

A large crowd of people, mostly adults, are seated on wooden bleachers in an outdoor setting. A massive, leafy tree dominates the background, its branches spreading over the crowd. Many people are holding open umbrellas in various colors (black, red, blue, yellow, green, white), suggesting it might be raining or recently rained. The scene is set in front of a brick building with ivy. The overall atmosphere is one of a community gathering.

2009 family tree

a magazine for the extended community of ojai valley school

OVS says thanks to Mike Hermes

(See page 14)

Mike Hermes at OVS: *A long association*



As a ninth grader, Class of 1953



As a dorm father and coach, 1962-67



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President and CEO, 1975-2009

Ojai Valley School

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www.ovs.org

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family tree

a magazine for the extended community of ojai valley school



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UPPER SCHOOL CLASS OF 2009



Front row (l-r): Christopher Coudray, Hao Yang Bai, Amanda Tadlock, Katherine Woods, Jin Kyu Choi, Yu-Fang Hsieh, Charles Tseng, Sayaka Watanabe, Jeremy Crisafulli, Kana Yoshida;
Back row (l-r): Andrew Town, Logan Walters, Parker Colborn, Austin Jacobsen, Ronald Richard, Mark Edwards, Jung Kao, Hong Yang Zheng, Blane Switzer, Cooper Hefner, Ousmane Fofana, Choong Won Han

STUDENT BODY ELECTED OFFICERS 2009-2010

PRESIDENT:	Betty Chen
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Angus Beverly
SECRETARY:	Ian Cheung
TREASURER:	James Wickenhaeuser
COMMUNITY SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE:	Lucy Kim
ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE:	Garrett Blach
COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE:	Veronica Crisafulli
WEEKEND REPRESENTATIVE:	Kai Littlefield

HEADMASTER'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2008-2009

Vivian Park
Max Wheeler
Kathy Valdez
Daniel Ramirez
Reem Al-Tamimi
Robert Lee
Lucy Kim

rs, Graduates!

upper school awards

A W A R D S

A. CARL KOTCHIAN AWARD

Based on faculty vote for the most outstanding scholar, not only for academic achievement, but also because of this student's level of effort and intellectual curiosity.

Mark Edwards



ANDREW KILLE AWARD

Given to the senior who has demonstrated himself or herself to be a leader with a strong sense of community; one who has been consistently hard-working, helpful, friendly, and who has demonstrated a good sense of humor.

Parker Colborn



J.B. CLOSE AWARD

Recognizes the student who has exhibited the most enthusiasm and active participation in the outdoor program

Daniel Ramirez



ROBERT G. COOPER AWARD

Honors the seniors who have demonstrated the most growth during their senior year.

Kana Yoshida and Cooper Hefner



WALLACE BURR AWARD

Established to recognize the student who has made a significant impact on the OVS community by giving unsolicited service.

Angus Beverly



SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Given to the athlete(s) who have demonstrated integrity, leadership, and, above all, good sportsmanship.

**Kana Yoshida & Amanda Tadlock
Cooper Hefner & Ronald Richard**



ADDITIONAL UPPER SCHOOL AWARDS

Biology
Hugo Tavares

Chemistry AP
Jin Kyu Choi

Chemistry
Cooper Hefner

Physics
Sean Yuan

AP Calculus
Betty Chen

Pre-Calculus
Miranda Choi

Athletic Award
Jeremy Crisafulli

Journalism
Veronica Crisafulli

Studio Art
Studio Art Class: Cameron Davis, Reem Al-Tamimi, Chloe Freed, Amanda Tadlock, Jee Yun Lee

Ceramics
All ceramic students

Photography
Lucy Kim

U.S. History
Chris Kang

World History
Alex Alvarez

History/World Geography
Ronald Richard

Humanities
Evan Cooper

Dorothy Burr Literary Award
Katie Woods, Grier King

English 9
Serry Park

English 10
Amit Pandya

English 11
Hunter Helman

English 11 Honors
Reem Al-Tamimi

English 12
Christopher Coudray

AP English 12
Mark Edwards

English as a Second Language
Isaac Kwong

Spanish
Elizabeth Edwards

French
Reem Al-Tamimi

Music - National School Choral Award
Andrew Towne, Kana Yoshida

Humane Society Award
Jade Wynn, Simon Lee

University of Rochester - Humanities/Social Science
Angus Beverly

University of Rochester Leadership Award
Reem Al-Tamimi

University of Rochester Xerox Award for Technology
Victor Choi

Sandy Ballou Equestrian Award
Riley Thomas, Elizabeth Waian

Rotary Club Scholarship:
Mark Edwards, Parker Colborn

AP Statistics
Victor Choi

Computer Science
Evan Lee

AP Psychology
Paul Graham

Dormitory Award
Ivon Hsieh

upper school graduation: photo highlights



UPPER MUSICAL: *Buddy*



upper school highlights



Outdoor Ed



Outdoor Ed



Community Service at the Humane Society



Team Comp Day



Honors ski trip to Yosemite

upper school highlights



Music recital



Sports



Ceramics



Art Festival



Prom



Homecoming



Annual holiday dinner



First annual Parent Club S'mores cookout

Congratulations,

LOWER SCHOOL CLASS OF 2009



Front Row (L-R): Rhiannon Wademan, Gala Avary, Rachel Turner, Cybil 'Sierra' Stingl, Symara Donovan, Jayme Clapoff, Monique Raynaud-Loughead, Molly Fulton, Jillian Montgomery, Caroline Schillinger, Renata Ortiz Mena, Mi Joon Kwak, Wan Ting 'Tina' Chao, Chin Yu Liu, An An 'Chris' Che, Da Hae Kim, Christina Crockett. Back Row (L-R): Shun Takebayashi, Bradley McKay, Ryan Jones, Robert Whitten Yount III, Sunny White, Miles Munding-Becker, Jared Silverman, Jesse Clapoff, Tae-Ho 'Steve' Yoon, Jin Woo 'Jack' Kim, Jay Young 'Leo' Park, Min Kyu 'Andrew' Lee, Louis Medel, Ki Beom 'Chris' Lee, William 'Jack' Beverly, Krshant Chettiar, Yoon Do 'Alex' Kim, Se Woong 'Steven' Park, Amol Pandya, and Mr. Hall-Mounsey.

STUDENT COUNCIL 2008-2009

PRESIDENT: Gala Avary
VICE-PRESIDENT: Whitten Yount
SECRETARY: Sarah Tadlock
TREASURER: Grace Song

GIRLS' DORM PREFECTS 2008-2009

Monique Raynaud-Loughead
Mi Joon Kwak

Graduates!

A W A R D S

MICHAEL D. HERMES ATHLETE/SCHOLAR AWARD

Given to the outstanding eighth grade athlete/scholar(s).



Miles Munding-Becker & Monique Raynaud-Loughead

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

The highest award honor OVS gives a graduating eighth-grader.



Rhianon Wademan

HEADMASTER'S AWARD

Given for the significant contributions an eighth-grader has made during his or her years at Lower School.



Robert Whitten Yount III & Gala Avary

J. B. CLOSE CAMPING AWARD

Given each year to the student who best exemplifies the goals of the OVS Outdoor Education Program.

His or her consistent contributions to camping, backpacking, and rock climbing trips, his or her love and respect for nature, and commitment to helping others in the face of adversity sets him or her apart.



Ryan Jones

MICHAEL J. HALL-MOUNSEY RESIDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Honors the boarding student who has consistently served as an outstanding role model for his or her peers and has demonstrated initiative, leadership, and responsibility.



Mi Joon Kwak

ADDITIONAL LOWER SCHOOL AWARDS

GEORGE W. BUSH

PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC AWARD

These students have been recognized on the Headmaster's Honor Roll each semester for two full years:

Gala Avary
William 'Jack' Beverly
Wan Ting 'Tina' Chao
An An 'Chris' Che
Mi Joon Kwak
Min Kyu 'Andrew' Lee

Chin Yu Liu
Louis Medel
Cybil 'Sierra' Stingl
Rachel Turner
Rhianon Wademan

ART

Renata Ortiz Mena

DRAMA

William 'Jack' Beverly
Cybil 'Sierra' Stingl

ESL

Chin-Yu Liu

HISTORY

Louis Medel

LANGUAGE ARTS

Wan Ting 'Tina' Chao

MATH

Mi Joon Kwak
Yoon Do 'Alex' Kim

MUSIC

Shun Takebayashi

SCIENCE

Cybil 'Sierra' Stingl

SPANISH

Rachel Turner

TECHNOLOGY

Wan Ting 'Tina' Chao

WOODSHOP

Min Kyu 'Andrew' Lee

lower school graduation: photo highlights



lower school highlights



Campus Lighting



High Tea



Science Fair finalists at the Ventura County Science Fair



8th grade in Washington D.C.



Rock Climbing



Turkey Trot



Mammoth Ski Trip



Primary grades visit the Pumpkin Patch



Elementary play, Dr Peach

LOWER MUSICAL:
My Fair Lady



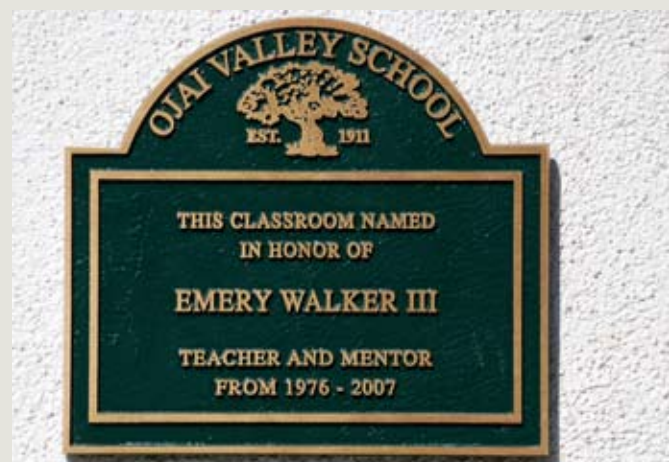
PONS DINNER

PONS DINNER, 2009

PONS: (LATIN) MEANING "BRIDGE"



Several high school seniors came back for the Pons Dinner



lower school highlights

The Pons Dinner this spring was particularly well attended, with many former Lower School students wishing to pay their respects to Emery Walker, long-serving Language Arts teacher, who had passed away suddenly in January.

Headmaster Michael Hall-Mounsey explained that the school dedicated a reading bench to Mr. Walker, and a plaque has been placed in his honor next to room 21, his classroom (see photo).

Tony McHale, who was a resident student at OVS for 7th and 8th grades and who came back to teach history at the Upper Campus before he signed on to his present job as a firefighter, was the keynote speaker. He had been a student of Emery Walker's in the mid-80s, and spoke of him with great affection and respect.

McHale said he sees "tremendous continuity" at OVS and this reassures him that the values that were instilled in him when he was a middle-schooler are still strongly in tact. He also referred to the sign that hangs in the hallway of the classrooms at the Upper Campus. It reads simply, "Integrity."

"To me," said McHale, "integrity means the good things you do when nobody's watching."

McHale exhorted the students to find their niche and recommended they "savor the moment here at OVS. Savor the relationships you are able to have with your teachers," he said. "Take the time to walk around the campus. Take the time. This school is an extraordinary place. Love it. Come back to visit it"

Max Wheeler, a junior at the Upper Campus, and Parker Colborn, a senior, also addressed the Pons attendees. Max recalled a conversation he had with Mr. Cooper three years ago, when he became an Upper-Schooler. "Mr. Cooper wanted to know what I expected of him, and he wanted me to hear what he expected of me. He wanted way more than I did. Mostly, he was counting on me to be a good leader. I've tried not to let him down."

Colborn, who has attended OVS since the 4th grade, spoke of the school as a "home away from home." He reminisced about how Mr. Gartrell had encouraged him on a challenging backpacking trip, saying, "You can do it." He also talked about what a great time of life high school is, especially at OVS. "I've been able to go cross-country skiing with my headmaster in Yosemite for the past two years," he noted. "As OVS students, we are taught to truly appreciate nature."

Like McHale before him, Colborn exhorted these students to "Make the most of every moment." Carpe Diem: seize the day.

NEXT YEAR'S PONS DINNER:

Date: Tuesday, May 11th, 2010
Time: 5:30 PM
Place: Wallace Burr Pergola,
Lower Campus

HERMES RETIRES



Michael Hermes has retired after serving for 34 years as president of the Ojai Valley School. He will remain as a member of the OVS Board of Trustees.

An alumnus of OVS (Lower School Class of 1953), Hermes took over as head of school in 1975 after having served for eight years as CEO of the United Way of Ventura County. His fundraising background would serve him well in his new post, as the school was struggling financially at that time.

Hermes spearheaded efforts to return OVS to sound financial footing, launching new fundraising efforts, a dynamic marketing program, as well as an aggressive and selective admissions process that soon began paying dividends. Under his stewardship, millions of dollars were poured into renovating and upgrading OVS' two campuses, resulting in new classrooms, equestrian facilities, technology labs, athletic facilities, and a state-of-the-art venue for the performing arts.

Upper School Headmaster Carl Cooper (L65, U68) was only four years old when he first met Mike Hermes. (Carl's dad was then Hermes' baseball coach), and he considers Mike a "guiding force" in his own life as well as in the life of the school. "He helped others find the best in themselves," notes Cooper. He credits Hermes for saving the school and preserving it for future generations.

"As an OVS student, Mike Hermes was the big man on campus," says Cooper. "Then, when he returned in the early 60s as a coach and dorm parent, Hermes was again regarded as the big man on campus. Finally, when he was appointed president, in 1975, he really was the big man on campus. But he never acted like it. And that was part of what made him such an exceptional leader."

Incoming OVS President Michael Hall-Mounsey echoed these sentiments: "It wouldn't be OVS without Mike Hermes," says Hall-Mounsey. "He's the face of OVS for a generation. He's been involved his whole life. I think of him as my mentor and am proud to have worked for him. All of us at OVS thank him for a lifetime achievement."



Wally Burr, former headmaster, talked to Hermes about the future of OVS



Members of the Upper School class of 1965: Kirk Warren, Dok Smith, Don Briggs, Hiro Noguchi, Spencer Garrett, at an alumni gathering with their former dorm father, Mike Hermes



Class of 1953; Mike Hermes, (center front) was president of his OVS class

THE TORCH PASSES



Born and raised in England, Michael Hall-Mounsey earned an honors bachelor's degree in administrative education from King Alfred's College in Winchester, England, before coming to OVS in 1981 with his wife, Carol, and their two young children.

Hall-Mounsey earned his master's in educational administration from Cal Lutheran University in 1995. He has held a variety of positions at OVS, including teacher, dorm parent, coach, dean of faculty, assistant headmaster, director of summer programs, and director of advancement. He was named headmaster of the Lower School in 1990.

Hall-Mounsey said that, as president, he intends to build on the solid foundation that Mike Hermes and the trustees established decades ago.

"I see myself as custodian of the philosophy and values we cherish and love at OVS," Hall-Mounsey said. "Being appointed president is an enormous honor, and I do not underestimate the weight of this responsibility. I'm excited and optimistic about the future as OVS heads towards its centennial."

Mike and Carol's oldest two children, Martin and Melanie, were educated at OVS. Their younger son, Alex, graduated from the Lower Campus and went on to attend Nordhoff, where, in addition to earning top grades, he distinguished himself in the music and art departments. The Hall-Mounseys currently have one grandchild attending OVS: Jocelyn, who will enter the first grade in the fall. Her younger brother, Gavin, is a frequent visitor on campus.

Upper School Headmaster Carl Cooper said this of Mike Hall-Mounsey: "He has already proven his deep commitment to the Ojai Valley School. He has demonstrated himself to be fearless in the challenges he has taken on, and he has all the qualities of a strong and effective leader. I am looking forward to working with him."



Michael Hall-Mounsey succeeds Mike Hermes as president of OVS.

Andy Hamilton came to OVS in the summer of 2007 from the prestigious Bement School in Massachusetts, where he served as dean of residential life and director of summer programs. He holds both a master's degree and a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, as well as a bachelor's degree in sociology and history from Hobart College in New York.

Since joining OVS, Hamilton has taught eighth grade math and life skills while serving as assistant headmaster, middle school coordinator, and high school placement advisor. He is well liked by the faculty, staff, and the student body, and he is respected as a leader who calmly deliberates to find a sensible resolution of issues that arise.

Hamilton says he was drawn to OVS because of its history and philosophy of challenging students, while fostering a respect for themselves, others, and the community in which they live.

"I'm definitely thrilled, honored, and somewhat humbled by the opportunity I've been given," said Hamilton. "It's a rich tradition to uphold, and I look forward to being a part of the next chapter of OVS' history."

Andy's wife, Camille, has taught ESL and fourth grade at OVS. They have two children presently attending the school: Marshall, who will enter 3rd grade in the fall; and Lydia, who will be a second-grader.



New Lower School headmaster, Dr. Andy Hamilton, with his wife, Camille and their children, Marshall and Lydia.



The sixties era was well represented: From left to right: Dave Tracy (L62); Dok Smith (L62, U65); Nina Sugamori (L77); Rene (Pon Tell) Briggs (U68); Chuck Whipple (L64, U67); Annette (Levy) Goena (U67); Dan Hamilton (U69); Lee Anne (Sichel) Simonds (U66); Kent Salveson (U68); Leslie (Nordman) Pedersen (U65); Bill Doyle (U68); U68); Jeff Hanselman (L65, U68); Shelley (Freeman) Butler (U67); Daphne Cates (L62, U65); Karen (Williams) Tozer (U68); Spencer Garrett (L62, U68); Bob Christensen (U66); Ferguson (L64, U67); Harry Smith (U67); and Bob Kotchian (L63, U66).

The record-breaking attendance at Alumni Weekend this year was due in part to the wish of many alums to say goodbye to Mike Hermes, who was retiring after serving for 34 years as president of OVS. Nancy Graves (U68) and David Lang (L78, U82) had worked tirelessly for months to get the best alumni turnout the school has ever had.

The event was originally scheduled to take place at the Upper School but was moved to the Lower Campus because a potentially malodorous waste treatment project was imminent at Upper.

The change of venue turned out to be propitious as there is no spot at the Upper Campus, except perhaps the soccer field, that could have accommodated so many alums.

The Music Festival was also taking place that weekend as was Thacher's alumni gathering, so rooms in the area were scarce. Many alumni took advantage of the school's offer of dorm rooms, where some reconnecting schoolmates, not constrained by a dorm parent calling, "Lights-out!" gabbed until dawn.

Twenty-five alumni made the trip to the Sespe on Saturday morning, enjoying a picnic

lunch at the stunning Piedra Blanca (White Rocks) location so many remember from their OVS camping experiences.

Several alums also braved the ropes course, taking the daunting "Leap of Faith" from the high elements, venturing across the incomplete bridge (Indiana Jones-style), dangling from hanging vines (Tarzan-style), and zipping across zip-lines. Evelene Kline (L95, U99) said that, when she was a student at OVS, she was never able to complete the upper elements of the ropes course but that she was thrilled to complete them as an alumna. An exhilarated Wendy (Lires) Kim (L95, U99), said she can't wait to repeat the experience at next year's Alumni Day.

On Saturday afternoon, small but scrappy soccer teams went head-to-head on the large field. As alums were pitted against alums, the happy result was that the alumni were victorious.

Marcia Legere Binns (L39) was among the alums who attended this year's reunion; she hadn't visited

the campus in 35 years and marveled at the improvements, especially the swimming pool. She visited her old room in the dorm while she was here. Jeff Lawson (L41) was also in attendance; he told fascinating stories of what it was like to build the castle that still is an impressive presence on campus. (see photo and caption).



Dok Smith (L62, U65) is flanked by Tony McHale (L79) and by Dok's wife, Theresa.

The main events of the day included the cocktail party (held in the Lower School pool area), and the buffet dinner—a sumptuous feast featuring salmon, tri-tip, and chicken, and ending with a variety of tasty desserts, including chocolate-dipped strawberries—that was prepared by the crackerjack OVS food

service staff and served in the Wallace Burr Pergola. OVS President Michael Hall-Mounsey and his wife, Carol, were gracious hosts, along with Lower School Headmaster Andy Hamilton, as well as Upper School



Liza (Cass) White (L61); Gary Dinkins (Faculty); Michael Katz (U65); Gary Hart (U67); Craig Christensen (L64, U67); Larry Levy (L66, U69); Claudia Christensen (L66, U69); Dave Sessions (L65, U68); Liz (Curran) Hermes (L66, U69); Lynn (Yoakum) Taylor (L63, U66); Eric Salveson (U65); Bill Dodge (U66); Nancy Graves (L65, U68); Scott Eicher (L65, U68); Steve McIntyre (U66); Steve Manis (U66); Scott Garrett (U67); Roxie Brophy (L64, U67); Bill McGee (U68); Peter Kane (U65); Dan Zigel (U68); Bob

Headmaster Carl Cooper and his wife Jody, who had driven all the way down from a family wedding in Northern California to make it to this alumni event.

Hamilton offered alums this overview and update: "The Lower Campus continues to thrive with a rich and ambitious schedule that combines our strong academics with so many other outstanding programs. We again this year sent backpacking trips throughout the Sespe wilderness and beyond; we had a record number of riders in our equestrian program; we expanded our sports program to include JV teams in most of our team sports; we had a record number of drama participants, both on stage and back stage this year; we had a record number of drama participants this year, both on stage and behind the scenes; we had over 150 students and graduates come together at the Pons dinner just weeks ago; and we continue to maintain the high academic standards that set us apart from so many other schools."

Hamilton concluded his remarks by saying, "I believe it is a group like we have assembled here today that links the past to the future. I thank you all for your commitment to OVS, and I look forward to a long and lasting relationship with each of you as part of the OVS community."

President Mike Hall-Mounsey expressed great appreciation to Mike Hermes and called upon him

to speak. Hermes thanked the alums for taking the time and making the effort to come to Alumni Day. "I fought very, very hard to keep this retirement as low key as possible," said Hermes, "But somebody has been making phone calls..."

"Emails!" corrected Nancy Graves, who had reason to know because it had been she who had been sending many of them.

Hermes said he was "overwhelmed and deeply touched" by the efforts so many alumni had made to attend this event and give him a warm send-off. He focused his talk on the founding of the Upper Campus. (Please see article on pg. 19 for the text of his remarks).

After Hermes recounted some colorful bus-driving escapades from those early years at the Upper Campus, Carl Cooper got a laugh from the crowd when he said, "I have something to thank Mike Hermes for...He taught me to drive."

Several alums came up to the open mike and expressed their appreciation to Hermes and to the school. "For most of us here, Mike Hermes is OVS," declared Nancy Graves (L65, U68).

Peggy Chase (L59), who explained she grew up with Mike on the Thatcher School campus, credited him for having stepped up to the plate at such a difficult time in the school's history.

The brunch on Sunday morning was well-attended and gave alums a final opportunity to visit and exchange contact information. All vowed to stay in touch.



It's a Sign: The stories of the early days of the Upper Campus inevitably involve mention of the harrowing bus rides to the hilltop and back, Mike Hermes often the school bus driver in those days. The road itself hasn't been used since the early seventies. Assistant Lower School Headmaster Gary Gartrell retrieved a sign that had been posted on that road nearly 50 years ago, bent and shot full of holes, but still readable. He had this framed and presented it to Hermes at Alumni Day.



Harry Smith (U67) visits with former OVS President Mike Hermes



Zachary Smith (L86, U90) took time off from his law practice in San Francisco to show his son the Lower Campus and introduce him to Mike Hermes.



L to R: Chuck Whipple (L64, U67), Dan Zigal (U68), and Steve Manis (U66). Dan, who is an OVS board member, traveled all the way from Hong Kong with his daughter Jovi (U06).



1970s classmates Tom Johnson (U71), Jane Brown (L71, U74) and Jon Taylor (U70) hanging out after dinner



Back row: Terri Lang Rubio (U82), Terri's husband, Keith, Angela Chambers-Carvallo (L80), Sandra (Comstock) Eisenbock (L80, U84). Front row: Chris Martinov (L80, U84), Monya Graham Manning (U82), Tami Garrison Steinkamp (U84), Lisa Betz Haupe (U85).



MIKE HERMES ADDRESSES ALUMS

"It was 48 years ago that students Dok Smith, Dave Cosgrove, teacher J.B. Close, and I spent the very first night in the nearly finished Bristol dorm," said Hermes. "We built a small fire, drank some cocoa J.B. had brought, and spent most of the evening wondering what the possibilities were for our new Upper School.

"Our 10th grade that year (1962-63) consisted of 10 boys and 8 girls. That was really the group who founded the Upper School. And I tell you, it was hard. There was nothing up there that first year except the boys' dorm, but we still had the time of our lives. Up at 6:00 a.m., showers, clean rooms, get books, and drive to the Lower Campus for classes. PE. in the afternoon, dinner at Lower, and the drive back to Upper through three cattle guards and gates. Study hall lasted until 9:30 p.m.; lights out at 10:00 o'clock. When it rained, we slip-slided with our books all the way down the pipeline to Reeves Road, where a bus was waiting for us. By the time we boarded that bus, we were a muddy mess.

"During the weekends, we fixed all our meals in our apartment in the dorm. There was no kitchen or dining room on campus yet. Sometimes we played mud football. J. B. took the boys camping, which they loved. We had a blast with absolutely no playing fields, courts, or facilities of any kind. We played bridge, poker, charades, Monopoly, or Risk. We cleaned the dorms and worked outside, chopping wood and hoeing weeds. It was great. These 10th graders also worked hand-in-hand with the contractors to build the amphitheatre.

"Our athletic programs came to life that very first year. While we had only sophomores for our teams, they had tremendous spirit and drive as they played Thacher, Cate, Midland, and Webb School's varsities. I remember the Cate soccer coach telling me, 'Every time you bring those kids over here, you scare the hell out of us.'

"We couldn't have had a greater group of students to forge this new Upper School. They took on all that extra work and bore all those hardships without complaint. I will always remember them and cherish those years we spent together."

It was Hermes who suggested to the first students of the Upper School that the dorm be called "Bristol House" after the school that, in 1923, became the Ojai Valley School. Forty-eight years later, the school has overruled that decision. As of this fall, Bristol House will be known as Hermes Hall.



Dok Smith (L62, U65) told alums about Hermes' unconventional bus-driving as classmate Spencer Garrett demonstrated bus-riding techniques they devised to make the most of the experience.



Toward the end of the evening, Ed Littlefield (U67), decked out in kilt, treated those assembled to his accomplished bag-pipe playing.



Enjoying the cocktail party are, left to right, Michelle (Newman) Maestro (U98), Wendy (Lires) Kim (L95, U99), and Wendy's classmate, Evelene Klein



Todd Pitman (L85, U89), left, and Upper School classmate David Lewin



The Lower Campus pool area was the setting for the afternoon cocktail party



Peter Kane (U65), David Sessions (L65, U68), Scott Eicher (U68), Shelley (Freeman) Butler (U67), Tabor Griswold (U68), Steve Manis (U66) seated low, and, seated high, Steve McIntyre (U66)



Ben Smith (L91, U95) and guest with former staff member and alum Tony McHale (L79) and Upper School music teacher and dorm counselor Lisa Boyd.



Rene (Pon Tell) Briggs (U68), left, visits with OVS President Mike Hall-Mounsey, Carol Hall-Mounsey, and Bill McGee (U68)



Group hug. From left to right: Roxie Brophy (L64, U67), Lynn (Yoakum) Taylor (L63, U66), and Michael Katz (U65)

alumni weekend



Representing the fifties were (left to right) Bill Lucking, Stan Hatch, Lana (Lucking) Fredell, Robbie Sheppard, George de Peyser, Peggy Chase, John Warren, Spencer Westbrook, Terry Collins, Jay Wilmer, and Bill Wilmer.



Bob Kotchian (L63,U66) catches up with Jeff Hanselman (L65,U68). Jeff's daughter is currently a student at the Upper Campus.



Robyn (Bugbee) Birchler (L74, U78) reconnected with old friends at the alumni day cocktail party.



Pictured left to right: Karen (Rascoe) Farmer (L77, U81); David Lang (L78, U82); Karen (Mellen) Stuebing (U81); Lauri Wright (L76, U80); Tony McHale (L79); Nina Sugamori (L77); Pattie (Rascoe) Bakke (L76, U80); Mohi Kharandish (L77, U81); Sandra (Comstock) Eisenbock (L80, U84); Monya (Graham) Manning (U82); Tracy (Hill) Thordorson (U81); Chris Elberfeld (L76, U80); and Tami (Garrison) Steinkamp (U84).



From left to right: Steve McIntyre (U66), Steve Manis (U66), Bill Dodge (U66), Bob Kotchian (U66), Lee Anne Sichel Simonds (U66), Daphne Cates (L62, U65), Lynn Yoakum Taylor (L63, U66) in front.



Out to dinner on Friday night were, from left to right, Roxie Brophy (L64, U67), Bob Christensen (U66), Lee Anne Sichel Simonds (U66), Lynn (Yoakum) Taylor (U66), Mike Hermes (L53), Liz Hermes (L66, U69), and Steve McIntyre (U66).

alumni weekend

The ropes course at upper



Pattie (Rascoe) Bakke's (L76, U80) efforts weren't all for knot.



Michelle (Newman) Mastro (U98) makes a graceful segue.



All smiles, Wendy (Lires) Kim (L95, U99) nevertheless holds on for dear life.



Evelene Kline (L95, U99) braves the high elements of the ropes course.



Time Capsule: From left to right: classmates Lauren (Weis) Snyder, Kate Oswald, Kim Pratt, Sarah Gates, and Breanna Farber returned to the Lower Campus for their 10th reunion and opened a time capsule that had been assembled on the day of their graduation. In addition to a variety of photos, the contents included a video of the 1999 Lower School production of Peter Pan and a program from that performance; a variety show tape; the 1999 yearbook, annual report, and Family Tree edition; a dorm room assignment chart that listed who was rooming with whom; a class directory; a "Boogie Nights" sign; predictions classmates had made about one another; and a video of their graduation ceremony.





Classmates Scott Eicher and Bill Doyle (U68) had fun reconnecting.



Bob Kotchian (L63, U66), right, finally fesses up to schoolmates Michael Katz (U65), Bob Ferguson (L64, U67), and Steve McNyre (U66) that it was he who was responsible for firing rocket missiles over the Bristol Dorm sometime in the mid-sixties. "Don't tell my son," pleaded Kotchian. "He works for the FBI, and he might label me a terrorist!"



Richard LaGriffa (U81) makes a determined charge at the alumni soccer game.



Michael Katz (U65), on the left, and Scott Garrett (U67), who, thankfully, has recovered nicely from the capture the flag collision he had with Kenny Barshop more than 40 years ago on the Upper School field. Hermes told alums the story of that mishap.



Popular former staff member Scott McDonald and Karen (Rascoe) Farmer (L77, U81) enjoyed getting caught up.



Mohi Khairandish (L77, U81), on the left, and David Lang (L78, U82) enjoy a cold one while they reminisce.



Jeff Lawson (L41) was a sixth grader when he and his schoolmates built the castle that remains to this day on the small lawn between the old classrooms and the girls' dorm of the Lower Campus. Jeff said that Mr. Ascott, who taught art and shop, designed the castle and helped the boys cast the blocks as well as build the structure itself. "We also made instruments of torture and installed them in the dungeon of the castle," explains Jeff. He reveals that a time capsule was originally buried under the castle. Intriguing!



Former prefect Bob Ferguson (L64, U67), on the left, with former first prefect Harry Smith (U67).



Jeff Lawson (L41) and Marcia (Legere) Binns (L39) shared fascinating tales of the old days at OVS with more recent alums.

LOWER SCHOOL CLASS OF 1959 CELEBRATES 50TH REUNION

Terry Collins and his wife, Katherine, hosted a gathering at their lovely home in the Ventura Keys for the 50th reunion of Terry's Lower School class.

At dinner, Terry told his classmates, "OVS represented a turning point in my educational career. But more than that, it changed my life. My whole life was influenced by my experiences at OVS."

He spoke of J.B. Close as "a major influence." It was Terry who introduced J.B. to the High Sierras; J.B. reciprocated by introducing Terry to literature.

A measure of how attached these alums feel to OVS is that nearly half the class made it back to help celebrate the reunion. Congratulations to the Class of 1959!



Liz Hermes (L66, U69), seated, visited with Katherine Collins on the deck of the Collins' marina home.



Left to right: classmates Stan Hatch, Terry Collins, Spencer Westbrook, John Warren, Robbie Sheppard, and George de Peyster enjoyed reconnecting at their 50th reunion party, graciously hosted by Terry and Kathy Collins at their Ventura home.



Left to right: Stan Hatch, Spencer Westbrook, and Terry Collins get caught up at their 50th reunion party.



50th reunion cake enjoyed by members of the class of '59.



THE HIKE



Bill Doyle (U68), on the left, with Harry Smith (U67)



Left to right: Dave Tracy (L62) and his son, pose with Liza Jo (Cass) White (L61) and her husband, Stuart, on the hike to Piedra Blanca



A group of 25 intrepid alums hiked to the White Rocks on Saturday morning. About half the group is pictured here.

The 2009 reunion was fantastic! Next year's gathering will be even better.

Join us for

ALUMNI WEEKEND, 2010

June 11 – 13, 2010

at the OVS Upper Campus

Join your fellow alumni for our annual get-together and enjoy a weekend reminiscing with friends, sharing stories old and new.

The Lower School's Class of 1960 will be celebrating its 50th anniversary, and the Upper School's Class of 1970 will reach its milestone 40th.

Come join the fun!

Look for information soon at www.ovs.org

alumni notes

2009

LOWER 1953

Bob Koster (see photos)



Bob Koster (L53) and his lovely bride, Antje, at their recent wedding in Hawaii. The newlyweds made it to this year's alumni day.

LOWER 1956

Shelley Scott sent us this note: "I'm taking my grandchildren, Ava (9) and Alessandro (11) riding in Carpinteria with Charlie Picenai. It reminds me of riding at the Lower Campus in the 1950s with Mr. Pittman – wonderful times!"

LOWER 1957

Here's the latest from **Lana (Lucking) Fredell**: "I retired in 2008 (yayyy!), though I still substitute teach. Last summer, I went to Chicago, and this year I spent the month of April in Spain, visiting Madrid, Toledo, El

Escorial, San Sebastian, Caceres, Granada, and Barcelona. Had a great time!" Lana adds she enjoys spending time with her granddaughters (aged 27, 23, almost 3, and 2), nieces & nephews, and friends.

LOWER 1958

William "Bill" Graham checked in with us from his home in Tempe, Arizona. "I have retired from Tempe High School as a teacher/coach after 37 years," he reports, "and now I am a substitute teacher, limo driver, school bus driver, and judge pro-tem in the Maricopa County Justice Courts. I seem unable to retire quietly. I also perform wedding ceremonies."

Bill makes this nice offer: "Any OVS alum who is attending ASU and who has any issues, please give me a call; I will provide guidance and/or assistance if I am able."

"P.S. Great to see the barn! All I had was the animal house that I ran."

LOWER 1960

**50th reunion in 2010!*

Julie (Cass) Two-Suess brought us up to date as follows: "Life is good. We are still in Atlanta, learning about opera. Traveled to Rhode Island to visit Nicky Cass Spencer and her husband, Henry. Also traveled to Oakland to visit with children & grandchildren and to Phoenix where I discovered I now like the desert! Sorry to miss Sedona this year!" Julie says she would enjoy hearing from classmates; email her at julietwo@earthlink.net

LOWER 1961

"Great seeing so many friends at the Sedona reunion," reports **Ruth (Lucking) Col**, who says that she is too busy, but that life is good. Part of what makes it good, says Ruth: "3 wonderful children, a very smart grandson, and so much to be thankful for."

LOWER 1962

We were glad to hear from **Ulla Blichert**, who contacted our alumni office with this update: "My brother, Torsten Blichert (L63), and I have both made our lives in Denmark, or should I say Europe, as I am now living in Holland. After I finished a business education, I married a business man. We had wonderful life together. In 1992, we moved to France, where he died in 2002. I have been so lucky as to re-find a sweetheart from the late 60ies."

LOWER 1963

Lynn (Yoakum) Taylor (see U66)

LOWER 1964

Tom Yost (see U67)

LOWER 1970

**40th reunion in 2010!*

Monica (Boggs) Casey (see U73)

LOWER 1971

Jane Brown (see U74)

LOWER 1975

Thomas Farrar (see U79)

LOWER 1976

Pattie (Rascoe) Bakke (see U80)

Chris Elberfeld (see U80)

LOWER 1977

Varnee Chearavanont (see U81)

LOWER 1990

**20th reunion in 2010!*

Bryan Caldwell (see U94)

Dani-Lee (Patterson) Landa (see U94)

LOWER 1992

Mary (Vachon) Williams (see U96)

Megan (Cooper) Keelan (see U96)

LOWER 1994

David Baskin (see U98)

Melissa Storey (see U98)

LOWER 1995

Susan (Davison) Iliff



Congratulations to Susan (Davison) Iliff (L95), who recently had her second child, a daughter named Jocely (pictured above).

Evelene Kline (see U99)

LOWER 1996

A familiar name was added to the list of Lower School faculty this year: **Nicole Gartrell**, who writes, "I am back in Ojai and teaching at OVS!!! I teach first grade and am so happy to be back at this wonderful school. I couldn't have asked for a better school to go to, and I couldn't ask for a better school at which to teach."

Elan Klein (see U00)

LOWER 1998

McKee Colburn (see U02)

Omar Taraki Niode (see In Memoriam)

LOWER 2000

**10th reunion in 2010!*

Shaney Su is currently attending fashion school in Los Angeles. (See page 33 for photo)

LOWER 2001

Hyo Joon "Danny" Kim (see U05)

Do Yun Kim (see U05)

LOWER 2002

Cory Garrett brings us up to speed as follows: "I am a junior at Trinity University and spent two semesters studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina."

LOWER 2003

Alex Hall-Mounsey sends greetings and this note: "I'm a music major who wishes to work with and record live sound."

Michael Hodge just finished his sophomore year at Middlebury College in Vermont,

where he is studying environmental science and international politics. Also, as part of his international politics major, he is studying Arabic and will be spending his junior spring in Alexandria, Egypt.

LOWER 2004



Caroline Soto-Storey (L04), pictured above, reports she is still riding in horse shows. "It all started at OVS," says she.

LOWER 2005

OVS congratulates **Bianca Burright**, who was highlighted in the *Ojai Valley News* for fulfilling her dream of playing college soccer. Bianca signed a national letter of intent to play Division I soccer at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.



alumni notes

UPPER 1966

Here's the latest from **Leslie (Nordman) Pedersen**: "Hello, everyone! After 30 years in education, I retired two years ago to relax a bit and be my granddaughter's nanny as often as possible. We're into birds, turtles, insects and gardening. My husband, Rich, is semi-retired, shooting and editing videos. Emily (32 yrs. old) and mother of Lilly (granddaughter) is the executive assistant for two very successful restaurants in Denver; one at which her husband is executive chef. Our other daughter, Erin, has purchased a house and is a manager for Victoria's Secret. We live 5 miles from each other which is great!"

"My passions continue to be my family," writes **Elizabeth (Robertson) Baker**, who adds, "I still take ballet class, sing and do musical theater."

Lynn (Yoakum) Taylor (U66) sent us this photo of her adorable grandchildren, Emma and Madison.



UPPER 1967

Last fall, the Los Angeles Metrolink disaster made international news. Twenty-five people died in the crash; 135 were injured. Fire Captain **Tom Yost** was among the first on the scene. His graphic account of what he and his team encountered and what they did to rescue survivors appeared in the November edition of *Los Angeles* magazine.



Tom Yost sent us this photo and caption: "Pictured here are my daughter-in-law, Julie, me, my wife, Sharon, and our three grandsons: Wyatt, Dylan and Gunnar. These boys are a true joy to be around. This is their first trip to the fire station. When I was first transferred to this station in Sherman Oaks, the boys' father, our son Scott, was only 16 months old. That was back in 1980."

UPPER 1969

Liz (Curran) Hermes and **Claudia (Christensen) Wunderlich** enjoyed connecting with classmate **Dan Hamilton**, who, with his wife, Karen, made the trek from Reno to attend alumni day. Dan works for a family company that manufactures science instruments. He and Karen have 3 children.

UPPER 1970

"I have great memories of OVS and would be pleased to hear how others are doing," writes **Bruce Milton**. Contact Bruce through his email address: brucedm2@cox.net

UPPER 1973

"I'm teaching 4th grade and loving it!" reports **Monica (Boggs) Casey**, who is making good use of her summer vacation: a backpacking trip from Mammoth to Tuolumne Meadows, through the Ansel Adams Wilderness.

UPPER 1974

Here's the latest from **Jane Brown** and her family: "I'm writing a book, working title: *Benefits of Poverty*. Have been going back to school so much that I have over 300 graduate units ... without an attached advanced degree (this should be some kind of record since you only need half that much for a master's). My son, William (age 19), is now a Marine, part of oxymoronic military intelligence and stationed at Pensacola, Florida. He came home on leave on April 8th and announced that he and his girlfriend of four years had decided to be married on April 11th at the beach. So we had the 'hurry-up-and-get-it-done' wedding that Saturday!!! It was the funnest deadline I've every met ... and, having worked for the *Times* and other demanding publications ... the easiest deadline I've ever been presented with. So I am now 'The Mother-in-Law' to the COOLEST CHICK THE WORLD EVER CREATED ... I still can't believe that my son snagged her ... So I'm in heaven.

"Younger son, Jefferson Thomas, is kicking butt at school. He keeps bugging me to get a job at OVS so he can attend. A real smart aleck ... acts a lot like a comedian I CAN'T STAND, Drew Carey ... wouldn't you know it!! He almost got cast on *Hannah Montana* ... was in the top 12 but not in the final three. Now he's a candidate for a Disney thing. Quite the character:

"I'm doing a lot of this and that. Blues singing is still in the mix. Being a master gardener for UCLA-Extension is a blast. I've been hospicing senior-dogs; teaching music, and tutoring all kinds of stuff ... right-up my alley ... I can't get bored when I'm working with kids. Adults are the ones I don't get!!!!!! Charlie keeps on trucking ... He just turned 60, but he's still about 13, so our house is a barrel of monkeys, to be sure. He's sold a few songs lately ... so it's great that he's getting some recognition for almost 50 years of music. Has anyone heard from Cecil Feaver?"

alumni notes

UPPER 1979

It was good to hear from **Thomas Farrar**, who sent in this update: "I have run the Mountain Institute for Kung Fu & Tai Chi for 10 years, taking over 60 kids and adults to compete in China against 50 countries and bringing home over 120 gold, silver, and bronze medals." Tom plans to open a new martial arts school in Ojai soon.

UPPER 1980

It was great to see **Pattie (Rascoe) Bakke**, who drove all the way down from Jacksonville, Oregon, to attend alumni weekend, partner Jeff and their daughter Grace, 3, in tow. Pattie's twin boys are 22; her 24-year-old son, Jesse, a member of the 82nd Airborne, is safely back from two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. Pattie says she hopes to hear from Stacey Everly. Anybody know how to put them in touch?

We were also pleased that **Chris Elberfeld** made it to alumni day. Chris lives in Sheldon, Vermont, which is close to the Canadian border. He works for U.S. Airways. He and his wife, Suzanne, have 4 dogs and an understanding cat.

UPPER 1981

"OVS changed my life forever," writes **Varnee Chearavanont**, who goes on to say, "I just want to thank every one of my teachers. You all inspired me to start a school in Thailand. www.concordian.ac.th

Karen (Mellen) Stuebing checked in with us from her home in Chicago: "My husband and I have been together 22 years. We have two young boys, 7 and 3 years old. My husband's company moved us to the windy city in 1993, but we are still not used to the frigid temperatures! We try to come to California at least 3 times a year to visit family and hope to move back someday. I would love to hear from old classmates. I have wonderful memories of my time at Ojai!" You can contact Karen at fourstuebs@gmail.com

UPPER 1985

Kimberly Park, who lives with her family in Fayetteville, Arkansas, sends her greetings. Here's her news: "I've been hiking along the Buffalo National River many times, took a trip to San Francisco in the spring, and finished my MA in Geography at the University of Arkansas. I now lead a technology team for our school district and provide many, many hours of training on new equipment, including GPS units, iPhones, Interwrite Boards & Pads, and various software project implementations. I love working with the teachers and kids...I'm out and about in 14 schools. Our daughter is doing well in 2nd grade. She was fortunate to get into the GT program and loves it. They have been studying Ancient Civilizations, including Egypt, China, & Greece. My husband, Ethan, just came back from the Dominican Republic, where he is working with others from around the world on a karst conservation project for The Nature Conservancy."

UPPER 1990

**20th reunion in 2010!*

Happy news from **Nicole (Vaupen) Sheard** (see photo): "I am writing to announce the birth of my son, Jayden David Sheard, who was born on April 2, 2009. We are very excited and are enjoying every moment with him. I am taking 5 months off of work to spend time at home before returning to my job as an elementary school assistant principal in September. My husband, Brian, recently became the head chef of a new restaurant in Pacific Palisades called 'Taste.' We are still living in Mar-Vista. I've re-connected with many OVS classmates through Facebook recently and have enjoyed catching up with everyone!"



Nicole (Vaupen) Sheard with her husband, Brian, and their son, Jayden, who was born this spring.

UPPER 1994

Bryan Caldwell (see In Memoriam)



Dani-Lee (Patterson) Landa (U94) with the newest addition to the Landa family, Maya Eden, born October 20, 2008.

UPPER 1996

Best wishes to **Mary (Vachon) Williams**, who got married in December of 2008, after her husband finished his Ph.D. at UCLA. "Life has been extremely busy with a child, being a newlywed, and looking into the possibility of having another child," writes Mary.

OVS sends warm congratulations to **Megan (Cooper) Keelan** (L92,U96) and husband Dan, who became the proud parents of a son, Noah Cooper Keelan, born on July 22, 2009, in Australia, where Megan and Dan reside. Megan's parents, Carl (L65, U68) and Jody Cooper, had traveled down under so they could be present for Noah's birth; he is their first grandchild.



Noah Cooper Keelan

alumni notes

UPPER 1997

Ji-Hoon Park recently visited the Upper Campus and enjoyed spending time with Mrs. Oberlander and Mrs. Whipple. (See photo). He observes, "What a surprise how much the campus has changed and yet not changed." Ji-Hoon also writes, "My wife enjoyed the campus and the town of Ojai. It was a wonderful opportunity to share my cherished memories of good times. I'd like to send special greetings to Jihoon & Jeong-Tae."



Jeong-Tae Park's father Won-Je, Ji-Hoon Park, Judy Oberlander, Jeong-Tae Park (L95, U99) and Lynn Whipple



Ji-Hoon and his new bride

"Hi to OVS from one of your long-absent alumni," writes **Heidi Silverberg**, who sent her greetings and goes on to offer this update: "I moved to the East Coast 8 years ago and received my M.A. from Bard College in Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture last year. I currently work at an art gallery in Manhattan, specializing in contemporary art and rare books.

"I am engaged to an amazing man, Jeremy (also a gallery director), and we live in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

"On a more somber note, I was diagnosed last July with a rare form of cervical cancer as well as thyroid cancer (freakishly unrelated). I'm being treated at Sloan Kettering and had surgery in November followed by 12 weeks of chemo, which wrapped up in time to celebrate my birthday in Buenos Aires. Next up is another surgery, which, my doctors hope, could complete my treatment.

"Despite these challenges, I am incredibly fulfilled (and busy!) in my life, and have used my experiences to become involved in some unique endeavors: my story has been featured in a publication by Cancer Care, a nonprofit organization, and I am working with RX Art, an incredible organization that works with contemporary artists on installations in hospitals, schools and medical facilities." Your OVS friends send their best wishes to you, Heidi, along with their hopes for your speedy recovery.

UPPER 1998

David Baskin (see photo on right) received his bachelor's degree in psychology and pre-med from Brandeis. From 2002-2004, David served in the Peace Corps in the Republic of Moldova (the former Soviet Union). He received his master's in psychology from New York University, and he is two years into his doctorate in psychology at Stanford University. David's parents still live in Ojai.

Melissa Storey (see photo)



Melissa Storey (U98), right, with her mother, Betty, and her teacup Chihuahua, Bentley, in Oregon.

UPPER 1999

"I have just graduated from nursing school in San Diego," writes **Evelene Kline**, who adds, "I am now a licensed registered nurse in California. My dedication and quest for professionalism has no doubt been a result of OVS. Thank you!"

UPPER 2000

**10th reunion in 2010!*

Elan Klein (see photo) received her degree in religious studies from UC Riverside and is preparing to pursue her master's in the same field. Eventually, she would like to teach college students.



Elan Klein (L96, U00) and David Baskin (L94, U98) visited the Boyds at the Upper Campus in December, 2008.

"I'm still living in beautiful San Diego," reports **Melissa Myers**, who catches us up on the latest: "I just started a new job working for the Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP) out in Point Loma. It's going really well. I live with my boyfriend of one and a half years and our fat cat, Fizel. We'll be getting married and having kids someday in the near future. We have a lot of traveling we want to do before then, though."

UPPER 2002

OVS was deeply saddened to learn that **McKee Colburn** passed away in Palm Desert in June of 2008.

alumni notes

UPPER 2004

Tina Chen recently graduated from UC Riverside.



(L-R: Shaney Su, Tina Chen, Vicky Chen)

UPPER 2005

Vicky Chen is currently attending a fashion school in New York

Hyo Joon "Danny" Kim (see photos below) is currently at George Washington University, having just finished his two year commitment in KATUSA (Korean Augmentation to the United States Army).

Do Yun Kim is currently attending Cal Poly Pomona.



Classmates Do Yun Kim and Hyo Joon "Danny" Kim (L01, U05) recently checked out their 8th grade tiles, which are still on display in the Lower School dining room.

ALUMNI: YOUR CLASSMATES WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send us news about your work, family, hobbies, volunteering, accomplishments, a new venture in your life, or just check in with us.

We would also love a picture to accompany your note!*

**We want to hear from all of you, but
especially the 2010 reunion classes!**

Class of 1960: 50th Reunion

Classes of 1970: 40th Reunion

Classes of 1980: 30th Reunion

Classes of 1990: 20th Reunion

Classes of 2000: 10th Reunion

**News received between June 16 and December 31, 2009, will be
published in the next issue of
Alumni Notes.**

You may submit your update to the

Office of Alumni Relations:

723 El Paseo Road, Ojai, CA 93023 or to

alumni@ovs.org or

online at ovs.org

*Please submit your photos in jpg format to
alumni@ovs.org.



in memoriam

OMAR TARAKI NIODE

OVS was deeply saddened to learn that **Omar Taraki Niode**, a member of the Lower School Class of 1998, died on February 11, 2009, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Omar was born in Washington D.C. on April 1, 1984. He finished his elementary school at the Al-Azhar Kemang School in Jakarta. After graduating from OVS, Omar attended Robert Louis Stevenson School in Pebble Beach. He graduated in the class of 2002.

Omar continued his education at the University of California, Davis, paying his own way through school by earning scholarships and by working, first as a maintenance mechanic, then as a teaching assistant, and, finally, as a graduate student assistant. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in food science and technology.

Following his undergraduate commencement, Omar embarked upon a solo one-month backpacking journey across Northern India. Keeping within a mere \$600 budget, he visited cities and hamlets in Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, Jhansi, Sanchi, Khajuraho, Varanasi, Bodhgaya, and Kolkata.

Omar was a fast learner, wrote beautifully, and he loved acquiring information. He was bright and talented, and his interests were wide-ranging. He was involved in many team and club sports during his high school and university days, including lacrosse, swimming, squash, and golf. For many years, he was also passionate about break dancing. Omar played classical piano and jazz with great skill and enthusiasm, amazing his friends with his accomplished performances.

Omar joined his family in Indonesia in November of 2008 after the death of his grandfather. While there, Omar assisted his mother, Amanda, who was campaigning for

a seat in the Indonesian Parliament. He had plans to return to California for a job interview and to apply to a Ph.D. program.

Omar's family and friends feel there would be no better way to honor and celebrate Omar's wonderful life than by supporting an endowed scholarship in his name at a university in Gorontalo Province, Indonesia, the home of Omar's ancestors. The family also plans to set up a memorial library in the province.

Omar is survived by his father, Mochtar Niode; his mother, Amanda Katili Niode; his younger brother, Tersian Ayuba Niode; his younger sister, Karida Humaira Niode; as well as by a grandmother and many uncles, aunts, and cousins.

BRYAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Bryan "Bingo" Michael Caldwell, who graduated from the Lower School in 1990 and from the Upper School in 1994, died of a brain aneurism on September 26, 2008.

Born on July 12, 1976, Bryan showed an interest in soccer from an early age. He played soccer, t-ball, lacrosse, and one year of football. He also ran track and developed a love for hiking and the outdoors, travel and adventure. At OVS, Bryan's eyes were opened to international culture and tradition, and, in college, he learned that his true academic love was geology—inspired by professors he encountered at Santa Barbara City College and at Sacramento State.

Bryan received a bachelor's degree in geology from Sacramento State and was working on his master's in the same subject at the time of his death. He passed the California State Geology Exam in 2008, and was officially a professional geologist.

Bryan found in geology the scientist's love of logic, empiricism, and the scientific method as well as the outdoorsman's appreciation for the beauty and wonder of nature.

Bryan's mother, Jennifer Drinkwater, predeceased him by only three weeks. His father, Rick Caldwell, lives in Sacramento. Bryan is also survived by his sisters, Alison, Annie, and Erin; by his grandmothers, Eleanor Caldwell and Sharon Clark; by uncles Jay Caldwell, Stephen Caldwell, and Mike Brown; and by their extended families.

Says a spokesman for the family, "Although Bryan's life has ended, we still feel his love, humor, and presence all around us."

In honor of Bryan, his OVS friends dedicated this year's alumni lacrosse game to him. (See photos and article on page 36).

in memoriam

DAVE DONLON



OVS has lost a great friend and stalwart supporter; David Donlon, who had served on the board of trustees continuously since 1972, passed away on July 18th.

"He was the nicest man I ever knew," stated former OVS president Mike

Hermes of Donlon, adding, "He was also the perfect trustee. He rarely missed a meeting and was always prepared. As chairman of the building and grounds committee for many years, Dave shared his knowledge about water use and construction projects, large and small. I don't know what we would have done without him. It was a true honor to have known him."

Born March 24, 1930, in Oxnard, California, Dave was a fourth generation farmer. He attended schools in Oxnard and, in 1951, graduated from the University of California in Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics. After serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, Dave began his long and successful career in agriculture.

In addition to his involvement on the OVS board, Dave was active in numerous agricultural organizations and served as a volunteer for the Ventura County Museum board as well as for the Ventura Grand Jury.

Dave regarded his proudest and most important accomplishment to be his role as husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marcia; their seven children, including OVS alumni Paul Donlon (L74) and Mary (Donlon) Palacios (L76); and twelve grandchildren.



bingo memorial alumni lacrosse game



The alumni lacrosse game has become established as a yearly event at the Upper Campus, but, this year, schoolmates and friends of Bryan Caldwell, Upper School class of 1994, wanted to pay homage to him by dedicating the game in his honor. Bryan, who was affectionately known as "Bingo," was an avid soccer and lacrosse player at OVS. He was popular with students and faculty alike. Tragically, Bryan died of a brain aneurism in September of 2008.

Noting how Bingo "led by example," close friend and classmate Arturo Gutierrez said this about him: "Bingo was a true sportsman; graceful, fast, and talented. On behalf of the entire alumni lacrosse team, thank you, Bingo, for what you brought to every game, and thank you for what you have taught us. We love you, and we miss you."

Bryan's father, Rick, came down from Sacramento to watch the memorial game. He told Headmaster Carl Cooper he was thrilled to have his son honored in this way.

In a hard-fought contest between a team comprised exclusively of alumni – some of whom had played with Bingo – and the current Upper Campus varsity, the alumni won 7-5.

All who knew Bingo said he would have been pleased.



More photos are on the website

2008/09 ALUMNI CONTRIBUTIONS

9/1/08 - 6/17/09

Contributions from Ojai Valley School's alumni make a significant impact on the success of the Annual Fund Campaign. The community of alumni, parents, grandparents, corporations, foundations, and friends who invest in OVS help to guarantee that current and future generations of students will receive a superior education in academics, outdoor education, and personal growth—truly a well-rounded experience that will have a positive impact throughout their lives.

With sincere appreciation we say, *"Thank you!"*

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