



WILDCATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL, INC.

E-NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016



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Join WAA Today

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

Membership fees are:

- \$ 35 for one year
- \$ 450 for a lifetime membership

To join, go to our website at <http://www.waaohs.org> and send with a check to

Wildcat Alumni Association,
P.O. Box 11436,
Oakland, CA 94611

For More Student News

Check out the Oakland Aegis Oakland High's Online Student Newspaper

<http://oaklandaegis.com/>

OAKLAND HIGH ARCHIVES ROOM

Did you know that you can find a copy of the Aegis from 1910 or a yearbook from 1947? Oakland High has kept copies of every Aegis, Oaken Bucket and Oak Leaves Art and Literary Magazine ever printed and they are housed in the Archives Room of the OHS library.



(Left to right: Last century's Aegis and class scrapbooks; The WAA crew takes a break: Lee Ditlefsen ('66), Frank Kao ('66), Georganne Ferrier ('63), Creighton Lee ('72), and Stephen Johnson ('59))

However, after being moved from two "old buildings" and packed and unpacked several times as the current building has undergone renovations, the archives needed attention, and they got some Saturday, September 10 from volunteer alumni. **Lee Ditlefsen ('66), Frank Kao ('66), Creighton Lee ('72), Georganne Ferrier ('63) and Stephen Johnson ('59)** tackled the stacks of publications and boxes of old photographs to bring order to the memorabilia again. They hung the photographs of past student body presidents and shelved the Oaken Buckets. The Wildcats Alumni Association will set up other dates for volunteers to continue preserving Oakland High's nearly 150 years of memories.

(Article continued on page 2)

Alumni Notes

OHS alumna Sherri Hu, class of 1969 will take over the "Students Rising Above" awards program from retiring KPIX anchor Wendy Tokuda. Tokuda started the scholarship program in 1998 to honor and help promising students who have risen above challenging situations in their lives. Wildcat Sherri Hu will take over Tokuda's role this fall. <http://m.sfgate.com/news/article/Bay-Area-broadcast-legend-Wendy-Tokuda-retiring-9172240.php?cmpid=email-mobile>

This is not Oakland High's only connection to "Students Rising Above." Wildcat Alumni Association board member Alejandro Castillo class of 2002, was an early honoree during his Senior Year at Oakland High. Byron Wilson, class of 2004, was also presented with this award.

(More alumni on page 2)



Clockwise from left to right: The "Archive Room" before we started. Leadership teacher Amy Dellefield and her students help clear out boxes of books stored in the space; Leadership students work on reshelving library books; Frank Kao ('66) and Steve Johnson ('59) hang the earliest photos; Creighton Lee ('72), Frank Kao ('66) and Stephen Johnson ('59) nail up trim to hang past student body president photos, as Georganne Ferrier ('63) tucks away a 1940s yearbook next to 1970's football coach Wayne Young's jacket.

Archive Room continued

The WAA Board is concerned with the condition of the oldest copies of the Aegis and the piles of class scrapbooks. We are seeking anyone with expertise in preserving or digitizing old papers. We are also looking for past copies of the Oaken Bucket yearbook, as some years the books sold out and there are some very "thin" sections in the archive—we'd like to have at least two copies from each year, and when we have more than 2, teachers can check out a book to share with their classes.

If you are interested in donating an old yearbook, copies of the Aegis, or other memorabilia (rally caps, OHS pennants, etc) you may send them to or drop them off at Oakland High School, Attention Stephen Johnson, Wildcat Alumni Association, 1023 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94610.



Alumni Notes continued

Oakland High alumna poet **Nellie Wong** has edited a new book, *Talking Back: Voices of Color*, "an anthology featuring voices of youth, feminists, political prisoners, immigrants and history makers." In the introduction, Wong describes the writers as "working-class voices, rather than abstractions from lofty academic towers...They need to be heard."

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**Jay Pahlmeyer**, class of 1963 made the news. Winemaker Pahlmeyer's 2013 chardonnay was praised as one of the best chardonnays in *Food and Wine* magazine, March 2015 ("Four Wine Experts Despise Chardonnay", p. 102) in an article discussing chardonnay's falling out of favor with wine drinkers and explaining which great chardonnays should not be ignored. Jay has also generously donated wines to our reunions, so we are happy to see the wine experts validate our appreciation of his wines.

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Chris Hong, class of 2010 is a senior at UC Davis pursuing an English degree with a Literature emphasis. Surviving serious illness gave him a unique childhood and special motivation. He writes: My interests are screenwriting and publishing articles; my passion is television and movies. I'm immersed in the Hollywood culture and know what it takes to accomplish my dream of one day creating a project that will make thousands of people happy. I've spent the better part of my college experience working on a script which I believe will change the landscape of television. It is a comedy sitcom featuring what I've dealt with in my years of high school with my friends.

I have discovered from my experiences that "I can't let anything stop me from moving forward." I have this second opportunity in life that most people never get, and I plan not to squander it. I want to be able to make a lasting impression that I will 'do good' in this world.

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**Ha Kiet Chau** had two poems, "100 Degrees Heat" & "Maze-Black Night" featured in *The Riding Light Review* / Winter 2015 issue. (pp. 25-26)  
<http://www.ridinglight.org/volume-one.html>

Is your class planning a reunion soon? How can you find out? Many people call Oakland High, but the school usually does not know.

The Wildcat Alumni Association is collecting contact information for each class. If you are a permanent class officer or the person who will be communicating information about reunions to your class members, please email your contact information to WAA Board Secretary Julia DeGuzman at [thatgirlcliche@yahoo.com](mailto:thatgirlcliche@yahoo.com)

WAA will not give out this information to anyone, but will contact you with information about anyone wishing to be added to your class information list.

### **Senior Awards Night – June 6, 2016**

Scholarship Counselor James Wallace, ably assisted by Athletic and Student Activities Director Amy Dellefield presented awards to many OHS seniors at the annual Senior Awards Night last June. The Wildcats Alumni Association presented the Wildcats Alumni Association Alden McElrath Scholarship to Jennifer Sanchez (see next column), who will be attending the College of Alameda in the fall.

WAA also presented the Franklyn Delbert Helm(OHS'47) Scholarship to Steven Soe. Steven was very active in school clubs and community organizations, while maintaining an impressive GPA of 4.03. A sentence from his essay about his experience at Oakland High speaks well. "Oakland High has not only taught me the beauty of diversity, but the beauty of community and what it means to give back to my community." Steven will be attending the University of California at Merced with an intended major in bioengineering. The two scholarships awarded by the Wildcats Alumni Association are possible only because of the generosity of alumni donors. Thank you very much to the Class of 1965 for their kind donation of \$1000 to the Alden McElrath Scholarship fund and to the family of Franklyn Helm.

The occasion also provided an opportunity for the Wildcats Alumni Association to announce and present the Jimmy Dix Award for Most Inspirational Player to Jason In for baseball and Tia Duncan for softball. The Stan Peters Award for Academic Success and Athletic Achievement was presented to Allehia Moseby and Willie Scott.

In addition to seniors who won WAA awards, several seniors received awards from the University of California, including the Incentive Award Scholarship, California Opportunity Scholarships and the UC Berkeley Leadership Award. Seniors won many other scholarships and academic awards including one from the Northern California Scholarship Foundation, ten from the Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute, two from the Oakland NAACP, three from the Oakland Kiwanis Club, two from the Hispanic Community Affairs Council, three from the Links Black Excellence Scholarship, five from the Masons Foundation, three Students Rising Above, and one of only two Gates Millennium Scholarships awarded to an East Bay public high school student (Congratulations Grace Park!).

Photos of the WAA award and scholarship recipients can be viewed at the WAA website ([www.oaklandhighalumni.org](http://www.oaklandhighalumni.org)).



### **A New Challenge by Jennifer Sanchez, Class of 2016**

This past June, my high school career ended, however it ended with great memories and accomplishments. One of those was being awarded the WAA scholarship. Everyone, I mean everyone knew I was going to receive the scholarship (well, my close friends since they were IWEs in the office) except for me.

They forced me to go to Senior Awards Night when I was VERY SICK.

Once I saw my name under the scholarship's name in the program, I broke down. I was speechless to know that I had won another scholarship and that it was for 3,000 dollars. As a teen mom, college seems more impossible for me. Yet it is my new challenge to beat the odds. I am currently attending the College of Alameda and plan to transfer to a UC in two years to start my veterinary career.

My plan is to use my award in the following: a new laptop (since I have no access to one at home and have classes that required to do work online); pay off classes (since I'm planning to transfer schools), classes during the summer (since financial aid does not cover that academic session); and textbooks (the more classes the more books I'll need and the more money and bargains I'll need)! My scholarship may not cover all of my plan, but I know that will be amazing cover some of the cost. I am positive that all of it will be for educational purposes.

Being responsible for my year-old-son's needs is truly difficult and having extra financial support is a great motivation for me to go on with my education. I come from a Mexican background where my parents are undocumented and my sister and I are both first-generation to go to college. Despite of my family's history, losing a brother due to deportation, being a mother at a young age; all I want to be is a role model for others in my family, in my community and the world. Everyone can beat the odds even when life is difficult. I'm not always 100% sure about what I do, but I make it work. Thank you to the WAA and everyone who believed in my future.

**The Road to Selfless Service as an  
Army Reserve Medical Service Corp Officer**  
by Alejandro Castillo, Class of '02

Since my high school days, I've had an intense desire to serve my new country as an officer in the Army. I believed that such service would not only allow me to pay back the United States for all that it has offered me but also be a part of the humanitarian aid missions the Armed Services performs.

I originally thought I could attain that dream via an appointment to West Point, but citizenship issues precluded me from doing so, as well as from entering an ROTC program. I then vowed to obtain a commission as soon as I received my citizenship. In 1998, when my family moved from Mexico to the United States, I purchased an English/ Spanish dictionary that I used to teach myself English and begin my immersion into the American culture. Because of my determination, I became the first high school graduate in my family. However, my desire for education was not satisfied, so I applied to a small liberal arts college in Wisconsin. Two years after completing my degree at Ripon College, I applied to Cal State University East Bay for my Master degree. Thanks to financial support, especially of the community here in the Bay Area, I was able to attend college once again. I feel completely indebted to my Bay Area community and this great nation.

After receiving my citizenship in 2010, I submitted my application to join the military, and on December 2, 2011, I received my direct commission. This was one of the proudest moments in my life as my mentor Lieutenant Colonel William Schwartz conducted my oath of office and pinned on my shoulders my Second Lieutenant rank.

During my military career, the Army Reserve Medical Service Corp has helped me professionally to have a better grasp of hospital management operations and business ethics. The training I have received has assisted me to be a better civilian, officer, mentor and trainer for future leaders. My personal background is a reminder to young people that dreams are possible if they remain humble and never forget from where they came.

As an Army Reserve officer, I have learned new aspects and perspectives of human kindness and diplomacy. The Army Reserve has given me the opportunity to travel to third world countries like the Dominican Republic to establish clinics in disadvantaged communities to provide medical care. The goal of each mission, aside from an overseas training exercise, is to provide relief and education to underdeveloped communities in order for them to thrive and prosper. I have embodied the Army value of selfless service to think bigger than myself and to serve without expecting anything in return. The greatest feeling of joy overwhelms my heart when people say thank you, and the only thing I request is for them to also help others without expecting a favor in return. Being commissioned into the Army Reserve Medical Service Corp has been a great honor and a major step on the road to turning my dreams of helping my community and nation into a reality. My position as an officer has taught me humility and the ability to develop myself into a better person who is a positive contribution to society. As our former U. S. president J.F Kennedy indicated, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but instead what you can do for your country".



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