

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

OCTOBER 2019



Upcoming Events:

150th Anniversary Celebration and Open House

Sat. Oct. 26, 2019
10:00-5:00pm

Oakland High School
1023 MacArthur Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94610



3 Easy Ways to Earn for Our Group

1. Sign Up/Add Cards
2. eScrip Online Mall
3. eScrip Dining by Rewards Network



Photos of the scholarship and award recipients may be viewed at the WAA website (www.oaklandhighalumni.org)

WAA 2019 and 2018 SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The Wildcat Alumni Association was pleased to award the \$4000 2019 **WAA Aiden McElrath Scholarship** to **Linda Tran** at the Oakland High School Senior Awards Night, May 21. In the fall, Linda will be attending the University of California at San Diego and majoring in human biology. She plans to follow her undergraduate work with med school. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, the Wildcat Alumni Association has been awarding scholarships to graduating seniors for over twenty-five years. Special thanks to the **Oakland High Classes of January and June 1958**, whose very generous donation provided most of this year's scholarship funding.

The WAA also presented the 2019 Jimmy Dix Most Inspirational Player Awards for Baseball and Softball. Daniel Colly was selected for the baseball team award and Sodany Ros was selected for the softball team award. Each received a \$100 award and now

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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 oaklandhighalumni.org or send your application with a check to: Wildcat Alumni Association, P.O. Box 11436, Oakland, CA 94611

Remember reading the Aegis newspaper in class?

Check out the latest issue of Oakland High's online student newspaper at oaklandaegis.com

OAKLAND HIGH MEMORIES SAFEGUARDED IN THE ARCHIVE ROOM

The 150 year history of Oakland High is preserved in the OHS Archive Room. Copies of the Aegis newspaper dating back to the 1890s, class scrapbooks, photos of past student body presidents, and copies of the Oaken Bucket yearbooks and Oak Leaves literary and art magazines, along with bits and pieces of OHS history have been moved from one library space to another when the old building was torn down in 1980 and during three renovations at the current building.

The Alumni Board has taken on the responsibility of reorganizing and protecting the collection. And every so often, someone writes us with special documents from a relative who attended OHS early in the last century. We are proud of this rich collection and one of our desires is to continue to support its preservation. Plans are underway to make many of the contents available for viewing at the October 26, 2019 150th Anniversary celebration.



In March 2018, WAA Board worked on organizing the Archive Room in the OHS library. From left, Stephen Johnson, Creighton Lee, Jerimiah Chuck, Nancy West, Roy Owens, Frank Kao and Georganne Ferrier.

Come Celebrate OHS 150th Anniversary October 26!

Oakland High School was founded in 1869, which makes 2019 her **150th anniversary**. A big celebration is in order! **Join us Saturday, October 26** for tours of the school, music by alumni and current students, displays from our archives and of what is going on at our alma mater today. Tour the "new building" (1980), the "new new building" (2009) and the redesigned "old shop building." Come with old friends, or find them here. Open House will start at 10 am and 2:00 pm is when the music starts. Come for fun, music, a trip to the past, and a look into the future of one of the oldest high schools in California.



No charge, no tickets, no reservations necessary—everyone welcome!

Scholarship and Awards continued

have their names engraved on the perpetual plaque.

In a separate ceremony, **Morgan Dunbar** and **Siale Liku** were presented with the **2019 Stan Peters Award for Academic and Athletic Excellence**.

During the program, Master of Ceremonies counselor James Wallace announced 123 scholarships and grants including 48 from the University of California system and 50 from the California State University system. Two Oakland High graduates, Dwayne Leaks and Liliana Pacheco, were selected as **Students Rising Above**.

Due to your editor's poor health, we did not get a newsletter out last summer, but we want to acknowledge last year's award and scholarship recipients.

At the June 2018 Senior Awards Night, the **Wildcats Alumni Association** presented the **2018 Wildcats Alumni Association Alden McElrath Scholarship** to **Mae Ann Cauilan**, who will be attending the University of California at Davis.

Also presented was the **2018 Franklyn Delbert Helm (OHS'47) Scholarship** to **Buna Poeng**. He will be at the University of California at Los Angeles. In addition, thanks to the generosity of the **Oakland High Class of 1965**, an award was given to **Bryant La**, who will attend the University of California at Berkeley.

The **2018 Jimmy Dix Award for Most Inspirational Player** was presented to **Tahunni Rhoades** for softball and to **Hanaan Shahzah** for baseball. Each received a framed certificate and a monetary award from Lee Dix, the son of Jimmy Dix who sponsors the award. Their names also go on the perpetual plaque. The **2018 Stan Peters Award for Academic Success and Athletic Achievement** had been presented earlier to **Ahmari Harris** and **Hannah Hoang**.

The 2018 WAA scholarship and award recipients may be viewed at the WAA website: (www.oaklandhighalumni.org)

TINA PARAS SIMONS, '68 JOINS THE BOARD

Meet our new Board member Tina Paras Simon:

Graduated from Oakland High 1968.

Was a Song Girl for Football Program.

Active in ballet for several years.

Attended Laney College for an AA degree

Attended UC Berkeley, graduated with a BS in 1972

Graduated from Long Beach State in 1974 with a BS in Physical Therapy

Served as Chairperson for the Orange Co District of Physical Therapy Association.

Worked in the profession of Physical Therapy for 42 years, both in private practice and for John Muir Medical Center.

Presently living in Clayton, retired.

Active in Bicycling, catching up on reading, traveling with partner Michael, and volunteering for Foster Youth Organization, and Humanitarian Organization called Trust in Education for victims of Afghan war

Recently helped organize 50th reunion event for class of 1968.

Looking forward to working with Wildcats Alumni Association.

Please let **The WAA Newsletter** know what you are up to since graduating.

Write to Wildcat Newsletter at (email) waa@oaklandhighalumni.org, (snail mail) Wildcat Alumni Association, P.O. Box 11436, Oakland, CA 94611.

Be sure to include your graduation year and maiden name (if applicable).

If you are reading this, you are part of that great group of Wildcat alumni who share so many memories of student years at Oakland High. Sure, part of what an alumni organization does is help alumni stay in touch. But what can an alumni association do for its alma mater? This is the question Wildcat Alumni Board members stopped to ask at the end of 2018 looking forward to Oakland High's 150th year.

The WAA Board has 12 members, representing alumni from the 2000s stretching back into the 1950s. They meet once a month during the school year. For over 3 decades, WAA has been providing scholarships to graduating seniors every year and helping to organize speakers for Career Day. The Association has supported the sports program by funding nutrition during late afternoon study and practice sessions; we have purchased equipment for the music program, helped refurbish the theater seats, and provided a new trophy case.

These are ongoing projects, and we get caught up in the activities of carrying them out. But at the end of 2018, Board members stepped back to reflect on what they would like WAA to be able to do and why they care so much about making it happen.

At the top of every Board member's list was to encourage teachers to stay in teaching and to stay at Oakland High. We see that teachers' needs are even greater than they have been in the past, while our culture gives them little respect and little remuneration, yet they teach because they love it and want the best for their students. Board members were equally unanimous in wanting to provide rich experiences for students. We know that students benefit from exposure to the larger world through field trips and speakers.

And why did Board members say they donate their time to serve? Here is a sampling of their answers:

- Helping students, young men and women, ... develop skills and knowledge that provides a base for their futures." Stephen Johnson, '58
- "I was the first college graduate in my family. The excellent education I got in the 1960s at Oakland High and the support and encouragement I got from my teachers made all the difference in my future. I want to pass that along." Georganne Ferrier, '63
- "I have money management expertise I would contribute." Frank Kao, '68
- "Providing resources to our alma mater is the right thing to do if we want to give students the support and exposure to the world they will be entering shortly." Creighton Lee, '72
- "I want to make sure that current students have every opportunity to succeed in whatever areas their strengths and interests lie." Nancy West, '75
- "Oakland High is important to me. I would like to see it be "THE HIGH SCHOOL TO GO TO." Jeremiah Chuck, '2000

Grebe, Lowe, McGrath and Ritter Say Goodbye to Oakland High

Four teachers retired at the end of this past school year: Mr. Phil Grebe, math; Mr. Aaron Lowe, math; Mr. James McGrath, science; and Ms. Charlott Ritter, dance and PE.

Ms. Ritter began her OHS career in 1969, and is probably the teacher with the longest career at Oakland High in the school's history.

So, What's Ahead? The WAA Board's partial Wish List for the coming years:

- Set up an endowment fund or sustained donor program to provide a source of funding that would not be impacted by fluctuations in state funding or District budgeting cuts. In addition to our annual scholarship, we would like to provide mini-grants to teacher-designed projects and build an additional trophy case.
- Create an Oakland High School Hall of Fame to honor our past and as an inspiration to our current students.
- Provide opportunities to connect current students with alumni who have "been in their shoes" and gone on to successful lives. Just hearing someone else's story can be the support a student needs to push on. Those students who are unsure of the results of studying and doing well in school can get a clearer idea of how OHS lays a base for their futures.
- Encourage teachers to remain in the profession at Oakland High School by supporting their classroom needs and endeavors.
- Support alumni by assisting in advertising reunions and maintaining the OHS archives.

Join us in adding to the wish list and making it come true. Let us know how you want to participate in carrying Oakland High into its next half century at (email) waa@oaklandhighalumni.org, (website) <http://www.oaklandhighalumni.org/donations>, or (snail mail) Wildcat Alumni Association, P.O. Box 11436, Oakland, CA 94611.