



WILDCATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
OF OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL, INC.  
**E-NEWSLETTER**  
**SPRING/ SUMMER 2015**

**2015 Spring/ Summer  
Calendar**

**May**

**19 - WAA Board Mtg  
OHS Library, 6pm**

**June**

**12 - Class of 2015  
Graduation Ceremony**

**16 - WAA Board Mtg  
OHS Library, 6pm**

**July**

**4 - Happy  
Independence Day!**

**21 - WAA Board Mtg  
OHS Library, 6pm**

**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.oaklandhighalumni.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/>

**Career Day Speakers Bring the Green on March 17**

When you were at Oakland High did you expect to go into the career you ended up in? For many of us the answer is a resounding NO! And for many of us back then at 16 the thought of finding/choosing a career was a scary proposition. The world hasn't changed, and that is why every March the Wildcat Alumni Association helps to put on Oakland High's annual Career Day where alumni return to OHS to speak to classes about finding and living their careers.

This year's speakers representing graduating classes from 1962 to 2004 came to speak about gathering the green on March 17th. Why do so many alumni enjoy returning to share their careers with the new crop of Wildcats? Many remember a time when they got a glimpse into a career that sparked their interest and want to pass that opportunity along to others. *(Article continued on page 2)*



*Left: Nashwa Eman ('04) and Aaron Jones ('04) in Mr. White's class.*



*Right: John Schwartzberg ('62) answers a question about flu shots while Kim Mai ('95) waits to speak in Ms. Bui's Physiology class.*

**WAA Scholarships Help With College Costs**

April is a big month for the Wildcat Alumni Association; this is when scholarship applications come in from graduating seniors and our scholarship committee has the tough job of narrowing the candidates down to just two deserving Wildcats. The students selected are announced at Senior Awards Night in May.

Every year we are impressed by the applicants, who must show financial need and scholastic merit, and write an essay explaining how a significant experience as an Oakland High student has influenced their personal growth and professional goals. Each year the number of moving essays makes it difficult to come up with the final choices, and readers all wish that we had just one more scholarship to give. In fact, more than once readers have pulled out checkbooks and created another scholarship at the reading because they were so moved by three candidates they could not decide.

WAA scholarships are funded by alumni association dues, contributions from classes (usually at the time of a reunion), and individual alumni and alumni family contributions. WAA welcomes donations to the WAA Scholarship Fund through the WAA site <http://www.oaklandhighalumni.org/>. You could help create one more scholarship for one more exceptional Wildcat. *(Article continued on page 4)*



Left to right: Dai Thach, Michele Horaney, SFC Derek Hood, Greg Griffin, Neal Schwarz ('65)

### Career Day 2015 continued

One speaker wanted to share the message that although he had sacrificed to prepare for his career, he now could enjoy owning a home and providing for his family while some of his old classmates were struggling. Veteran speaker Michele related that she was once stopped on the street by a former OHS student who exclaimed, "I know you; you spoke at my Career Day!" That's how she knows that coming to Career Day makes a difference.

So what did students hear this year? Students in 33 classes learned what is entailed in a range of careers from fireman to electrician to forensic expert to graphic designer to genetic engineer to airline dispatcher. They heard how speakers started their own businesses, what speakers like about their jobs—and what they hate, and many hours they must put in on various jobs. Many presenters who have moved from one career to another also stressed the need to be ready to "reinvent yourself" in the rapidly changing world of work and shared their personal stories of how they did it.

Students' questions showed their interest. Forensic technician Michele Silvia ('74) always gets asked how she deals with the stress of looking at dead bodies all the time. Students ask Frank Kao ('66) how much he makes and what kind of car he drives (teen-speak for "What kind of remuneration does one get in this line of work?") Engineer Norman Eng ('70) turned the tables and asked the Engineering class to solve some engineering problems, and teacher Mrs. Diane Johnson was delighted to see her students vying to come up with solutions.

Responses from the 22 teachers who opened their rooms to speakers were universally positive. Social Studies teacher Mr. White's praise was typical: "I thought both speakers were excellent! They touched on things that gave students a better understanding of the different paths through college and into a career." Leadership teacher Amy Dellefield, who coordinates the faculty involvement in Career Day, summed it up, "All the feedback I have gotten from teachers is FANTASTIC! Thank you so much for taking the time to coordinate this for your Wildcat cubs!"



Left to right: Jeremiah Chuck ('00), Norman Eng ('70), Larry Parker ('72), Gustavo Vasquez, Charleton Lightfoot

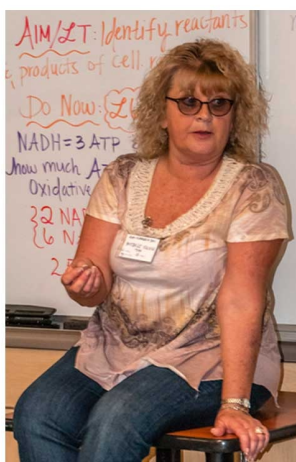
It's not too early to think about sharing your career stories next March. Send an email with your name, graduation year and career(s) to WAA President Stephen Johnson at [stjo41@comcast.net](mailto:stjo41@comcast.net) and we will contact you next year to see if you are available to speak. Feel free to talk a friend into signing up with you; speakers do not have to be Oakland High grads.

An enormous thank you goes to this year's speakers:

Gordon Baranco (65),  
Byron Benton,  
Alejandro Castillo-Terriquez (02 ),  
Jimmy Chan (90),  
Jeremiah Chuck (00),  
Nashwa Eman ('04),  
Norman Eng (70),  
Greg Griffin,  
SFC Derek Hood,  
Michele Horaney,

Chris Ikeda-Nash,  
Aaron Jones (04),  
Frank Kao (66),  
Steve Kauzlarich (72),  
Keith Koch,  
SFC Marieta Lagat,  
SSG Tyler Lape,  
Creighton Lee (72),  
Charleton Lightfoot,  
Daniel Mai,

Kim Mai (95),  
Randal Miller,  
Chris Mosley (89),  
Larry Parker (72),  
John Schwartzberg (62),  
Neal Schwarz (65),  
Kent Sharrar (84),  
Michele Silvia (74),  
Dai Thach,  
Richard Ulrich (72),  
Gustavo Vasquez



Left to right: Steve Kauzlarich ('72), Daniel Mai, Michele Silva ('74), Alejandro Castillo-Terriquez ('02), SFC Marieta Lagat.

**IN PASSING**

**Demetrius "Jim" Rally, faculty  
March 10, 1930 - April 13, 2015**



WAA is saddened by the death of Demetrius "Jim" Rally, longtime math teacher at Oakland High. Many alumni remember him as a force in their high school years. Our condolences go to his family.

Here are a few memories former students and faculty members have shared.

Steve Bornstein, former OHS math teacher: "I commuted with Jim for over 20 years. We hit it off immediately, and talked on the way and back from OHS. We laughed a lot together. He stood up for what he knew was right... He was a remarkable person."

Georganne Ferrier, OHS '63 and former English teacher: "Jim Rally was my math teacher when I attended Oakland High, and as I found when I returned as a teacher, one of the vertebrae that made up a very strong faculty. He has left a lasting impression as a man who was passionate about his subject and loyal, warm, and caring to those he knew."

Gene Zahas, '58: "I was saddened to see his [Rally's] obituary in this morning's Chronicle. He taught us analytic geometry and calculus when these were not part of the usual high school curriculum. He was stuck, as were we, in a portable across from the shop building. On warm spring days, he would simply say 'it's too hot in here, let's go outside' and he would teach the class on the grassy slope facing Park Boulevard. We had many great teachers at OHS back then, but if I had to pick one that influenced me more than any others, it would be Demetrius G. Rally."

A full obituary can be found at Demetrius "Jim" Rally's Obituary on San Francisco Chronicle .

## **District Funding for OAL Teams Dries Up**

**Guest editorial by Grey McIntosh,  
OHS teacher and Athletic Director**

In recent decades, funding for OAL teams has been an ongoing issue. There has always been a disparity of parent contributions based on school location. In recent years, many of the city's wealthier families have pulled their students out of public education altogether, leaving Oakland's six public high schools attended largely by less well-off families. This has significantly decreased parental support for athletics in both funding and volunteerism. However, recent years have shown retracted funds from a far more alarming and crucial source: the Oakland district itself.

Oakland athletics receive funds from the office of the Oakland Athletic League [OAL]. In the past, the league provided schools with competitive coaching stipends, annual uniforms, full transportation, and an annual budget for each sport at each school.

Over the years this funding has slowly disappeared:

- ◆ Currently teams are eligible for new uniforms only every other year; this is especially difficult for sports such as football, baseball, and swimming, where there is heightened wear and tear on uniforms.
- ◆ Coaches' and athletic directors' stipends are pitifully low (\$1,247 annually per athletic director, \$2,346 annually for the head football coach, \$2,140 annually per baseball coach), directly impacting coach retention and motivation. With frequent turnover in coaching, it's hard for a program to gain momentum and create a regularly competitive team.
- ◆ It's also difficult to recruit players when often they have to provide their own gear, uniforms, and transportation to competitions.

While money isn't everything, it certainly impacts the success of athletic programs. In an ideal world, all student-athletes would be playing on a level playing field, equally supported in equipment and coaching. However, until that day comes, it is increasingly apparent that we cannot count on the OAL for sustainable funding, and despite ongoing efforts by our fabulously dedicated Wildcats Boosters, present parent involvement is not high enough to get us where we need to be. If Wildcat alumni could assist our athletics program in any way—donating funds to the athletic department as a whole, or even donating used gear—we would see a huge improvement in the success, morale, and pride of modern-day Wildcat Athletics.

Grey McIntosh is the current Oakland High School Athletic Director.

**Donations to the OHS Athletics Program can be made through the Wildcats Alumni Association, P.O. Box 11436, Oakland, CA 94611. Make checks payable to Wildcats Alumni Association/OHS Athletics.**

## **Scholarships Continued**

### **Sandy Chu - 2014 Alden McElrath Wildcats Alumni Association Scholarship**



I am attending UC Berkeley and I absolutely love it! Even though the classes are very challenging, I feel like I'm getting the most of my college experience. I'm interested in Mechanical Engineering and Astrophysics. I plan on taking more classes over the summer to see which major suits me best.

Without a doubt, my scholarship helped me both mentally and financially. Thanks to the Wildcat Alumni scholarship, I have been able to buy all of my class materials and textbooks without having to take out additional loans. I even have a new laptop to do my work! This scholarship has given me the peace of mind knowing that my family and I won't have to worry about tuition costs and loans. I am very grateful to those who were able to fund this scholarship. I hope that I will be able to help a future college bound student like how the Wildcat Alumni Association has done for me.

I'm involved in UC Berkeley's Kendo Club, a sports club that teaches the popular Japanese martial art. In March, I was able to participate in UCLA's Yuhihai Tournament, a friendly collegiate gathering that was open to both beginners and experts. My experience with Kendo Club has encouraged me to take up more clubs on my spare time.

The best advice I could give to a graduating high school senior is to enjoy the moment and keep an open mind. Time in college flies by faster than time in high school because there are so many things that will change your perspective. Even though I'm on my way to the end of my first year, I can say that everyone and everything here has made me change how I see the world. While there are both positive and negative experiences here, there is no need to pay thousands of dollars to be pessimistic. Try new things and make mistakes.

### **XiaoDi Li - 2013 Alden McElrath Wildcats Alumni Association Scholarship**



I am attending University of the Pacific and am studying business administration and marketing. The WAA Scholarship definitely helped me out with my financial situation during my first year of college. I was able to use the money to pay for my tuition, books and lab fees.

I joined Circle K during my first semester of college. Circle K is the college version of Kiwi's/Key Club. Circle K has given me so many opportunities in service, leadership, and fellowship. In fact, I will be serving as the Club President this upcoming year! A piece of advice that I would give to a graduating high school senior is to do what you love, and love what you do. It is absolutely okay to take risks.