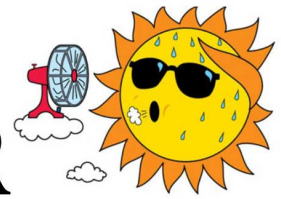


WILDCATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL, INC.

E-NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017



Upcoming Events:

Next WAA General Meeting:
Saturday,
January 20, 2018

WAA Board Meeting
Dates for 2017:

September 18, October 16,
November 14, December 12

"Lion's Share" of Wildcat Alumni Funds Go to Support OHS Students

WAA wants you to know that your donations and membership funds go almost entirely to projects and scholarships for Oakland High School students. WAA board members serve as volunteers, and we have no paid staff. Our web site and newsletters are maintained by volunteer alumni. We pay for no office space, and our operating costs are minimal covering postage stamps, a P.O. box, and web space.

Be aware: The Oakland High School's Wildcats Alumni Association is the only alumni organization which is associated with Oakland High and whose money goes to Oakland High. There are commercial groups who sell "Oakland" or "Wildcat" items who pay nothing to Oakland High. Their names (e.g. "Oakland Alumni") suggest they have a connection to a school. They do not. To look official, they ask if you are signing on as an alumni or a faculty member. They are for-profit companies who legally offer generic merchandise that looks like it comes from a school. It does not. Whatever you pay them stays with them, and is not a fundraiser for OHS.

You may donate to the non-profit Wildcat Alumni Association on our website <http://www.oaklandhighalumni.org/donations>



3 Easy Ways to Earn for Our Group

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

More on the last page
of this newsletter!

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

Mentorship by Frank Kao '66

"I have experienced first hand how some of our young OHS alums have struggled ...even after obtaining college degrees."

Hey Cats! Wonder what it is like to finish training/college (not just high school) and realize it is time to seek a REAL JOB? Done with training for a skill or having gotten a degree from a community college or university and now you are stumped about what to do?

Without planning to, I happened to have had a hand this year in directly assisting a number of recent OHS alums with newly minted college diplomas seek and find their true first career positions. Many of these college grads had been unsuccessfully trying to get interviews in their chosen fields for months before serendipity stepped in and they came in contact with OHS alumni who gave them tips on how to get an interview and land their first fulltime jobs.

Apparently the dilemma of how to seek and land a job is not so unusual for many OHS graduates who have gone on to achieve more academic success or learned skills after high school. If their advanced learning is not in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) or in business and accounting, the direction for employment is often unclear, if not confusing.

What complications might one encounter by having a liberal arts degree in the humanities or ethnic studies? The reality is that prospective employers are less likely to be calling these graduates for interviews.

(Article continued on page 3)



Former Key Club members: from left to right, Frank Kao (66), Terry Oyang (67), Wayne Fabrizio (66), William Riley (66), Bill K'Burg (66), Jon Andersen (67), Dennis Croda (67), in front Jessie Lucas (68).

The Class of 1967 Celebrates 50th at Joint Reunion With '66ers and '68ers

The weekend of June 23rd & 24th was celebratory in the observance of the 50th class reunion for the Class of 1967. The classes of 1966 and 1968 had been invited to join in the jubilation at the Friday night mixer held at the Overland House near Jack London Square and the gala dinner at the Sequoyah County Club.

The mixer was attended by approximately 100 and the dinner exceeded 200 classmates, friends, and former faculty. Foreign exchange student Tor Tenden '67 came from Norway. Teachers in attendance included Doris Brusasco (Math), Derrick Coffee (Government-History) and Carlton Garske (Social Studies). An 85th birthday cake was presented to Mr. Garske by some of his former students.

The sumptuous buffet of salmon and hand carved prime rib were enjoyed in a convivial club atmosphere. Wines at the tables were from "Vin De Tevis" gifted from vintners Carol Gong '67 and her husband Steve De Tevis who shared a variety of their bottlings from their Mendocino winery.

After the cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, the buffet dinner, and the wines, those classmates able to dance and boogie down did so to oldie tunes dominated by Motown favorites. The evening was favored with a long daylight summer evening at a palatial club setting overlooking the large patio and pool.

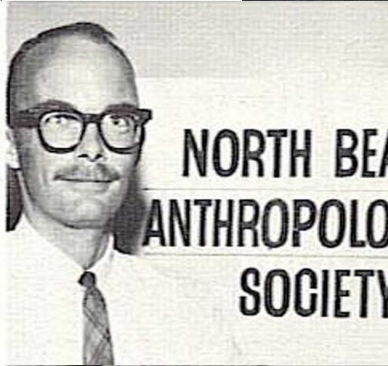
Credits for the fun-planned events go to Helen Bulwik '67 for the club facilities, Ignatius (Hinkie) Chinn '67 for the mixer, and to the class liaisons Rod Sousa '67, Lisa Oldt Sousa '68, and Wayne Fabrizio '66.



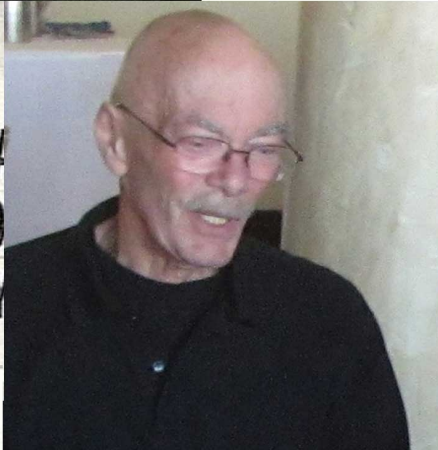
Miss Doris Brusasco
Math



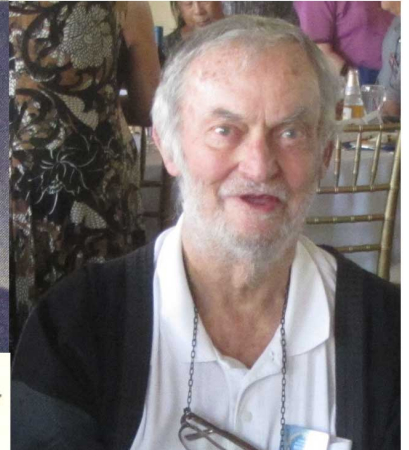
(Donna Yee, Tor Tenden, Lisa Oldt Souza and Rod Souza, all class of 1967)



Mr. Derrick Coffee, Government-History, beats drum in Irish band.



Mr. Carlton Garske
American Government Student Court Chess Club



One Hundred and Fifty Years! Let's Celebrate!

Where does time go? Oakland High School, the sixth oldest public high school founded in California, will turn 150 years old in the fall of 2019. That calls for a big celebration!

And we are ready to begin planning activities for August 2019 through January 2020 that will appeal to all ages of alumni. And we need to start planning NOW.

We are looking for a good mix of alumni from a broad range of graduation years to serve on a planning committee to be formed this fall, 2017.

If you are interested in serving, send your name, graduation year, and email address to waa@oaklandhighalumni.org and use "OHS 150th Committee" as your subject line.

Mentorship continued from page 1

These new career seekers are often boxed in by having one or all of these obstacles:

1. No college grad and/or no English speakers at home.
2. No one outside the family to advise and to mentor them.
3. No contacts or business relationships to network for referrals and assistance.

There exists an isolation that becomes a harsh reality for a young career/job seeker with all or some of the aforementioned disadvantages.

Wouldn't life be easier if that job/career seeker had someone who could show them how to prepare a résumé/curriculum vitae? Show them how to prospect for employment in industries or businesses of interest? Coach them on interview/conversational skills? Discuss negotiation strategies during job offers? Give them insights on how to seal the deal, so to speak, to bring an offer to conclusion.

As a longstanding Wildcats Alumni board member and having done some high school tutorial volunteer work, I have experienced first hand how some of our young alums have struggled with such issues even after obtaining college degrees. These issues give rise to a solitary struggle and impede progress for a hopeful job/career seeker.

It was a revelation to me that experienced and retired OHS alums like myself and a few others have made a difference. What if we formed a mentoring group solely to assist such young Wildcats in their first job placement. We OHS grads must number into the thousands in all walks of life and in every imaginable occupation. If WAA were to secure a mentorship core of a hundred OHS alums, wouldn't that mentoring unit be a positive force?

I have asked the WAA board to formulate ideas and vehicles to bring these thoughts to reality. Would you or could you as a Wildcat who has established a career be helpful in assisting a young Wildcat seeking a path to your chosen calling and into a more productive world? Huh? Huh? Huh?

You "Cats" can respond with any comments, ideas and assistance to our WAA email address: waa@oaklandhighalumni.org Use "OHS Mentoring" as your subject line. Stay tuned for more growlings! Grrrr, . .!



WAA needs your help!

Sign up with eScrip and you can earn \$\$\$ annually for the WAA.

Sign up online. It's quick and easy!

eScrip works with merchant partners to contribute to groups like ours each time you shop - at no cost to you!

1. Go to www.escrip.com
2. Click on "sign-up"
3. Follow instructions to register your phone number, grocery cards and/or your existing credit/debit cards.

Visit www.escrip.com and click on "Family of Merchants for locations near you!"



If you order from Amazon, use Amazon Smile and WAA will receive a donation from Amazon at no cost to you.

1. Just enter "smile.amazon.com" in your browser address bar (instead of amazon.com)
2. Sign up to have Wildcats Alumni Association receive the donations
3. Shop & place your order
4. Amazon donates to WAA

WAA Board Members for 2017

Alejandro Castillo (2001)

Jeremiah Chuck (2000)

Julia DeGuzman (1999)

Georganne Ferrier (1963)

Stephen Johnson (June 1958)

Frank Kao (1966)

Creighton Lee (1972)

Roy Owens (1964)

Nancy West (1975)

Gene Zahas (June 1958)

And the WAA Scholarships and Awards Go To...

The Wildcat Alumni Association was pleased to be able to award three scholarships to graduating Oakland High School seniors at this year's Senior Awards Night held May 30th. The Alden McElrath Wildcats Alumni Scholarship for \$3000 was presented to Faith Ewere, who will be attending San Francisco State University with the goal of attaining a degree in Nursing. This year two Franklyn Delbert Helm (OHS'47) Memorial Scholarships were presented thanks to the generosity of the Oakland Methodist Foundation, administrator of the Helm funds. The recipients are Senayit Sium and Naudika Williams. Senayit will be attending the University of California at Davis to major in Political Science with a Business minor. Naudika will be in Atlanta, Georgia at Emory University pursuing a degree in Creative Writing. In addition to WAA scholarships, seventy-two other scholarships were announced and presented, including twelve from the Marcus Foster Educational Foundation. In addition, 130 OHS Seniors were noted as Oakland Promise Scholars. Scholarship Counselor Jim Wallace performed his duties as master of ceremonies in excellent fashion.

In addition to the academic scholarships, the WAA has a long tradition of honoring Oakland High School athletes. The WAA presented the Jimmy Dix Most Inspirational Player Awards for Baseball and Softball to Jason In and Alya Dunbar. Jason was elected by his Baseball teammates and Alya was selected for the Softball team. Each received a \$100 award and now have their names engraved on the perpetual plaque. Sarina Williams and Joseph Holden received the Stan Peters Award for Academic and Athletic Excellence.

The WAA very much appreciates the donations from Oakland High alumni that make the scholarships possible. This year, special thanks are expressed to the Class of January 1957 and the members who donated very generously at their reunion in March: Judy Beklian Sharafin, Donna Bennett Rhee, Gary Browning, Pattie Dineen Martinez, Judy Jordan Kaiser, Lois Knickerbocker Rankin, Bob Kurtz, Jerry Lew, Judy Lowe Lang, Sharon Martini Du Frane, Valerie Peters White, Stan Peters, Carolyn Rudolph Cornell, John Warren, Karin Welty Mai, Pattie Wieking Horton, Dennis Western, Cameron Wolfe, Vicky Young Jennings, Arthur Daily. Thanks also to Gordon Baranco (OHS'65) who has been very supportive of the WAA.

Letter from Alden McElrath Wildcat Scholarship winner Faith Ewere, who has just started her freshman year at San Francisco State University:

Thank you so much, I received the check today. I am very grateful, and honored for the association's generosity. On behalf of my family, and I, we sincerely express our gratitude. I will make sure I keep up the good work throughout the next 4 to 5 years, and also update the association on my progress.

Yours sincerely, Faith Ewere

WAA Funds Go to Support OHS Students and Alumni

WAA was founded in 1999 to support OHS. It is operated 100% by alumni volunteers.

All membership fees and donations received are used solely for WAA programs including scholarships, career day at OHS, grants to OHS for equipment and supplies and maintaining on-going contacts with OHS alumni.

The Oakland High School's Wildcats Alumni Association is the only alumni organization which is associated with Oakland High and whose money goes to Oakland High.

WAA is recognized by IRS as tax exempt as described under section 501c(3). You may donate to the non-profit Wildcat Alumni Association on our website <http://www.oaklandhighalumni.org/donations>

WAA Newest Board Member

The WAA is pleased to announce the addition of Jeremiah Chuck (2000) to the Wildcats Alumni Association Board.

Jeremiah was a member of the 1st class of the Oakland High Engineering Academy, (1998-2000). He was active in OHS athletics, playing varsity soccer ('98-'99), cross country and track & field ('98-'99), and golf ('98-'99).

Jeremiah graduated from San Jose State University School of Engineering with a major of Industrial Technology: Electronic and Computer Technology and also earned a minor in Business Management. At SJSU he was affiliated with Alpha Kappa Omega Fraternity and played NCAA division III ice hockey for the university during his sophomore year.

He is currently working for Thermo Fisher Scientific as a Service Supervisor for the Materials & Structural Analysis division, primarily working with scanning electron microscopes and failure analysis equipment for the semiconductor/nano-electronics industry, as well as managing a team of field service engineers.

Jeremiah is a cooking and BBQ enthusiast and still enjoys playing hockey at Oakland Ice Center downtown. He has joined the Wildcats Alumni Association Board as part of his personal commitment to do what he can to give back to the community in which he grew up.

General Anthony Jackson ('67), Sir!

In the late summer of 1965 right after Labor Day, my senior year at OHS was beginning, so I got to campus early to await the morning bell. In anticipation of how my classes would be and my overriding concern for the looming college application time, my freelancing mind was racing away as I parked myself on the Park Boulevard entrance overlooking the busy street.

Then the calm was shattered by a big, long yellow school bus from the then US Army Terminal that came to an abrupt halt across the street. From that massive transport alighted just three people, which emptied the bus: the attractive blonde was in my homeroom and the two African American male students I had seen around campus last year. The tall lanky fellow was Don Jackson, a senior footballer and basketballer and the shorter but more muscular fella behind him was his junior younger brother Tony, definitely a wrestler and footballer. The bell rang and my grand senior year had officially begun. UGH!

As the school year progressed and my student/class government activities increased, I would see and interact w/ both of the Jacksons (no relation to the later famous musical Jacksons). Not only were Don and Tony very athletic, but they were also very involved in student activities. However, the younger Jackson brother always seemed to make his point w/ a smile and even laughter among different groups. Ah! Leadership in action, I thought.

Well as life would have it, fast forward 45 years to 2011 to the joint class reunions of my '66 class w/ the classes of '67 and '68. I had heard that Tony and his wife were at the event and about his successful military career with the US Marines. I only had a brief opportunity to shake Tony's hand that evening among the 380 attendees. At the end of the evening, I gave our beloved foreign exchange student, Jemy Somsai, a ride to his sister's home where he was staying before returning home to Thailand. On that ride, Jemy, a loquacious fella originally from Laos w/ an ebullient personality, raved about how he was so elated to have seen and chatted up Tony again after all these years.

Okay! So what! But Jemy went on to tell me that Tony was the first black person he had befriended at OHS since coming from Asia and he valued their friendship still. Jemy was raving about their meeting and the events of that night as this exhausted driver dropped off his happy overseas OHS classmate.

This '66er having stayed in touch w/ numerous '67 class members, I soon learned of the retirement of Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret) after 36 years of service. Then I heard that Governor Jerry Brown had appointed Tony Director of the California State Parks and Recreation in 2012 to turn around some mismanagement problems there. Tony stayed in the appointment until June 2014.



This focus on an alum, Tony specifically, was long overdue. Believe it or not, I did not know how to begin a high school alumni newsletter article about someone I knew and do justice to all that he accomplished as a student, a scholarship college athlete, a distinguished military officer, a public servant, and a family man. I cannot begin to enumerate his activities in leadership, training and commands all over the world. I threw my hands up in despair when starting this soft exposé and decided to post his biography on the Wildcats Alumni website <http://www.oaklandhighalumni.org/>. To have it available there in its full glory is the only justice this Wildcat deserves.

Tony can box me about the ears for my pabulum historical approach to this career-long Marine Corp officer, but he should not balk at the revelation of his true and honest relationships alongside of us everyday classmates from OHS.

Oh gosh, I'm glad I finally got this in print now because another joint class reunion is taking place this weekend. Instead of ducking the General next Saturday evening, I can say again: "whazz up Tony"! See! I wrote about you!

To everybody else not in attendance its: "General Anthony Jackson, Sir"!

Frank Kao '66