



WILDCATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
OF OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL, INC.

# E-NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017



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The Wildcat Alumni  
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Membership fees are:

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Oakland High's Online  
Student Newspaper

<http://oaklandaegis.com/>

## WAA to the Rescue

Where do your WAA donations and membership dollars go? Some went to assist the OHS music department with a pressing need. Music teacher David Byrd turned to the alumni association for funds to purchase a chair dolly to transport chairs for the performances. It seems that the days when there were sufficient chairs and custodial help to set up the theater for a performance are gone. Music students have to carry chairs from the music room, through the halls, up to the stage to put on their concerts.

Thanks to your membership dollars, we were able to provide two dollies. Now music students can stack their chairs on the dollies and go rolling along—and save their wind for the concert!



*(Short, Michael. Untitled. Digital image. SFGATE. N.p., 16 Dec. 2016. Web. 2 Apr. 2017)*

## Damian Lillard—Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat

Damian Lillard (OHS 2008) returned to Oakland High School to give back to his alma mater and thrill current students with a visit and a major donations. Lillard was a basketball star at Oakland High and went on to play for the Portland Trailblazers (2012-present). He was also involved with Oakland High's Hip Hop Club. Last year he sponsored several projects to improve conditions for current Oakland High students. He initiated three school improvement projects: improvements for the gym and a refurbished weight room, and equipment for the hip hop music club. In the gym, Lillard and his sponsor Adidas contributed funds to repaint the orange gym walls Wildcat blue and white, paint a blue wildcat logo on the floor at center court, and add safety pads to the walls behind the baskets. Lillard also provided championship banners for each sport, listing the years the Wildcats won. The sparkling gym's unveiling ceremony featured a concert of local artists, and Oakland High retired Lillard's number. His framed jersey now hangs on the gym wall.





(LeBron, Dwyane Wade, NBA Players Congratulate Damian Lillard on New Rap Album. Digital image. USA Today Sports. USA Today, 21 Oct. 2016. Web. 2 Apr. 2017.)

### Guest Editorial A GIFT IS TRULY A GIFT

The Sunday San Francisco Chronicle of February 19, 2017 contained a segment in the regular column by Phillip Matier and Andrew Ross about an after school assembly at Oakland High School on Friday, December 16, 2016. That day on campus in the gymnasium was the unveiling of a blue and white marvel of a renovated gym, a refurbished weight room and a music room with a sound console. The event was celebrated by a rap concert with Fetty WAP, DJ Esco and Lil Uzi Verge.

OHS alum, now Portland Trailblazer and NBA All Star point guard Damian Lillard was the sponsor along with his corporate sponsor, the Adidas, the athletic shoe and apparel company. Together, the sponsors spent over a half million dollars for the festive event and for the renovation of those school facilities. All good, no?

Except the article noted that one Josh Golin, executive director for the "Campaign for A Commercial Free Childhood", on behalf of the non-profit's fight against exploitative practices of child-targeted marketing objected to any advertising in school no matter what was granted in return.

Mr. Golin's objection would be difficult to comprehend had he and CCFC visited the previously tired gymnasium, the stark weight room and the almost nonexistent music sound room. No, Mr. Golin and your CCFC organization have totally misconstrued this momentous celebratory school event. Though I had not been in attendance for the happy event, I have visited the named facilities previously and no one can dispute the need for the updating.

It is needless to say that the largesse for the improved facilities came by way of a business transaction. In 2014 Damian Lillard agreed to a 10 year endorsement contract with Adidas for reportedly worth in excess \$100 million. It is presumed that the contract permitted Damian and his agent to create a subcontract in the form of a third party beneficiary contract wherein Damian could name OHS as a



(Damian Lillard returns to Oakland High School to give back . Digital image. WEARETESTERS. N.p., 17 Dec. 2016. Web. 2 Apr. 2017.)

recipient and thus the beneficiary of a designated amount of his entitled earned resources. If the designated resources were to be spent to upgrade the OHS gym, weight room and music/sound room, then all OHS and the district need only to acknowledge the receipt of the offer.

Bear in mind that the hip hop event and all the renovations came to OHS not directly from Adidas to the school or OUSD but rather from Damian Lillard's effort and earnings. Damian's gift is a major contribution. The improvements not only enhance the campus environment but also provide clean and modern spaces for the learning experiences.

For the school to display the Adidas name along with Damian's name was only an incidental act to inform all that Damian earned the proceeds to fund the project from his endorsement with Adidas. Damian's introduction of his new athletic shoe, one of a series, was part of his brand with the shoe and apparel company. Essentially the promotion of the Dame 3 shoe at \$115 a copy had not been contingent upon any achievements of sales or purchase by OHS students. Plus the shoe is expensive, if not unaffordable, for most OHS students. (Article continued on page 4)





**Career Day 2017**

Twenty-five intrepid speakers braved 2017's worst day of rain to talk about their careers with Oakland High students. On Tuesday, February 7, the day Highway 80 was closed through Richmond and rain-water gushed over curbs and soaked anyone unfortunate to need to leave home, these dedicated presenters, most of them Oakland High alumni, found their way to Oakland High's classrooms. Distance and weather did not deter anybody. They talked about their occupations/professions and the several aspects of their careers. Through the telling of anecdotes, stories, and experiences, and by answering students' questions, they shared most of the pleasures, challenges, benefits, and necessary sacrifices of a career in their areas.

OHS alumni who participated are Gordon Baranco ('65), Alejandro Castillo ('02), Jeremiah Chuck ('00), Jeremy Cohen ('75), Heather Dinh ('03), Norman Eng ('70), Steve Kauzlarich ('72), Creighton Lee ('72), Chris Mosley ('89), Larry Parker ('72), Brenda Roy ('80), John Swartzberg ('62), Richard Ulrich ('72), and Sherri Wheeler ('80). Several of these alums have participated each year for the past 9-10 years and should be especially commended - Gordon Baranco, Jeremiah Chuck, Norman Eng, Steve Kauzlarich, Creighton Lee, Chris Mosley, and John Swartzberg. This was Sherri Wheeler's second year after trying to participate for several years; she travels from Pennsylvania to make a presentation, and we are glad her plane made it.

Our thanks also to three companies without OHS alumni: Helix Electric of Oakland provided speakers both this year and last year. Michele Horaney of Thought Leader Public Relations has participated for the past four years, and Greg Griffin of AEI Consultants has been a participant for nine years.

Crucial to the success of Career Day is the participation of both OHS alumni and people from the community. Students truly appreciate gaining a realistic picture of what awaits them when they go out into the world from high school. Hearing it from alumni of their school tells them that they can succeed too. Thank you to all the participants and to the teachers and students who help maintain Oakland High's long tradition of excellence.



Clockwise from top left: Chris Mosley (1989), Jeremiah Chuck (2000), Karen Cao, and Alejandro Castillo (2002) enjoy making their presentations to Mr. Rodriguez's Government students; Damon Mari talks with Ms. Ford's students about a career as a Project Engineer for Helix Electric company; Gaby Hemphill of American Fidelity Insurance talks about the life and career of an insurance agent; Brenda Roy (1980) and Dr. John Swartzberg (1962) smile for the camera as they get ready to talk about their careers as a freelance vocalist and as a Physician and Professor of Public Health in Ms. Dellefield's Leadership class.



**More Career Day 2017 photos on page 5!**



# UPCOMING REUNION!

## Classes of 1966, 1967, 1968 - Joint Reunion

**Date:** June 2017

**Place:** Sequoyah Country Club, Oakland

The contacts for the joint '66, '67 & '68 class reunion are:

**OHS '66 - Wayne Fabrizio:** wfab\_6@att.net  
or **Frank Kao:** frank.kao@gmail.com

**OHS '67 - Rod Souza:** rod@lisaknit.com

**OHS'68 - Lisa Oldt Souza:** lisa@lisaknit.com

*Is your class planning a reunion?*

*Let us know!*

Send date, location,  
and contact information to

<http://www.oaklandhighalumni.org/reunions.php?action=equest>

## A GIFT IS TRULY A GIFT continued from page 2

The hip hop event and shoe introduction were for the moment. However, the improvements and upgrades will last for years to the benefit of hundreds and likely thousands of OHS students, alumni, faculty and staff each year.

Mr. Golin and your CCFC should visit our campus during PE classes, for afterschool sports, evening team and weekend practices and free play. Come check out the rainy day PE classes in the gym as well as the home basketball game day activities. No, Mr Golin, you and the CCFC have got it all wrong. Damian Lillard has spent some of his earnings to demonstrate his appreciation and his love in remembrance of his formative years at his alma mater.

The Damian Lillard generosity is his way to further the education of many and to benefit the high school experience for those who are the athletes in Damian's mold and for those who love the music that moves Damian.

When business becomes an act of generosity, it morphs into an act of love, caring and sharing. It is a gift; well done, my young Wildcat!

Frank Kao '66

DISCLAIMER: Author is an alumnus and a board member of the Wildcats Alumni Association for most of the past 20 years. The thoughts and opinions expressed herein are strictly by the author and in no way attributed to the school, OUSD or any other entity or persons involved with the school. The author was not privy to any documents, contracts or interviews in this expression of an opinion.



## WAA needs your help!

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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> and know that all money will go to projects and scholarships for Oakland High School students.



Clockwise from top left: Arvil Fernandez watches another presenter while being ready to tell students about being a service unit manager for Kaiser Permanente; Michele Horaney waits for her turn to talk with students about a career in Public Relations; Greg Griffin; OHS Class of 1972 well represented at Career Day: L-R; Steve Kauzlarich ('72), Jeremiah Chuck ('00), Creighton Lee ('72'), Stephen Johnson ('58), Richard Ulrich ('72), Larry Parker ('72)







(Clockwise from top left: Heather Dinh (2003) answers a question about her dental practice and profession; Richard Ulrich (1971) waits for his turn to tell students about a career as a California Highway Patrolman; Norman Eng (1970) awaits his turn to make a presentation about a career in nuclear energy; Jeremy Cohen (1975) answers question about his career as a professional musician; Dr. Sherri Wheeler (1980) tells Leadership Class students about her career in Public Health and her current position as Medical Education Coordinator for the Federal Bureau of Prisons; Steve Kaulzarich (1972) awaits his turn to present to Ms. Clark's English class; Gordon Baranco (1965) talks about his career in the legal profession and his duties as a Superior Court Judge to Ms. Macy's World History class.)



WAA Board Members for 2017

- Alejandro Castillo (2001)
- Julia DeGuzman (1999)
- Georganne Ferrier (1963)
- Stephen Johnson (June 1958)
- Frank Kao (1966)
- Creighton Lee (1972)
- Roy Owens (1964)
- Nancy West (1975)