarship Fund. Here they are joined by Wayne Fabrizio (far left) and Frank Kao (far right) members of the joint class scholarship committee.

Alumni members of the scholarship committee said that all 20 applicants were so deserving that it was difficult to have to narrow the choice to three recipients, but that these three applicants each had some special trait that allowed all members to agree on the final awards. Committee member Georganne Ferrier said, "We would have loved to have just \$1000 more to give to one more student."

In addition to the alumni scholarships, among the ninety-six awards announced and presented at the Senior Awards Night were two Gates Millennium Scholarships, twelve Marcus A. Foster Educational Fund Scholarships, and seven UC Berkeley awards. The Gates Millennium and some of the UC scholarships will pay each recipient's full tuition.

WAA Board Members 2012-2013

President:

Stephen Johnson '58

Frank Kao '66

Creighton Lee '72

Members:

Jarrett Chin '87

Vanessa Lee '04

Julia DeGuzman '99

Roy Owens '64

Georganne Ferrier '63

Nancy West '75

Gene Zahas '58

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Alicia Romero, who has been principal at Oakland High School for the last 3 years, is retiring to spend more time with her family and beloved dog Lulu. She will move to the East Coast to be closer to her husband's home country, Quebec, Canada.

Before she was appointed principal in fall 2009, Ms. Romero worked as a consultant to teachers in the OHS bilingual department and as assistant in Oakland High's 2008-09 WASC

accreditation review, so she knew the school and some of its history and traditions. At that time she confided, "This is the only high school I want to be principal of. I love its diversity and spirit."

During her tenure, Ms Romero saw many physical changes to Oakland High: the remodeling of the main building and repainting of the original orange walls to blue and white; the gutting and renovation of the 1930s shop building (now the oldest building on campus); the building of a new building next to the shops; and perhaps the most dramatic, the transformation of the old auto shop into the Wellness Center, complete with examination rooms and tables and a doctor who services Oakland High students. Ms. Romero was delighted that several sophomore teachers ran a contest to name the three academic buildings after Oakland High alumni, and now the main building is "the Jack London"(writer); the new building, "the [Nellie] Wong" (poet); and the old shops, "the [Louise Thompson] Patterson" (social activist).

Ms. Romero also facilitated many academic changes from the creation of ninth grade families to the creation of two new academies: health and engineering. However, she was saddened by the necessity to cut into programs because of the increasing budget cuts. In her first year as principal, she was faced with having to cut several teaching positions, which resulted in the loss of the music program. She worked with English teacher and violinist Michael Jones to off-set that loss with an after school music club. The next two years, she again had to make budget cuts, and these difficulties helped her decide that it was time to leave Oakland after 12 years working in the district.

She takes with her fond memories of the students of Oakland High and looks forward to enjoying snow in the winter, red leaves in the fall, and tapping maple syrup from her trees whenever that happens. Always ready for a new adventure, she will learn how and when to do it.

Ms. Romero handles problems right up to the last day.



Jeff Rogers congratulates Class of 2012 Senior Sella Thy on the stage of the Paramount Theater, Oakland.



Jeff Rogers, who has been serving as assistant principal at Oakland High since fall 2011, has been named as interim principal and has already begun work for next year. Mr. Rogers has previously served as an assistant principal at Skyline High School. He has already met with WAA president Stephen Johnson and the WAA Board looks forward to working with him.

Where Are This Year's Seniors Headed?

Oakland High continues to graduate students who are accepted into a wide range of colleges. This is a sampling of the colleges and universities that have offered spots in their freshman classes to this year's seniors:

- Academy of Art University, San Francisco
- American River Community College
- Art Institute of California, Hollywood
- Belhaven University, Mississippi
- Bethune Cookman University, Florida
- Brown University, Rhode Island
- California State University
 - East Bay
 - Fresno
 - Humboldt
 - Los Angeles
 - Monterey
 - Pomona
 - Sacramento
 - San Francisco
 - San Jose
- Diablo Valley College
- University of Las Vegas, Nevada
- Los Medanos Community College
- Norfolk University, Virginia
- Oral Roberts University, Oklahoma
- Peralta Community Colleges
 - Alameda
 - Berkeley
 - Chabot
 - Laney
- Texas Southern University, Texas
- Sacramento Community College
- San Francisco Art Institute
- San Francisco City College
- Sierra College
- University of California
 - Berkeley
 - Davis
 - Irvine
 - Los Angeles
 - Merced
 - Riverside
 - Santa Cruz
- University of Redlands
- University of Southern California



Very early on I realized that I could not just stick with the Class of '65. I began researching OHS and found a plethora of sites and newspaper articles and books that made mention of the school. As I researched it, I became fascinated by its people and its history. J.B. McChesney was the visionary founder and first principal, and the namesake for my Junior High School (and although I thought the world of Edna Brewer, I think the obliteration of McChesney from the school's name was a great mistake.) I found out where the Keyes Committee got its name, and Farris Court too, curiosity about which I had none as a student.

One of the things I love most about the site is the addition of yearbook photos for as many alumni as possible. The playing field is leveled and everyone is forever 18 and beautiful, just as we remember them! Without two dedicated collectors of Oaken Buckets, Bonnie Burk '65 and Bob Chan '71, this aspect would not exist. The number of hours they have spent scanning and emailing is incalculable and invaluable. They cannot be thanked enough.

And then there are the alumni! A marvelous social history began taking shape as I read about them and their lives and my fascination has never stopped.

And lastly, even though I plan to be updating the site indefinitely, I would love to find some younger classmates who might be interested in planning with me the perpetuation of this site and its expansion in ways as yet unexplored.

I get my information from consulting specialized websites that I have found over time, and have been aided by many, many classmates who inform me of OHS friends and relatives that have passed away, and others who send me obituaries that they read in the paper. Each year, as a 50th reunion is being planned for some class, there is an unfortunate flurry of activity -- so many new names get added at that point.

Bev Shulster
OHS Class of 1965

OHS Memorial Site <http://www.OHSmemorial.com>
OHS Memorial on Twitter <http://twitter.com/OHSmemorial>
OHS Memorial on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/OHSmemorial>



CLASS of 2012 Senior Ball & Graduation



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



*"Once a Wildcat,
Always a Wildcat!"*



Trivia Answers:

(Summer 2012)

1): David Carradine, known as "Grasshopper" on the TV series Kung Fu was also Bill in Kill Bill Vol. 1 & 2; he graduated from OHS in 1954 as "Jac Carradine."

(Spring 2012)

1): Alden "Mac" McElrath, Class of 1939



Wildcats Alumni Association of Oakland High School, Inc.

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"Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat!"

Membership Application

I would like to become a member

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Maiden Name _____ Class Year _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone H () _____ W () _____
 Fax () _____ Email _____

Membership Levels:

- New Grads \$25 Wildcat pin
(for graduates of current year, five year membership)
- Annual Dues \$35 Wildcat pin
(dues received March 1st or later applied to the following year)
Please note: Membership renewals due annually in July
- Lifetime \$450 Wildcat pin

Please check all that may apply:

- I am willing to HELP with:
 - Fundraising
 - Mentoring students
- I am willing to be a contact person for members of my class
- I wish to be notified of upcoming events
- Special projects and/or events
- Interested in serving on WAA Board committee

Method of payment:

- Cash
- Check (Payable to the Wildcats Alumni Association)

Please submit your completed form and payment to our mailing address:

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