



2012

Family Tree

A magazine for the extended family of Ojai Valley School

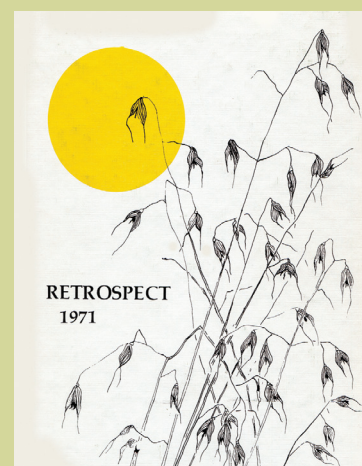
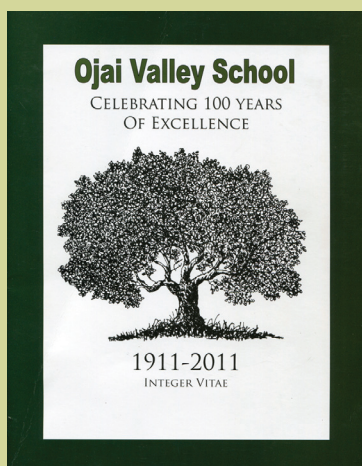
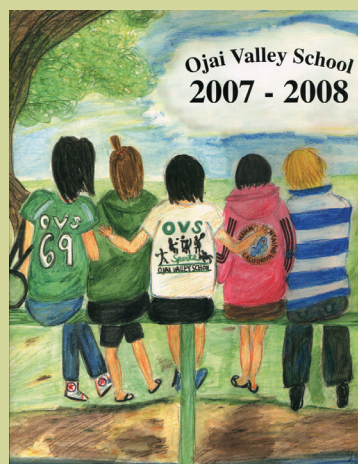
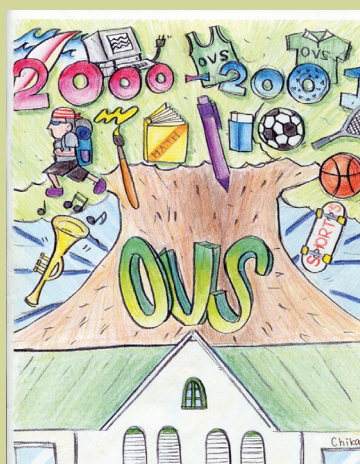
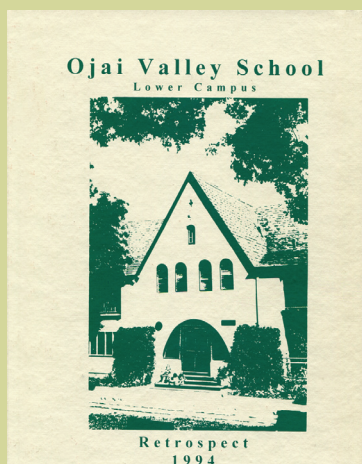
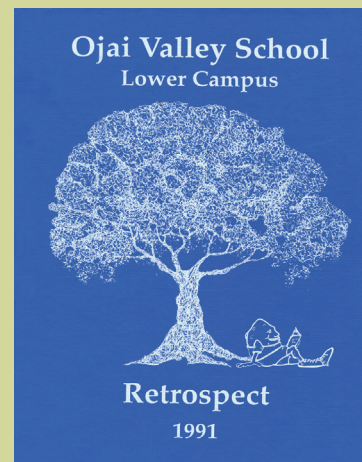
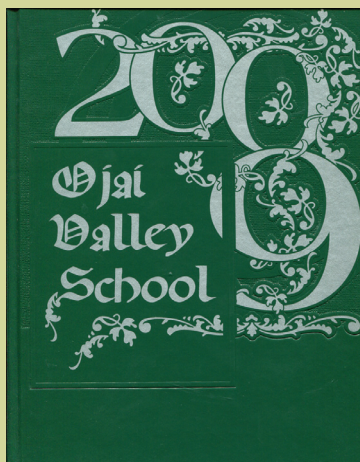
Ropes Course a huge success
at Alumni Weekend

See page 25 for more highlights.

Yearbook Digitization Project

Thank you to the generous alumni Annual Fund supporters who helped fund yearbook digitization, part of the OVS History Project. A slice of OVS history is now available online, including student yearbooks from 1965 - 2012 along with early issues of *The Ranger* and *The Observer*. These publications provide a rich and nostalgic resource for learning about student life through the ages. Thank you to our alumni donors for helping to make this long-requested dream a reality!

Please visit ovs.org/yearbooks and use the login: alum and password: spudbooks!



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Visit www.ovs.org/alumni to:

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Celebrating Commencement

An excerpt from Headmaster Carl Cooper's (L64, U68) speech to Upper Campus graduates

"Years ago a young man sat on this very stage just as members of the Class of 2012 are doing today.

"I want to share with you parts of a letter he wrote, several years after he graduated, which is forever embedded in my mind.

"He stated that the day he received his diploma his parents gave him a brand new suitcase, which was empty. It was large enough to hold most of his clothes, personal belongings, and his diploma. He knew he would be off to university in September, but he had hoped for a gift that might allow him a trip around the world, an extended stay in Europe, or possibly a new car. No, all he received for his hard work was a large suitcase, a way to take all that belonged to him away from school and off to college.

"He went on to explain that, in time, he learned the suitcase was not empty. In fact, he came to realize it was full beyond belief. It was full with the experiences and lessons that came from going to school

here. He spoke of all the wonderful friends he made; a roommate who helped him master the challenges of physics, a girlfriend who insisted he brush his teeth.

"He wrote of his first camp trip into the Sespe, of rattlesnakes, and learning to fish, and of a game called Capture the Flag played in one of the beaver ponds. His best memory was going to sleep at night and awakening to a blanket of snow covering the ground and his tent.

"Of his teachers, he said they taught me to think, listen, and speak for myself. They taught me to write, read with comprehension, and analyze content. He stated that his sports teams – soccer, basketball, and baseball – taught him lessons about teamwork, sportsmanship, and how to reach beyond what he thought were his physical and emotional limitations.

"His closing paragraph included thoughts about a recent visit to campus. He observed the school is much the same, and the students of today are not going to leave with empty suitcases.

"To the Class of 2012, I know you have packed your bags, you've done your job here, and, while this day may only be a blur now, celebrate what really matters, what really is important, and use what you have worked so hard to achieve."



A Parent Perspective

Lorie Helman



“Mr. Cooper has joked that today is also my graduation. And just as he’s said of both my kids, ‘If he has to drag them by their ears to make it across that stage...’ there have been times he has had to drag me by mine to endure this thing we call parenthood. It’s entirely plausible that I ran the Parent Club for as long as I did because it’s taken me a while to accept the notion that if I continue to “carry” my children, they’ll never learn to stand on their own two feet. My kids have made

progress – I’m more like ‘a work in progress.’

“I’ve had the pleasure – the honor – of being part of this special family, this unique community known as the Ojai Valley School, a community comprised of an inspiring faculty, a fabulous staff, terrific parents, and amazing students. These years, along with the years at Lower, have been rewarding, fulfilling, and joyful. Today our students graduate; tomorrow, they embark on their journey of independence. Our journey begins tomorrow, as well, as we embark on letting them go.

“I think about the message they may have for us, their parents, and am reminded of a favorite poem authored by Nicholas Gordon, a doctorate in English and American literature from Stanford University. That message might go something like this:

*Before I was myself you made me, me
With love and patience, discipline and tears,
Then bit-by-bit stepped back to set me free,*

*Allowing me to sail upon my sea,
Though well within the headlands of your fears.
Before I was myself you made me, me*

*With dreams enough of what I was to be
And hopes that would be sculpted by the years,
Then bit-by-bit stepped back to set me free,*

*Relinquishing your powers gradually
To let me shape myself among my peers.
Before I was myself you made me, me,*

*And being good and wise, you gracefully
As dancers when the last sweet cadence nears
Bit by bit stepped back to set me free.*

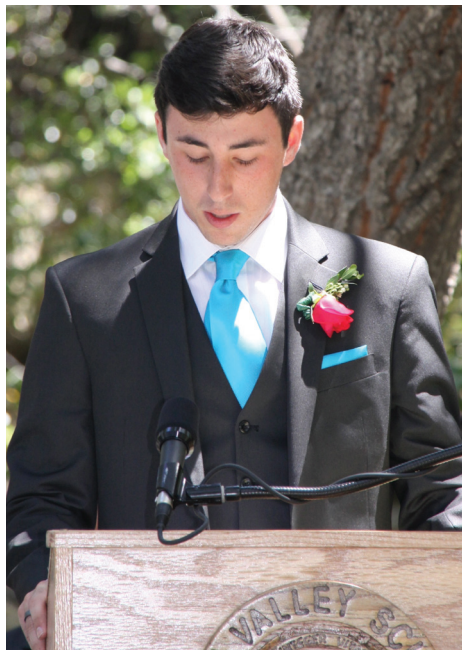
*For love inspires learning naturally:
The mind assents to what the heart reveres.
And so it was through love you made me, me
By slowly stepping back to set me free.*

Congratulations, graduates. Congratulations, parents.”



Inspirations

Jack Marcus (L08, U12) delivers the class message to graduates



"OVS has been our safe place to explore, to grow, to experiment, to discover, and to be inspired. Above all, it is the people who are part of OVS who have inspired us the most. There have been certain special people that have had a significant impact on us. Who that certain person is will not be the same for all of us nor will the manner of inspiration be the same. Sometimes I did not even realize I was being inspired until after the fact.

"Many of you knew Michael Hermes, the former president of Ojai Valley School. Like many of you, Mr. Hermes inspired me. When I was in 8th grade, one day he came up to me and said 'Jack I want to talk to you about something.' My first thought was, 'uh-oh.' I had never 'talked' to Mr. Hermes before, and I hoped I was not in trouble. In his office, I assumed he would sit behind his big desk in his massive brown leather chair and speak to me. Instead, we sat across from each other in two equal-sized chairs and talked. That was the day Mr. Hermes told me about Midland School and also the day I decided I wanted to go to Midland. He showed me that it was okay to take a different path. But it was not until much later, when I returned to

OVS, just as Mr. Hermes had, I realized the impact he had had on me. He literally changed my life. I feel that if not for Mr. Hermes, I would not be standing here to day or be the person I am today.

"I have often found comfort and inspiration from three of my favorite people, the bus drivers: Dave, Julie and Gil. These three people were part of my daily life while I was at Lower and their presence is truly felt here at Upper Campus. They always know when we are upset and are always ready with a word of encouragement and a smile.

"Mr. Titus is a man worthy of admiration. His positive attitude and energy has kept me going during some tough football. Mr. Weidlich has always been a stoic supporter during our lacrosse games. Mrs. Wilson taught me to love literature and be a better writer. When I was confused about a certain next step in my life, I found clarity in the wilderness talking to Ms. Davis and Mr. Alvarez during a camping trip. Mr. Edwards helped me keep things in perspective when I decided to take a gap year instead of going straight to college. With Mr. Cooper, I have found inspiration in our frequent morning talks where he allows me to express my sometimes far-out-there opinions. Mrs. Whipple regularly offers comfort and support and makes sure we mind our manners. We all have stories to tell about the people of OVS and how they have been significant in our lives.

"For us, it is not a question of did OVS impact us? But who at OVS pushed us to be better, to explore and to learn. There are so many amazing things about OVS but it would be nothing without the people that inhabit this place. When we look back on OVS, it is the people we will miss."

Welcome Address

"We wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the constant support and direction from parents, friends, and faculty members. Your continuing love has taken us from being freshmen to, today, graduating seniors heading off to college... This ceremony is a celebration for all of our hard work and accomplishments that we've acquired over the years, it is not a time to say goodbye, but a stepping stone to the next chapter of our lives."

Wendy Lin, (L08, U12),
Welcoming the class of 2012



Farewell Address

"We have been provided an amazing opportunity to grow in a community that has been there to teach us in every situation. We have been taught lessons in subjects inside and outside the classroom. We have been nurtured while being forced to push our limits and grow."

Evan Cooper, (L08, U12),
in his farewell address



Major Awards

WALLACE BURR AWARD

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

Serry Park

ROBERT G. COOPER AWARD

Honors the senior who has demonstrated the most growth during his or her senior year.

Jack Marcus

A. CARL KOTCHIAN AWARD

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

Evan Cooper

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.

Serry Park



Additional Awards

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

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

Philipp Vetter

Reika Kijima

Gunnar Helman

J.B. CLOSE AWARD

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

Jack Beverly

DOROTHY BURR LITERARY AWARD

This award recognizes students for their outstanding writing based on submissions of short stories and/or expository writing.

Henry Mooney

JUDY OBERLANDER POETRY AWARD

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

Aria Ellett



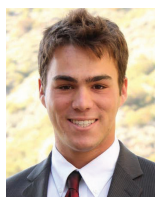
Senior Profiles

Colm Barrett



Calm, cool, and collected. That's how classmates and teachers will remember Colm. He was not one to let things get him down, and he was always able to overcome adversity. A talented athlete, he excelled in football, baseball, and his personal favorite, basketball. A born leader, he made his voice heard among his teammates. His sense of humor and charisma were contagious, and he always had strong advice for any who desired input. He was passionate about music; rarely would someone walk into his dorm room without hearing some of his favorite sounds. Colm will continue his journey next year at Santa Rosa Junior College, where he will play basketball and work toward his dream of playing for a Division I program.

Daniel Burton



The first thing you might notice about Dan is his relaxed, friendly manner. But don't mistake it for a lack of passion. Dan cares deeply about the world around him. He performed community service at an orphanage in India, befriending children so poor that they wanted only for life's bare necessities. Closer to home, he befriended all he came in contact with and quickly became a campus leader. In his senior year, he was prefect for Boney Bean Dorm and served as a key player on the football, soccer and lacrosse teams. He will be remembered for his witty personality and the rhythm and prose of his rap songs – the latter of which he used to ask his girlfriend to prom. Dan will take a year off to contemplate where his path will take him next.

Evan Cooper



Even with the daunting title of “the headmaster’s nephew,” Evan quickly emerged from the shadow of his uncle and established a name for himself in the community. Known for his witty sense of humor and his love of cars, Evan contributed to the positive vibes on campus and always found a way to make people laugh. He explored his passion for journalism, becoming editor of the student newspaper and launching its first online version. He carried his passion onto the soccer field, playing for three seasons and dedicating himself to his teammates. As vice-president of the student council, he worked with the student body to make a variety of campus improvements. Next year, he will take his leadership skills, his intellect, and his passion for political discourse to Chapman University.

Georgina “Georgie” Bridger



Georgie is a passionate, gregarious and confident young woman who brought a distinct flavor to the Ojai Valley School community. Originally from Sussex, England, her mellifluous accent and penchant for leggings with strappy sandals set her apart from the rest of the student body. In her senior year, she became Design Editor of the school newspaper, *On the Hill*, infusing the layout with style and breathing color and creativity into every issue. Along with being an accomplished student-journalist, she was also an enthusiastic horseback rider and participated in the musical, *Utopia in America*. Her smile is infectious. Bright and sincere, she added levity and humor to every setting and next year she will contribute her insight and spirit to Chapman University.

Ka Yau “Ian” Cheung



With a basketball in his hands, Ian was an artist. He played the point guard position with passion and skill on the OVS basketball team, expertly guiding his teammates’ movements on the floor. In his senior year, he helped to guide the team to a stellar 7-1 season, the squad’s best showing in years. Off the court, Ian was equally passionate about learning. His teachers praised his intellectual curiosity and his willingness to engage in classroom discussion. He was a friend to all and a full participant in all aspects of the school. A graduate of Lower and Upper campuses, he’ll head to Michigan State University to continue his academic journey in the fall.

Joanna Degroof



Going to a school in a different country can be difficult, but Joanna handled it with ease, fitting in and making friends from the start. Coming from the Bahamas her sophomore year, Joanna worked hard on the volleyball court, building her way up to the varsity team and finding a love for the sport. She also worked hard in the classroom, and, in her senior year, demonstrated her leadership skills when she was named a dorm prefect and a senior class representative. But above all, Joanna was an artist, displaying her talents in the ceramic studio and as an equestrian on the back of a horse. Next year, she will demonstrate her artistry at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles.

Chukun “Mike” Gao



Although Mike came across as shy and quiet, you would quickly realize that he was quite the opposite once you got to know him. In his three years at OVS, he grew from a reserved, introspective student to a zealous participant who realized his potential to have an impact on the community. He worked hard in the classroom, putting in extra hours to learn a language that was not his native tongue. On the basketball court, his coach called him a hard-working and inspirational athlete who brought great passion to the game. He demonstrated that same passion on the stage, strumming chords on the guitar and keeping a mean rhythm on the drums. There was no challenge too big for Mike, and his can-do attitude will serve him well next year at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Gunnar Helman



No one in the Class of 2012 attended OVS longer than Gunnar, and, arguably, no one squeezed more out of the OVS experience than he did. In his 13 years at the Lower and Upper campuses, Gunnar participated in all aspects of school life. He was a leader on the athletic fields, captaining the football, soccer, and baseball teams. And he was a leader on campus, representing the senior class on the student council. But perhaps most importantly, during his time at OVS, Gunnar was always known as a great friend, one who always looked to find the commonalities in people and make them feel welcome in the place he has called home for so long. OVS will miss his guidance and good cheer next year as he heads to Chapman University.

Xiang “Sophia” Hua



What a talent. Whether at a piano keyboard, in a student council meeting, or in the classroom, Sophia left her mark on the OVS community. She is a gifted mathematician, mastering advanced placement calculus as a sophomore. She lent her lyrical voice to the chorus, becoming a mainstay of various school productions. And she demonstrated her leadership ability in the girls' dorm and on student government, serving as weekend representative and engaging students each week with a list of weekend activities. But above all, she was a loyal friend, always ready with a quick smile and a helping hand. Sophia infused heart and soul into OVS, and now the University of California, San Diego will get to share her gifts.

Lindsey Hanselman



Lindsey has been singing her song at OVS since her freshman year, when her fun-loving personality first graced the Upper Campus. She sang with the chorus and took top honors, two years running, in the annual Battle of the Bands. An all-around athlete, she participated in lacrosse, volleyball, and soccer, and was a fierce competitor. But it was away from the stage and the sports fields where Lindsey truly made her mark. She became a strong leader as the student council public relations representative and as a prefect in the girls' dorm. She soared as a student-journalist, taking top honors at the Tri Counties Journalism Educators Assn. competition. Her strong-willed, persistent personality will be missed, and it will serve her well as she writes a new chapter of her life at Cal Lutheran University.

Mallory Holt



Mallory put the “service” in community service. As the student council's community service representative, she led the way to the Humane Society to befriend homeless animals, and she rallied students to support struggling families at Christmas and cancer survivors at the Relay for Life. Mallory played basketball and ran cross country and track. But she demonstrated her athletic prowess well beyond the OVS sports fields by completing a half marathon her junior year and full marathon the summer before her senior year. She also demonstrated her talent on stage, taking a turn as the Good Witch in the school production of the *The Wiz*. In just two years, Mallory soaked up the OVS experience. She'll take her talents and bright personality next year to Cal State University at Chico.

Reika Kijima



You've not seen true grit until you've seen Reika run. She made the best of her single year at OVS, sprinting up its steep hills and racing down its gravel trails. During the winter season, she woke before sunrise with headlamp ablaze, biking to downtown Ojai and back in time for school, then trained in the afternoon for track season. Her list of achievements is impressive. She ended her cross country season with a first place at the Mt. SAC Invitational, the largest meet in the country, and the title of Condor League Champion. In track, she won three races in league finals, set a new 800-meter record, and was named league MVP. Despite her accomplishments, Reika was always humble. She will take her playful spirit and her passion for running to Azusa Pacific University.

Senior Profiles

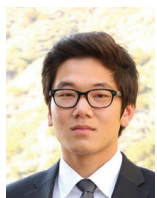
Sung Jin Kim



Ask her friends and teachers, and they will describe Sung Jin as a quiet force on campus. She is truly a unique being—stylish, random, lovable, and eclectic. Sung Jin has taken advantage of every art opportunity given to her at OVS from ceramics to photography to advanced placement art. And her dedication is impressive. This year, Sung Jin spent hours

on her AP art portfolio, working on a collection of miniature paper statues. She received accolades on her costume designs for the school musical, getting a taste of what she will be doing this upcoming year, interning under a famous Korean fashion designer. Sung Jin has blossomed into an artist and leader, and there is no doubt that she will continue to be successful.

Hyun Jae “Chris” Lee



Talk about a renaissance man. Chris was an excellent student, taking on Advanced Placement calculus and advanced placement physics, so he would be well prepared for college-level classes. But he also proved himself to be an excellent teacher, volunteering to tutor students at the Lower Campus in math and science and revealing a knack for transforming the mysterious and

complex into the simple to understand. Away from the classroom, Chris lent his soulful tenor voice to the chorus and musical productions. He was a beast on the football and soccer fields, and a blur on the track, where he medaled in several events in the Condor League Championships. His commitment to excellence and his quiet leadership will serve him well next year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mingcan “Jack” Liu



Jack could be identified by his radiant, confidence-inspiring smile that has graced the Upper Campus since his arrival his sophomore year. The campus will now seem gloomier without him. Jack was rhythm personified – a spectacular dancer, a talented guitar player, and an outstanding drummer. But he was also one of the friendliest people on campus, always

willing to help out or give a compliment. He left his mark on the athletic fields, driving the lane on the basketball court and soaring through the air in the long jump. During his senior year, he participated in four track and field events and earned two medals at the Condor League Championship. He was voted Best Dancer in the 2012 Senior Superlatives, and he will take his warmth and talent next year to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Hoi Lam “Isaac” Kwong



Ask his coaches and teachers, and they will describe Isaac as a quiet force on the OVS campus. He was an exceptional student, whether mastering mathematics or taking on the role of a key witness in Mock Trial. He was an inspiring athlete, serving as captain of the basketball team and taking on a new challenge of playing football his senior year. Isaac put his musical

ability on full display in the school chorus, and, when he wasn’t on stage, he was behind the scenes arranging stage sets and running lights. Spend just a little time with him and you would come to see that he embodies the notion that leadership is best demonstrated by deeds, not by words. Next year, he’ll put those leadership abilities to use at Michigan State University.

Chia Yi “Wendy” Lin



Wendy’s light-hearted personality and ability to always make people laugh distinguished her among her peers. They also knew her for her many leadership roles, including prefect, yearbook editor, and secretary of student council. She worked countless hours to perfect page layouts for the yearbook. And she worked equally hard backstage for this year’s musical *Utopia in*

America, perfecting makeup for each actor and actress. Her own wardrobe was practically a work of art, and she seldom wore the same outfit twice. On the field, she became an aggressor in soccer and lacrosse games. In the arena, she dedicated herself to riding and taking care of horses. After years of perseverance, she was accepted into her top-choice college – Northeastern University in Boston.

Jack Marcus



Learning for the sake of learning. That sums up Jack’s OVS experience. He was curious about all things and passionate about many, a deep thinker and an unflinching advocate for causes he cared about. As an award-winning student journalist, he distinguished himself as a writer of clear thought and keen intellect.

As a lead prosecuting attorney in the Mock Trial, he set a high bar with his rigorous investigation and razor-sharp questioning. Jack was a leader outside of the classroom as well, helping inexperienced campers in the outdoors and playing football and lacrosse. Jack threw himself headlong into everything he did, so much so that he earned the Robert G. Cooper Award, which honors the senior who has demonstrated the most growth. Jack will pursue his true passion next year at the National Outdoor Leadership School.

Henry Mooney



Whether he was barreling toward the goal in a lacrosse game, donning his “Tea Lady” garb for a school production, or raising money to prevent the enslavement of child soldiers in Africa, there is no question that Henry was a powerful force on campus. He set school records for goal scoring on the lacrosse field, and he proved himself a potent fundraiser when, moved by the stories of Uganda’s “Invisible Children,” he single-handedly set out to sell t-shirts and stage an evening of improvisational comedy to raise money for the cause. Henry’s determination also transferred to the classroom. He established himself as an Honor student and earned the coveted Dorothy Burr Literary Award to cap his senior year. Next year, he will take his talent and quick wit to Stony Brook University in New York.

Maximilian “Max” Pacholski



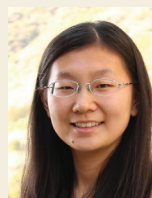
View the world through the lens of Max’s camera, and you will find a planet filled with beauty and worthy of exploration. He is an artist in motion, transforming the ordinary and mundane into things of beauty. In his senior year, he lent his talents in to the journalism program, signing on as chief photographer and putting his stamp on school publications. And he was a standout on the soccer field, playing the game with equal parts power and grace. Above all, Max was a friend to all, always willing to lend a hand and never having to be asked to do so. Over the next year, he will train his lens on subjects all over the world, pursuing the thing about which he is most passionate.

Serry Park



Serry was one of Ojai Valley School’s most accomplished student-leaders. She took seven advanced placement courses, participated in every musical, ran cross country and track, played on the girls’ soccer team, won the Ventura County Star Scholar award, and served as a tutor and AP mentor. She also is a talented singer, and a gifted pianist and artist. She served as the 2011-12 student council president and took her job seriously, making concerted efforts to improve the quality of life on campus. In May, she acted as a student leader for the Relay for Life, encouraging students and faculty to donate money to battle cancer. Serry’s warmth, positive attitude, and vibrant personality shone through in everything she did, and now it will sparkle at Wellesley College near Boston where she will attend on a full scholarship.

Yekun Qin



If you go by first impressions, then you would think that Yekun is very quiet and painfully shy. But understand that first impressions can be deceiving, and that beneath Yekun’s serene exterior is a student of tremendous passion and talent. The senior class voted her “most studious,” and that speaks to her work ethic and commitment to academic excellence. But there’s the other side to Yekun. As a junior, she ran track for the first time, completed every workout without complaint and ran every race as hard as she could. In that way, she came to demonstrate what we all grew to learn about Yekun – she is tough, both mentally and physically. Those values will serve her well at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Gavin Silver



It’s not always easy to step up and become a part of something you’ve never done before, but, during his senior year, Gavin joined two new sports teams. While he came to OVS as a dedicated equestrian, he ended up playing tight end for the football team and served as a defender in lacrosse, making great contributions that helped both teams achieve success. As a lead defense attorney in the annual Mock Trial competition for the Law and Society class, Gavin distinguished himself with clear and concise questioning. He was voted “best attorney” by the students and teachers who made up the jury. Gavin’s lively and enthusiastic personality will be missed as he sets off on new adventures at Menlo College.





Lower Campus Graduation

Outgoing Headmaster Dr. Andrew Hamilton addresses eighth grade graduates

“It has been a treat to watch these eighth-graders come together as a class this year. Starting with a trip to the Kern River where you swam together, performed skits, and participated in activities to build trust with each other; then onto Jamestown and Washington D.C., where you traveled together and explored this country’s history; the challenging class hike that took you together up to Lookout Laura and back, and then on to campus performances, where so many of you shined, such as Campus Lighting, horse shows, recitals, sports games, and the unforgettable Middle School performance of *South Pacific*. You have entertained, inspired and impressed us with your talents, and we thank you for your efforts.

“We have been together since many of you were in fourth grade. I have truly loved watching you all grow into young men and women. You have inspired me and entertained me. You have proven yourselves as middle school students,

and now it is time for you to move on to high school. You are ready for that next big step.

“To quote one of my favorite musical poets:

*May your hands always be busy,
May your feet always be swift,
May you have a strong foundation
When the winds of changes shift;
May your heart always be joyful,
And may your song always be sung,
May you stay forever young.*

“I’m proud of you, I will miss each of you, and I wish you the best of luck in high school and beyond.”



President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey thanking Dr. Andrew Hamilton for his service to OVS

Major Awards

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

The highest honor OVS gives a graduating eighth-grader.

Keller Mochel

HEADMASTER'S AWARD

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

Emma Herzig

Peter Marcus

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.

Bella Jenkins

Victor Yen

PAUL PITTMAN AWARD

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

Emma Herzig

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.

Keller Mochel

MICHAEL D. HERMES AWARD

Given to the most outstanding eighth grade student-athletes.

Erin Rush

Davis Smith



New Beginnings

Incoming Head of School, Karen Morse, addresses graduates

"It's so special to be here today and to begin my time officially on your day of commencement. To 'commence' means to begin. It will be fun to think of you beginning new things just as I, too, am beginning new things here.

"I haven't had the pleasure of getting to know this group of eighth graders, but from everything I hear about you, it is most certainly my loss. I know your teachers hope you will come back often. I offer you my personal invitation to do the same. When you do, come by and say hello to me, too, and we can get to know one another.

"In the meantime, I offer two very brief bits of advice:

"First, take care. You'll hear people say that to you a lot. You probably already

say it yourself. What I mean is: Take care of yourself; take care of your stuff; take care of your team.

"Second, I offer you the same advice that college students at Tufts Medical School heard at one of the shortest commencement speeches ever. The speaker wanted to give advice to the graduating class to persevere and make wise decisions. When he was trying to think of what to say for his speech, the idea came to him one day when he opened his refrigerator. He found all the words that were needed right there on a mayonnaise jar.

"The instructions were: 'Keep cool. Do not freeze.'"



OVS Welcomes New Head of Lower Campus

by Elizabeth (Curran) Hermes (L66, U69)

It may be the Scandinavian ancestry they share, but Karen Morse, the newly appointed Head of School at Lower Campus, bears an uncanny resemblance to Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen, the beloved first headmistress of Ojai Valley School. But Mrs. Morse's connection with the early days of our school is far more than skin deep. Long before she had ever heard of the Ojai Valley School, Mrs. Morse penned an educational philosophy that is in strikingly close synch with the visionary tenets OVS founder Ed (Ned) Yeomans set down in print a century ago.

"Those who founded OVS had a profound understanding of the process of learning that has been embraced by far too few and is only now being more widely recognized as best practice in our country," observes Mrs. Morse. "Children haven't changed so much in the last century, but our understanding of them has, and researchers have proven in their studies what Edward Yeomans and his colleagues understood a century ago."

Mrs. Morse's background as an educator and an administrator is impressive. She earned a B.A. in Child Development from Whittier College and an M.A. in Gifted Education from Cal State Los Angeles. Since 1983, she has taught in both public and independent schools and developed curriculum for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade classes.

Her particular expertise involves working with gifted students. She has served as an educational consultant for that highly

specialized population. She has also worked in admissions, public relations, and administration, most recently as Head of Fox River Country Day School in Elgin, Illinois.

Due to her expertise in gifted education and her convictions about increasing differentiated instruction in schools, she

whereof she speaks. Under her leadership, Fox River was named a 2011 State School of Character and National Finalist by the Character Education Partnership in Washington D.C.

Mrs. Morse points out that, as researchers have confirmed, "character education in schools—the intentional effort to support and develop in young people core ethical and performance values—is what most significantly impacts schools' culture, increases achievement for all learners, develops global citizens, and restores civility in communities."

Another important feature that distinguished the program at Fox River under her tenure was the focus on differentiation: adjusting the curriculum by content, process, and product to best accommodate each child's academic level and needs. That child-centered approach—keeping each student both supported academically as well as challenged appropriately—is what the faculty at OVS have always striven to provide. Her experience and expertise in this area makes her ideally suited to guide our teachers in their quest to reach every single OVS student in a meaningful and productive way.



has been a sought-after speaker at local, state, and national conferences.

One of the aspects of the Ojai Valley School that strongly attracted her from the outset was our emphasis on character growth and values. She notes, "Character development isn't merely a program at OVS; it is the OVS culture." That's high praise from someone who clearly knows

She enjoys downhill skiing and loves "anything to do with water." She looks forward to becoming reacquainted with the mountains now that she's back from the Midwest. Her hobbies also include reading, walking, cooking, traveling, musical theater, and British comedy. "Most of all,"

(continued on page 15)

New Head of Lower

(continued)

she says, "I love doing anything with my children. Now, with two young adults in the family, I cherish the rare times when we are all together."

Mrs. Morse and her husband, Ray, have three children, the oldest of whom, Tyler, is 23 and just graduated from college with degrees in journalism and political science. His sister, Hilary, 21, will be a college senior this fall, focusing on English and Theatre. Andrew, 10, loves all things relating to nature, water, and the environment. He will be an OVS fifth-grader in the fall and the prospects are good that he'll become an enthusiastic participant in the outdoor program.

Ray Morse is a project manager for Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC). He telecommunicates each day on a Central Time Zone schedule. Typical projects include simulating disaster recovery operations, performing audits of datacenter operations, and planning the implementation of new technology that will speed the transfer of data across the United States.

Added to her stellar qualifications for the job, Mrs. Morse has that rarest of all attributes, what Founder Yeomans characterized as "intelligence of the heart." It was a quality he recognized in her look-alike predecessor, Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen, and one that is apparent in Mrs. Morse herself. "We are truly fortunate to have such a talented and effective leader at the helm," stated OVS President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey. "Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Mrs. Morse and to her family."

Profile:

Shelley Hermes

by Elizabeth (Curran) Hermes (L66, U69)



Wrapping up a twenty-three year teaching career at OVS, Shelley Hermes (U77) has moved on. Quite a distance on.

Fulfilling a dream she's had for many years, Shelley has taken a job teaching English as a Second Language in Seoul, Korea. She is currently teaching 644 students [not a typo]—all of the sixth grade and half of the fifth—at a huge elementary school located at the northern end of Seoul. Her apartment is near the mountains and within walking distance of some local trails, but her hectic schedule (she sometimes teaches 23 lessons in one day!) has not as yet allowed her the leisure to explore them. Some of our Korean alums in Seoul have been gracious and helpful to Shelley as she has made this transition to her new home.

But her roots will always and unchangeably be at the Ojai Valley School.

Shelley first came to live at OVS when she was three years old, her parents having been hired as the first dorm parents at the fledgling Upper Campus. That campus was Shelley's home and playground until she was eight. Her next connection with the school was as a high school student. By then, her dad had been appointed OVS president. In the early '80s, she worked

at the OVS summer camp. And then, a dozen years after she had graduated from the school, Shelley returned to OVS to teach third grade. Since 2003, she has taught the fifth grade. She has also served as coordinator of the elementary program for the last 12 years.

Her contributions to the Lower Campus program have been many and varied. They include coaching soccer, taking backpacking trips, teaching quilting, instituting the Cornell University Feederwatch Program, and introducing OVS students to exotic reptiles (she has owned two iguanas). Shelley loved taking OVS students to Korea Town and started the popular tradition of Asia Town Trips in Los Angeles.

Her interest in Asia has deepened over the years, spurred in large part by the relationships she developed with so many of the OVS students from that region. In the early '90s, she served as an ambassador teacher at a rural school in China. Her travels subsequently took her to Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and, every other summer for the past several years, to Korea.

To her former students, Ms. Hermes' relocating there makes perfect sense. Her classroom reflected her love of Korea, and she enthusiastically introduced her students to aspects of the culture: from the food, to the music, to the customs, to anime, Jackie Chan films, Totoro...

At June 6th's Elementary Promotion Ceremony, President Mike Hall-Mounsey expressed the school's appreciation to Shelley for the great impact she has had over the years. "Shelley is an extraordinary teacher and friend to all OVS students," he said. "Her enthusiasm has made learning fun for all who have known her. To say we will miss Ms. Hermes is an understatement."

We wish Shelley the best as she adjusts to her exciting new life. She will always feel her roots here at OVS. We hope she visits often!

Tiana Coudray

OVS alumna Tiana Coudray (L02, U06) fulfilled a lifelong dream as she and her horse, Ringwood Magister, competed in the 2012 Olympics in London as members of the U.S. Eventing Team.

“To go to the Olympics is something that I’ve been imagining for as long as I can remember, but to realize that dream is beyond words,” Tiana wrote in an email to OVS President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey before the games. “I am excited, nervous, and still in disbelief, but the outpouring of support from friends old and new has been so encouraging.”



The Olympic competition in eventing, which includes the disciplines of dressage, cross country, and stadium jumping, was scheduled for July 28, 29, 30 and 31. As *Family Tree* went to press, Tiana was checking into the Olympic venue at Greenwich Park.

At 23, she was the youngest member of the eventing team. She began riding in the third grade at OVS, honed her skills on various horses through middle and high school, and qualified for the U.S. team on her talented steel-gray Irish Sport Horse, who goes by the nickname “Finn.”



Former OVS Equestrian Director Terry Wilson, who taught Tiana, said she knew she would make the Olympics some day. She just didn’t expect it to happen so soon.

“It is amazing that she is so young and at this point,” Mrs. Wilson said. “But she is so determined, and she is such a competitor – and she’s so hard working.”



Michael D. Hermes Scholarship Recipients

Earlier this year, two very deserving students were selected as the first recipients of the Michael D. Hermes Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 each.

Ally Feiss and Davis Smith were named the winners of the inaugural scholarships. Generously supported by the OVS Annual Fund, these scholarships were created in honor of former OVS President Michael D. Hermes (L53). The scholarships benefit well-rounded day or resident students at the Upper Campus who exemplify Mike’s commitment to character, community, scholarship, athleticism, and leadership.

Ally is a 4.0 student who will be attending Upper Campus as a freshman this fall. She is a student-athlete, musically inclined,

and academically strong. She was recently chosen to be a member of the Ojai Valley All-Star Soccer Team. At the age of six, she began Taekwondo; three years later she became an instructor. After six years, she achieved the highest rank possible for her age group: 3rd Degree Black Belt - Level II.



Davis has been attending OVS since kindergarten and will continue his studies at the Upper Campus this fall. Davis truly exemplifies Mike’s legacy of scholarship, athleticism, love for the outdoors, and commitment to community. Davis is an avid traveler and has ventured around the world to gain knowledge about other cultures and environments in which people live. To date, he has traveled to 14 countries!

We are honored to have these two remarkable students who understand the OVS experience. We trust that their passion for education will continue to inspire those around them.



A special thank you to our 2011-2012 Annual Fund Donors and Volunteers!

The Annual Fund is Ojai Valley School's most important fundraising endeavor, supporting every student, faculty member, program and facility. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated!

A few examples of what the Annual Fund helps to provide:

- The Michael D. Hermes Memorial Scholarships which offer two awards to well-rounded day or resident applicants or current students who exemplify Mike's commitment to character, community, scholarship, athleticism, and leadership
- The Yearbook Preservation Project: OVS scanned its entire collection of yearbooks for preservation and these images have been made available online
- The Faculty Enrichment Grant, which provides faculty the opportunity to travel, bringing their excitement, experiences, and knowledge back to the classroom
- Classroom enhancements, technology upgrades, and teaching tools to support the school's exceptional programs
- Campus beautification and facility improvements

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 Liza Jo Cass White (L61)
 Susan Roberts White (L61)
 Helayne and Ronald White
 Dana White
 Penelope Whitford
 Margaret and Brian Whitney
 Jenny (L87) and Taylor Whitsitt
 Jay Wilmer (L58)
 William Wilmer (L55)
 Terry Wilson
 Chris Winkler (U88)
 Karen and Al Wintringham
 John Wood (L29)
 Claudia Christensen
 Wunderlich (L66, U69)
 Jonathan Wygant (L63)
 Lijuan and Yonggen Yan
 Navid Yavari (U83)
 William Yin (U73)
 Cathy Wilmer Yonts (U88)
 James David Zellerbach III (L56)
 Jetta and Darren Zellner
 Amber and Pin Zhang
 Mei Li and Xiao Bo Zhang
 Yan Xu and Yiping Zhao

Academic Highlights



Ventura County Star Scholar

Senior Serry Park (L08, U12) was named the 29th annual Ventura County Star Scholar and awarded a \$5,000 scholarship in April. Serry, the student body president and a top scholar at Upper Campus, was one of 87 students countywide nominated by their high schools for the scholarship. The candidates were asked to write a personal essay about challenges they have overcome, and a panel of judges chose one student to receive the award. Serry plans to use the scholarship toward her tuition at Wellesley College.



Ventura County Science Fair Standouts

OVS middle school students dominated at the Ventura County Science Fair in March, walking away with top awards for projects in the fields of physics, zoology, botany, product science, and engineering. Eight students were recognized for their outstanding projects, and six were invited to present at the two-day California State Science Fair in Los Angeles. Eighth-grader Erin Rush (L12) (photo at left) went on to place second in the state event. In addition to Erin, this year's science fair standouts were: Cici Pan (L12), Ever Avary (L12), Bridget Levy (L13), Lisa Redko (L12), Patrick Prestridge (L12), Michael Martinson (L13) and Jay Inman (L13).



Journalism Awards

The journalism class took home five awards in the Tri-County Journalism Educators Association Competition in May. More than 130 students from 15 high schools in three counties competed. Senior Jack Marcus (L08, U12) and sophomore Emmy Addison (L10, U14) claimed second place in the News and Features categories. Senior Lindsey Hanselman earned an honorable mention in Features. With only seven writers and one photographer, the Spuds outperformed their peers from much larger journalism programs. A week after the tri-county event, students John Olivo (U13), Jack Marcus (L08, U12) and Evan Cooper (L08, U12) won additional awards at the Ventura County Star journalism competition.



Super Speller

Seventh-grader Karen Martinson represented OVS at the Ventura County Spelling Bee in March and showed her spelling prowess by finishing fifth among a field of 136 students. Karen advanced to the final rounds after running a spelling gauntlet that included a one-hour written test, followed by the traditional bee in which students spelled words out loud before a packed audience at Cal State University Channel Islands. After five hours of competition, Karen was tripped up by the word "tierer," a nautical term with a French derivation.

Sports Highlights



Boys' Basketball

The boys' basketball team at the Upper Campus had its strongest showing in years, going 7-1 and closing the season with a hard-fought victory over rival Thacher School. Junior Philipp Vetter (U13) was a mainstay on defense all season while senior Colm Barrett (U12) carried a big part of the offensive load, infusing energy and athleticism into the Spuds' play. Seniors Ian Cheung (L08, U12), Isaac Kwong (L08, U12) and Mike Gao (U12) also contributed meaningful minutes to the OVS squad, which has laid a solid foundation on which to build for the future.



Track

Senior Reika Kijima (U12) wrapped up a stellar high school running career by advancing to the CIF track and field finals in the 1600-meter run. It was the perfect cap to a track season in which she was named the Condor League MVP after winning three individual first-place medals, in the 800-, 1600- and 3200- meter runs, at the league final. In that meet, Reika broke the Condor League record, set in 1998, for 800 meters. Reika was among three seniors honored with the OVS Sportsmanship Award. She will run cross country and track at Azusa Pacific University next year.



Boys' Soccer

Add CAL League champs to a long list of accomplishments this season by the boys' soccer team at the Lower Campus. The Spuds went undefeated in league play and clinched their perfect season with a 5-0 victory over rival Laguna Blanca. The win was emblematic of the OVS season, as the Spuds only allowed four goals the entire season thanks to a stalwart defense and stellar goalkeeping by eighth-grader Keller Mochel (L12). Eighth-grader Davis Smith (L12) led the Spuds offensive attack, scoring an outstanding 16 goals during the season.



Girls' Basketball

Call the Lower Campus Title Town USA. Girls' basketball earned back-to-back CAL League titles with an undefeated regular season and a perfect run through tournament play. The middle school team finished 8-0 on the season, and then took out St. Raphael and Laguna Blanca in the CAL tournament. Eighth-grader Georgia Ballou (L12) was named MVP of the league and tournament, while sister Gracie Ballou (L14) and eighth-grader Erin Rush (L12) were named to the all-tournament team. Sixth-graders Emily Burns (L14) and Sarah Finch (L14) were also acknowledged for their solid on-the-ball defense.

Founder's Alumni Award

The goal of the OVS Founder's Alumni Award is to honor an alumna/us whose extraordinary achievements exemplify the principles and values of Ojai Valley School.

This year's recipient, Barbara B. Smith, Class of 1935, went on to graduate as the valedictorian of her Nordhoff class, receive her bachelor's from Pomona College, and her Master's degree from Eastman School of Music. She was later awarded an Honorary Doctoral degree from Pomona College.

Her longest teaching post was the University of Hawai'i, starting in 1949, when Hawai'i was not yet a state. She was bestowed the title of Professor Emeritus in 1982. And, in 2006, the University dedicated the wing of the Music Building Complex in her honor.

Her honors are truly too numerous, and she is rather modest about them altogether if one requests the complete list. But what most sets her apart is her pioneering role in the world of ethnomusicology at a time when the term "ethnomusicology" had not yet been coined.

While teaching at the University of Hawai'i, Barbara began to ask her students about music of their ancestral heritages, mostly Asian and Hawaiian cultures. She was disappointed when these students told her they knew nothing about it, and she

was quite concerned when some referred their musical heritage disparagingly. She made a quest to seek out examples of non-western music and to cultivate an understanding.

In the process, Barbara learned Iwakuni-style Bon Dance drumming, attracting

in Culture, Art and Humanities honored Barbara for her "...outstanding lifetime contributions as a pioneer, mentor and founder in the field of ethnomusicology" and recognized her as one "whose knowledge, commitment and vision have nourished and perpetuated the cultural enrichment of Hawai'i..."

Barbara has established non-western music endowments at many schools, OVS among them, to ensure the music curriculum was broadened to include the rich ethnic possibilities.

When informed she would be the recipient of the Founder's Alumni Award, Barbara was delighted and warmly expressed her appreciation for her alma mater, observing:

"...my years as a student at the Ojai Valley School helped prepare me for what became an unexpectedly stimulating and intellectually rewarding career. It was not the result of the subject matter of the classes, but rather my teachers' encouragement to be more perceptive, to analyze problems I found and determine how to eliminate or at least alleviate them, and then through controlling and channeling my stubborn streak, to have the confidence to act on my resultant convictions. So I am deeply indebted to the School for what has been – and continues to be – an exceptionally happy life."



OVS Trustee Spencer Garrett (L62, U65) with the 2012 Founder's Alumni Award recipient Barbara Smith (L35).

attention as both the first female and first Caucasian performer. She introduced ethnic music performance classes into the University of Hawai'i's music curriculum, initially Hawaiian chant and Japanese koto. The 2008 State of Hawai'i's Governor's Award for Distinguished Achievement

Ojai Valley School Founder's Alumni Award

Deadline for nominations: January 31, 2013

Nominations are welcomed and encouraged. The final selection will be made by the President, after consultation with the Founder's Alumni Award Committee and Heads of School. The Founder's Alumni Award will be presented at the Alumni Weekend Celebration on the evening of June 15, 2013.

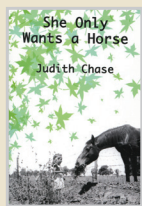
Mail to OVS Alumni Office, 723 El Paseo Road, Ojai, CA 93023 or email alumni@ovs.org

Alumni Showcase

Publications by OVS Family and Friends

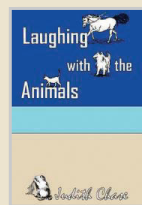
OVS is honored to showcase and celebrate the literary contributions made by individuals within the OVS community. Thank you to those alumni and families who submitted their publications for this feature. All of the books listed below are available on Amazon.com.

Future Alumni Showcase features are in the planning stages to highlight alumni's accomplishments in music, visual arts, sports, history, filmmaking, science, community service, and more. Send an email at alumni@ovs.org to let OVS know what you are up to.



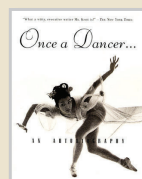
She Only Wants a Horse
by Judith Parker Chase (L35)
(Bramblewood Press, LLC, 2007)

"Chase weaves together stories from her life to give readers hope and happiness. Her stories show the joys of the simple life and the charm and value that families and animals bring. *She Only Wants a Horse* abounds with love and laughter, and stands a testament to the powers of hard work and a little fun."



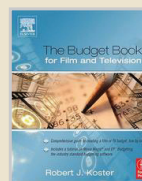
Laughing with the Animals
by Judith Parker Chase (L35)
(Bramblewood Press, LLC, 2007)

"Following the success of *She Only Wants a Horse*, Judith Chase has once more captured the magic and humor of life on a farm. We come to the scene exactly where the previous book left off, as Dan and Judy arrive for the first time on a wonderful new ranch. Every page of this book is packed with charm, wisdom, and good old fashioned country humor."



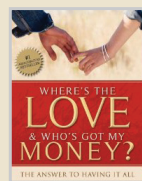
Once a Dancer...
by Allegra Kent (L51)
(St. Martin's Press, New York, 1997)

"Allegra Kent joined the New York City Ballet at the age of fifteen and, only two years later, inspired Balanchine's unforgettable *The Unanswered Question*. Beautiful, sensuous, and mysterious, she quickly became an essential Balanchine dancer and the story of her personal life is as dramatic as the story of her rise to fame."



The Budget Book for Film and Television
by Bob Koster (L53)
(Second Edition, Focal Press, 2004)

"This guidebook is intended to help both the novice and the experienced producer to create and fine-tune their budgets. This book is a useful reference for independent filmmakers who depend on accurate, easy-to-understand budgeting methods to seek funding for their projects."



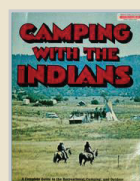
Where's the Love and Who's Got My Money?
by Jeri Land Walz (L63)
(Tag Publishing LLC, 2012)

"Jeri Walz encourages readers to challenge the beliefs that were poured into them when they were children and consider if these beliefs are a support or hindrance to their life's journey. Jeri guides her readers to discover their highest strength and most authentic self."



Nature's Dirty Needle
by Mara Williams (L66, U69)
(Bush Street Press, 2011)

"*Nature's Dirty Needle* describes Chronic Lyme Disease, the different co-infections, what the symptoms are, how to recognize them, and, finally, how best to get help. Personal stories tell the tales of finding the right providers, getting correct diagnoses, and treatments. The politics surrounding Lyme Disease and the lack of support and poor information from the current health care system are described."



Camping With The Indians
co-authored by Michael Katz (U65)
(Sherbourne Press, 1974)

"*Camping With The Indians* shares what you'll find, what to see, when to see it, how to get there (maps included) what to do when you arrive, how much it will cost and fascinating facts about the rich cultural heritage of the Indians you'll meet."



Daughters of India: Art and Identity
by Stephen Huyler (L66)
(NY: Abbeville, 2008)

"*Daughters Of India* is a series of stories of twenty women from individual communities spread throughout India. These diverse women are united by the strength of their spirits and their determination to improve their lives and those of their children. The varied forms of their creative expression provide graphic windows into their lives. The women convey an evocative integrity as they directly meet the challenges of the twenty first century."



Meeting God: Elements of Hindu Devotion
by Stephen Huyler (L66)
(New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999)

"This volume seeks to enable western readers to witness the devotional practices of the Hindu people. It features photographs documenting the spirituality of common men and women in India, accompanied by definitions, descriptions and stories of Hindu individuals at worship."

Pons & Alumni Games



Pons Dinner Celebration

Every year in May, the Lower Campus hosts Pons Dinner, a reunion event for recent Lower Campus graduates attending high school. The word “Pons” comes from the Latin word for “bridge,” and the purpose of the gathering is to create a link from class to class, enabling the younger students to learn from the experiences of those who have already graduated and offering an opportunity for the older students to remember where they’ve been.

Senior Jack Marcus (L08, U12), who has attended OVS since kindergarten, told the group that OVS was essential to his growth as a student and as a person. “I credit my time at OVS with shaping who I am today and with leading me to the choices I have made up to this point.” A special “thank you” to Art Gutierrez (L91, U95) for serving as the featured alumni speaker.



Alumni Baseball

In April, the Upper Campus baseball team earned a come-from-behind victory against OVS alums from the past four decades. Headmaster Carl Cooper reflected on the competition afterwards, saying of the alumni team, “What was lost in age was gained in courage.” Mr. Cooper said of the alumni team. Coach Craig Floyd (U83), who played with the alums, also reflected on the positive turnout for the game. “It was great to see alums ranging from the 80s through the current day,” he said. “We look forward to further alumni sporting events to bridge the years together.”



Alumni Lacrosse

In late May, alums returned to Lower Campus for a spirited game honoring the late Bryan “Bingo” Caldwell (L90, U94), a beloved alumnus particularly devoted to lacrosse. The game was pronounced a tie at 12 to 12, and the rivalry will continue...

Alumni Weekend



Terri Lang (U82), Bryan Dinkins (U82), Susan Scoggin Billups (U82), Vahid Jafroodi (U82), Mar Linda Ruffoni Perez (L78, U82), Monya Graham Manning (U82), Julia Ann Moore (U82)



Gary Dinkins, a member of the Founder's Alumni Award Committee, and 43-year OVS faculty member, announces the 2012 Founder's Alumni Award recipient



1970s alum group: Randy Devoli (L69, U72), Cliff Martinez (U72), Suzanne Alexander (U72), Jody Berger Cooper (L71, U74), Mary Ann Gilman (L69, U72), Monica Boggs Casey (L70, U73), Eric Caidin (U71), Rory O'Connor (U72), Alison Jones Woods (L69, U72), Rick Huber (U72), Bill Burke (U73), Felicity Van Runkle (L69, U72), Joey McKinney (L70, U73), Neil Marcus (L68, U71), Kenan Block (L69, U72), Carole Ekker (U71), Andrea Hennessy (U72), Bobby Horiuchi (U71), Melissa Blackmer Thyoneus (U71), Michi Thacker (U72)



Former and present staff members: Laurinda McClenahan (L84, U88), Judy Oberlander; Lisa Boyd, Michael Hall-Mounsey, Linda Vidler; John Wickenhaeuser, Mike Taggart, Jane McClenahan, Carol Hall-Mounsey, Craig Floyd (U83), John McClenahan, Bernadette DiPietro, Stephen Bartlett, Carl Cooper (L64, U68), Jody Berger Cooper (L71, U74), Erika Coble Coolman, John Boyd, Terry Wilson, Eleanora Burright, Rose Chávez Boggs, Karen Morse



Chia Sage Hersk (L88, U92), Chris Lux, Courtney Atinsky (U92), Susan Nagaoka Lux (U92)



Michele Whipple Floyd (L84) and Brittany Whipple (L02, U06)



(Left) Rick Huber (U72), Bill Burke (U73), Alison Jones Woods (L69, U72), Joey McKinney (L70, U73), Cliff Martinez (U72)



Standing: Weber Wang (L83, U87), Ariyana Kim, Mohi Khairandish (L77, U81), Doug Henshel (L77, U81), Quinn McKinney, Kenan Block (L69, U72), Joey McKinney (L70, U73), Carl Cooper (L64, U68), Michael J. Hall-Mounsey, Tom Rowland (U75), Bill Burke (U73), Roger Wang (L87, U91). Kneeling: Artin Kim, Megan and Lauryn Wang, Rahil Khairandish Kim (U80), Ethan Wang, Josh Henshel, Jeremy and Jacob McCluskey, Ben Wang



Reverend Tinsley Stetson, Nancy Nutting Stetson (L62), Randy Devoli (L69, U72), Robin Devoli, Caitlin Black (L97) and Andy Ross take the horses out on Pi Trail



The "ground crew" assists alums on the ropes course



Hank treating the kids to pony rides in the arena



Hikers cross the creek on the way to White Rocks in the Sespe



Carl Cooper (L64, U68), Spencer Garrett (L62, U65), Chuck Whipple (L64, U67), Roxie Brophy (L64, U67), Bob Ferguson (L64, U67), Craig Christensen (L64, U67), René Pon Tell Briggs (U68)



Rose Chávez Boggs & Monica Boggs Casey (L70, U73)



Nicole Gartrell Ferro (L96), Gracie Gartrell (L04), Gary and Linda Gartrell



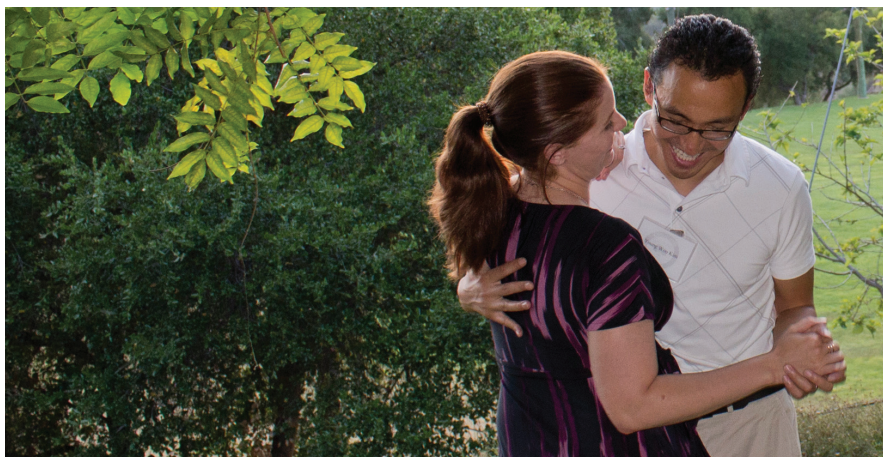
Bryan White (L77, U81), Karen Rascoe Farmer, (L77, U81), and Marina Ruggles Wachter (L77, U81) get a laugh out of an old yearbook.



Tony McHale (L79) and former woodshop teacher Stephen Bartlett reminisce over some pictures.



Kari Cox, James Cox (U02), Lisa Boyd, James Wickenhaeuser (U10), and John Boyd enjoy the evening event.



Wendy Lires Kim (L95, U99) with husband Youngwoo



President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey

Save these Dates!

Alumni Weekend, 2013

Next year's Alumni Weekend will be held **June 14-16** at the Lower Campus. Classes ending in "3" and "8" will also be celebrating reunions, but as always, all OVS alumni are invited and welcomed.

Help to make your reunion a smashing success by encouraging your classmates to attend. To learn more about becoming a Class Agent, contact Malory Taylor, OVS Alumni Coordinator, at mtaylor@ovs.org or (805) 640-2578.

Alumni Notes

Lower 1942

Anne (Witwer) Busterud sends her schoolmates greetings and adds, "I hope that you're enjoying life and that you're all well."

Lower 1950

Michael Fles was sorry he couldn't make it to OVS's centennial celebration, but he sent greetings from his home in Trinidad, CA, and let us know he recently took part in what was termed as a "Sound Meditation Vernal Equinox" event. (Michael is a master of percussion instruments; he plays gongs, cymbals, hankdrum, and shakahachi.)

OVS was saddened to learn that **Charles Casey** passed away in early April, 2012.

Lower 1953

Anne Thacher became Mrs. Stephen Bruenn on September 9, 2011. The marriage ceremony took place at the beautiful Santa Barbara County Courthouse gardens.

Film history professor **Bob Koster**, son of veteran director Henry Koster (*Three Smart Girls*, *The Robe*, *My Cousin Rachel*) appeared at the TCM Classic Film Festival and commented on behind-the-scenes footage his father shot of two Margaret O'Brien films he made for MGM: 1944's *Music for Millions* and 1947's *The Unfinished Dance*.

"The event was lovely," reported Bob. "I spoke for a while about Dad's home movies and career, as I did twice before for the Academy. They have always been interested. We saw home movies from my father, as well as from William Randolph Hearst, Fred MacMurray, and Steve McQueen. All fascinating.

"I am still lecturing on media history at CSUCI and anywhere else that will pay me," adds Bob.

OVS was saddened to learn that **Toni (De Lee) Stovall** passed away on March 7, 2012.

Lower 1957

Heartfelt condolences go out to **Jerri (Stagg) Beatty**, who is trying to come to terms with losing her daughter in November of 2011. Jerri adopted her grandson last year.

She sends her love and says she spent the best years of her life at OVS. She is delighted that a woman has been appointed head of the Lower Campus.

Teri (Drummond) Cahill (see In Memoriam)

Lower 1958

We were delighted **Marina (Fistoulari) Mahler** visited the Lower Campus this spring. She toured the campus and reminisced with President Mike Hall-Mounsey about teachers, camp trips, and life as a boarding student in the 1950s. Marina generously funds The Marina Fistoulari Mahler Scholarship in honor of former OVS teacher Otis Wickenhaeuser. She was visiting California on behalf of the Anna Mahler International Association. For more information visit anna-mahler.com.



"A few years back I joked I'd probably be working until I'm 80," writes **Joyce Murray**. "Well, I'm still working harder than ever, no retirement in sight. I love my job as an occupational therapist for mostly seniors. What a treasure we have in these people! I still have a few friends left and so enjoyed attending the Centennial Celebration as well as Mike Hermes' memorial. My friends at OVS are easy to be with, like family, or even better."

OVS regrets to report that **Richard Siegel** passed away on September 8, 2011.

Lower 1959

We were pleased to hear from **Mark Beales**, who writes, "Reading about Judy Teague Kenyon 'In Memoriam' in the Spring, 2012, issue of *Alumni Notes* brings back memories of the summer days spent at Plantation Camp near Fort Ross, where Judy attended, as did other OVS alums including Perky Raymond, Susie Cooper, and Sherman Herrick, to name a few. Mike Burr, Wally Burr's son, was a counselor for 'tent town' back then. Many years have passed since those days, but Susie Cooper and I reminisced about Plantation at last year's Alumni Day. We wonder where the others have gone and what they are doing. It would be great if former 'Plantation' alums would contact the OVS alumni office to let them know their whereabouts."

Lower 1960

Victoria Arguello Harris sent in this update: "Still happy in Santa Rosa. No more chemo or radiation for...? Taking joy in each day and loving my animals! I horse camp on Point Reyes when I can. Not being busy with appointments is good! My sister, **Chris Harris** (went on to OVS Upper), is back in L.A. "Wishing everyone health and joy."

Oren "Chip" Taft stopped by the Lower Campus in February. Chip works as a Safety Manager and Captain for Mountain Aviation in Broomfield and lives in Boulder, CO.



Julie Two (Cass) Seuss (see In Memoriam)

Lower 1961

Susan (Crawford) Engle sent in this update: "My daughter Sarah, her daughter Catherine (5 years old), and I enjoyed last year's special alumni celebration reunion weekend. We plan on attending as many reunions as possible. Great meeting up with childhood friends, especially roommates Liza Jo Cass White and Fanny Case! Also Nancy Nutting Stetson with whom I shared one horrific night in a tent with a mountain lion nearby - stinky noisy beast!" [Editor's note/ OVS disclaimer: The malodorous mountain lion incident did not take place during alumni weekend! There was a bear stopping traffic on the road to Upper, though...]

"Sending best regards to my classmates and the entire OVS community!" writes **Ruth (Lucking) Col**, who reports she is still teaching 8th grade world geography in Las Vegas and has one more year to go before retiring. She is devoted to what she describes as "three wonderful and amazing children as well as four perfect grandchildren!"

Lower 1962

Here's the latest from **Woodruff "Woody" Halsey**: "I retired after 31 years at School Year Abroad in 2011 and moved back to France with my wife and youngest daughters. I love living in Avignon but will return regularly to California to visit my grown daughters and my growing brood of beautiful grandchildren."

Lower 1966

Christian Gorm Larsen (see In Memoriam)

Lower 1969

Mary Ann Gilman (see U72)

Michael Ross (see U72)

Lower 1971

"Greetings to all my classmates from over 40 years ago, writes **Bruce Frank**. "It was the late 60s, and I was a boy of about 12 when I saw you last... I am single and partially retired from electrical contracting. I am doing 'sound' for some local festivals to keep myself busy and continue to live in Tiburon, CA, in a house that was built for my grandfather in 1960.

"I have been doing a fair amount of snow skiing and had a season pass for Heavenly at Lake Tahoe the past two seasons. Enjoyed the New Orleans Jazz fest this past April. I continue to trade the occasional email with fellow classmate Scott Jeffreys.

"I look back at my OVS experience as a series of very useful and beneficial learning experiences, particularly about the outdoors (camping, fishing, and horseback riding). Any recollections of antics from that period of time would be most welcome as emails to me. I hope you are all leading happy and successful lives... measured by whatever standard you chose to use." You can shoot Bruce an email at this address: cometelec@aol.com

Lower 1979

Katie (Ballou) Calhoun owns her own public relations firm in San Francisco, called Calhoun and Company: Wine and Spirits. She and husband Alex, whom she met at Thacher, have two children. Natalie just graduated from St. Ignatius in SF and is headed to Connecticut College. She has been on the crew team, finishing among the best in the West Coast. She was a DAR debutante in 2012 and will also be a San Francisco debutante this year. Her younger brother, Walker, attends Urban School in SF and is an outstanding athlete and percussionist. [This news about Katie came via her mother, Felicia Ballou Tracy.]

Lower 1980

Sandy Ballou owns Sierra Saddlery in Newcastle, CA, operates Emigrant Springs Ranch (horses and cattle), and is currently serving as President of the Nevada County Fair Board, having been appointed by Gov. Brown to that position. He recently retired from his post as President of the Nevada County Farm Bureau. His wife, Sarah, is a successful Grand Prix jumper rider, having competed at that level at Thermal, Del Mar, Sacramento International, and Canada's Spruce Meadows. Sandy and Sarah's son, Sandy, will be a senior at Thacher in the fall, while his little sister, Grace (8 years-old) competed in a local horse show recently and won five blue ribbons. She has had the best of training: lessons from her paternal grandmother, Felicia Ballou. [This news about Sandy came via his mother, Felicia Ballou Tracy.]

Lower 1981

Arianne (Braverman) Styne's daughter, Oona, turns four in August. "I was pregnant at the last reunion I attended which was the summer of 2008," recalls Ari. Since then, she has been a stay-at-home mom and has acted in some commercials.

Lower 1983

Jason Heistermann (see U87)

Lower 1994

Dana Rice (see U98)

Lower 1996

David Hara visited campus in May and was able to spend some time with longtime OVS dorm parent Tami Scott. David now works in London for an import company.



Lower 2002

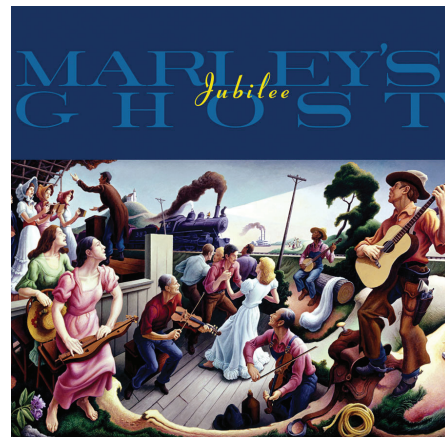
Tiana Coudray (see article on page 16)

Lower 2003

Sung Ho Park (see U07)

Upper 1967

Ed Littlefield is not a one-man band, but he could be. In addition to singing, playing lead guitar and keyboards, Ed plays pedal steel guitar, bass, fiddle, Highland bagpipes, keyboards, mandolin, as well as dobro. For the last 25 years, he's been part of Marley's Ghost, a group described by music critic Joel Selvin of the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "one of the best-kept secrets of the acoustic music world, an untapped natural resource waiting to be discovered."



Marley's Ghost has just come out with a new (their 10th) CD, called *Jubilee*, which, like their most recent album, *Ghost Town*, was produced by legendary Cowboy Jack Clement. In *Jubilee*, the band collaborates with the likes of Old Crow Medicine Show, Emmylou Harris, Marty Stuart, and John Prine.

(continued next page)

Visit the Marley's Ghost website (marleysghostband.com) to see photos of Ed and his band mates and to hear tracks from *Ghost Town*. (Ed sings lead in the song about a hapless dirt farmer). Also check out Ed's solo album, *My Western Home*, where you'll hear tunes you may not have heard since Ed introduced you to them in the Upper Campus amphitheater, one of his first venues.

Upper 1970

Marlene Landis makes her classmates a generous offer: "We just moved into this nice big house. If anyone ever needs a place to stay while you're visiting the Long Beach area, I'd love to have you over!"

Upper 1972

Mary Ann Gilman recently moved back to California and is working as a dialysis nurse. She says she aspires to become an expert sea kayaker and a top-notch tour guide to the L.A. area.

Glory days! **Michael Ross** sent in this fond reminiscence: "Most exciting lacrosse game I remember was against Dunn in '71...went into sudden death overtime! I was goalie then, and I believe Jamie Flynn, a defense man, scored the winning goal!"

Congratulations to **Cliff Martinez**, who was recently inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.



Upper 1985

Kim Park sent in this photo and explains, "We were in Santa Barbara for Spring Break and took the attached photo near where we used to live in Goleta. It was wonderful to ride bikes along the bluffs again and smell the ocean. Laurel is now 10 and had her own cruiser to ride, which was great!!"



Kimberly's husband, Ethan, is now Director of Conservation Aquatics for The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas and doing a lot of restoration/engineering work along the Kings River. "I stay very busy with technology integration projects and training in our local school district," says Kim. "We are working to get funding for a 1-1 iPad implementation project, which would be so exciting for our students and teachers if it works out."

Upper 1987

"I am the happiest I have ever been," declares **Jason Heistermann**. "After 42 years in California, I followed my heart and my dream of living in Washington. I am closer to my sister and brother-in-law now and have found the love of my life here."



Jason has a successful handyman business in Washington and Southern California. He travels back and forth from Vancouver to Los Angeles every other month to take care of clients. He says he would love to hear from classmates. Contact Jason at rjhandyram22@gmail.com

Upper 1993

Allison (Lee) Maguire sends her old friends her love and enclosed a picture of her "brood": Fiona (13), Hanna (10), Kayla (9), Gordon (8), and Chase (3).



Upper 1998

Dana Rice is currently working for Woodruff-Sawyer & Co., one of San Francisco's Financial District's oldest insurance brokerage firms, as an account representative specializing in employee benefits. She graduated from Humboldt State University in 2005 with a degree in sociology, emphasis on race and ethnic relations. Her son was born in January. Congratulations, Dana!

Upper 2002



"Kari Cox (my wife), our darling dog, Olive, and me, **James Cox**. This July we are celebrating our 6th wedding anniversary."

Upper 2003

Congratulations also go to **Nicholas Huettelman**, who married Joy Aud on June 16th at Treasure Island in the San Francisco Bay.

"I am currently working as a Project Engineer for a company called F.W. Spencer & Son Inc.," writes Nicholas, who goes on to explain,

“We install HVAC systems and plumbing systems for larger projects in the Bay Area. We are doing sheet metal work on the Bay Bridge, installing the plumbing system at the new 49ers NFL stadium, and we have roughly six or seven hospitals that we either have the HVAC, the plumbing, or both. I currently am working on the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, installing a 55 million dollar HVAC system, which will eventually be used as a patient building for the hospital to house the aging baby boomers who will need 24- hour health care in the near future.”

Upper 2004



“I am loving traditional Eastern healing!” writes **Belen Vance**.

Upper 2005

Here’s the latest from **Chris Cole**: “I worked as a producer on a film shot entirely on location in Afghanistan called *Black Tulip*. It was Afghanistan’s official submission for Best Foreign Film to the 2011 Academy Awards and recently won Best Feature Film at Boston International Film Festival, Salento Film Festival, and Beverly Hills Film Festival. It’s scheduled to be in theaters this upcoming fall, so I hope the OVS community will get a chance to see it. For more information, go to www.blacktulipfilm.com.



“I was also accepted into a Masters program at Columbia University in New York where I’ll be going this fall.

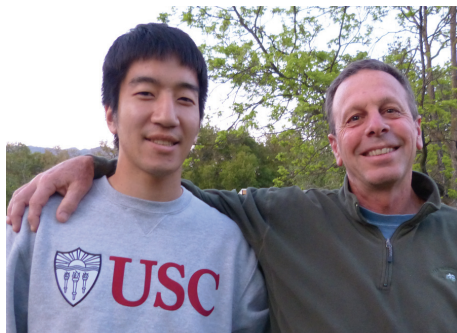
I often think back to all the wonderful memories I have of OVS and will always be grateful for the opportunity I was given to learn at such an amazing place.”

Upper 2006

Tiana Coudray (see page 16)

Upper 2007

In late April, **Sung Ho Park** and a friend visited with Shelley Hermes and the Gartrells for dinner. Sung Ho has finished his studies at USC and will complete his last semester during a year abroad in Seoul at Seoul National University. He’s scheduled to graduate in December.



Upper 2008

Justine Mann is currently at UC Berkeley working on her Bachelor’s degree in Astrophysics. “I’d like to remain in contact with OVS and its news,” writes she, adding, “My senior year of high school at OVS was a truly pivotal time in my life.”

Letter from former faculty member Felicia Ballou Tracy:

Dear OVS students and faculty from 1975 to 1985,

Although I was unable to attend your reunion, I would like to send my very best wishes to you and the school. It was very welcoming to be invited to a luncheon with other faculty and students.

Mr. Ballou and I had a special time while coordinating the horse program at OVS. It is fabulous that Terry Wilson has continued to

upgrade the program during more recent years, and I am so glad she responded to my original encouragement to be again involved at OVS.

Returning to our family ranch in Grass Valley in 1986 and remarrying in 1989 to Dick Tracy (whom I had dated before Sandy Ballou), I have continued being involved with teaching and horses. This marks the 25th year of Emigrant Springs Horsemanship, my lesson program business.

We consider ourselves very lucky, living in a beautiful area on our family ranch, which I grew up on. The vegetable garden is planted, the spring flowers have been beautiful, my 9 horses (one from Dana), are enjoying living in 40 acres of pasture and being fed lots of carrots by my students. Our Jersey milk cow is retired but living a life of leisure. Dick, although retired, still writes for the newspaper on gardens and sports cars. He is active with trap shooting as well. I continue to love to cook, with our home raised beef, and local 4-H and FFA lamb and pork, our garden produce, and our areas delicious fruits and wines.

Although I have lost touch with far too many of you, I think of you often and wonder how and where your lives have taken you. Among those with whom I do keep in touch are Anita Purcell DeAragon, Heidi Chisholm Cowan, Dana Persky Chidekel, Barbara Dunn Roof, Rea Callender, Whitney Callender Demorest and faculty members Judy Oberlander and the Callenders. I also received a wonderful call recently from Kirk Torres. Not being on or up to date with Facebook, email is the best I am doing, or the phone or good old post office!

I would love to hear from you. (530) 268-1864 fttracy@sierraemail.com.

See alumni notes for news of Felicia’s children.

Attention: We welcome your updates anytime! The next deadline for *Alumni Notes* is December 31, 2012.

You may submit your updates to the Alumni Office:
Mail: 723 El Paseo Road, Ojai, CA 93023
Email: alumni@ovs.org
www.ovs.org/alumni

In Memoriam

Julie Two Cass Seuss (L60)

Julie Two Cass Seuss, sister of Nicky Cass (L58), and Liza Jo Cass White (L61), died on Feb. 20th in Decatur, GA, at home, surrounded by her loved ones.

Julie was born on June 16, 1945. She was predeceased by her twin sister, Julie One, at birth.

Julie came to OVS from the Brentwood School. She boarded at OVS for 6 ½ years, graduating from the Lower Campus with honors. During her time at OVS, she was active in all aspects of campus life; she received the music award and was recognized for her contributions as a student council representative. Volleyball and weaving were among her varied activities.

In 1963, Julie graduated from Katherine Branson School, located in the Bay Area. She went on to attend USC, where she was a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She ultimately transferred to Colorado University, where she received an undergraduate degree in sociology.

Julie devoted herself to several careers during her 66 years, ranging from homemaker, hospice worker, massage therapist, social advocate, and ordained minister with the Metropolitan Community Church.

Julie stayed in touch with OVS, and she was an enthusiastic participant in the Sedona reunions whenever the timing and her circumstances made her attendance possible.

She is survived by her beloved life partner, Tara Ann White; sons Benjamin Eric Suess (Reven) and Andrew Tyler Suess (Katie); granddaughters Isla Beggs Seuss

and Leila Papillon Seuss; sisters Nicholas Cass (Henry Spencer), Liza Cass White (Stuart), Linda Cass Gilbert, and Christopher Cass; “other mother” Lee Hogan Cass; brother Timothy Cass (Nenita); many nieces and nephews; and by the family of Rufus Mason White.

Julie’s laughter and joie de vivre will be remembered by all who knew and loved her.

Teri Drummond Cahill (L57)

Teri Drummond Cahill, a member of the Lower Campus Class of 1957, passed away on March 24, 2012.

Teri grew up in Ridgecrest, CA. She attended San Jose State, and she raised her four children in Orange County.

Teri loved her horses; she had always dreamed of owning, breeding, and raising horses. That dream was fulfilled after she and her family moved to a horse ranch in Culver, Oregon.

According to her family, Teri’s love for horses was developed when she was at OVS.

Christian Gorm Larsen (L66)

Christian Gorm Larsen, who was born in Long Beach, CA, on November 8, 1950, passed away on January 30, 2012.

Although Christian grew up in La Canada, CA, his fondest memories in childhood were of his many visits to Copenhagen, Denmark, where his extended family lived.

After graduating from La Canada High School, Christian went on to study at Pacific Lutheran University, graduating in 1974

with a teaching degree in the new field of special education. While at PLU, he met and later married Karen Klarquist. The two of them moved to Denmark, where Christian began his first teaching job at Sofia Skolen, a school for autistic children.

After four years, the Larsens returned to the States, where he continued teaching special education in Portland, Oregon. While there, Christian obtained his MS degree in psychology from Portland State University.

The family moved to Gig Harbor, WA, in 1981, and Christian continued teaching, initially at Francis Hadden Morgan Center, and later for the Peninsula School District.

Through the University of Washington, Christian earned his credential to become a school psychologist. For many years subsequently, he served as Lead Psychologist. In recognition of his excellence as an educator, the Peninsula District awarded him the distinguished Ellen Fay Award in 2004.

Christian loved all things related to wooden boats. One would often find him walking briskly around the harbor, by himself or with friends. He spent many hours on his boat moored on the bay, if not out sailing, which he dearly loved to do. He was preparing to build his own small boat before his death.

Christian is survived by his children, Nicolai (Shannon), Anna-Lisa (Adam Pearce), and Kristina (Chris Peterson); his granddaughter, Abrielle Pearce; his sister, Marianne Larsen, and by his mother, Karen Larsen. He was preceded in death by his father, Gorm Larsen, in 2008.

Although his passion involved teaching, Christian’s greatest delight was in being a father to his three children and a grandfather to Abrielle. His family misses him greatly.

Richard Askam, (Former Lower Campus Faculty Member)

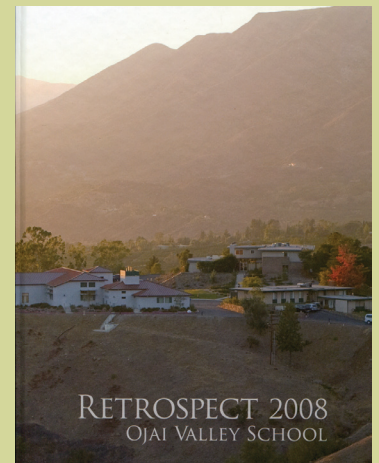
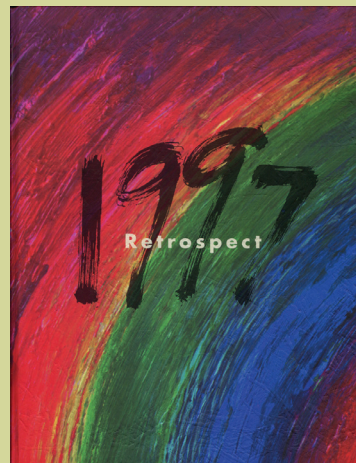
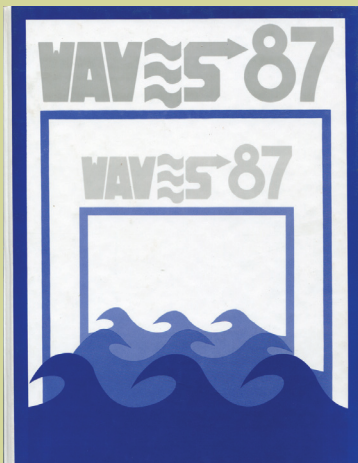
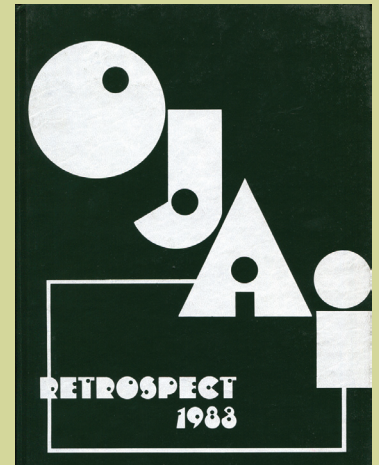
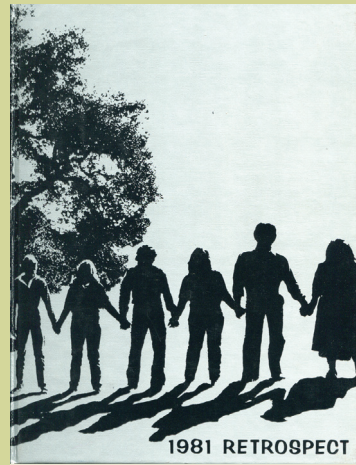
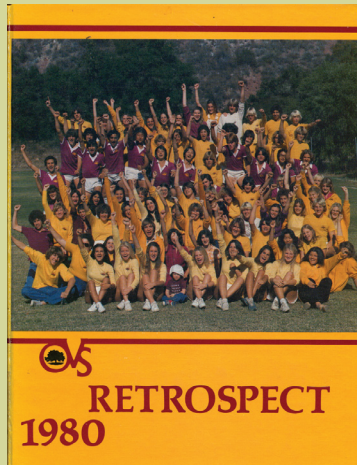
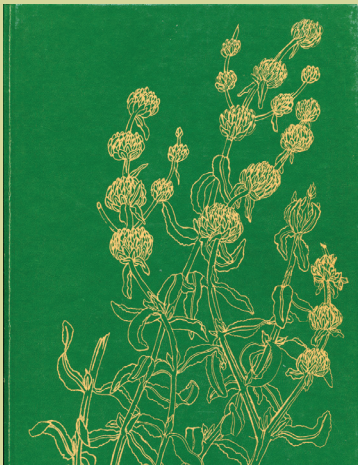
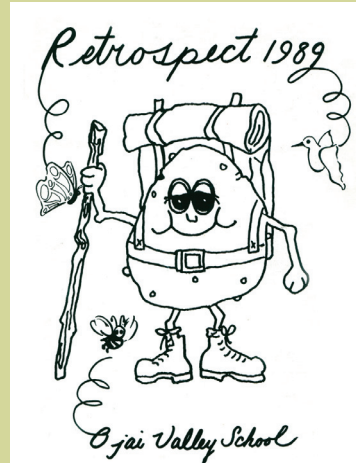
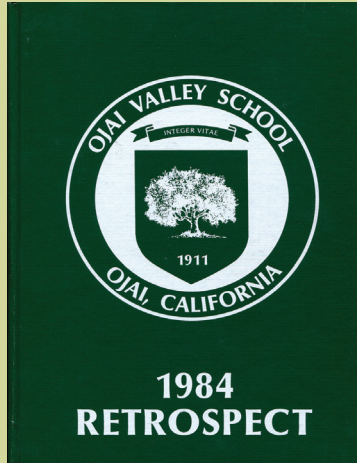
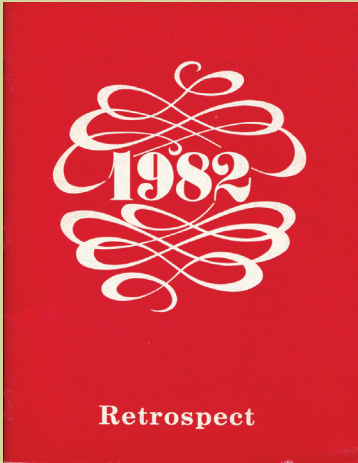
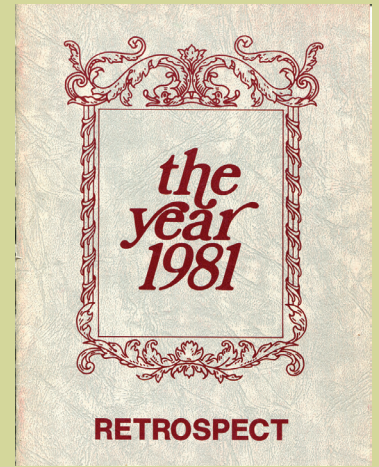
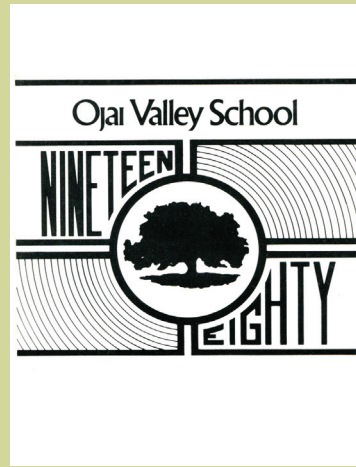
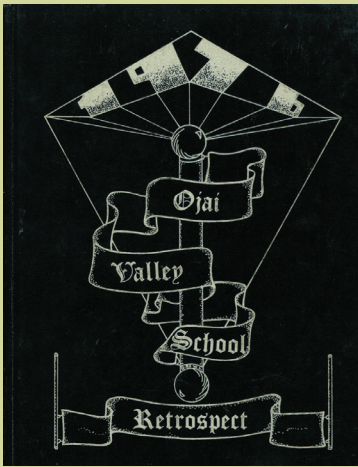
Rick Askam, the popular art and shop teacher at the Lower Campus from 1972 – 1985, lost his battle with cancer on February 14th. He was 61.

Rick grew up in Ojai. He was an accomplished artist as well as woodworker, and he enjoyed his 13 years of teaching at OVS. As is the case with most OVS faculty, Rick wore many hats: he taught art, art history, leathercraft, and shop; he was the graphics coordinator; and he served as the yearbook advisor as well as the lap master. A 2010 poll of alumni listed him as a favorite teacher from that era.

After leaving OVS, Rick taught at the Boys and Girls Club of Ventura.

He is survived by his sister, Erica Trylovich of Elk Grove, California, as well as by his cousins: Doug Schmelz of Ojai; Michael Schmelz of Clarksville, Tennessee; and Kim, Nick, Casey, and Corey Schmelz of Ventura.

If family members of OVS alums would like to submit information for In Memoriam, please do so at:
Office of Alumni Relations
723 El Paseo Road
Ojai, CA 93023
alumni@ovs.org
www.ovs.org



Parents of Alumni:

If your son/daughter no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify the Alumni Office of his/her new mailing address at (805) 640-2578 or alumni@ovs.org



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