

# 2011 family tree

a magazine for the extended community of ojai valley school







In honor of the centennial, the Upper Campus Student Council presented a cast iron bell to the Lower Campus. The bell will ring to celebrate significant events on campus and serve as a symbol of unity between Upper and Lower Campus for years to come. To read more about the centennial celebrations, turn to page 21.

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2011 Ojai Valley School

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

upper graduation	1-6
senior profiles	7-12
lower graduation	13-14
faculty news	15-20
centennial year events	21-33
alumni notes	34-36

### STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED

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# *Congratulations, Class of 2011!*



Front row: Kai Littlefield, Jimmy Chen, Alex Alvarez, Prasheena Chettiar, Madisen Demery, Yun Young "Lucy" Kim, Paloma Spencer, Chloe Freed, Emma Zornes, Yoon Jung "Lauren" Park, Sean Dunbar, Amit Pandya. Center row: Ryland Stevenson, Evan Graham, Junlong "Juno" Zhang, Ryan Skolnick, Chia Yu "Joanna" Chen, Jee Yun Lee, Hyun Su "Derrick" Ha, Young Bin "Charles" Choi. Back row: Rachel "Belle" Cook, Elizabeth Edwards, Lana Greenberg, Junwei "Cha Cha" Zhang, Moonhee Sung, Minako Otake, Xiao Luo "Zooey" Fu.



## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS\*

### Upper Campus Graduation

#### Michael J. Hall-Mounsey

"As Ojai Valley School celebrates its 100th birthday this year, it is timely to reflect on three OVS champions whose spirit and character have enabled us all to be here today and whose contributions should never be forgotten.

"Mr. Edward Yeomans was the visionary founder of OVS Lower Campus, a genuine intellectual and a widely published author on children's education. In his treatise *Shackled Youth*, which he wrote before coming to Ojai, Yeomans was already imagining what type of school he would create as he projects the following: "Over the door of such a school you could write these two words of Horace – 'Integer Vitae'— meaning wholeness of life, symmetry of life, soundness of life, and, therefore, poise and strength of life. This concept remains the core of our current school philosophy.

"The next great leader was Mr. Wallace Burr, who arrived in 1943 – just in time to add to the acreage of the school property, build the school's reputation, and greatly increase enrollment. New academic classes, an equestrian program, a summer school and camping trips to the Sespe were all added during Burr's tenure as headmaster. In addition, he saw to it that classrooms, a science building, pool, a separate dormitory for the girls and a well-equipped health center were constructed.



"However, Burr's biggest dream was to expand the program to include a high school.

"And it was exactly 50 years ago that Mr. Burr went to the courthouse to bid on these 195 acres. The school paid \$30,000 for the land.

"Mr. Burr wasted no time leveling the top of the ridge line. Bristol, Tower House and Boney Bean dorms were constructed over the next few years. Construction of the Wallace Burr Hall allowed the students to attend the first classes on Upper Campus in 1964. Slowly but surely, the campus was taking shape. Students were involved in the development of the campus, including the construction of this beautiful amphitheater. It was here where the campus was dedicated, and the first class of 28 students graduated in June, 1965.

"Playing fields and equestrian facilities were added, and, by the fall of 1966, The Grace Hobson Smith House had been added to the campus, providing a beautiful dormitory for the girls. Wally Burr had accomplished wonders.

"Following the contributions of Ned and Wally, a graduate of the Class of 1953 committed his whole life to leading the school with integrity and character.

"Mr. Michael Hermes was hired to be the first dorm parent to live on the upper campus. He was dorm father to 16 boys, all of them pioneers, residents of Bristol dorm, now, in honor of Mike, known as Hermes Hall.

"Hermes, along with the first students to live on the Upper Campus, the Class of '65, instituted much of what

remain features of OVS life: prefect leadership, student government, sportsmanship awards, crew jobs, camping in the Sespe, and, yes, even the lap system.

"Mike was asked to join the Board of Trustees in 1972 and became President and CEO of OVS in 1975. He remained in that post for thirty-four years. Without Mike's courage and leadership over a lifetime, I can tell you, categorically, we would not be sitting here today to celebrate the 47th class commencement.

"He expanded enrollment, increased fundraising, and restructured the school for future challenges. Many facilities on this campus were restored or newly built through the generosity of our alumni and families, including equestrian facilities, a swimming pool and pool house, a ropes course and, in 2005, the magnificent Lucila Arango Science and Technology Building.

"Sadly, Mike passed away in February, but I know he is with us in spirit.

"Keeping faith with his vision for the school, I am pleased to report that, in April, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved plans to further develop this beautiful campus and to continue to construct new facilities. To be successful, this ambitious but essential campaign will require a

concerted effort from the OVS family and the Ojai community over the next several years.

"Mike Hermes always told me, 'We will have a great school or no school.' And that remains our mission.

"As graduates, you have received a great education, but, more importantly, you have been immersed in a philosophy teaching you the meaning of integrity, self-responsibility, honesty and how to get along in a diverse community. You have benefited from the mentoring and teachings of a

dedicated and talented faculty.

"As founder Ned Yeomans eloquently stated:

'Unless a community is a good place for children, unless it can take care of their growth intelligently, it cannot stand the test of time.'

"As OVS turns 100, as the Upper Campus moves closer to its 50th anniversary, and as you join almost 3,000 fellow alumni throughout the world, remember the times you have spent here and the lessons you have learned about spirit and character.

"Above all, stay in touch and visit often.

"I am very proud of you all. Congratulations."





## FAREWELL SPEECH\*

*Amit Pandya,  
Upper Class of 2011*

"Picture the evening of our final prom at the Ojai Valley School, our figures upon the dance floor, resplendent in neon-lit attire. Our voices, resounding through the night to the lyrics of the Black Eyed Peas' song entitled 'The Time of My Life,' created a melody that transcended the bounds of our bodies and united our hearts. We *did* have the time of our lives.

"We have learned about the world through the retelling and making of experiences. Together, we crossed the bridges that distance people from different cultures. We are not only classmates and teammates, but also brothers and sisters.

"OVS has been a home away from home, where we have created bonds that will last a lifetime. Farewell and thank you, OVS, for providing us the tools with which to pursue the next step in our education. Thank you for giving us the time of our lives."



## HEADMASTER'S ADDRESS\*

*Upper Campus Graduation — Carl Cooper*

"Wallace Burr, who was headmaster of OVS for 30 years and whose vision brought this Upper Campus into being, regarded our guiding purpose as 'the love of truth and the spirit of charity.' Mr. Burr believed that these two elements were essential to a healthy, thriving educational community that the Ojai Valley School was, from the outset, destined to be.

"This Centennial Class, the Class of 2011, has embodied these philosophical precepts.

"The love of truth is manifested in their fearless and relentless pursuit of knowledge and understanding. Best of all, they have learned to learn. And they have learned the lessons that will allow them to be lifelong learners.

"In addition, they are a class of doers. In the spirit of charity, they began the year by helping the Invisible Children of Africa, and ended by participating in the Cancer Society's Relay for Life. In the intervening months, they supported relief efforts for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Japan, volunteered to help the Food Share organization through the Empty Bowls Project, supported the Ojai Youth Foundation, and donated their time and tender care at the Humane Society. They also worked on the Martin Luther King Memorial project and tutored their younger counterparts at the Lower School.

"In all the ways they could think of to do, they worked to make the world a better place. That impulse to do good works remains with them.

"The members of this graduating class have fulfilled the promise of the school community which those who founded and further shaped the OVS philosophy had fervently envisioned. They do themselves and us extremely proud."

### Wallace Burr Award

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

**Ryan Skolnick**

### Robert G. Cooper Award

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

**Madisen Demery  
Paloma Spencer**

### 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.

**Amit Pandya**

### Sportsmanship Award

Given to the athletes who have most demonstrated integrity, leadership, and, above all, good sportsmanship.

**Alex Alvirez  
Amit Pandya  
Minako Otake**



### 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 exhibited a good sense of humor.

**Lucy Kim**

### J.B. Close Award

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

**Alex Alvirez**

### Dorothy Burr Literary Award

This award recognizes students for their outstanding writing based on submissions of poetry or expository writing.

**Emily Lobba  
Becca Gomberg**



\*The speeches and addresses in this issue of *FamilyTree* are excerpts of those given at the 2011 graduations.



ALEX ALVIREZ — *Notre Dame de Namur University*

Whether he was digging out a ground ball in lacrosse, spinning a rap for the Festival of Talent, or sinking a game-winning shot on the basketball court, Alex exemplified the spirit of OVS. No one embraced with more energy or zeal all that the school had offer. He put the "crazy" in Crazy Fridays, and performed on stage in OVS productions as well as behind the scenes. He graced the football, soccer, basketball, and lacrosse fields with his athletic prowess and dedicated training regimen. He was a king of the prom, a master of the dance floor, and a lover of the outdoors, earning the J.B. Close Award for the outstanding camper in the 2010-11 school year. Above all, he was helpful and a good friend to all. The campus will be gloomier next year without his wide, contagious smile.

JIMMY CHEN — *University of Washington*

Upon his arrival at OVS his junior year, Jimmy spoke little English, and he had few interests outside of hanging out with friends. Fast-forward two years, and it was hard to recognize the old Jimmy from the one who received his diploma on graduation day. A natural athlete, he played almost every OVS sport, from football to golf, and track to basketball. He also excelled in the classroom, taking honors and advanced placement classes in calculus, chemistry, statistics, biology, environmental science, and psychology. He served as a dorm prefect, sang in the chorus, and played drums in school musicals and recitals. In short, he absorbed all that OVS had to offer and squeezed every drop from his school experience.

YOUNG BIN "CHARLES" CHOI — *University of Oregon*

Charles left his mark on the OVS campus with his good-humored attitude and his academic skills. He played an integral role in the classroom, excelling in math and science. But his energy also extended to the sports fields, as he played pivotal roles on OVS soccer, football and baseball teams. And, of course, no one will ever forget his role as captain of the inaugural OVS Ping Pong Team, as he took up the challenge from Dunn School in the school's very first interscholastic Ping Pong Tournament. Charles proved to be a friendly and funny presence on campus. His playful spirit will be missed next year.

CHIA YU "JOANNA" CHEN — *Suffolk University*

Described by her friends as "funny and witty" and by her teachers as "extremely creative," Joanna is the perfect example of an artist on the rise. Since she was little, Joanna has had an intense interest in architecture. Beginning with her childhood days constructing complex 3D buildings from simple Legos, Joanna has followed her passion into advanced art classes at OVS. She has created numerous paintings, ranging from ancient Chinese landscapes to watercolor animations. She even constructed a 3D building of a modern art museum. Joanna's love for art converged with technology as she joined the yearbook staff in her senior year. She also played point guard for the girls' basketball team. Joanna's creativity and ingenuity have taken her to great heights in her high school career, and her passion for architecture will only grow as she attends college on the East Coast next year.

PRASHEENA CHETTIAR — *Notre Dame de Namur University*

Of all of the members of the Class of 2011, Prasheena was the last to arrive, coming for her senior year. But she made the most of her time here. Her love for dance set her apart, and she confidently displayed her talent in Ojai Valley School's production of *The Wiz*. None of us will soon forget the arcs and turns of her "Yellow Brick Road." Prasheena's talents also extended to the soccer pitch and track field. She embodied the meaning of teamwork, overcoming her reservations to become a key member of the 4 x 100 relay team. She has undeniably graced the OVS community with her continuous support, constant smile, and cheery laughter.

RACHEL "BELLE" COOK — *San Francisco Art Institute*

After 15 years at Ojai Valley School, Belle approached graduation day as one of the longest attending students in school history. What an adventure she had! Being part of OVS for so long allowed her to create strong bonds with the school community. And it allowed her to pursue her passions as well as find new ones. She discovered a love of horses and horseback riding, and she thrived as a member of the girls' volleyball team. She served on the Student Council, volunteered at the Humane Society, and traveled last summer to Thailand to teach English to young children. But it was in the art room that Belle found her true calling. Over the years, she took every art course the school had to offer, and her work was recognized annually in Ojai's Awesome Art Exhibit. Her talent is undeniable, and, as she leaves us to pursue her passion, she reminds us all of the value of art in creating a better world.

MADISEN DEMERY — *Musicians Institute*

With her soaring voice and powerful personality, Maddie became an irreplaceable part of the OVS community after joining us in her junior year. A powerful athlete on the varsity girls' volleyball and soccer teams, she exuded leadership during games and in practice. Her contagious, positive spirit fired up her teammates during games. As vice president and public relations representative for the student body, Maddie became a strong leader of her peers. But it is her voice, those silky smooth notes that move all who are fortunate enough to hear her; that is her greatest talent. Maddie performed in the chorus and voice class, and she played the leading role of Dorothy in the school musical, *The Wiz*. She aspires to become a music producer, and it's hard to imagine anything that would stand in the way of this confident and determined graduate.

ELIZABETH EDWARDS — *Bennington College*

During her eight years at OVS, Elizabeth grew from a conscientious but shy schoolgirl into a fun-loving, confident young woman and an exceptional student of high intellect and deep thought. An independent spirit, Liz was known around campus for her unique sense of style and her ability to brighten any room with her wide smile and contagious laughter. She emerged as a confident and experienced horseback rider, becoming a fixture at the OVS barn and a regular atop her favorite horse, Layla. She was also a powerhouse in the classroom, a student known for her quiet introspection and her flair for thinking about the world from different angles. In fact, it was that ability that earned her the year-end Environmental Science Award. She was honored by the College Board as an Advanced Placement Scholar, and she served the school as its sustainability representative. She cares about others and about making the world a better place, and those qualities will continue to serve her well.

SEAN DUNBAR — *Notre Dame de Namur University*

Sean has an energy about him that is hard to miss. And OVS will miss it next year. He is a deep thinker and dedicated student, a young man known as much for his voracious appetite for books as he was for his penchant for dropping into Humanities class to engage the freshmen in debate. He dabbled in a variety of sports including horseback riding, soccer, football, and his favorite, lacrosse. His coaches characterize him as tough as nails, and, on the lacrosse field, he emerged as a leader and a team player, always willing to do what was best for his teammates. Those qualities were clearly in evidence in other aspects of his life as well, and when he was with his friends and his siblings. His contributions to OVS were many, his stamp on the school indelible.

CHLOE FREED — *San Francisco State University*

For the past five years, Chloe has been writing her story at OVS. Artist, friend, and talented writer, Chloe blossomed in the OVS environment. Known around campus for her brilliant sense of style and her friendly face, Chloe brings many qualities to the community that will greatly be missed. Serving as editor of the school newspaper in her senior year, Chloe now hopes to pursue her dream of becoming a photojournalist at San Francisco State in the fall. Since freshman year, she's participated in the art program, relishing the challenges of working with pen and ink. Chloe will be missed for her quick smile, warming laugh, and loving personality, as well as for being fond of cats and for her penchant for punctuating emails with the word "meow."







### XIAO LUO "ZOOEY" FU — *University of Pittsburgh*



Ask her coaches and teachers, and they will describe Zooey as a quiet force on the OVS campus. She was an exceptional student, whether devouring literature or taking on the role of a key witness in Mock Trial. She was an inspiring athlete, taking on the challenge of long distance races on tough cross country courses. She walked endless laps in the Relay for Life fundraiser to fight cancer, and then put her musical ability on full display in the annual Festival of Talent. Spend just a little time with her and you would quickly come to understand that she embodies the idea that leadership is best demonstrated by deeds, not by words. OVS was blessed for a time to be graced with a student of such quality and character.

### LANA GREENBERG — *Arizona State University*



Having attended both the Upper and Lower campuses, Lana has become an integral part of the OVS community. Over the course of eight years, Lana proved herself to be a unique individual. She impressed faculty and students alike when she got accepted to the college of her choice within the first few weeks of school. Her determination could be seen on the tennis courts and on the track, hitting balls or running 800 meters. She has been an invaluable part of the drama department, helping backstage during her entire stay at Upper Campus. Passionate about art, her intricate paintings and drawings reveal her talent. Her iconic, pretty smile will not be forgotten.

### EVAN GRAHAM — *Prescott College*



Evan has been an avid adventurer since coming to Ojai Valley School in seventh grade. Always looking for the next challenge, he has been involved with both the school's outdoor education program as well as activities outside the school. He is a champion rock climber and has ascended some of the most challenging mountains in the world. By his junior year, he had earned his pilot's license, and, as a senior, he flew in aerobatic competitions. Closer to the ground, he served as a day student prefect his senior year and emerged as a leader on the soccer team. He also emerged as a talented artist, earning first place in the annual Awesome Art exhibition for a beautifully sculpted ceramic vase. Evan is a true gentleman with a heart as big as his smile; his drive and dedication to excellence will take him far.

### HYUN SU "DERRICK" HA — *University of California, Davis*



With his skinny jeans and stylish polo shirts, Derrick was known as a fashion icon on the OVS campus. But there was so much more to him. Arriving at OVS as a seventh grader, he made his mark through his friendly personality and his dedication to scholarship. He has a terrific sense of humor, and that allowed him to forge good relationships with his peers, teachers and dorm parents. In fact, he was known for referring to his dorm parents as "mom" and "dad" in his native Korean. Outside of the classroom, he was the consummate team player, whether swinging a bat on the baseball team or handling lighting for school musicals, talent shows, and choral performances. Derrick is easygoing and always willing to lend a hand; his humor and good nature will be missed next year.

### YUN YOUNG "LUCY" KIM — *Boston College*



Lucy is determined to become a doctor, wanting to practice medicine so she can help those who have little access to healthcare. That should tell you all you need to know about this remarkable young woman. Since arriving at OVS for her sophomore year, Lucy has been nothing short of inspirational. She was a dorm prefect and an honors student, and this year she was named an Advanced Placement Scholar by the College Board. She was also a Student Council officer, a whiz on the soccer field, and a mainstay in school musicals and recitals. With a flute in her hand or a keyboard at the ready, she elevated many a production to something magical and memorable. Her contributions were recognized at graduation when she was presented the Andrew Kille Award, honoring the senior who best exemplifies the OVS spirit. Lucy did just that, and her grace and good humor will be missed.

### KAI LITTLEFIELD — *Endicott College*



Call him the Renaissance Man. From his position as captain of the lacrosse and football teams to his turn on stage in one of lead roles in the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Kai fearlessly embraced all the opportunities that OVS had to offer. He emerged as a natural leader, singing in the chorus, serving as a Student Council officer, and playing the role of a lead defense attorney in Mock Trial. He thrived in the arts and the outdoors, and, in his final year, found himself playing a key role in shaping the work of the senior class. Few students demonstrated more growth in their time at OVS, and Kai's presence on campus will be profoundly missed.

### AMIT PANDYA — *University of California, Los Angeles*



Since his arrival in 2006, Amit has been a mainstay at OVS. He was a true leader who brought an endless capacity for fun and a joy of learning to this school. By his senior year, he had come to embody the title of "Big Man on Campus." From leading milk and crackers, to being a prefect and student body president, to being the mastermind of many crazy Fridays, it's hard to picture OVS without him. A straight "A" student, he was accepted to UCLA on a full scholarship. He recently earned the distinction of Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor, earning an average score of 4.25 on a total of four AP exams. However, don't let this classroom-savvy student fool you. He loves sports, having played football, basketball, lacrosse, tennis, and cross-country. His talent extended to the stage, where he took on lead roles in the chorus and school musicals. He was also active in community service and a force behind raising funds for charitable causes. Amit has a bright future.

### JEE YUN LEE — *University of California, Los Angeles*



During her four years at OVS, Jee Yun grew from a shy, introspective student to a zealous participant who realized her potential to have a positive impact on the world. She emerged as a curious and tenacious student, one driven to perform at a maximum level at all times. She took advanced placement courses in chemistry, calculus and psychology. She found her voice by joining the school chorus, and then discovered her inner toughness as a member of the lacrosse team. Jee Yun appears quiet, but don't be fooled. Underneath her reserved nature is a fun-loving student with a playful spirit and big-throated laugh, both of which will be missed.

### MINAKO OTAKE — *Returning to Japan*



A native of Tokyo, Minako arrived at OVS at the age of 16 and barely able to speak a word of English. Now, as an OVS graduate, she has acquired English fluency and has left OVS faculty and students with fond memories of a joyful, committed student. Minako was an athlete in every aspect. She participated in tennis, lacrosse, golf, swimming, and basketball the past four years, and was named captain of the basketball squad her senior year. She led her team against rivals such as Thatcher and Cate with a never-say-die attitude. Off the court, she expanded her love for learning in OVS' new Mandarin class and, of course, never forgot to have fun with friends. Minako will be attending a Japanese university next spring, and will be remembered with the highest regard by teachers and students alike.

### YOON JUNG "LAUREN" PARK — *University of California, Berkeley*



Whether she's studying for AP exams, serving as prefect in the dorm, or working as ASB Secretary, Lauren has had an understated but monumental effect over the student body. She came to OVS as a resident student in fifth grade and graduated from the Lower Campus in 2007. She studied abroad in Rome and returned to OVS for her junior and senior years, throwing herself into all aspects of campus life. She participated in student government, in the chorus and musicals, and in athletics. A hard-working student, Lauren racked up so many college acceptance letters, she literally wallpapered her dorm room with them. The letter from UC Berkeley held a special, honored spot just above her pillow. With her warm heart and generous spirit, Lauren was a valued contributor to the Upper Campus.



**RYAN SKOLNICK** — *California Lutheran University*


Ryan left an unforgettable impression on his fellow students and faculty members. An ardent basketball fan, he inspired the OVS squad as captain of the basketball team and frequently could be seen walking across campus sporting his full Lakers uniform. His charismatic nature led him to become the senior class representative.

Ryan embraced and shared his Jewish heritage, bringing a welcome diversity and different way of thinking. Ryan's passion is the philosophy of religion, asking the question "Why did man turn to religion?" In the fall, he will pursue this passion at Cal Lutheran in the religious studies department. Ryan will always remember OVS "as a school of self-discovery" and hopes that every rising student can discover himself or herself in a similar way.

**PALOMA SPENCER** — *Wellesley College*


When does she sleep? Paloma served as a dorm prefect, Student Council president, campus newspaper editor, and a yearbook manager. She raised money for earthquake relief and to help find a cure for cancer, and she performed in the chorus, the school musical and the Festival of Talent. She was an honor student, taking a slew of advanced placement classes and being

chosen by the faculty as a Ventura County Star Scholar through a program that recognizes the county's top high school seniors for their outstanding volunteerism, extracurricular activities, and academic performance. She was also a prized athlete, playing keep roles on the track, tennis, lacrosse, and soccer teams. But, above all, she was nice – a loyal friend always ready with a quick smile and a helping hand. Paloma infused OVS with her heart and soul, and how the world beyond "The Hill" will get to share her gifts.

**RYLAND STEVENSON** — *University of San Francisco*


From shredding on his guitar to making a whole room burst into laughter, Ryland has been entertaining crowds since the day he walked onto the OVS campus at the start of his sophomore year. With his signature Yankee attire and a smile that could light up any room, he achieved in every aspect of school life by playing football, basketball, and, most importantly, baseball, and by maintaining

honors grades. He took every opportunity to make friends and be a good friend to anyone who needed it. His love of music took him all the way to the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and his love of baseball kept him glued to the TV during baseball season, hoping that his beloved Yankees would win. He will take his wonderful sense of humor and his intellectual curiosity up north next fall, and we know he will make us proud.

**MOONHEE SUNG** — *University of California, Irvine*


Her art teacher called her a "natural talent." Her advanced placement teachers marveled at her commitment to her studies. On the field or in the classroom, Moonhee proved her mettle with a solid work ethic and a winning attitude. Coaches noted her ability for pulling teammates together, but she was also praised for her willingness to take on any role, including behind-

the-scenes work in musical productions. Moonhee cared about others and cared about improving herself, and those qualities will serve her well.

**JUNLONG "JUNO" ZHANG** — *Michigan State University*


Talent runs wide and deep in this young man. Juno was a Condor League champion in track and field, a key member of the OVS soccer squad, and speedy receiver on the football team. He served as athletic representative on the Student Council, and he impressed his teachers with his hard work and perseverance. Juno also had a gift for music, and he spent endless hours

at the piano in Room 1 honing his craft. None of us will soon forget his ode to OVS at the annual Festival of Talent. Best of all, Juno possessed a wide smile and a generous spirit, and both will be sorely missed next year.

**JUNWEI "CHA CHA" ZHANG** — *Rennsaelar Polytechnic Institute*


Cha Cha left his mark on OVS as a smart and exceptionally artistic member of the community. He was enrolled in several advanced placement classes, but his favorite was advanced placement art. Indeed, Cha Cha was a prolific artist. He painted large oil paintings of his main inspiration, owls. One of these engaging paintings, "Sight or

Heart," won second place in the annual Awesome Art Show. In addition to being an excellent artist, Cha Cha was a dominant soccer player for OVS. He and his twin brother, Juno, exercised supremacy on the field. Cha Cha's shy but intriguing personality made him especially fun to be around, and he always had a joke to make someone laugh. He will be remembered fondly for his trademark look and humorous personality.

**EMMA ZORNES** — *Sonoma State University*


Being the youngest graduating senior at 17, fiery-haired Emma Zornes has left her mark on the Ojai Valley School campuses. She arrived as an eighth grader in 2006 and spent all of her time reading books to stay out of the public eye. But, as she continued her life on the Upper Campus, she slowly but steadily came out of her shell. Emma is known for playing her

ukulele around campus and for her dedication to the equestrian program. She won the Sandy Ballou Award for training a stubborn horse in her junior year. Emma has grown significantly during her five years at OVS. You can now see the once-shy Emma Zornes laughing loudly with friends, a smile never leaving her face. Although OVS will miss Emma, we know Sonoma State University will be lucky to have her.





# Congratulations, Class of 2011!



Front Row (L-R): Ji Hyun "Nicole" Kang, Can "Amy" Xu, Yunyao "Nancy" Zhu, Noppasorn "Pinky" Cheng, Kyu A "Sarah" Park, Jennifer Kiyomi Ran, Jade Kaufman, Allison Fortier Weller, Eun Jin "Annie" Ahn, Sarah Silver, Lillian Hilgers, Claire Wickenhaeuser, Hanna Yount, Violet Freed, Tristen Lindsey, Hevyn Wutzke, Jenna McIntosh, Elizabeth McGillivray; Back Row (L-R): Oliver Rothenberg, Harrison Cooper, Connor Floyd, Matthew Gustafson, Declan Kelly, Benjamin Cassidy, Mark Town, H. Weston Dempster, Caleb McNeil, Zachary Harwood, Garrett Schreiner, Hyoungh Min Lee, Tae Yoon "Terry" Lee, Daven Ross, Ruimin "David" Zhang, An Yen "Andy" Cheng, Min Suk "Eric" Lee

## HEADMASTER'S ADDRESS\*

*Lower Campus Graduation — Andy Hamilton*

"This class of 2011 represents a special year at OVS; the centennial year in the life of the Ojai Valley School. This historic milestone represents a consistency and longevity that few schools can claim.

"It has been a treat to watch this eighth grade come together as a class this year. Starting with a trip to the Kern River, I watched you swim together, perform skits, and do activities to build trust with each other. Then, you were onto Jamestown and Washington D.C., where we traveled together and explored this country's history. I also enjoyed joining you for the challenging class hike that took us up and down a mountain together, and watching you shine at Campus Lighting, horse shows,

recitals, sports contests, and the unforgettable Middle School performance of *Oklahoma*.

"You have entertained, inspired and impressed us with your talents, and we thank you for your efforts.

Congratulations on a great year! "

*To view a gallery of photos from the Lower School Graduation and middle school promotions, as well as the elementary and primary promotions, please visit the Media Gallery at [www.ovs.org](http://www.ovs.org).*

### Sportsmanship Award

The highest honor OVS gives a graduating eighth-grader:

**Ji Hyun "Nicole" Kang**

### Headmaster's Award

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

**Matthew Gustafson**

**Caleb McNeil**

**Sarah Silver**

### Michael D. Hermes Award

Given to the most outstanding eighth grade student-athletes.

**Connor Floyd**

**Ji Hyun "Nicole" Kang**

### Michael J. Hall-Mounsey Award

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

**Jenna McIntosh**

**Garrett Schreiner**

### J.B. Close 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, love and respect for nature, and commitment to helping others in the face of adversity set this student apart.

**Connor Floyd**

### Paul Pittman Award

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

**Lillian Hilgers**





## profile: michael j. hall-mounsey

by Elizabeth (Curran) Hermes (L66, U69)



Born and raised in England, Mike Hall-Mounsey was still in grammar school when, in 1964, the Beatles made history by appearing on the Ed Sullivan Show, and American teens, en masse, suddenly attempted to emulate the British mop tops. But Hall-Mounsey says the British invasion worked in reverse, too. America held great appeal. It strongly beckoned.

Mike met his wife, Carol, when they were both in college pursuing teaching degrees, he at St. Paul's, part of Bristol University, and Carol at St. Mary's. The rigorous training that teachers receive in England tested their commitment to the profession. Both Hall-Mounseys met the challenge and soon began their teaching careers. (Mike has since completed a Masters of Educational Administration degree through California Lutheran University).

They traveled extensively and were an enterprising young couple. Among their enterprises was a language school which brought international students to study and homestay with local families. The Hall-Mounseys also started a sports tours company and took teams on ski trips and other outings to various spots on the southern coast of England as well as to France. As Mike explains, he and Carol "were ambitious to travel and wanted to broaden [their] horizons."

Eventually, those horizons broadened to include America. It was the sports tours connection that brought them here. For a year, they organized fundraisers so that they could bring two soccer teams to the States. Finally, in 1981, the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) gave them the choice of two locations to visit: New Jersey or California. It was not difficult, says Mike, for the Hall-Mounseys and the teams they represented to decide in favor of the west coast.

Warmly welcomed to Ojai by the families connected with AYSO, the Hall-Mounseys realized that this would be an ideal community in which to raise their children, and they began to look into the possibility of finding work at one of the private schools here. They met and visited with fellow Englishman Phil Bryan, the Lower Campus headmaster, who felt confident Mike and Carol would be a good fit at OVS.

At the end of their stay that summer of 1981, Mike was offered a year's position at OVS, his specific duties to be worked out later. On the strength of a word and a handshake from Phil Bryan, the Hall-Mounseys sold their home in England as well as its contents, packed 6 suitcases ("full of wooly sweaters, hats, and coats," notes Mike. "Nothing that would be of much use in Southern California"), and transplanted themselves halfway around the world with their children: Martin, then four years old; and Melanie, just two. It was an act of faith.

Upon his arrival, Mike discovered that his initial duties at OVS would include teaching social studies and history to middle-schoolers, and that he would also coach soccer as well as help out with the P.E. classes.

It soon became apparent that Mike Hall-Mounsey was a natural and highly effective teacher. The Director of Admission when Mike joined the faculty said, "One of my duties involved giving prospective students and their families tours of the campus and showing them classes in action. I always made a beeline for Mike Hall-Mounsey's social studies class. He was a superb teacher: interesting, informative, organized, clear, adept at fielding questions from his students, and *funny*."



*A talented rugby player, Hall-Mounsey played for England's Portsmouth regional club and didn't discover soccer until he was nearly thirty. He still refs and plays in soccer tournaments.*

But Hall-Mounsey's effectiveness extended well beyond the classroom. As with all OVS faculty members, he was called upon to do weekend supervisory duty and go on camping and backpacking trips. The high energy Hall-Mounsey tackled all his duties with gusto, and, within a few years, was looking for more responsibilities to take on. In 1982, he and headmaster Phil Bryan started the Britannia Soccer Camp at the Lower Campus which was a solid success and introduced many local students to OVS, several of whom became fall school enrollees.

In the mid-1980s, then-President Mike Hermes needed a summer school/camp director and asked Hall-Mounsey if he'd like to give it a go. Under Hall-Mounsey's leadership, summer program enrollment tripled.

Although Carol stayed at home with their young children the first year after the family moved from England, since that time she has had a variety of jobs at OVS, including teaching kindergarten, second, third, and fifth grades. Like her husband, Carol is a gifted teacher. Eventually, she became elementary coordinator and Lower Campus librarian, a post she holds to this day. She has recently added middle school English teacher to her responsibilities.

In 1990, after stints as Dean of Faculty and Director of Advancement, Mike was appointed Lower Campus Headmaster, a post he held with distinction until 2009, when, upon Mike Hermes' retirement, Hall-Mounsey took over as OVS president.

The notion of integer vitae, meaning "wholeness of life, symmetry of life, soundness of life, and, therefore, poise and strength of life," which OVS founder Ed Yeomans proposed as the school's motto, consistently guides Hall-Mounsey in his role as president. While committed to keeping OVS at the forefront of those technological advances that enhance a modern education, Hall-Mounsey is deeply committed to maintaining

the core values and traditions that established OVS as a true community of learning.

His long association with the school has enabled Hall-Mounsey to introduce new traditions of his own, some of them distinctly British. A few of these attempts have been more successful than others. He tried to introduce the game of cricket to OVS students, for instance. "It was DOA," admits Hall-Mounsey, ruefully, shaking his head. But the high tea for primary students has become a resounding success, as has his eighth grade

leadership committee, whose purpose it is to recognize and cultivate potential leaders in the graduating class.

All three of the Hall-Mounsey children (a son, Alex, had joined the family in 1989) attended OVS, and one of Mike and Carol's grandchildren is currently a third-grader. That means, in addition to being a teacher, coach, faculty leader, and administrator, Mike is an OVS parent and grandparent.

Echoing the beliefs of the OVS founder, Hall-Mounsey contends that "true self-esteem comes from real achievement." In keeping with this conviction, OVS, under Hall-Mounsey's stewardship, continues to offer students a myriad of opportunities, on all levels, for self-realization and achievement. Whether through the outdoor program, advanced placement classes, community service involvement, dorm leadership, classroom achievement, or the horse program, each OVS student has an opportunity to succeed and to shine.

Former President Mike Hermes has great regard for his successor and enormous faith in his abilities. "Mike Hall-Mounsey has demonstrated the courage to make some very tough decisions over the years," said Hermes, and added, "He has a profound understanding of and respect for the OVS philosophy, and his breadth of experience and proven track record at OVS make him uniquely qualified to head the school. We are truly fortunate to have him at the helm."



*The Hall-Mounseys, circa 1997, left to right: Michael, Alex (L03), Carol, Melanie (L94, U98), and Martin (L92, U96).*



## matt inman

by Evan Cooper, Upper Class of 2012

Matt Inman's title at Ojai Valley School is science department chair, boys' soccer coach, and outdoor education coordinator. But these titles do not come close to describing all that Mr. Inman brings to the school.

Not only does Mr. Inman teach science to middle school students, he takes them on surf trips, works with them to improve the campus, and even serves as a lifeguard. He also organizes spring backpacking trips, such as those that head deep into the Sespe Wilderness.

"I was originally the science teacher and director of the California Sea Cadet Program, but it turned into much more than that," said Mr. Inman, who came to Ojai Valley School 22 years ago after leaving a job practicing environmental law at a firm in Pasadena. The desk job was just not the right environment for him.

"I did some soul searching," he said. "I wanted something intellectual that had some reward to it."

After interviewing at multiple private schools, Mr. Inman chose Ojai Valley School due to the school's philosophy regarding the development of students and the chance to take kids outside the classroom and outside of the status quo education.

As a science teacher, Mr. Inman promotes learning through experience, often giving his students fun and educational projects to work on. Last spring, Mr. Inman took 15 middle school students to the Ventura County Science Fair, where they competed in multiple categories against 880 students from across Ventura County. OVS students Javi Arango and Emma Herzig placed second in their categories and earned

entries to the California State Science Fair, where Javi took home an honorable mention.

"[Mr. Inman] is a dynamic teacher in the classroom, giving students many opportunities to learn through lectures, discussions, [and] several hands-on projects," said Duncan Wallace, a Lower Campus math teacher and assistant outdoor education coordinator.

Mr. Inman's job quickly evolved to include helping out with the outdoor program and coaching soccer. He worked under the previous director of the outdoor education program for five years before becoming the head of the program.

"I was frustrated with urban camping," said Mr. Inman, explaining how OVS would camp near towns and not be fully exposed to nature. "We wanted to have an outdoor experience, but we didn't know how to do it."

As a kid growing up in Pasadena, Mr. Inman had a real love of the outdoors.

"The thing I looked forward to the most as a kid was summer camping trips," he said. He gradually changed the OVS program into one that included regular backpacking trips and more activities like rock climbing, surfing, and trips to swimming holes.

"He has developed a unique school of excellence within OVS," said Ojai Valley School President Michael Hall-Mounsey. "The outdoor education program is a pillar program that supports our philosophy. I hear from alumni all the time about their fun experiences on his backpacking trips."

The program now offers many different types of trips, from a 100-mile backpacking trip, to weekend climbing outings, all developed with the help of Mr. Inman.

"Some of my best moments are on the trail when I see kids experiencing new things," said Mr. Inman, adding that

he credits Mr. Hall-Mounsey with giving him the support to expand the program. "I see [the students] falling in love with the outdoors."

Adds Mr. Wallace, "Whether it is trail, bad trail or no trail, [Mr. Inman] believes the opportunities only get better in places visited less often. On trips, he pushes kids to explore their limits of independence, mental strength, friendship, as well as value the power of fun and laughter."

But outdoor education is not Mr. Inman's only passion. He can often be seen coaching one of his many soccer teams on one of Ojai's fields.

Before taking over as soccer coach, Mr. Inman already had a résumé full of soccer experience. While attending Blair High School in Pasadena, Mr. Inman played soccer in two CIF semi-finals. His coaching experience includes working as the assistant coach for the Westmont girls' soccer team and coaching AYSO, 5-a-side and club teams.

Mr. Inman can often be seen pacing the sidelines with his sunglasses and hat adorning his head. He looks right at home demonstrating a new technique to his players with his tall and athletic frame. After observing his halftime talk, one can clearly discern his love for the game.

"My knowledge as a coach has developed from all the teams I have worked with," he said.

While coaching at Ojai Valley School, Mr. Inman has lead the boys' soccer team to two 3rd place finishes and one second

place finish in the C.A.L. soccer league, a statewide league that is run by the California Youth Soccer Association.

During the year, Mr. Inman also coaches two club teams through the Ventura County Fusion, a local soccer club. Many of the players he coaches in the club teams go on to play for him at Ojai Valley School.

"I have many players who play for both the Fusion and OVS," he said. "The Fusion has helped increase technical skills among OVS players."

Mr. Inman lives in Ojai with his wife, Ann, and his two sons, Jay and Scott. Both of his sons play soccer competitively and attend Ojai Valley School's Lower Campus. Mrs. Inman teaches at Nordhoff High School. In his free time, Mr. Inman enjoys working in his orchard where he grows Pixie tangerines.

"Growing tangerines is a great balance to being a teacher," he said. "Growing tangerines is a metaphor for teaching: the more focus you put into it, the better the results."





## judy oberlander

by Emma Zornes, Upper Class of 2011

After 32 years of leading students into the Heart of Darkness and through the perils of the college application process, long-time OVS English teacher and college counselor Judy Oberlander is finally putting down the chalk.

Ms. Oberlander has been at Ojai Valley School for 32 years and has witnessed how much the school has grown. But now she has decided that it's her time to move on.

"OVS was the most fun place," Ms. Oberlander said. "I just really enjoy working with students and being a part in their lives."

Faculty and students – who affectionately call her Obie – feel the same way about her time spent here.

Angus Beverly, who graduated from the Upper Campus last year, appreciated all of the effort that she put into each student.

"Her gift is really in her ability to simplify the college application process," he said. "Just realize that, in the end, it's not about where you end up getting accepted but the feeling of accomplishment that you tried your hardest in the entire process. That's what Obie taught me."

Long-time friend and fellow OVS English teacher and Outdoor Education Director Crystal Davis was also deeply affected by Ms. Oberlander's presence at OVS.

"She draws on a breadth of professional, academic, and personal experience to offer advice and reassurance," Ms. Davis said. "Ask for the truth based on her experience, and you will get it—like it or not. This has been a tremendous gift to me and to this school."

Born in Brighton, Illinois, Ms. Oberlander chose to get as far away as possible from her small hometown. The state,

which she described as flat as a pancake, didn't offer nearly as much as California.

Starting at Occidental College in Los Angeles, she transferred to the University of California at Riverside, where she received bachelor's and master's degrees in English. She then attended both the University of Iowa and San Francisco State University to study creative writing.

Her college life ended at the University of California at Santa Barbara where she earned a master's in Educational Administration and went on to teach English at the University.

A colleague introduced her to Ojai Valley School. She worked as a tutor at the Lower Campus from 1976 to 1978, and then in 1979 started teaching at the Upper Campus, the place that she would call home for the next 32 years.

"I think that being college counselor has made me stay here as long as I have because it offered so much variety that I never ever got bored," Ms. Oberlander said.

Ms. Oberlander plans on staying in the college business by becoming an independent college counselor and returning to China to work with students there on the college application process.

"The best thing about college counseling is that I have to get to know students really well, so I have to sit down and just chat with them. It's just really fun," Ms. Oberlander said.

Senior Chloe Freed said she was thankful for all the help that Ms. Oberlander gave both as a teacher and college counselor during their final year at OVS.



## terry wilson

by Aria Ellett, Upper Class of 2013

After nearly a quarter century of fostering a love of horses among OVS students, Equestrian Director Terry Wilson has retired from her administrative position.

Mrs. Wilson, who first came to OVS in 1984 to give private horseback riding lessons, will remain in her position as an English teacher at the Upper Campus, and she will continue to coach equestrian students at that campus as well.

But she has officially left behind her administrative duties, turning over the reins to fellow longtime OVS equestrian instructor Stephanie Gustafson.

"It's been wonderful," Mrs. Wilson said of her time heading the equestrian program. "I've loved every minute of it."

Mrs. Wilson lives on her family's citrus ranch in Ojai – a ranch they have farmed for more than 70 years. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a dual major in English/Speech and History. After teaching for 11 years, first at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek and then at Castilleja School in Palo Alto, she retired to have a family.

After accumulating too many horses for the Portola Valley property, she brought them to the Ojai ranch in 1986. She

began teaching riding at OVS at that time and went on to become Equestrian Director. In recent years, she returned to the classroom, teaching the sophomore and junior honors English classes at Upper Campus.

As an equestrian, she has been a dressage competitor, trainer, and instructor, as well as a Dutch Warmblood breeder. She has become a well-known and respected member of the equestrian community, serving as professional advisor to the California Dressage Society and on the national board of the United States Dressage Federation.

Although Mrs. Wilson will no longer be directing the department, she plans to stay actively involved in the program that has brought her so many memories.

"There are sad moments, when you lose a horse, or a student leaves the school, but those fade away and all the good memories remain."

Mrs. Wilson reminisced. "Many parents still contact me and thank me for the opportunity I gave [my] students and how I changed their lives around. You can't help but feel good about that."







A hearty thank you to the more than 1,000 alumni, parents, students, faculty members, and staff who celebrated the Ojai Valley School centennial year with us and helped make the series of centennial events so very successful.

You might be interested to know that, through the OVS History Project, more than 1,000 historic photographs have now been digitalized for the archives. We're grateful to all the alumni who submitted photos. In addition, an oral history project was begun, with Mike Hermes the first to participate. Nearly 100 "lost" alumni have been found, and a final printed version of the alumni directory has been distributed to our 2,900 alumni around the world. Fittingly, the quad buildings on the Lower Campus are now in the process of receiving historic designation by the City of Ojai.

I send you greetings and look forward to your active involvement as OVS successfully embarks on its next century.

Sincerely,

*Mike Hall-Mounsey*

Michael J. Hall-Mounsey  
President

To celebrate more, go to [www.ovs.org/centennial](http://www.ovs.org/centennial)

## OVS 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On January 12, 2011, a century after Mrs. Lamb began tutoring the Van Patten boys in her Ojai home and so began the Ojai Valley School, more than 400 students, faculty members, and staff attended the school's Centennial Kick-Off on the big field and quad. Students at both Lower and Upper campuses enjoyed face painting, ragtime music, cupcakes, and old-fashioned games. This fun event initiated a series of OVS centennial celebrations.



Second-grader Nico atop his steed, Westin



Pre-K students Chaya, Andrew, and Scarlett with Spud Man



Second-graders perform the traditional maypole dance at High Tea

In honor of the OVS Centennial, the 21st annual High Tea included a maypole dance similar to one performed at Lower Campus in 1936. Children in grades PK-2 entertained more than 200 guests in the Greenberg Activities Center and enjoyed some tasty treats, including giant chocolate-covered strawberries. It was a fun and elegant afternoon, and our students impressed those in attendance with their poise and confidence while dancing on stage, serving tables, and demonstrating their best etiquette as they enjoyed tea treats.



## PRE-1960S REUNION

More than 40 alumni and their guests, having travelled from as far as Hawaii and New York, attended the pre-1960s Alumni Reunion in April. The event began with lunch with the students at the Wallace Burr Pergola, followed by an OVS history presentation by President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey and a special city proclamation to honor the school's centennial year. Guests enjoyed tours of campus and shared their OVS experiences for future generations at the oral history booth. An optional Sespe hike to the Ten Foot Hole was tackled by 10 intrepid alums, who navigated four water crossings en route. A wonderful meal was shared in the dining hall that evening, as light rain brought out an unexpected rainbow.



Spencer Westbrook (L59), Kathie (Brooks) Pratt (L58), event chairs John Callender (L56) & Laurien "Muffet" (Baldwin) Callender (L57), and Ed Groenendyke (L57)



Mayor Pro Tem Betsy Clapp presents OVS President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey with a City of Ojai proclamation to honor the school's centennial year.



Alums, left to right, at the Ten Foot Hole: Hester Palmquist (L58) and husband Murray Levy, Carol (Carpenter) Norman (L58), Mihaela Howie, Ron Rose (L50), and Paul Howie (L49)



Thank you to Flo (Burbidge) Free (L46) for donating this silk scarf to the OVS archives. In an arts and crafts class at OVS in the late 1930s, she hand-dyed the scarf using walnut husks.

## PONS DINNER

Each May, the Pons Dinner provides a bridge between the eighth-graders and Lower Campus graduates currently attending high school. Nearly 150 guests attended the centennial year Pons Dinner. Alumnus Roger Wang (L87, U91), senior Belle Cook (L07, U11), and eighth grade class president Eun Jin "Annie" Ahn (L11) addressed the group. Belle, who has attended OVS since age three, offered this eloquent summary of her experience: "OVS is a unique place, where you learn an equal amount about yourself and your surroundings. Every student is given the tools and encouragement to persevere and to move into each new stage of life...these tools and support helped us view transitions as adventures...we were taught to overcome fears, to embrace everyone around us, and to grasp every opportunity..."



Lower Campus graduates who are currently high school seniors gather in front of the Van Patten Library with their former headmaster and current OVS President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey.



## ALUMNI LACROSSE

For only the third time in OVS history, Upper Campus lacrosse players scored a victory against the alumni, emerging with a 13-8 win in the Annual Bingo Memorial Lacrosse Game. This annual event honors the late Bryan "Bingo" Caldwell (L90, U94).

The Lower Campus caught lacrosse fever this year, launching a new middle school boys' team. During the inaugural season, 19 spirited boys competed with tenacity and talent that will serve OVS well in seasons to come.

## ALUMNI PANEL

Recent alumni returned to campus in May for an Alumni College Panel Discussion. This Q and A session allowed students to query graduates about the transition from high school to college. The main message? Use your OVS time management and study skills to cope with college's unlimited freedoms and the responsibilities that come with it. Thank you to our alums who served as panelists: Upper 2010 classmates Molly Baker (via Skype), Hunter Helman, and James Wickenhaeuser; Upper 2009 classmates Cooper Hefner, Alicia Strait, and Katie Woods; and Iris Torres, a 2007 graduate.





# FRIDAY NIGHT GATHERING



During a tour of the Upper Campus, alums got to feel like students again when they visited the chemistry lab at the Lucila Arango Science and Technology Center.



Alumni gathered on Friday evening at the Upper Campus pool complex for a casual meal.

# FACULTY LUNCH



OVS employees, past and present, gather after the luncheon in their honor.



Past faculty member Gary Dinkins, having worked continuously at OVS for 44 years, receiving a "free lunch for life" certificate from President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey

# SATURDAY AFTERNOON



Headmaster of the Lower Campus, Andrew Hamilton, keynote speaker Thomas Yeomans, and President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey



Mark Beales (L59), his wife, Juliann, and Jay Wilmer (L58) check in for the festivities



OVS past faculty members Oliver Beaudette (L61) and Rose (Chavez) Boggs (who has worked at OVS off and on for over 40 years) check in for the luncheon honoring current and past faculty and staff.



Roger Wang (L87, U91) and his sons in OVS garb



Sean Ham (L00, U04), Ken Leung (U02), past faculty member Erika (Coble) Coolman, TJ Kim (U01), faculty member Lisa Boyd, and Nikki Chou (U01)



# SATURDAY AFTERNOON

# SOCCER GAME



Former classmates (L63, U66) Lynn (Yoakum) Taylor and Bob Kotchian

Lincoln West (L78) and David Lang (L78, U82) perusing yearbooks

Generations of alumni and their families enjoyed a spirited soccer game

Headmaster Andy Hamilton sets up a pass



Gracie Gartrell (L04) and John-Clark Levin (L04)

Edwin Gillette (L65, U68), Lee Melcer (L67, U70), and Daniel Zigel (U68 and member of the OVS Board of Trustees)

## HIKE



A few hardy alumni and their families enjoying a swim in the Ten Foot Hole



OVS faculty member Angie Grover helping the granddaughter of Susan (Crawford) Engle (L61) with a beading project



Ryo Furuya (U81), from Japan, joined in the festivities



The timeline on the quad



Traversing one of many water crossings up Sespe



OVS faculty member Ryan Lang helping son of Laura (Clark) MacLeod (L88) with woodworking project at the Centennial Camp

## CENTENNIAL CAMP



# REMEMBERING MIKE HERMES



Alumni and friends gathered in the Hermes' garden for a remembrance and celebration of Mike's life.

*The Hermes family would like to express great appreciation to the many alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who helped honor Mike during Alumni Weekend.*



Alan Teague (L53), who remained Mike Hermes' best friend for the 60 years since they met at OVS in the seventh grade, was one of the speakers at the gathering in Mike's honor.



Brian Dallas (L79, U83), Craig Floyd (U83), Greg Pollack (U81), Mohi Khairandish (L77, U81), Richard LaGriff (U81), Vahid Jafroodi (U82), Anita (Purcell) DeAragon (U81), Pattie (Rascoe) Bakke (L76, U80), Terre (Gallagher) Steinbeck (L76), David Lazarus (L74, U78), Wilder (Ferguson) Jacob (L76, U81), Natalie (Harris) Storie (U81), David Lang (L78, U82), Karen (Rascoe) Farmer (L77, U81), Mark Farmer (U82), David Eliasberg (L75, U80) and, kneeling, Tony McHale (L79)



Headmaster Carl Cooper attempts to wrangle the 1960s alumni for a picture.



Oscar Kornblatt (U73), Monica (Boggs) Casey (L70, U73), Joey McKinney (L70, U73)



Assistant Headmaster Gary Gartrell, Charlie de L'Arbre (L01), and Jason Goldman (L01, U05) open the Lower Campus Class of 2001's time capsule



OVS 1960s faculty members Bill (L55) and Sue Wilmer, Steve Manis (U66), Bob Christensen (U66), Steve McIntyre (U66), David Whipple (L65, U68), Claudia (Christensen) Wunderlich (L66, U69), Rene (Pon Tell) Briggs (U68), Carl Cooper (L64, U68), Roxie Brophy (L64, U67), Spencer Garrett (L62, U65), Jeff Hanselman (L65, U68), Marlene Landis (U70), Scott Eicher (L65, U68), David Zigal (U68), Dan Badgley (U66), Ruth (Huyler) Glass (L63, U66), Tabor Griswold (U68), Bob Kotchian (L63, U66), Lynn (Yoakum) Taylor (L63, U66), Karen (Williams) Tozer (U68), Craig Christensen (L64, U67), Keith Carradine (U67), Kirk Warren (L62, U65), Ken Barshop (L63, U65), Edwin Gillette (L65, U68), LeeAnne (Sichel) Simonds (U66), Mike Tomkins (U65), Bob Ferguson (L64, U67)



# SATURDAY SOCIAL



Ted Tempske (L71, U74), Joey McKinney (L70, U73), Eric Caidin (U71), Rory O'Connor (U72), Lee Melcer (L67, U70), Alfred Yin (U70), Don Pendergrass (U71), Felicity Van Runkle (L69, U72), Monica (Boggs) Casey (L70, U73), Melissa (Blackmer) Thyoneus (U71), Tom Johnson (U71), Alison (Jones) Woods (L69, U72), Bunny Kelley (U74), Jon Taylor (U70), Lenny Thorell (L68, U71), Carole Ekker (U71)



Patrick Dyer (U91), Sally (McClenahan) Dyer (L87, U91), Nick Koskoff (U90), Jess Brolin (L87, U91), Emma (Tillinger) Koskoff (U90), Jana Broecking (U91), Roger Wang (L87, U91), Todd Gold (L86, U90), Peter Orgolini (L87, U91), Loc Briggs (L86, U90), Matt Weiss (U89)



Frank Keith (L97, U01), Charles Pepper (L97, U01), Robert Bradley (L97, U01), Shane Walton (L97, U01), Breanna Farber (L99, U03), Sarah Gates (L99, U03), Becky DeMoor (L97, U01), Ken Leung (U02), TJ Kim (U01), Sean Ham (L00, U04)



Lincoln West (L78), David Lang (L78, U82), Wilder (Ferguson) Jacob (L76, U81), Mark Farmer (U82), Karen (Rascoe) Farmer (L77, U81), Lauri Wright (L76, U80), Pattie (Rascoe) Bakke (L76, U80), Glenn Fout (U80), Mohi Khairandish (L77, U81)

# SATURDAY SOCIAL



Andy Knight (L72, U75), Eve (Hohmann) Brown (L71, U74), Jody (Berger) Cooper (L71, U74), Bill Burke (U73), Bunny Kelley (U74), Joey McKinney (L70, U73), Sandy Thorell (L71, U74), Lizbeth Sichel (L71, U74), Mike Fry (U74), Oscar Kornblatt (U73)



David Lazarus (L74, U78), Mohi Khairandish (L77, U81), Terre (Gallagher) Steinbeck (L76)



Ken Barshop (L63, U65), Spencer Garrett (L62, U65), Peter Werbel (L62)



Ruth (Lucking) Col (L61) and Lana (Lucking) Fredell (L57)



Classmates (L97, U01) Charles Pepper and Robert Bradley



Judy (Huckings) Quilici (L60) and Julie (Cass) Two Suess (L60)



Lenny Thorell (L68, U71) and Rory O'Connor (U72)





Nearly 300 alumni and guests at the Centennial Celebration Dinner on Saturday night in the Greenberg Activities Center

Thank you for  
celebrating the OVS  
centennial with us!  
For more photos and  
video, please visit  
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Liz Hermes (L66, U69) accepts the inaugural Founder's Alumni Award on behalf of Michael D. Hermes (L53) from OVS Board Member Spencer Garrett (L62, U65)

# NOTES

## alumni

### LOWER 1931

OVS has learned that **Roger Knox** died in April of 2010.

### LOWER 1948

**Audrey Taylor** enjoys a fulfilling life in an international community called Auroville outside of Puducherry in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. "It is an adventure inside and out every day," writes Audrey. "I'm sure the years I spent at OVS prepared me for this home I've chosen to live in for the last years of my life. I practice my art of painting, teach, and help serve what needs doing in the community."

### LOWER 1950

Having retired after more than half a century of full-time college teaching, **Stephen Glass** is now a John A. McCarthy Professor Emeritus of Classics & Classical Archaeology. "I'm the last of the faculty who founded Pitzer College to leave the place," notes he. Stephen and his wife, Sandra, live in Claremont, CA. They have two sons.

### LOWER 1953

**Mary Wais Dettmers** has moved to Murrieta, CA, to be closer to her family. She reports she loves the volunteer work she's doing: she donates two days a week to a local horse rescue ranch.

### LOWER 1957

**Jerri Stagg Beatty** said she regrets she was not able to be at the reunion for '50s alums and she hopes her former schoolmates are well.

Jerri has adopted her 8 year-old grandson, having raised his sister, who is now 21. "All my kids have done well," she reports.

She lists some fond recollections: "I miss Wallace Burr, Otis Wickenhaeuser, Robert Cooper, and the memories of OVS. Those are the finest memories of my life. One in particular: Mrs. Duggar and fighting over who would get to sit on the 'freezer' for homemade ice cream, so we could get the paddle to lick. I remember the backpack trip way into Sespe country; it rained all 10 days. We stayed in a quonset hut the whole time, but it was still fun. I also remember swimming in the Sespe and the sulfa baths. I often wish it had never ended. So many good memories."

Jerri says she emails Marina Fistoulari Mahler every so often and misses Lana Lucking, Donna Baker, Shelley Scott, Tammy Kopp, the Chenoweths, and Henry Butler, whom she says was her "role model for studying."

She plans to retire from her job with the county of San Bernadino in December.

### LOWER 1958

It was a harrowingly close call for **Jay Wilmer's** daughter, Jenny, whose family has a home in Pigeon Bay, New Zealand, and who was in downtown Christchurch when February's 6.3 earthquake hit. According to Jay, she narrowly escaped falling debris and ran down the middle of the street, making her way through utter

chaos to get to her six-year-old daughter, who was being watched two miles away. Thankfully, her daughter was safe and sound.

### LOWER 1964

**David Forrest** expressed his appreciation as follows: "I am writing to thank the Ojai Valley School for my lifetime love of reading (thanks, Mrs. Burr and her 8th grade comparative literature class [*MacBeth and the Emperor Jones*]); science (Thanks, Mr. Cooper: making salt from elements was awesome!); mathematics (who would have thought Archimedes was angry that the military was using his science to do harm?); and history (Thanks, Mr. Wolcott).

"Every bad experience I had at OVS I brought on myself, and the great memories are from a bit of everyone (the kitchen staff, too!) My sister still uses the alarm clock/radio I built there in the 7th grade. That radio turns 50 this year."

### LOWER 1975

**Thomas Farrar** (see U79)

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### LOWER 1976

Our Alumni Office was saddened to learn that **Robin Mather Chantry** passed away in April of last year.

### LOWER 1977

"I believe fitness is the route to take to stay happy, healthy, motivated, and goal-oriented--whether you are 20, 50, or 70," asserts **Nina Sugamori**, who works as a level one CrossFit coach at CrossFit Mean Streets in downtown Los Angeles. She invites her classmates to check out local CrossFit programs. "There is not a better program for kids ages 2 and up," claims Nina.



### LOWER 1983

**Tony Trutanich** (See U87)

### LOWER 1992

**Megan (Cooper) Keelan** (See U96)

### LOWER 1996

After living in Boston; Eugene, Oregon; New York City; and a few Ventura County locales (including Ojai, for a time), **Crystal Maya Cathcart** has found paradise: "I moved to Hawai'i six months ago and am loving it," writes she.

Crystal, who is attending graduate school, describes herself as "a proud foster parent." She says she has enjoyed reconnecting with some of her

OVS friends and sends her love to all her old friends and teachers.

### LOWER 1999

**Sarah Gates** (See U03)

### LOWER 2001

**Sanghee "Jessica" Park** (see U05)

**Matthew Romo** (see U05)

### LOWER 2003

Congratulations to **Robert Campana**, who has graduated from USC with a degree in Business Administration (emphasis in pre-law and marketing). He also became engaged to Kayanna Ramirez, with whom he had attended elementary school as well as high school. Their wedding will take place on August 27th. Robert currently works with his father at his business, which sells vegetable seeds internationally.



### UPPER 1965

We are saddened to report that **Janice (Hubenthal) Scanlon Sage** passed away in Hawaii in March of this year.



### UPPER 1970

"I fulfilled a lifelong dream of owning a blue-water sailboat earlier this year," writes **Jon Enders**, who elaborates as follows: "She's a 25-year-old 34-foot Pacific Seacraft sloop, ready for anything the sea can offer."

Having brought her from Venezuela to her new home port of Anacortes, Washington, Jon says, "I'm hoping to do a lot of sailing this summer, especially with friend Lenny Thorell (U71), who also has a boat at Anacortes. Any more crew out there?"



### UPPER 1979

**Thomas Farrar** checked in with our alumni office and let us know he coaches for Santa Clarita Valley Magic Soccer Club. Check out [mountainkungfu.com](http://mountainkungfu.com) to see his life's work.



### THE YEOMANS LEGACY

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### UPPER 1987

**Tony Trutanich** has given his all for some great causes. "Last October I rode 1,300 miles (all off road) on a motor cross bike across east Africa *"The Wild Coast."* I did this for UNICEF and Sentibala (Prince William's charity) delivering medicines to remote villages for UNICEF. It was awesome, but extremely challenging on the mind and body.

My daughter Marlie graduated from an International boarding school with honors and will start Boise State in the fall."

### UPPER 1996

Happy news from **Megan (Cooper)**

**Keelan:** She and husband Dan became the proud parents of a second son on April 26th. Hugh Marlo Keelan joins big brother Noah at the Keelan family home in Australia.



### UPPER 2003

**Sarah Gates** - "Since high school I have done fieldwork twice in southern France through the Max Planck Institute as well as in Spain, Portugal, and South Africa. I graduated from UCSB in 2007 with honors and distinction in my major. Primarily, my work has focused on excavating Neanderthals. This summer, I will be going to Mongolia with my Ph.D. advisor at UC Riverside to begin the first year of excavation at a Paleolithic Neanderthal site."

### UPPER 2005

"Words cannot express how much I miss OVS and how much it means to me!" writes **Sanghee "Jessica" Park**.

In 2008, Jessica graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a BS degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. She went back to Korea and worked as a lab intern but has since returned to CMU for the Masters program. Her concentration is on environmental engineering/water quality engineering.

Jessica offers this update of her fellow Korean alums: **Danny Kim** (L01, U05) is finishing up his undergraduate degree at George Washington University; **Do Yun Kim** (L01, U05) is serving in the military; **Ji Hae Park** (U06) is currently attending Michigan State University; and **Jae Nam** (U07) is a senior at NYU.

**Matthew Romo** sent greetings and news that he recently graduated as a Doctor of Pharmacy from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Matt has accepted a position with a British medical communications firm in New York City as a medical writer and consultant for the pharmaceutical industry.

Earlier this year, Matt spent 3 months in Bolivia, where he collaborated with the Doctors Without Borders organization. He called it "a life-changing experience."

### LOWER 2014



**Warren Whitsitt**, grandson of Mike Hermes (L53), who died in February, wore his grandpa's favorite tie at his promotion ceremony to OVS middle school.

### SEND US YOUR NEWS

Alumni news received between June 8, 2011, and December 1, 2011, will be published in the next issue of Alumni Notes. Please send your news via mail, email: [alumni@ovs.org](mailto:alumni@ovs.org), or by clicking "update alumni info" at [www.ovs.org/alumni](http://www.ovs.org/alumni).



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