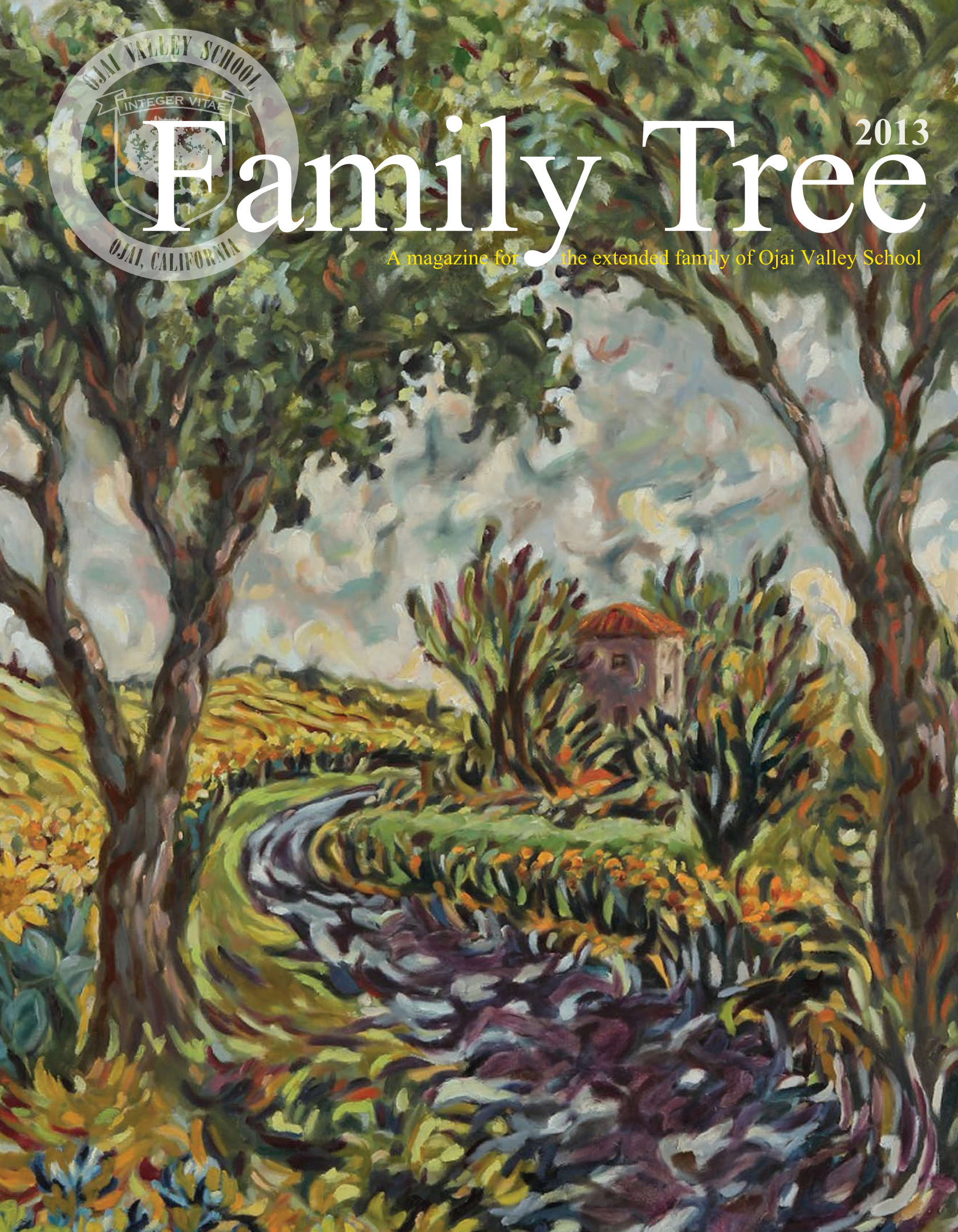




# Family Tree<sup>2013</sup>

A magazine for the extended family of Ojai Valley School







Cover art and above works by **Helen Berggruen** (L60). See page 31 for more information



# Family Tree

## CURRENT BOARD:

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## HEADMASTER EMERITUS:

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Mr. Benjamin E. Nordman, 1913-1985  
Mr. Anson S. Thatcher, 1905-1994

*Articles, photos and other content were contributed by Elizabeth Hermes (L66, U69), John Boyd, Alex Mooney, Darcie George, Malory Taylor, Will Wyman, Tracy Wilson, Bob Koster (L53), and students in the Upper Campus journalism program.*




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**STAY CONNECTED. GET INVOLVED!** Visit [www.ovs.org/alumni](http://www.ovs.org/alumni) to:



- Get information on alumni events
- Explore volunteer opportunities
- Give a gift
- Submit a class note and update your contact info
- Access class email lists
- Shop the OVS store
- Visit the media galleries
- “Like” OVS on Facebook 
- Join the OVS  networking group
- Follow us on Twitter 
- Promote your business to fellow alums
- Access publications electronically



# In Recognition

## OVS Recognizes Longtime Trustee William H. Hair



*Jack DeNault, Bill Hair and Michael J. Hall-Mounsey*

In May, we celebrated the loyal leadership of Ojai Valley School Trustee William H. Hair with the Trustees' Award, which honors and recognizes individuals whose exemplary lives and significant achievements have profoundly advanced the school. Bill is only the ninth recipient of the award in the school's history and is well deserving of this recognition.

Bill has dedicated forty years of his life to the school, including serving twenty years as our board chairman. Although he did not attend OVS, his sons, Joel and Reed, and later his grandson, Matthew, did. His connection to the school is one of the most important in our history.

Bill agreed to serve on the Board in 1972, and, with Chair Carl Kotchian, he helped OVS restructure its administration and fiscal management. He was elected Board chairman in 1989, a post he held for twenty years and he remains on the Board of Trustees to this day. He is a leader and active member of the Disciplinary, Audit and Executive Board Committees.

At key points in our history, Bill has stepped up to the plate. In 1977, when OVS was not as strong fiscally as it is today, the bank unexpectedly froze our operating line of credit – essentially closing the school. Bill went right to the top, delivering an urgent (and, it is rumored, profane) message to the bank chairman, calling attention to the institution's callous and unjust treatment of our school. As a result of Bill's actions, and those of fellow trustees Alan Teague, Jackson Clarke, and Dave Donlon, the financial noose around our necks was loosened and eventually removed altogether.

Time and time again, Bill has gone courageously into battle for this little school, helping us navigate the labyrinth of regulations and obstructions various agencies have presented to us over the years. He has been more than generous with his time, with his legal acumen, and, most importantly, with his wisdom. While a steadfast guardian of our traditions, he has always advocated improvement, and hence, has remained what the students today might call "relevant."

Bill's legacy looms as tall as does the man himself, and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

### PREVIOUS TRUSTEES' AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Edward Yeomans**

**Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen**

**Myra Reynolds Linn**

**Wallace and Dorothy Burr**

**A. Carl Kotchian**

**Anson Thacher**

**David Donlon**

**Michael D. Hermes**

## Longtime OVS Business Manager Jean Torres Retires

After 25 years of dedicated service, longtime Business Manager Jean Torres retired at the end of the academic year to spend time with family in Michigan. Jean started with OVS as an independent auditor in the late 1970s and was hired full time as Business Manager in August of 1988. Over the years, she has played a significant role in managing the school's finances and contributed her expertise as a member of the senior administrative team. We wish Jean the very best in her retirement, and welcome incoming Business Manager Robert Cendejas.



*President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey (left) and Head of School Carl Cooper (right) recognized Jean Torres (center) during a retirement event in June.*



# President's Page



The past six months have been an exciting time for our school. We are building character, we are building on tradition, we are building our academic programs, and we are building our community.

Thanks to generous support from all of our constituents, we are getting ready to break ground later this fall with the renovation of the historic Founder's Shop and expansion of the adjacent Art Studio, Phase I of *The Next 100 Campaign*. We have completed the ambitious solar project at Upper Campus and are already realizing the benefits of this investment in green technology and sustainability for our future. Please enjoy the enclosed articles detailing these projects in this issue of *Family Tree*.

In the coming months, we will put the finishing touches on plans to renovate the dorms at Upper Campus, particularly the boys' rooms, launching Phase II of *The Next 100 Campaign*. Meanwhile, our academic program is expanding with the addition of new advanced placement classes at the high school. Students will now have the opportunity to take AP Physics, AP Calculus BC, Honors Spanish III, three AP art classes, as well as a dozen additional honors and advanced placement courses. New and returning students in the fall will have the opportunity to thrive in challenging secondary and college-preparatory classes led by a dedicated team of teachers whose ongoing professional development ensures that we remain current in our use of technology and innovative teaching practices.

Yet while we build and expand, grow, and innovate, we remain firmly rooted in the traditions and philosophy that have guided Ojai Valley School for the last century. Founder Edward "Ned" Yeomans envisioned a "family school" where students, in an environment of warmth and friendliness, would develop a zest for learning from teachers they admired. Yeomans believed in "experiencing instead of telling" – an educational approach our teachers continue today as demonstrated in the enclosed article by graduating senior Aria Ellett.

According to an historical account written by Yeomans' wife, Julia, the couple was introduced upon their arrival in Ojai to prominent families who were so interested in plans to develop a new school on the principles Ned had articulated that they offered to donate funds for a classroom building, assembly hall, and later a dormitory. In this way, the Lower Campus developed from the good will and vision of those first families. This is a tradition we have seen repeated throughout the school's 100 year history.

In this way, and so many others, we are a family school. We are a family that celebrates differences and embraces new ideas, a family that respects tradition and embraces innovation, a family that always looks forward to coming home, which is what more than one hundred of our alumni did in June for Reunion Weekend. It is also what dozens of recent graduates from Lower Campus did when they returned for the traditional Pons Dinner. It is what recent graduate Jack Liu (U12) did during the Chinese New Year, leaving his college campus and celebrating with his friends at Upper Campus. He stated, "OVS is like home to me, and, of course, everyone goes home to celebrate Chinese New Year." Like Jack, our alumni return to their educational nest in Ojai, their home away from home.

In this issue, we celebrate our traditions, our legacies, and our plans for the future. We also celebrate the arts and our artists, so please read on and note what, as one of my favorite theatrical artists and playwrights George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) astutely observed: "I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."

Thank you for your continuing support of this special place!


A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Hall-Mounsey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Hall-Mounsey  
President/CEO



# LIVING GREEN.

By Tracy Wilson  
Director of Admission & Marketing



OVS environmental science teacher John Wickenhaeuser looks across the array of deep blue solar panels gleaming in the late morning sun and sees the future – future cost savings, future lesson plans, and future students whose education will include a hands-on understanding of sustainable business practices and environmental technology.

From statistics lessons to physics labs, the solar project will serve as a learning laboratory for OVS students for years to come. Classroom studies will include real-time monitoring of the energy produced daily, minute by minute, by the 1,001 panels that now cover 19,016 square feet of hillsides and rooftops at the Upper Campus. After the first week of production last spring, Wickenhaeuser's Advanced Placement students had already calculated that the system had saved 11,974 lbs of carbon dioxide emissions, or about the weight of an African elephant.

“We’ve always been a progressive school, and we’ve always been about caring for the environment,” Wickenhaeuser said. “This really demonstrates the school’s commitment to those principles.”

Across the nation, solar power has become a hot topic.

Photovoltaic power systems are proliferating in response to lower installation costs, incentives, and greater awareness. University researchers, most notably at several University of California campuses, are now developing new technologies to improve efficiency and storage of solar power, as well as more futuristic enterprises. UC Berkeley researchers and students, for example, are developing solar cars, while UCLA researchers are building solar cells with near transparency to create a solar panel that looks like a tinted window.

Similarly, Ojai Valley School leaders saw a bright future in solar – from both an educational and a business perspective.

The project was launched a year ago in partnership with HelioPower and Southern California Edison. It cost \$1.5 million, but the school spent much less after taking advantage of grants and rebates. At a time when energy costs are increasing in California – 12% in the last two years – the project also allowed the school to fix a portion of its energy costs.

The system was designed to supply 85% of the electrical demand for the OVS Upper Campus, saving more than \$64,000 a year in energy costs and reducing the school’s annual carbon footprint by an estimated 299,000 pounds. So far, the system is producing well above expectations. With planned additional energy efficiency measures and greater conservation awareness,



# LEARNING GREEN



the school hopes to move close to 100% renewable energy in coming years.

“The solar project continues the school’s commitment to sustainability and preservation of our natural resources,” OVS President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey said. “The school has taken a bold step to reduce its environmental impact and demonstrate that sustainable practices will be a cornerstone of the school experience as we enter our second century.”

Located on 195 acres at the end of Reeves Road, the Upper Campus provides an ideal location for solar. In addition to its hilltop buildings, the campus has a wide south-facing slope to capture the sun’s rays. The slope must be cleared annually for fire protection so adding panels posed no disruption to native plants or wildlife.

Construction on the project began in late October and finished in March with

the addition of 288 rooftop panels on Burr Hall, the boys’ dormitories and the Head of School’s house, as well as 713 ground-mounted panels on the hillside between the boys’ dorms and the Lucila Arango Science and Technology Center.

“We have the space, we have the land, we have the southern exposure so we could take advantage of that clean source of energy,” said Carl S. Cooper, Head of School at the Upper Campus. “At the same time, we are increasing our consciousness about where our energy comes from when we turn on a switch and turn off a switch.”

Ojai Valley School made a decision on the eve of its centennial, to create and chart a sustainability course for the next 100 years and beyond. Those efforts have received wide recognition, including the prestigious 2011 California Waste Reduction Award Program (WRAP) and the 2009 Ojai Chamber of Commerce

“Environmentally Conscious Business of the Year” award.

In April, the County of Ventura recognized OVS with a Climate Change Action Award, an honor given annually to individuals, businesses, schools, and other groups in the county that have made significant contributions to combat climate change.

The award recognized the solar project but also the broader effort by students, faculty and staff to reduce campus-wide electrical use and promote environmental stewardship. Those efforts include adopting comprehensive recycling programs and water-efficient irrigation systems, retrofitting lights with energy-efficient bulbs, and planting drought-tolerant and native plants on both campuses. The school also partners with local farmers, including Friends Ranch, to provide local produce in its dining halls.



“OVS has made sustainable practices a cornerstone of the school experience for students, teachers and staff,” said Mac Lojowsky, OVS Director of Facilities and Grounds. “It affects all aspects of their lives and by definition it will influence how they live their lives beyond the school.”

Most importantly, school leaders say, is the way Ojai Valley School incorporates environmental education into its curriculum – from earth science in pre-kindergarten to AP Environmental Science in twelfth grade – so students understand their role in preserving and protecting the planet.

“There is a constant message, going right on through from Pre-K to high school graduation, about how we take care of the planet,” Cooper said.

Raising students’ understanding of alternative energy sources is one aspect of the AP Environmental Science class. Wickenhaeuser’s students examine the economic, social, cultural, and political aspects of environmental science. This year, they will examine solar technology and the role alternative energy plays in communities locally and globally.

The monitoring tools at their fingertips include online monitoring and analysis tools report the production of each segment of the system in 5-minute increments. Students can see how production changes by the orientation of the individual solar arrays, the weather, and they can even see how a passing cloud temporarily decreases the system’s production. They can also compare energy output from various locations on campus.

Wickenhaeuser checks the site frequently to track the school’s solar production. That is how he noticed one solar array on Tower dorm was producing less than those on the hillside and other rooftops in early July. Why? Morning and afternoon shade from trees near the dorm reduced production on those panels by 4 kilowatts per hour. That is not a significant amount. But it is the kind of real-life problem-solving exercise that he plans to have his students tackle.

For his part, Wickenhaeuser will be looking skyward when classes begin in the fall

“The funny thing is,” he said, “I now root for sunny days.”








Environmental Benefits since Installation

 CO2 OFFSET	 TREES SAVED	 OIL OFFSET
229,277.63 lbs	2,287.86 trees	12,037.08 barrels



Instantaneous Power

44.82 kW



Generated to Date

163,769.74 kWh







# to look on nature

Beaches, Creeks, and Mountains Become Learning Laboratories for OVS Students

By Aria Ellett (U13)

Nestled atop a hill and flanked by mountains on three sides, the high school campus of Ojai Valley School is remote to say the least, an island of academia rooted deep in the rustic backcountry.

But if you think that isolation is somehow a hindrance to student success, think again.

At OVS, the outdoors is not just an ever-present part of the campus but a classroom as well, a living laboratory where students put into practice lessons usually learned in a more traditional setting.

In the oak tree-covered amphitheater, English teachers hold poetry recitations and students learn the dangers of invasive species. On top of the hill, environmental science students monitor the energy

generated by newly installed solar panels. And after school, it's not uncommon for outdoor education students to hike the surrounding trails, learning about the plants and animals that also inhabit these hills.

At OVS, it is impossible to escape the outdoors – not that anyone is trying.

“One of the greatest things about the Ojai Valley School is the location,” said AP Environmental Science teacher John Wickenhaeuser, who can often be seen leading his students around the hill, showing them examples of concepts they learned in the classroom.

“I think that we learn a tremendous amount from the natural world just by spending time in it,” Wickenhaeuser

said. “To not take advantage of the location for what it offers educationally would be short sighted.”

Wickenhaeuser and teachers on both campuses are continuing a tradition started decades earlier by educators like J.B. Close and Wallace Burr, who urged students “to look on nature” for lessons beyond the classroom. For generations of OVS students, a progressive education was not complete without exploring the Sespe Wilderness.

Today, students still venture to the Sespe to learn about the watershed, native and invasive plant species, and geology. They also travel to the eastern Sierras to study water diversions and California history. Wickenhaeuser's students have done restoration work on Anacapa and Santa



Cruz islands, removing invasive ice plant, periwinkle and poison hemlock so that native vegetation can grow. For the students' part, many say they get so much more from their lessons when they venture into the wild and tie in their outdoor experiences with the classroom curriculum.

"I think it is great that our class doesn't always [stay] in the classroom," said AP Environmental Science student Samantha Ruffin (U13), who graduated in June. "It makes the learning experience a lot more fun and interesting when we can personally interact with the things we learned about, rather than just sit in a classroom and read about it off of a PowerPoint."

Marine science teacher Jessica Thompson shares Wickenhaeuser's enthusiasm for teaching students outside of the classroom. Her chemistry students do soil sampling on campus to test for nitrates, phosphates, and pH. And students in her Marine Science class travel off the hill to tide pools and estuaries, where they observe marine life and take water samples to examine salinity, dissolved oxygen, and plankton.

"The goal of the trips is to put the content of the course into perspective, and also to have fun," Thompson said. "It's highly demonstrative, where in the classroom you learn about waves, and then you go out and see them, it helps make a moving picture for all of those processes... and it gives the students something to look forward to."

Junior Kermitt Davis agrees.

"Going on the field trips and having marine life in the classroom is a great experience because it allows students to actively learn about marine organisms and life," Kermitt said.

Thompson not only takes her students into the outdoors, she brings some of the outdoors back to the classroom. Stationed at the back of her classroom is a water tank with various salt-water creatures living inside.

"The first thing we learn about is water chemistry of the ocean and how ocean water is a healthy environment for sea animals," explained Thompson. "So we made the sea water that goes into the tank. [The students] had to figure out the right salinity and get the right amount of oxygen and everything for the animals."

After filling up the tank with their very own "sea water," students were able to collect animals for their tank. Among the sea creatures in the tank are hermit crabs and a sea anemone.

Enhancing the education of her students with the water tank and field trips is something Thompson is pleased to be a part of. "It reinforces your classroom culture where everyone goes out and spends time together outside and can share different observations," Thompson said. "Those people who are comfortable outside can help mentor those who aren't—it kind of unifies the class."

AP English literature teacher Crystal Davis, who has coordinated the outdoor program at Upper Campus, also recognizes the unifying power of taking students into the outdoors.

"When I lead the alumni hikes, some [alumni] have graduated fifty years ago, and some twenty, and some two, but at a location they all visited as OVS students, they are completely on the same page," Davis said. "They chatter like they all were at OVS at the same time; it is the [outdoors] that makes that connection so special."

Davis has been directing the high school outdoor education program since 2006, and modified the curriculum to focus not just on camping but also learning more extensively about the places students visit.

"Almost every school that's like [OVS] has an outdoor ed camping program," Davis said. "But what distinguishes us from other comparable schools is that we put students' outdoor experiences in a context of learning both about the environment and about the self so that the end result is that students see that there

is an intimate relationship between their selves and the environment."

Recently graduated senior Jack Beverly, who started at OVS in grade 7, is an avid supporter of the outdoor education program.

"I've done all of [Ms. Davis's] programs and I'd say, out of all the classes I've taken at OVS, I've learned the most in outdoor ed," he said. "It's the type of learning where you experience what you're learning about as opposed to sitting in a classroom."

Outdoor education begins in the primary grades at Lower Campus and continues through elementary, middle,

Sixth-grade teachers Ryan Lang and Sheri Usher, for example, take their students on a series of field trips as part of their Watershed Project. The first of six field trips starts at Pine Mountain, and each trip progressively follows the watershed downstream, stopping at places like the Matilija Dam and ending at the estuary where the Ventura River flows into the Pacific Ocean. Along the way, students learn about science, but they also apply lessons from Usher's ancient civilization and language arts classes.

"Backpacking in Montano de Oro, it's almost like you're pretending you're one of those early people and you use the water resources," said Usher, who connects the backpacking to her ancient civilizations class. "It's really important."

But even though the children are furthering their understanding of what they learned inside the classroom, the outdoors experience is a new type of learning all on its own.

"The classroom is for a few," Usher said, "but the outdoors is for everybody."



# PHASE I:

## FOUNDER'S SHOP & ART STUDIO

### LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONOR RECOGNITION AND NAMING OPPORTUNITIES \*

#### Interior Furnishings and Equipment naming:

- North Grand Arched Window: \$50,000 – *Stoen Family*
- North Art Wall: \$25,000 – *Goldenring Family; Ira (L03), Alex (L05)*
- South Art Wall: \$25,000
- New ADA Restroom: \$25,000
- New Ceramics Kiln: \$20,000 – *Barbara B. Smith (L35)*
- East Window Seat Alcove: \$10,000 – *Myers Family; Mary Myers Kauppila( L69), George ( L72)*
- West Window Seat Alcove: \$10,000 – *Finch Family*
- Skylights (x4): \$5,000 each – *Anonymous, Jeff Hyland (L63)*
- Storage Cabinets (x4): \$5,000 each – *Fisher Family*
- Roll Up Doors (x2): \$5,000 each – *Haase Family*
- A/V Screen/Projector: \$5,000

#### Leadership Circle

Premiere Benefactor & Lead Donor: \$500,000 - *Alan Pearson (L55)*

Wood shop room naming: \$250,000 - *Michael Eddy (L51)*

Art Studio naming: \$250,000

Ceramics area naming: \$150,000 - *Marcia Binns (L38)*

Outdoor Covered Interactive Area naming: \$100,000 - *Anonymous*

Wood Arbor: \$50,000 – *Salimbaceous Trust*

East Patio: \$50,000



\* Naming opportunities are based on commemorative value rather than construction costs. Leadership Circle donors \$50,000+ will be recognized on a permanent bronze plaque. Naming opportunities are subject to final approval by donors. \$1,000 donors get name recognition on Interactive Area patio bricks.





# BUILDING ON TRADITION

## *OVS benefits greatly from a New Generation of Donors*

by Will Wyman, Director of Development & Alumni Relations

When faced with ambitious projects, such as with the building of the Great Wall of China or embarking on a major construction project, there is an old Chinese proverb that helps keep things in perspective: “Many hands make light work.” Fortunately, such is the case with Ojai Valley School, as philanthropic trends over the past few years continue to be positive. This year a record 750 gifts were received totaling more than \$1,450,000 in support of this special school, establishing a new standard that will help provide increased financial support for academic and extracurricular programs, financial aid and scholarships, professional development and campus improvements.

This effort includes 535 donors – alumni, parents, past parents, grandparents, friends, faculty and staff -- who have contributed over \$364,000 in unrestricted and restricted annual gifts. Many of these loyal constituents represent a new generation of donors, 130 in fact, who not only supported the Annual Fund but also stretched to make meaningful and significant capital gifts, or multi-year pledges, in support of much-needed campus improvement projects as identified in *The Next 100 Campaign*.

### **Phase I progress report**

Please join us in acknowledging the following individuals for their exceptional and wonderful support of the school, representing this new generation of donors: Missy and Eric Stoen for creating the \$50,000 Stoen Family Challenge fund, which generated more than \$150,000 in

gifts during the challenge period. Special thanks to Alan Teague (L53) for his help in reaching out to all the Lower Campus alumni, resulting in more than \$95,000 in generous gifts from 95 loyal alums, and to Tony Thacher (L55) for his help on the Campaign’s Honorary Committee, appearing in a compelling cameo role for the promotional “Talking Shop” video featured on the OVS website, and for successfully contacting a number of Lower Campus alumni siblings.

One of the priorities this fiscal year is capital fundraising for the Founder’s Shop and Art Studio project, Phase I of *The Next 100 Campaign*. The school stands to benefit greatly from new capital gifts or pledges towards this historic project to restore what was once called “the hub” of Lower Campus. There are a number of naming opportunities that remain available which might be attractive to any other potential donors. Please contact the Development Office if you have any questions.

That’s all good news, but the fact remains that Phase I, the Founder’s Shop & Art Studio project is only 85% funded. Although we are truly grateful for the influx of generous capital gifts from our new generation of donors and have received more than \$1.3 million in contributions restricted to this project since *The Next 100 Campaign* was initiated, we still need to raise another \$200,000 towards our budgeted goal and fundraising target of \$1.5 million. Final

approvals have been pushed back a few months, due to some unexpected delays, related to the historic status of the structure. Final review and approval is anticipated with the Historic Preservation Commission in August to be followed with the Planning Commission in September. Due to these delays construction is now slated to start in January 2014 with completion expected in the early summer of 2014.

### **Phase II progress report**

The school has also benefitted from lead gifts earmarked for the Upper Campus dormitory renovation projects, Phase II of *The Next 100 Campaign*. Special thanks to Spencer Garrett (L62 U65) and David Trudeau, both of whom serve on the Board of Trustees, for their leadership and pledge to provide funding for the renovation of one of the Boys’ Dorm rooms, which will serve as a model and template for the work to follow. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Shirley Wang, CEO of PlastPro, Inc. for her pledge to donate new doors for the renovations at Upper Campus. These projects will commence this summer.

Please look for a final update later in the fall when we will publish the 2012-13 Annual Report. As Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, “The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.” Thanks to such generous support from our loyal Spuds and extended family, Ojai Valley School is indeed moving in a positive direction!





# Celebrating Commencement

*Head of School Carl Cooper addressed the graduating Class of 2013 on June 7. Here is an excerpt of his commencement speech*

In the school's philosophy, we state that by the time Ojai Valley School students are ready to graduate they will have developed the academic strength, the character, and the self confidence to meet life's future challenges. Given the experiences of the past year I have no reason to doubt the preparedness of the Class of 2013.

Almost ten months ago, Mr. Floyd, Mr. Boyd, and I met with the senior class on this stage to rehearse for this day. While we went through a mechanical rehearsal of graduation, the real purpose for the exercise was to prepare them for the journey they have just completed. At that gathering, several issues were discussed, including expectations of social and academic leadership, pitfalls that we could so easily avoid but also stumble into. They wanted privileges. We gave them jobs. They wanted easy classes. We burdened them with a challenging academic course load. They wanted freedom. We gave them

responsibility. Most of all they wanted to be adults, and we asked them to be seniors and to lead the school.

The Class of 2013 has led the school in a most positive fashion. It led us on to the athletic field and showed us how to win, and sometimes lose, but to always play with dignity. The seniors showed us how to juggle an already demanding academic and social life as they worked in the fall to produce the Parent Weekend production based on Kurt Vonnegut's *Welcome to the Monkey House*, the musical *Young Frankenstein*, and finally the Spring Festival of Talent. They demonstrated their leadership in the outdoor program and in numerous community service projects.

By action and example, they have built bonds of friendship – friendship that has stood the test of conflict and disagreement. They have developed mutual respect as they have identified each other's strengths and weaknesses. What makes them a class is how they have grown together; developing common values and learning to appreciate each other for the individuals they are. We have not given them an education that will

guarantee great wealth in the material sense. They may become wealthy independent of this education (and for the sake of the school's advancement we can only hope). What we have tried to instill in them is the desire to establish an honorable name, develop a good reputation, and live a righteous and useful life. We have tried to share with them the importance of having character, a thirst for wisdom, a willingness to work and joy in creative labor.

We have taught them to live the OVS philosophy. We have taught them it is not just a lofty and flamboyant statement, but also a way of life.

To the Class of 2013, I say, don't leave behind what you have accomplished. The world in these times of global change, violence, economic uncertainty, and countless other issues can benefit from what you have learned on this campus. Share what you have learned about integrity, friendship, conflict resolution, and know that no problem is unsolvable if you work together. As you have demonstrated on numerous occasions, the group is greater than the sum of its parts.





# Senior MESSAGE

*by Aria Ellett and Sierra Stingl*

There once was a group of seniors,  
Who spent a number of years here.  
They worked and they laughed  
Along with their class  
To become the people you see here.

And there wasn't always smooth sailing,  
Sometimes we thought we were failing,  
But our teachers were smart  
And taught with their hearts  
And helped us become so prevailing.

We've grown into smart young adults,  
(an almost surprising result)  
But our faculty  
And families  
Were there when things were difficult.

We've grown so much in four years,  
In height and in number of peers,  
But we have matured,  
Survived and endured,  
And overcome our share of fears.

Our message to you as a whole  
Is that we will always continue to grow.  
We've learned from this class  
Rights, wrongs, and to pass  
Our voices out into the world.

Now to all the family among us  
We're sorry for all of our fuss.  
You've kept us strong  
When years seemed long  
And helped us make true progress.

To the future generations of students  
What you do can greatly influence  
Who you are as a whole,  
Don't hide, instead go  
Into the world with curiosity and prudence.

And to the class of twenty thirteen,  
We've been through so many things.  
You're going away  
In my thoughts you will stay  
And we'll always be a family.

This is it, we can finally say  
We've made it through dismay.  
Words from Mr. Cooper  
Have never been truer  
Graduates, "Have a good day."



# Major Awards

## WALLACE BURR AWARD

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

*Taylor Aronow*

## ROBERT G. COOPER AWARD

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

*Miles Munding Becker*

## A. CARL KOTCHIAN AWARD

Awarded to the most outstanding scholar, not only for academic achievement but also for this student's level of effort and intellectual curiosity.

*Jimmy Cheng*

## 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.

*Jack Beverly*

# Additional Awards

## SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

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

*Grant Spencer and Samantha Ruffin*

## 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.

*Shelley Xu*

## SANDY BALLOU MEMORIAL TROPHY

Recognizes the student who demonstrates good horsemanship, sportsmanship, and the belief that competition is not as important as the simple joy of being with a horse.

*Sophia Wu*

## JUDY OBERLANDER POETRY AWARD

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

*Aria Ellett*



*Head of school, Carl Cooper and Jack Beverly*



*Mr. Cooper and Jimmy Cheng*



*Mr. Cooper with Taylor Aronow*



*Mr. Cooper with Miles Munding-Becker*

# Senior Profiles

## Taylor Aronow - *Chapman University*



No one was surprised when Taylor earned the year-end award given to the OVS student who demonstrates the deepest commitment to community service. The truth is, the only thing bigger than her heart is her irrepressible smile. As a dorm prefect, she lightened everyone's day with her care and laughter. Friends described her as encouraging and full of enthusiasm, and no one was

kinder to, or a bigger fan of, the many pets that call the campus home. On the soccer field, Taylor served as a dedicated goalkeeper as well as the team captain since her sophomore year. She was also a star on stage, participating in almost every musical performance. Taylor's absence will surely leave a hole in the OVS community, but Chapman University will be better for having her on campus.

## Mia Carmen - *Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising*



She seemed so quiet. But underneath that gentle exterior lay a fierce warrior and a passionate artist. She was poetry in motion on the soccer field, and assumed leadership positions in volleyball and lacrosse. When the track team needed sprinters to compete in the 4

X 100 relay, Mia answered the call and then anchored the team to a top finish in the Condor League final. She sang on stage and compiled an art portfolio that demonstrated the depth of her talent. Her contributions were numerous, but what's clear is that she has so much more to give as she ventures on to the next phase of her life.

## Julia Chang - *Pratt Institute*



Julia made the world a more beautiful place. As an artist, she dedicated herself to every part of a piece, from conception to completion. As a ceramicist, she created exceptional pottery, and earned Mrs. Cooper's year-end award as the most gifted ceramics student. As a member of the OVS community, she participated in campus events, including the Honor's Ski Trip, and

devoted herself to beautifying the campus through her work with the school garden. In every way, Julia was an ideal OVS student – creative, dedicated, and intelligent. OVS will miss all she brought to campus, but it's time the world at large got to benefit from her many talents.

## Jack Beverly - *Chapman University*



In his trademark yellow sweater, corduroy slacks and yellow high-tops, Jack was easy to spot on the OVS campus. But really, that had less to do with his fashion sense than it did with the fact that he was such a stand out in everything he did. From the movies he created to his talent on stage, he was often the center of attention. He won the Humanities Award his freshman

year for demonstrating tremendous growth throughout the year and earned the Spanish award as a sophomore for his work in that class. In his senior year, he was recognized with the Law & Society and Marine Science awards. Jack was the recipient of the J.B. Close award as the school's outstanding outdoorsman in both his junior and senior years. His "robot dance" in the musical *Utopia in America* showcased his comedic timing. And he stole the show as the hunch-backed Igor in the school production of *Young Frankenstein*. Next year, he'll step into a different spotlight at Dodge Film School at Chapman University.

## Jason Chang - *Swiss Hotel Management School*



Jason loved all things sports – basketball, football and lacrosse were his favorites. But he could just as easily engage in a conversation about hockey or volleyball. After an injury left him sidelined during his senior year, Jason still found a way to contribute, becoming an ace photographer of campus sporting events. But to only talk about

Jason as a lover of sports is to miss the best part of his character. Compassionate and selfless, Jason was the kind of guy quick to help carry bags or set up for an event, and he circled the track at the Relay for Life to raise money to fight cancer. He was a dorm prefect, a leader by example, and one of the first seniors to agree to serve as a class agent for the OVS Alumni Association. It is fitting that Jason plans a career in hospitality because no one was more generous than him.

## Jimmy Cheng - *University of California, San Diego*



It's easy enough to talk about Jimmy's brain power. At graduation, he was presented the A. Carl Kotchian Award as the outstanding scholar, an award based as much on academic achievement as it is on intellectual curiosity – and he has both in large measure. He was a stellar honor student who worked hard to earn exceptional SAT scores and maintain a high GPA. But there were parts of Jimmy's OVS experience that were

just as valuable. He was a senior representative on the Student Council and a dedicated track and cross country runner. In fact, his coach often held Jimmy up as the example of the rewards that come through hard work and determined effort. Those qualities will take him far as he enters the next phase of his educational experience.



# Senior Profiles

## Jayme Clapoff – *Santa Barbara City College*



Jayme was one of the last graduating seniors to arrive, returning to OVS in the middle of her junior year after attending another high school. Why did she return? She said it is because everyone at OVS supports each other. Without realizing it, Jayme described herself perfectly. She was there for her friends, no matter what.

She actually wanted to know the answer when she asked how your day was. She was known for her unparalleled kindness, humor, and sense of style, which she hopes to hone as a clothing merchandise buyer. During the school production of *Young Frankenstein*, Jayme helped with costume design, and then stepped into the spotlight as sarcastic Frau Blucher, blowing people away with her comedic timing and wit. Her presence at OVS will be sorely missed as she pursues her passions next year at Santa Barbara City College.

## Jesse Clapoff – *University of Redlands*



Jesse completely plugged into the OVS experience and emerged as a true Renaissance man. He was a whiz at soccer and golf. He served as Student Council treasurer and pushed himself to excel at Advanced Placement classes. When the baseball team was short of players, Jesse volunteered to suit up and help the team. He sold snacks at football games to raise money for school activities and he wore ugly sweaters on “Ugly Christmas Sweater Day” to whip up school spirit. He was a member of the “Dawn Patrol” surf club and worked as hard as anyone to raise money to fight cancer through the Relay for Life, a cause close to his heart. In short, he was a young man of quality who cared enough to contribute to his campus community. He surely will do the same in the fall at the University of Redlands.

## Polina Dermenzhi – *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*



Polina arrived at OVS as a nervous freshman and left her mark four years later as a confident, good-humored student with strong academic skills – ready to take on the challenges of college. Fueled by a keen intellect and strong work ethic, she demonstrated how a dedicated student can rocket from an ESL classroom into

numerous Advanced Placement classes. Though she was far away from her native Russia, she embraced all that this foreign culture had to offer, including its unique foods and holidays. In her senior year, she played a pivotal role in restarting the school garden, growing vegetables and harvesting them for sale to perpetuate the cycle of growth. Friendly and funny, Polina’s playful spirit will be missed next year.

## Aria Ellett – *Emerson College*



How did she fit it all in? Editor of the school newspaper, public relations representative for Student Council, day student prefect, singer and actor extraordinaire, award-winning poet, and a star in the Spud Factory’s video productions. These cover some, but not all, of the contributions Aria made in her four years at OVS, a span of time that would see her mature into a powerhouse participant in all facets of school life. A talented writer and editor, she led the staff of *On The Hill* and shared the award for AP English Literature. She traveled the world in the summer months to Thailand, Burma, and Costa Rica. It was during those travels that Aria discovered her aim in life should be to help others, and that goal now serves as a guiding principle for what she will study as she moves to the East Coast to continue her extraordinary education.

## Michael Huang – *George Washington University*



What a talent. Behind a keyboard, Michael could make magic happen. He was a brilliant pianist, playing for the chorus, school musicals, the Festival of Talent, and the annual Battle of the Bands. During his four years at OVS, Michael brought his sensitivity and discipline as a musician to the classroom, earning a reputation as a creative writer and a hardworking

student. He brought those same qualities to the stables, where he didn’t just learn to ride but embraced the opportunity to advance his skills as a top equestrian. Persistent and compassionate to his horses, Michael was awarded the coveted Sandy Ballou Memorial Trophy in his junior year. His talent will be on display next year in Washington, D.C. as Michael heads to George Washington University.

## Phanupak “Paul” Jarousombuti – *Occidental College*



As a boy, Phanupak was a monk in his native Thailand, an avocation that taught him to live a life of purpose, meaning, and service to others. He brought all of those qualities with him to OVS, and our community was the better for it. Phanupak, or “Paul” to his classmates, gave his all to everything he did.

On the lacrosse field he was the last line of defense, serving as goalie, and in Student Council he shared his passion for service as the community service representative, organizing efforts to better the lives of people off the hill. He was a hard-nosed football player, an honor student, and a music aficionado who could be counted to lend his mad beats to any school event. He left a positive impact on the community, and now he’s off to do the same at Occidental College.

# Senior Profiles

## Andrew Lee – *Ventura College*



Andrew started his OVS journey at the Lower Campus and briefly stepped away to explore another school. But he returned in his junior year to squeeze the most he could from his OVS experience. He was an anchor on the football team and a passionate member of the soccer and lacrosse squads. Banged up and bruised, Andrew proved himself a warrior on the field, an athlete dedicated to maximum performance. He also performed well in the classroom, and in his sophomore year earned the award as the outstanding World History student. He was a curious student, one who wanted to learn for the sake of learning and who made his teachers better by his inquisitive nature.

## Garrett Li – *University of California, Santa Cruz*



Garrett left his home in southern China and joined the OVS community at the beginning of his tenth-grade year. He left his mark on the Upper 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, where he played football and golf. He embraced the OVS experience in his senior year by participating in a session of outdoor education, during which he camped in the Ventana Wilderness and helped with native plant restorations in Libbey Park. Friendly and funny, his playful spirit will be missed next year.

## Jason Lu – *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*



Sports were his passion. Jason was a star on the basketball court, serving as team captain and point guard, responsible for making sure all players were doing their jobs and operating at maximum efficiency. And he was a blur on the track, emerging as one of the Condor League's top 100-meter runners and running the lead leg of the medal-winning 4 X 100 meter relay squad. He brought the same work ethic and dedication to his studies, challenging himself with tough courses such as AP Calculus and AP Statistics. Most of all, Jason was a good friend and optimistic person, the kind of student who always had a smile and a kind word for others. In this way, his contributions to the school were varied, valuable, and more than most people could see.

## Louis Medel – *Ithaca College*



Louis embodied the OVS spirit. He served as a Senior Class representative and was the heart and soul of the cross country and track teams. He entertained the community by displaying his exceptional dance talent at school shows and dances, and took a star turn as half of the blockbuster rapping duo "Front to Back." He was dedicated to his studies, and could be counted on to contribute to any class discussion. His teachers were in awe of the growth Louis displayed in his time at OVS. He started as a quiet seventh-grader, and graduated a confident senior leader whose compassion and generosity made him a friend to all. Now, the world will get to share his spirit as he heads to Ithaca College in New York to continue his studies.

## Ken Liu – *Arizona State University*



In ways that were not often in the spotlight, Ken was a quiet force on campus. He played football and lacrosse, and was known by his teammates for his competitive toughness. He volunteered behind the scenes to help stage school musicals and productions, and he took a full range of Advanced Placement classes to challenge himself academically. Ken never had to be asked to help – he was always among the first students to volunteer, and he did so graciously and without ever asking what was in it for him. He is off to Arizona to make his mark on the world, and there is no doubt he will be successful.

## Miles Munding Becker – *University of Redlands*



From the time he was a 3-year-old Tater Tot, Miles was an undisputed star at Ojai Valley School. A gifted athlete, hard-working student, and natural leader, Miles shared his talents with the community for 14 years. From ninth grade as Freshman Prom Prince to senior year as ASB President, he was part of the school in a way few students can boast. He was the lead in several school plays and musicals, and a proud member of the Spud Factory film elective. He was the Condor League's 300-meter hurdle champion his senior year and an anchor on the school's hard-working soccer squad. A dedicated student, Miles excelled in Advanced Placement classes and was recognized for his contributions with the Spanish and Law & Society awards. He left his mark on OVS, and now goes off to do the same at the University of Redlands.



# Senior Profiles

## **Sihan “Grace” Pan** - *California College of Art*



All you had to do was look at Grace’s art portfolio to know that creativity shone through this talented artist. Grace came to OVS as a freshman and dedicated much of her time in the art room, creating her future. After Drawing I, she went straight to AP Art and amassed an impressive body of work, the best of which was on display at the annual Awards Ceremony. Not only was Grace an outstanding artist, she was a great singer and dancer as well, choreographing many routines for herself and her fellow dancers. On the basketball court, Grace served as an encouraging team captain. She also ran cross country and track, displaying the depth of her talent. Although the art room will be emptier without her, Grace now has the opportunity to share her many talents with the larger world.

## **Jun Seo** – *Chinese University of Hong Kong*



Jun arrived in the United States as a high school freshman, and quickly put his academic talent on display. A brilliant mathematician, he finished calculus in 8th grade and blazed his way through the OVS math curriculum. And when he took all of the courses he could at OVS, he began self-studying for the AP Macroeconomics/Microeconomics exam. Outside of class, Jun liked to swim and was a constant presence on the school’s cross country course. Funny and a good friend to those he knew well, Jun’s serene nature fit like a puzzle piece with the bucolic beauty of the campus he attended.

## **Sierra Stingl** – *Walla Walla University*



Her laugh could be heard across campus, her smile was infectious, and her drive for success was something to be admired. Sierra found a home on both OVS campuses, arriving as a fifth grader and blossoming into an honor student and a respected student leader by the time she graduated. She was always willing to lend a helping hand to a friend or to participate on a sports team that was lacking players. While she thrived in any environment, Sierra clearly felt most comfortable in the classroom, where she was a standout student who achieved near-perfect grades and excelled in the sciences. She finished her senior year by creating bio-fuel from algae she grew herself. Continuing in that vein, Sierra will study bio-engineering at Walla Walla in the fall.

## **Samantha Ruffin** – *University of California, Davis*



Samantha attended OVS for only one year, but she squeezed all she could from her school experience. She was the anchor of a winning volleyball squad and an enthusiastic explorer of the outdoors as part of the Outdoor Education program. In the spring, when the baseball team was short of players, Samantha eagerly volunteered to don a uniform and became an integral part of that team. At year’s end, she was recognized with the Sportsmanship Award. Academically, Sam challenged herself with honors classes and emerged as one of the school’s finest writers, sharing Ms. Davis’ AP English Literature award. Most of all, she was kind and a good friend. Her smile lit up this campus and it will no doubt do the same as she moves to the next phase of her education at UC Davis.

## **Jared Silverman** – *Santa Barbara City College*



You can see Jared’s passion when he sits behind the drums. It is as if he is transformed, by his own beat, into a person completely confident and attuned to the world around him. In many ways, that also describes his OVS experience. Jared started in pre-kindergarten and crossed the graduation stage his senior year. There were a few detours along the way, but there was growth every step of the way. Jared showed us his diverse talents, playing the title role in the school production of *Young Frankenstein*, and pitching for the baseball team when it was short of players. A curious and confident student, he snorkeled in the ocean for his Marine Science class and expertly played the role of defendant in the year-end mock trial for Law & Society. He is a fine reminder that the more you put into your educational experience, the more you’ll get out of it.

## **Stephanie Teazis** – *Project Abroad*



Perhaps it will be the animals that miss Stephanie most. Known for her kind, nurturing nature, she was a friend to all creatures, but especially those that called OVS home. From the Cooper’s lab, Harley, to Ms. Megan’s dogs, Fin and Ryley, Stephanie could often be seen around campus frolicking with her furry friends. She was also a regular participant in community service at the Humane Society, providing loving care to animals without homes. Academically, Stephanie could be counted on to help with class projects, and she showed her talents as a gifted writer, earning Mr. Weidlich’s English 12 award. Next year, she will take a gap year to dedicate herself to community service.

# Speech EXCERPTS

## Tim Waian — *Cal Lutheran University*



In his four year at OVS, Tim lent his leadership and athleticism to the school's sport programs and elevated every team through his participation. He played cornerback in football, right wing in soccer and was often the lead runner for the varsity cross country team. He also qualified to run CIF in track, with a sizzling 54.4-second 400-meter time. A leader off the field as well,

Tim served as a class representative for three years and Day Student Representative for his senior year. And he was crowned homecoming prince, both in sophomore and senior years. Charismatic and easy-going, tech-savvy and inventive, he will pursue a computer science major at California Lutheran University in the fall.

## William Yuan — *Northeastern University*



William left an unforgettable impression on his fellow students and faculty members. His intellectual curiosity earned him the AP Environmental Science award, with Mr. Wickenhaeuser lauding William's insightful contributions and questioning of global issues. As vice president of the Student Council, William helped put the "crazy" in "Crazy Fridays" and designed the "Last Dot" game, a spinoff of tag

enjoyed by students and teachers alike. Sensing the need to have greater appreciation of the multicultural makeup of the school, William spearheaded the launch of the Cultural Awareness Club, determined to showcase the countries represented by the student body. His goal was to help others more easily cross cultural lines. And that, in a nutshell, sums up William. He helped wherever could, often without being asked, and contributed in countless ways, often away from the spotlight, to better the school community.

## Gary Zhao — *New York University*



At first glance, it would be easy to mistake Gary Zhao's quiet nature as a sign that he doesn't have much to say. But you would be wrong. Known around campus as much for his fashion sense as his keen intellect, Gary brought an extraordinary work ethic to OVS and excelled in a range of college-level classes. His teachers marveled at his ability to do high-level math and to pen flawless and imaginative

essays. He was never the first student to raise a hand during class discussion, but you always knew that when he spoke he would have much to say. He contributed to life outside of the classroom as well, becoming a dedicated equestrian during his sophomore year and a good friend to all in the OVS community. He will leave behind the serenity of Ojai for the bright lights of New York City when he attends NYU in the fall.

"If you look on this stage you'll see a group of people that in no way think in the same way. We are all independent and free thinkers that have grown into our own individuals...So as you look up at your friends and family on this stage, be reminded that we are all a group of free thinkers ready to depart for our next stage in life. We thank you for all of your help in getting here. "



*Jack Beverly (L09, U13), welcoming families and graduates*

"OVS has not only given us a great education, and fulfilled its promise as a college preparatory school. It goes beyond. It has embraced us in a loving and caring environment in which many of us have made friends that we will know the rest of our lives."



*Miles Munding Becker (L09, U13), giving farewell address to the Class of 2013*





# Lower Campus Graduation

*Head of School Karen Morse addressed the graduating eighth-grade class on June 6, and shared her advice on persevering through adversity, caring for one another, and setting goals for the future. Here is an excerpt of her address*



It seems like the end, but you know, it's really just a beginning — a commencement. My guess is that you're filled with excitement; perhaps a bit

nervous. Maybe it feels a little bittersweet. You'll have at least two more graduations to follow with high school and college, but for now, we're right here — celebrating the start of your next adventure.

A year ago today, I was passed the baton as Head of School, Lower Campus. I don't know you as well as I will know future classes, but I am clear that what I do know about you is true.

I know you are capable and enthusiastic. You are open-minded and flexible. You care about the environment and you appreciate diversity. You are self-disciplined and confident. You persevere when you face challenges and you hold each other up when a helping hand is needed. You're fun, and funny.

If you've been here since kindergarten, you've come to school over 1,530 times. In Middle School alone, you've been in school 510 days — that's 4,080 hours. You've been to 204 All-Schools; spent at least 30 days in the wilderness; taken at least 60 mid-term and final exams from your core courses; written at least 45 essays and taken 54 math tests. If you're a resident student, you've eaten approximately 2,142 meals of Gina's amazing cooking. If you're an equestrian you've ridden a horse over 340 hours, and each horse has consumed, well, a lot of bales of hay.

Throughout the 510 days that you've been here, I also know what you've learned at Ojai Valley School. I've seen your report cards and I've talked to your teachers — there is not one among you who hasn't set and reached high expectations.

Surely your parents searched high and low for the school they thought would be the right match for your foundation—to give you a solid start. They've given you roots and we've given you wings. Together, with your roots and wings, you are discovering your own pathless sky.

An OVS hiker asked Mrs. Hoem on their recent trip to Manzana Narrows, "Mrs. Hoem, will there be uphill and downhill?" She answered a definitive and unequivocal, "yes." On they walked.

Don't let fear of failure of uphill prevent you from going after something you want. Just start going, see how far you get, improve your abilities, and stay on the path. You won't be alone. Plenty of others will be on the same path—traveling with you. Encourage others. Cheer each other on. Remember though, to enjoy the journey. It's not just about reaching the summit, it's also about the beauty of the hike. You won't always reach every goal, but if you become stronger and you take in the wonderful adventures and lessons of life along the way, your life will be filled with its own peaks.



# Major Awards



## SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

The highest honor we can give an eighth grade student. Its purpose is to commend the student who with his or her actions and attitude, contributed to the school community in a sensitive and constructive manner in all phases of school life.

*Ronan Byrne*

## PAUL PITTMAN AWARD

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

*Copper Clark*

## 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.

*Jay Inman*

## MICHAEL D. HERMES AWARD

Given to the most outstanding eighth grade student-athletes.

*Bridget Levy and Gavin Floyd*

## HEAD OF SCHOOL AWARD

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

*Yukimi Hiroshima*

## 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.

*Jae Hee "Kevin" Cho and Yukimi Hiroshima*



*Jay Inman with Duncan Wallace and Matt Inman*



*Jae Hee "Kevin" Cho and Yukimi Hiroshima with Mr. Hall-Mounsey*



*Head of School Karen Morse and Ronan Byrne*



*Equestrian Director Stephanie Gustafson and rider Copper Clark*





# Primary and Elementary

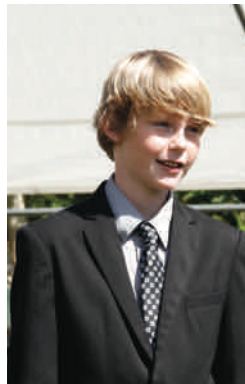
## *Promotion Highlights*





# Sixth and Seventh Grade

## Promotion Highlights



## Only the Beginning

*Three years ago, Keaton Shiffman (L10) spoke at his eighth-grade graduation. Now a rising OVS senior, Keaton shared his insights with the rising seventh- and eighth-grade students at their June 5 promotion. Here is an excerpt of his address*

Although I am about four years older than most of you, we are very similar. I am a junior moving into my senior year, and you are the juniors of the Lower Campus, moving in to your leadership roles. When I was down here I had some of the best times of my life, and I hope will you have similar wonderful adventures. I know that all of you deserve to be here; you have worked and earned your right to be on the stage today, but let me tell you, this is only the beginning. What you are learning today is going to guide you through your entire lives.

When I sat in Mr. Inman's classes learning about different areas of science, I didn't think about what it was going to mean for the future. However it is all starting to make sense. I am about to enter into Advanced Placement Biology, and if it weren't for the foundation I began when I was your age, that class I have on my schedule next year would be impossible.

In seventh grade, I had my first experience on Santa Cruz Island. I learned how to camp on an island, something I had never done before, but it is because of this trip that during my freshman year, when I was given the opportunity to go back to Santa Cruz, I quickly signed up for the trip.

The skills I learned at Lower have stayed with me through my journey through high school, and will stick with me through the rest of my life. We will never be done learning, and we will never be done growing as people. Take in everything you can while you are here. You are embarking on the final voyage before you move into high school, as I am moving on to the last leg of my journey at OVS.

No matter where any of us go in the future, OVS will remain with us for the rest of our lives. OVS is an extension of my family, which makes you guys sitting right here my little brothers and sisters. Look at the person to your left and to your right because these people will most likely stick with you for the rest of your lives because of the relationships you have made here.





# Campus News

## High School Journalists Win Top Prizes

In May, OVS student journalists won top prizes at the 2013 Tri-County Journalism Education Association Competition and the Ventura County Star's annual high school journalism competition.

Emmy Addison (L10) and Daphne Psaledakis were each awarded first place in the Star awards. Emmy won in the News category for her story on OVS alums in Boston who were affected by the Boston Marathon bombings. Daphne won in the Sports category for her story on two girls who stepped up to the plate last spring to play on the boys' baseball team.

Emmy also won third place for a sports story on two OVS sophomores who have competed on a rowing team at Lake Casitas. The online version of the student newspaper, *On the Hill*, was awarded third place in the General Excellence category. The awards are a significant recognition for OVS students, whose work was among more than 350 entries from 17 high schools countywide.

The 10-member journalism class went on to the Tri-County Journalism Education Association competition at Cal Lutheran University, and walked away with top prizes in multiple categories. John Olivo won first place for sports writing; Charlie Coe (L10) won first place for news photography and second place for feature photography; Jack Beverly (L09, U13) earned second place for editorial writing; and Daphne and Emmy each earned awards for feature writing.

The newspaper staff also won second place for its online edition of the student newspaper and took second place overall in the sweepstakes category. The daylong event involved "live" writing, photography, and design contests with more than 130 high school students from Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties.



## Battle of Hastings

Middle school history teacher John Rowan is bringing a new tradition to Ojai Valley School, and bringing history alive for his 7th grade students. For a second year, Mr. Rowan's students recreated a slice of medieval history last spring by re-enacting the Battle of Hastings in the center of the Lower Campus.

Each student created his or her own coat of arms, and crafted elaborate costumes that included shields, helmets and cardboard swords. Mr. Rowan's two 7th grade World History classes were broken up into Saxons and Normans, each taking a side of the battlefield.

The Battle of Hastings took place October 14, 1066, and marks the last time England was invaded. For England, it is among the most significant turning points in her history. For OVS, it provides a window to gives students the chance to bring history to life through hands-on work. The battle teaches students about Medieval Europe and the mixture of culture, but more importantly, it proves that history can be fun, said Mr. Rowan, adding: "Even the most reticent students in class go all out on this project."





## Seventh-grader Awarded Grant to Attend Writer's Program

OVS awarded this year's Salimbaceous Trust grant to seventh-grader Joy Campbell – an avid reader, writer, musician and artist – to support her dream to attend the Stanford University EPGY Institute Creative Writing Program this summer.

Joy's academic adviser presented her with the award in March during the All-School assembly at Lower Campus. Joy gasped in surprise as she walked to the podium amid the cheers of students and parents.

"Her teachers describe her as insightful, dedicated, and accepting of new challenges," adviser and technology teacher Mike Mahon said of Joy, who has been a student at OVS since kindergarten.

"She is known for her articulation of thought and her gift for language. She is also known as a person of great character."

For more than a decade, the Salimbaceous Trust has offered grants to girls and women who have a dream and a plan, but lack funding. The private charitable foundation was founded in 1996 through the estate of a woman who believed that lack of money too often stood in the way of females achieving their full potential. The Salimbaceous Trustees, OVS alumnae, subscribe to the school's principles of developing character and strength to accomplish "nothing less than your best."

In keeping with that tradition, Joy will spend two weeks this summer at Stanford University reading and discussing new authors, creating her own stories and poems, and critiquing the writing of her peers in an environment surrounded by artists who share her passion for the written word.



## College Acceptances

When senior Sierra Stingl began applying to colleges, she was immediately overwhelmed. She was daunted by the prospect of starting her life somewhere new and scared that she would regret her decision.

But one thing Sierra, a Palm Springs resident, learned from the grueling process of applying to schools is that if you let your choices be the right ones, they will be. She was accepted to 11 of the 13 colleges she applied to and chose to enroll at Walla Walla University, a small school in Washington, as a bioengineering major.

At first, her choice came as a bit of a shock. Her classmates and teachers expected that Sierra would attend one of the more prestigious schools that she was accepted to, and had originally planned on attending. But to her, Walla Walla was the better fit.

"I chose [Walla Walla] so I could take a year off of school between my freshman and sophomore year and I could become a student missionary in Palau," said Sierra, whose



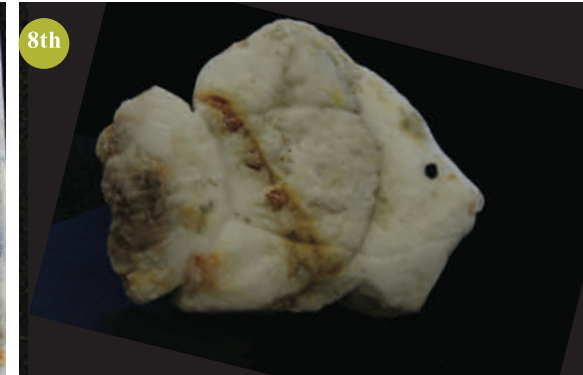
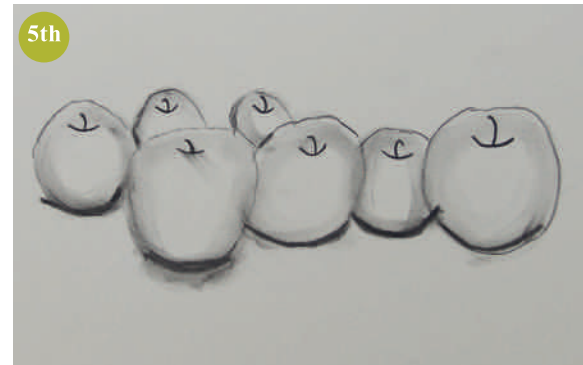
acceptances included UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara. "Although unconventional, and a little wacky, it's what feels right to me."

Sierra is one of 27 seniors in the graduating class starting a new chapter in life. Seniors will head off to schools including Occidental College, NYU, Emerson College, Ithaca College, Arizona State University, and several UC campuses.

Two local seniors, Jesse Clapoff of Ojai and Miles Munding Becker of Ventura, will be incoming freshmen at the University of Redlands. International student Polina Dermenzhi will leave her native Russia for warmer climes at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, while seniors Taylor Aronow of Agoura and Jack Beverly of Oak View will join several recent OVS alums at Chapman University. Both were admitted into the film school there.

# Focus on the Arts

*In celebration of Next 100 Campaign, and the focus on the Founder's Shop and Art Studio, we're very proud of OVS students' artistic accomplishments. Here are a few from the fine arts classes on both campuses.*



## THIS PAGE: LOWER CAMPUS

Pre k Henry Stoen  
Kindergarten Vida Haring  
First Grade Adler Swierkocki  
Second Grade Hannah Tully Giles

Third Grade Gianna Aragona  
Fourth Grade Sydnee Rousseau  
Fifth Grade Tyler Davis

Sixth Grade Alex Wang  
Seventh Grade Kase Skillern  
Eighth Grade Maria Kryukova

## NEXT PAGE: UPPER CAMPUS

**a** Drawing I Mia Carmen

**c** AP Drawing Ellen Liu

**b** Drawing I Misaki Kobayashi

**d** Studio Art Jayme Clapoff







# Sports News

After a season of triumph that included victories in every match he played, freshman golfer Davis Smith (L12) hit a stumbling block. On a sweltering day in Riverside, against top golfers from across Southern California, he missed qualifying for the CIF individual final championship by a single stroke.

He was crushed. Harder on himself than anyone else, Davis made no secret of his dismay at the loss. But with the resolve of a champion he pushed aside his disappointment, waking up at five the next morning to start practice again.

“I was disappointed in myself and felt like I let OVS down,” he said, adding that he wanted “to prove to myself that I have the drive to succeed.”

Davis tore up the course last spring, rising through the ranks as a young golf star. He consistently scored around par and served

as a steady anchor for the high school team. Davis has been golfing since the age of eight, first learning at Soule Park Golf Club in Ojai. Despite his talent as a soccer player, one who contributed to the middle and high school teams, Davis calls golf his main sport.

His skills were evident during a CIF qualifier when Davis, neck-and-neck with a student from Laguna Blanca, won the match on the 18th hole when from 181 yards away he hit his second shot to within two feet of the hole and tapped in for a birdie.

“Davis is an incredibly impressive player,” said coach Karen Haldeman. “He works every single day to improve his all-around great skills. He can putt, he can chip, he can drive and he’s got a really great temperament for the game. He never lets his emotions get the better of him.”

-- Emmy Addison (L10)



run . . . . . jump . . . . . catch and release!



Senior Miles Munding Becker (L09, U13) and sophomore Masaki Takamatsu competed in the CIF Division IV track and field prelims last spring. Miles (pictured) won the 300m hurdles at the Condor League championships. Masaki qualified the 100m and 200m runs.



Seven students from grades 6-12 participated in an open jumper show at the Stradivarius Equestrian Center in Santa Paula in May, closing out a phenomenal year for the equestrian program. The school is now an official Pony Club Riding Center.



The football and baseball teams started a new tradition this year – combining camping trips and competitive games against small schools in the Sierra Nevadas. The Spuds devoured lineman-sized meals prepared over camp stoves, and caught trout as well as passes.



# Pons Dinner

Pons: Latin for “bridge”

What is the Pons Dinner?

Each year, in recognition of our eighth-graders’ impending transition to high school, OVS has established the tradition of the Pons Dinner. This event, now in its 18th year, helps bridge the gap between our current students and those who have already made the successful transition to high school, college, and beyond.

Alumni guest speaker Charlotte Morran (L96, U00) shared with the group her personal journey of self-discovery. She explains, “OVS gave me confidence in myself. Even though I had no idea what the future held for me, I always felt I had the right tools and skills to move forward. Often times I was unsure if the decisions I was making were ultimately going to be right or wrong, but I always knew and still know that they were made with thoughtfulness and integrity.”

Senior guest speaker Sierra Stingl (L09, U13) added to Charlotte’s remarks by encouraging the group to take advantage of all the activities that will make their time in high school both memorable and life changing.



*Eighth-graders Sean Bradbury and Dean Cohen with Assistant Head of School Gary Gartrell.*



*Seniors who graduated from Lower Campus in 2009 with President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey.*



*Alumni guest speaker Charlotte Morran (L96, U00).*



*Senior Miles Munding Becker (L09, U13) with history teacher John Rowan.*



# Alumni News



*Sophomores Momoe and Masaki Takamatsu with their parents, Osamu Takamatsu and Julie Nootbaar (U86).*

By Daphne Psaledakis

Class of 2015

Last fall, Julie Nootbaar (U86) returned to the Upper Campus, not for a reunion or alumni event, but to move her two teenagers into the dorms where she grew up 26 years ago. She was astounded by the many changes—the Lucila Arango Science and Technology Center, ropes course, pool, fitness center – but much had remained the same.

“The wonderful view and all the beautiful natural surroundings will never change,” Nootbaar said.

This was a feeling she shared with her twin children, Momoe and Masaki Takamatsu, as she dropped them off at the beginning of their tenth-grade year last September.

Despite their American heritage, Momoe and Masaki have lived in Japan their whole lives. They have attended Japanese schools, which have vastly different philosophies and methods of education than schools in

the U.S. In an attempt to better understand their American ancestry, the twins decided to follow in their mother’s footsteps and attend Ojai Valley School for high school.

“I’ve been taking Japanese education for my whole life, and since I’m half American I wanted to experience American life,” said Masaki. “I told my mom I wanted to go to school in the U.S., and my mom suggested that I go to school at OVS.”

Nootbaar’s education at Upper Campus played a huge part in that decision. Born and raised in Pasadena, Nootbaar decided in eighth grade to apply to boarding schools. She was immediately drawn to OVS because of the surroundings and the people she met there.

“I wasn’t thinking too much about ‘educational philosophy’ or anything too deep at that age,” she said. “I liked the idea of a small, family-like atmosphere and a

place where individuality and creativity would be nurtured.”

During her time at OVS, she was an active member of the volleyball, soccer, and softball teams, and she was well-liked by teachers for her individuality and sense of humor.

“Julie Nootbaar was a great student. [She] thought her own thoughts, and found her own way. I really enjoyed her sense of independence,” said former teacher Gary Dinkins. “We seemed to share a sense of humor. I often laughed when in her presence and appreciated her understated, funny remarks.”

Nootbaar graduated from OVS in 1986 and attended Mount Holyoke in Massachusetts, where she majored in Asian Studies with a focus on Japan. She completed her graduate work in Japanese Studies at the University of Sheffield in the U.K.



# SAN FRANCISCO Alumni Gathering

From college, Nootbaar moved to Japan, which was where she met her husband, Osamu Takamatsu. Now, she works at the Oita Prefectural College of Arts and Culture, where she teaches in the Department of Global Studies.

“It’s very easy to speak of Julie Nootbaar as being an outstanding student. She was hardworking, dedicated, and highly respected by her teachers,” said Head of School Carl Cooper. “She had an appreciation for the environment of the Ojai Valley School, [and] she seemed to take advantage of all the good things OVS had to offer.”

During her years at OVS, Nootbaar said, she was surrounded by great teachers who opened her eyes to the world surrounding her and taught her important skills. The school’s positive growth over the past decades gave her confidence that her children would receive an even better education.

“It’s really strange because I never imagined it happening,” she said. “They are on my mind and in my heart every minute of every day, but I’m happy knowing they’re at OVS.”

And OVS is delighted to have them. Not only have the twins excelled academically, overcoming initial culture shock and language barriers, but they have quickly become well-liked by peers and highly valued members of the athletic program. Momoe’s a star runner on the track and cross country teams, and Masaki’s a leading scorer on the football, soccer, and baseball teams – despite having never played those sports in Japan.

“It’s neat when alumni kids start coming to the school,” said Athletic Director Craig Floyd (U83). “It shows that we’re doing something right!”

At first, Momoe and Masaki felt a little strange attending the same school their mother did at their age. But they also knew it was a good school because of the experiences she shared with them. Even though they miss home at times, the twins are happy with their decision to come to OVS.

“I miss swimming in the ocean, but I like the sunset here, the location, [and] the people,” Momoe said. “I feel I fit in here.”

Thanks to everyone who attended the San Francisco gathering in May. It was a wonderful opportunity for alums to connect with one another and also hear about the OVS of today from president Michael Hall-Mounsey, Director of Admission Tracy Wilson, and Director of Development and Alumni Relations Will Wyman. A very special thanks to Shannon and Paul Donlon (L74) for hosting the event.

For those who were unable to attend, we look forward to seeing you at future special Spud events!



*From left, hosts Shannon and Paul Donlon (L74) in San Francisco, along with other members of the Donlon family.*



*Spuds celebrate their OVS connections in San Francisco.*



# Alumni Games



We appreciated the stalwart alumni who participated in the Spring 2013 Alumni Games doubleheader! Congratulations to our student lacrosse team for its 11-7 victory in the 5th Annual Bingo Memorial Lacrosse Game (pictured on opposing page). Thankfully, the alumni were able to redeem themselves on the diamond with a Spud-tastic 10-6 victory over the students. Cooper Hefner (U09) took turns at bat for the alums (pictured at left). Earlier in the year, more than 40 alumni returned for the alumni basketball and soccer games. Bob Zheng (U9) (pictured at far left) showed his skills on the court, and was assisted by a strong crew of OVS alumni (pictured below).









# Alumni Showcase

## Alumni in the Fine Arts

OVS is honored to showcase works of art created by individuals within the OVS community. Thank you to those alumni and former faculty members who submitted photos of their pieces for this feature.

Future Alumni Showcase features are in the planning stages to highlight alumni accomplishments in music, sports, history, filmmaking, science, community service, and more. Send an email at [alumni@ovs.org](mailto:alumni@ovs.org) to let OVS know what you are up to.



**1 Dan Badgley (U66)** explains his influences and predilections: "At a young age, I learned about light, color, texture, form and composition. I learned to see. My mom is a painter and Dad an architect. Early on, I was very impressed by Picasso, Matisse, Cezanne, and the Surrealists. Later, the abstract work of De Koenig, Richard Debenkorn, as well as numerous family friends were most influential to me. I started painting and drawing abstractly soon after I left OVS and have never stopped. I did also start drawing the figure, regularly, in the mid 1980s and have been exploring both directions ever since. They play off of each other."

*Untitled, mixed media on paper, 2009, 22" x 30"*

**2 Helen Berggruen (L60)** was born in San Francisco, CA, in 1945. She received her B.A. at Sarah Lawrence College in 1974 and currently resides in San Francisco. Earlier this year, she had her sixth solo exhibition at the Fischbach Gallery called "*The Open Window: Objects, Rooms & Landscapes*." "The through line in my work is a concern for rhythm, the duration of sounds and silences, harmony and melodic motion," explains Helen. "Recurring pulses and syncopation are the forces underlying the composition, the color, and the brush strokes which give life to the hills and trees, the winding roads, the chairs and tables, the objects near a window."

*"Winding Road with Sunflowers," 2012, oil on canvas, 32" x 25"*

**3 Florence Chan (U06)** is currently studying architecture at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and will soon graduate. This collage comes from a previous studio project on designing a new marketplace for an outlying island, Cheung Chau, in Hong Kong. The idea is to study the place through a series of mapping of various aspects combined with images taken there.

*"Density, Memory, and Fabric."*

**4 Bernadette DiPietro** is a former art teacher at the Upper Campus. After studying textile design in 1965 at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, she spent the next fifty years using wax, dye, and watercolors as her media, creating Batik on fabric and handmade paper. In 2013 she opened Working ARTIST Gallery and Studio in downtown Ojai, where she exhibits her work and offers workshops. Her newest works are abstract mixed media assemblages incorporating found materials on board or canvas. She is the author of *The ABCs of Batik*, and her work has appeared in numerous publications.

*"Mystical Encounters in the Garden," acrylic on paper, 26" x 36"*

**5 Gary Dinkins**, an OVS teacher for 45 years, holds a degree in Russian from UC Berkeley, and an M.A. in French from UC Santa Barbara. His study of foreign language led to an interest in the language of visual art, through which he pursues an understanding of nature's aesthetic. Influenced by Winslow Homer, John Singer Sargent, as well as well known Santa Barbara artists the Ray Strong and Joseph Knowles Sr., Gary has been painting water color landscapes for 35 years. He describes his work as impressionist renderings of the natural environment, where reflected light, and intense color, are the dominant elements. "Here, he explains his piece: "The Steinbeck represents my impression of the Monterey coast near Cannery Row. I call it 'The Steinbeck' because I think the colors and forms reflect the author's feeling in much of what he has written." This painting was awarded 1st place in the water color category at the annual Santa Paula Art Exhibit.

*"The Steinbeck," water color on paper, 24"x18"*



# Founder's Alumni Award

The OVS Founder's Alumni Award honors an alumna/us whose extraordinary achievements exemplify the principles and values of the Ojai Valley School. This year's recipient is **Woody Halsey**, Lower Campus Class of 1962.

Woody knew the rustically beautiful Thacher campus as home for the first fifteen years of his life; his father taught classics there, and his mother was the art teacher. OVS schoolmate Nelson Chase, whose father was then Thacher's headmaster, was Woody's closest friend.

After graduating from the Lower Campus, Woody became a Thacher student but transferred to Sidwell Friends School in Washington, DC, when his father was hired there as Upper School head. Woody graduated from Sidwell in 1965 and enrolled at Princeton, where he earned a bachelor's degree in romance languages. After completing a master's degree in French literature at Middlebury, he went on to teach French at St. Paul's School in New Hampshire and subsequently worked as admissions director and director of the boys' school at the Crystal Springs and Uplands School in Hillsborough, CA.

In 1980, having been recruited by his childhood friend Nelson Chase, Woody took a job teaching for the Student Year

Abroad (SYA) Program. The position required a move to France, and Woody happily complied with that requirement, remaining in Rennes for six years.

In 1986, Woody was appointed executive director of SYA and moved to Andover, Massachusetts, where the home office of the program was located.



*Woody at Student Year Abroad desk*

Student Year Abroad is the only secondary-level program which allows students to live with a European or Asian family for an entire academic year while earning U.S. graduation credits and preparing for selective U.S. colleges and universities.

Under Woody's leadership, the program expanded to include study opportunities in Spain, China, Italy, Vietnam, Japan, and, for a time, in

Germany and India as well. Originally sponsored by Phillips Academy, SYA is now supported by a consortium of 45 top-flight independent schools across the country.

Woody remained executive director and president of the organization for twenty-five years. Married and the father of six, he is now retired and living in Avignon, France.

Scott Eicher (L65, U68) introduced the award and Will Wyman, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, whose youngest daughter, Molly, attended SYA in Vietnam in 2010, read Woody's gracious acceptance speech which concluded as follows:

"...in memory of all the interesting, hardworking and smart teachers who shaped me and the other OVS students of my time, and on behalf of

the other graduates of this School who absorbed its values and carried them forth to do good work in the world -- and who could well have been chosen before me -- I am honored to accept the Ojai Valley School Founder's Award for 2013.

To read Woody's full speech please visit our website at [ovs.org/aw](http://ovs.org/aw)

## Ojai Valley School Founder's Alumni Award

*Deadline for nominations: January 31, 2014*

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 14, 2014.

Mail nominations to OVS Alumni Office, 723 El Paseo Road, Ojai, CA 93023 or email [alumni@ovs.org](mailto:alumni@ovs.org).



# Lower Class of 1953 celebrates 60th reunion



Bob Koster (L53) and Anne Thacher Bruenn (L53)

On the weekend of June 14-16, Ojai Valley School held its annual Alumni Weekend. It was a special event for the Lower Campus class of 1953 since it was our 60th reunion.

Only four members of the graduating class were able to make the trip, but it was a splendid group anyway. Jim Demsey travelled from his home outside of Fresno, CA to join us. Douglas Kopp drove in from his home in the Palm Springs area. Anne Thacher Bruenn drove all the way down from her home in Walnut Creek with her husband, Steve Bruenn. Bob Koster drove up from his home in Camarillo.

We were joined by Mr. Michael J. Hall-Mounsey for a grand reunion dinner at La Valle Restaurant on Friday evening. We all had the chance to catch up with each other and recount our recent histories, as well as reminisce about our great years at OVS.

The school has progressed considerably since we were there. There was no Upper Campus in 1953. It would not be built until ten years later. The phone number of OVS at that time was 423. There were no area codes. One needed to go through the operator if one wanted to make a long-distance call. The drive up from Los Angeles was made far more amusing since there were no freeways. The trip could take three hours or more.

The City of Ojai has retained its charm over the years and is always a pleasure to visit. The school, of course, will be eternally in our minds as a highlight of our lives.

The food at La Valle Restaurant was delicious and healthy, normally two mutually exclusive properties. Mr. Hall-Mounsey filled us in on the progress of the school to date and the plans for the future, all very exciting and in many ways satisfying news. And well deserving of our financial attention as always. We few, we happy few, were free to reminisce about the rest who were unable to attend. Poor they. Try as we might we were unable to remember anything negative about anyone in our class, or about the school in general.

Messrs Demsey and Kopp are just as delightful dinner companions as they were those many years ago, and it was special to see Anne Thacher as bright and cheerful as always.

We look forward to our 70th reunion in 2023!

– Bob Koster (L53)



Doug Kopp (L53) and Jim Demsey (L53)



# Alumni Weekend



**the soccer game**



**the hike**





# Alumni Weekend

1



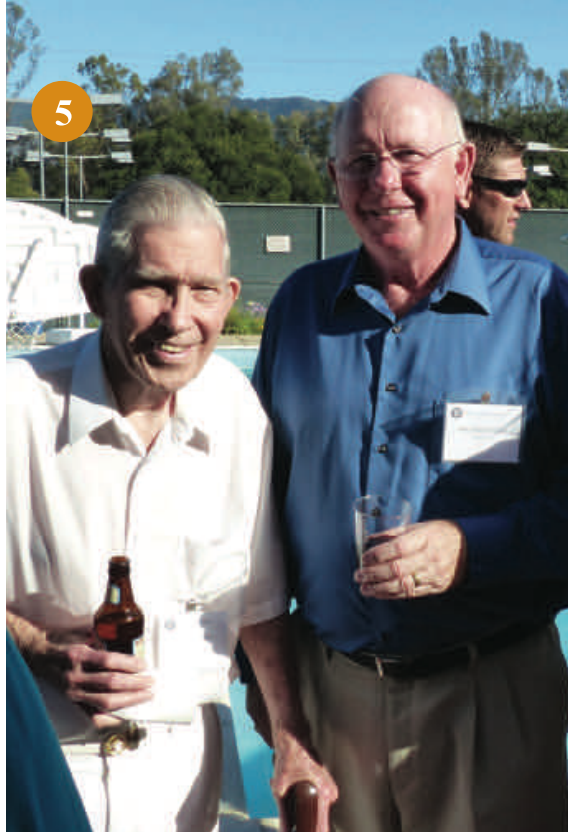
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3







1 Mohi Khairandish (L77, U81), Robin Balchen (U85), Chris Kaufman (U83), Wendi Wagner McCluskey with husband and son, Andrew (U85) and Jacob

2 Will Geyer (L84, U88), Kent Preston (L84, U88), Chris Winkler (U88), Rob Davis (L84, U88), Christine Ming Iacangelo (L84, U88), Gabriella Balchen (U88), Nelson Wang (U88), Sean Reid (U88) and Darin Bemis (L84, U88)

3 Anne Thacher Bruenn (L53) with nephew George Thacher (L85)

4 Bill Doyle (U68) with his wife, Lisa Doyle

5 Former Woodshop teacher, Ralph Williams with Mike Hall-Mounsey

6 F. Jordan Breer (L70, U73), Jody Berger Cooper (L71, U74) and Gary Dinkins

7 Class of U03 celebrating its 10 year reunion: Breanna Farber (L99, U03), Chris DeMoor (L99, U03) and Sarah Gates (L99, U03)



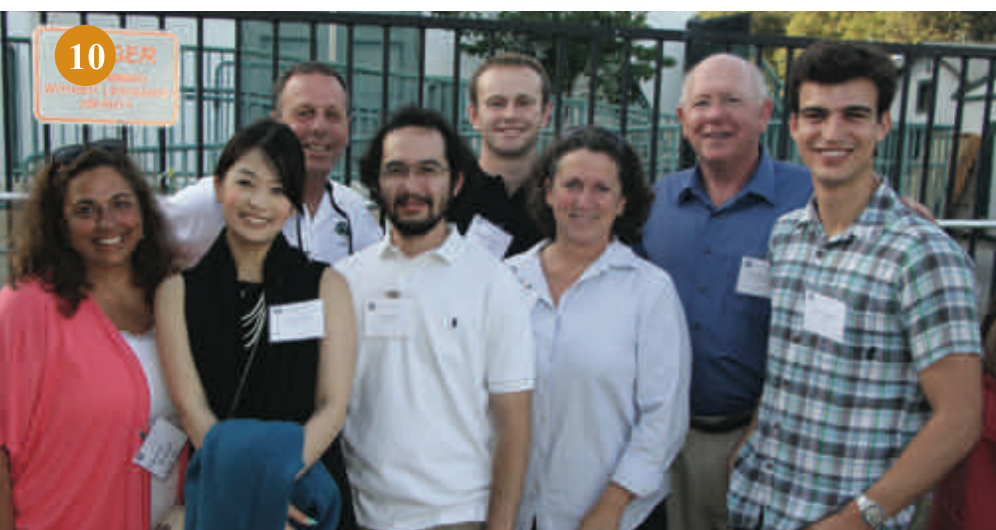
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13



14

8

Leslie Pon Tell Schreiber (L69, U72) and René Pon Tell Briggs (U68)

9

Tom Johnson (U71) and Melissa Blackmer Thyoneus (U71)

10

Opening the 2003 Lower Campus time capsule: Eleanora Burright, Kiwako Ogura (L03, U07), Gary Gartrell, Teddy Kalb (L03, U07), Scott Carr (L03), Tami Scott, Mike Hall-Mounsey and Robert Campana (L03)

11

Class of L53: Doug Kopp, Bob Koster, Jim Demsey and Anne Thacher Bruenn

12

Kelly Brown (U93), Marina Black (U93), Carl Cooper and Tracy Fryer (U93)

13

Lana Lucking Fredell (L57), Linda Vidler, Crystal Davis and Erika Coble Coolman

14

Scott Eicher (L65, U68) presenting the Founder's Alumni Award to Woody Halsey (L62)

15

Bill Burke (U73), Oscar Kornblatt (U73), Jimmy Cooper (L70, U73), Monica Boggs Casey (L70, U73), F. Jordan Breer (L70, U73) and Mike Fry (U74)

16

Jess Brolin (L87, U91), Loc Briggs (L86, U90), Forrest Michael Heistermann (U83) and Craig Floyd (U83)



15



16





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2015 Committee



# Spuds Rolling in Positive Direction with creation of *Alumni Council*



As part of the school's strategic initiative to create new and compelling opportunities for alumni leadership and engagement, two former Lower Campus roommates are helping put together a new Alumni Council.

These two loyal volunteers, Paul Donlon (L74) and Alan Newsum (L75, U79), not only have fond memories of their time together as roommates in Frost Hall and as teammates back in the day, but also have a sincere love for this special school. They have helped lead the initial efforts to establish a streamlined organizational structure with a range of supporting sub-committees, review important goals and objectives, and recruit other alumni volunteers to participate.

After being out of touch for 30 years, Paul gave Alan a call at his home in Houston, Texas, to let him know he was hosting an alumni reception in San Francisco the first weekend in May. Alan then jumped on a plane in Houston and arrived in San Francisco just in time to help Paul with final preparations. The two rekindled their friendship without missing a beat and talked with President/CEO Michael Hall-Mounsey about opportunities to help the school reach out to alumni. One thing led to another, and the two agreed to return to their old stomping grounds in June to participate in a focus group meeting during Alumni Weekend.

At the first meeting, a number of new ideas were suggested. Bob Koster (L53), a former filmmaker and published author, wants to help create an Alumni mentorship program to help connect young alumni with career networking and professional development, as well help current high school students with the college admissions process. Alan Newsum (L75 U79), Executive Director of the Association of Diving Contractors International, a leading global non-profit organization, suggested the Alumni Office evaluate social media platforms and keep current with the latest in brand marketing and internet communications. Other interesting topics included discussion on future plans for the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1965, the first graduating class from Upper Campus, as well as ideas about regional alumni gatherings around the world.

Many thanks to all our Alumni Council volunteers for their willingness to help the school and their initial participation: Bob Koster (L53), Jimmy Cooper (L70, U73), Rob Davis (L84, U88), Chris Winkler (U88), Shelley Hermes (U77), Ryan Blatz (L95, U99), Katie Clifford Jeffries (L99, U03), Cooper Hefner (U09), and Max Wheeler (L06, U10). The Alumni Council welcomes additional members, and will review nominations or submissions for new candidates at the upcoming meeting in September. Please contact the OVS Alumni Office for further information.

***"I am very excited about helping OVS align with all our alumni. It seems like there is a great opportunity to connect with many folks who can carry the message of the values of such a great institution. I am proud to be able to help out."***

***— Paul Donlon (L74)***



# Alumni Notes



**Ralph Williams**, who taught in the Founder's Shop from 1953 to 1955 and then worked as Summer Camp shop teacher for 7 years, visited the Lower Campus in April. He's pictured with Gary Gartrell, Assistant Head of School, Lower Campus

Ralph remembers teaching Tony Thacher and Tom Russell, among others and said he was pleased to see that the concrete ping pong table he had built in the 50s was still in good stead and being used.

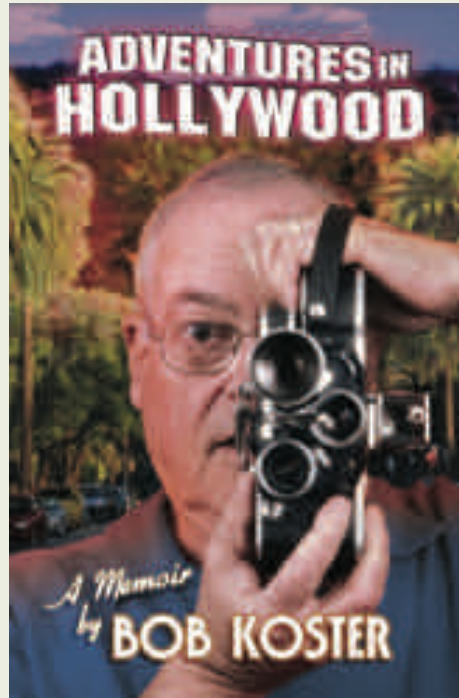
## Lower 1933

OVS recently learned that **John David Cist** passed away on Thursday, June 24, 2010. John had been a resident of Wilmington, Delaware.

ATTENTION: We welcome your updates anytime! Alumni news received by December 31, 2013 will be published in the next issue of *Alumni Notes* magazine.

You may submit your updates to the Office of Alumni Relations:  
Mail: 723 El Paseo Road, Ojai, CA 93023  
Email: [alumni@ovs.org](mailto:alumni@ovs.org) • [www.ovs.org/alumni](http://www.ovs.org/alumni).

## Lower 1953



Class Agent **Bob Koster** says he enjoyed connecting with his classmates at their special (60th) reunion dinner on the Friday of Alumni Weekend. His latest book, *Adventures in Hollywood*, reveals some of the backstories involving great films and big stars of Tinsel Town's Golden Age. Bob has knowledge of these backstories through his father, who was a prominent Hollywood writer, producer, and director in the forties and fifties, perhaps best known for directing such hits as *The Bishop's Wife*, *My Man Godfrey*, and *Harvey*. Bob's book is a fascinating read and is available at Amazon.com and at Barnes and Noble.

## Lower 1955

**Bill Wilmer** asks, "Can any of us who is an OVS graduate from the early and mid-fifties recall all the wonderful things we did together daily as a family?" adding, "It was such a magical time with so much going on. We can recall some precious specific events,

but we are more likely to glow in the memory that, every day, we had fun with a large, extended family of fun-loving brothers and sisters and very caring and capable surrogate parents who loved and respected us."

## Lower 1957

**Jerri (Stagg) Beatty** sends her greetings and reports that she and the grandson she adopted are now living in Loma Linda. She says she enjoys not working but misses her co-workers. Jerri declares that her "OVS memories are the finest of [her] life," and she goes on to say, "Mr. Burr, Mr. Cooper, and Otis Wickenhaeuser still are part of my being as they helped make me a better person. I treasure the Sespe experiences I had, and the whole time I spent at OVS was truly the best part of my life for memories!!!"

## Lower 1962

**Daniel Cullman** took another trip to Vietnam and Cambodia in March of this year. He hopes to bring his fiancée back to Washington State this summer.

## Lower 1976



**Dan Boggs** and his mother, Rose. In celebration of Mother's Day, Dan and Rose dressed in 1940s clothes and were chauffeured to Ventura Majestic Theater to attend a 1940s-themed Count Basie concert. The car is a 1941 Ford Roadster.

*If you would like to get in touch with a classmate, please contact the Alumni Office at [alumni@ovs.org](mailto:alumni@ovs.org) or 805-640-2578.*



## Lower 1977

If any alums in the L.A. area are really serious about getting fit, contact **Nina Sugamori**, who recently turned fifty and is looking like a million. She works at Crossfit: Mean Streets in downtown L.A. Check out her exercise videos on YouTube, especially the “Kung Fu Duck Walk” one. Wow!!

## Lower 1983

**Jason Heistermann** (see U87)

**Veronica “Roni” Wade Morris** (see U87)

## Lower 1986

OVS was saddened to learn that **Charlotte Brosnan** passed away on June 28, 2013.

## Lower 1987

**Peter Orgolini** (see U91)

## Lower 1989

“For the past 14 years, I have served in the U.S. Army as an infantry soldier,” writes **John Diggles**, who goes into more detail about where he’s been and what he’s been doing: “I have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and I am currently serving in Southern Afghanistan, where my company is on a small combat outpost running daily combat patrols. I have 6 children: 3 mine and 3 my wife’s; we are the modern day Brady Bunch. I have a small business with my wife called Diggles Hot Sauce. Check out our web site: [www.diggleshotsauce.com](http://www.diggleshotsauce.com)



John and his wife, Allison, are firefighters. They clean up nicely, as is evident in their wedding photo (below)



## Lower 1994

Congratulations to **James Volker** and his wife on the birth of their baby boy, Desmond, on Cinco de Mayo!



*Desmond Volker*

## Lower 2000



Gary Gartrell, Matt Inman and **Marc Kaplan** during a recent visit to the Lower Campus.

**Shaney Su** is currently living in Taiwan and working in a cosmetics company. She was in Seoul sightseeing with a couple of her Taiwanese friends and, while there, she met up with Mike Cha and Shelley Hermes.



*Shaney with her friend Jenny*

## Lower 2001

**Tommy Kim** (see U05)

## Lower 2003

**Sung Ho Park** (see U07)

## Lower 2004

**Andy Kang** (see U08)

## Upper 1969

Happy tidings from **Michael Carroll**: “On 3/23/13 I married PWBA and USBC Hall-of-Fame pro bowler Lisa Wagner in Fort Myers, FL.,” writes he. Congratulations, Mike!

## Upper 1970

**Alfred Yin** was recently featured as “Champion of the Week” in *The Champion* newspaper. Here’s why: While Alfred was attending Emory University in the early seventies, he wanted to enlist in the U.S. Army, but he was thwarted in his attempts to do so because, as a foreign student, he was not eligible for military service. (Alfred came to this country from China in 1968 after receiving a scholarship to attend OVS). Unable to serve his new country through military service, Alfred resolved instead to contribute through community service.

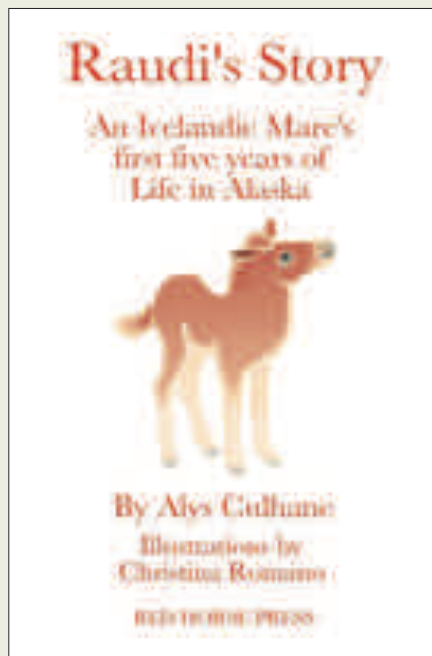
Alfred owns several businesses in DeKalb County, Georgia, but still finds the time and energy to devote to several organizations in his community. He volunteers at the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), a group dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the U.S. Alfred held the position of OCA president from 2007 – 2009. He is also a board member of the Georgia Asian Pacific Islander Community Coalition, President of the Office of Minority Health Equity Council, as well as President of the Board of Directors for Chamblee, Georgia’s Pan Asian Community Center (PACC), whose mission it is to help Asian immigrants become productive citizens in America.

OVS salutes your commitment to making this a better world, Alfred!



## Upper 1973

**Christina Romano** lives in the SF Bay Area, with Bruce, her husband of 39 years, two horses, and cat. She's professionally illustrated cartoons and painted realistic scenes for galleries, magazines, and books since 1974. Her horse and pony cartoons have appeared in *The US Icelandic Horse Quarterly* and the *San Mateo County Horseman's Quarterly*.



Life is both full and good for **Oscar Kornblatt**, who started his own CPA practice last August. He has also completed his 2nd degree black belt in TaeKwonDo and will soon celebrate his 25th wedding anniversary. He also reports his son joined the USAF, is training as a crew chief on the F22 Raptor, and is soon to be in Anchorage, AK. Oscar describes himself as “a delighted grandfather “Gramps” of [his] 1 year old granddaughter.”



Oscar Kornblatt U73

## Upper 1981

We were tickled to hear from **Claire Krane Kelleman**, who sends her OVS family love and greetings from Maui and provides us with this update: “Here are 260 acres of pasture in Makawao about to be regenerated into native forest, 48+ off-grid eco homes in clusters, horseback riding and walking trails through shady fruit tree food forests, and more. My dream job arrived when my best friend sold ERGObaby, and bought this land to create a community for organic farming and healthy living. I am grateful and happy to be the Permaculture Designer for HOKU NUI MAUI, LLC, working with a small, dedicated team. Stay tuned. Peace is prevailing wherever there is Permaculture. It just keeps getting better and better!”



Claire Krane Kelleman

## Upper 1987

Congratulations to Class Agent **Jason Heistermann**, who proposed to his sweetheart on Friday night of Alumni Weekend. Happily, she said, “YES!”



Jason Heistermann and fiancée, Tiffany

Sometimes it's surprising what the OVS students we take on trips to important places remember most vividly. **Veronica “Roni” Wade Morris** visited the Lower Campus on March 25th and shared the following story with us: “In 8th grade, we took a class trip to New York and Washington DC. While we were getting on the tour bus that would be taking us to the Pentagon, I was stung by a bee. Sitting next to my boyfriend, Scott Lippman, and best friend, Triana Flores, I started feeling weird and was developing hives. Scott and Triana looked complete freaked out. Scott alerted Mr. Hall-Mounsey (who was then our social studies teacher) and Phil Bryan (our headmaster) and, when they saw me, their eyes grew as big as saucers.

“The tour guide grabbed my hand, and Mr. Bryan ran behind us as we were ushered into the Pentagon infirmary. Three ambulances arrived, and we got to choose the team we wanted to ride with to the hospital. It was all very exciting. I think I gave Mr. Hall-Mounsey and Mr. Bryan heart attacks, but I am sure this is one trip we all will never forget.”



Michael Hall-Mounsey with Roni Wade Morris and her 11-year old daughter, Madi.



## Upper 1991



**Peter Orgolini** (L87, U91), visited OVS in May with his daughter, Lucy, who will start as an incoming seventh grader in the fall. Welcome, Lucy!

## Upper 1993



We'd know her anywhere: **Lori Bleier Cole** in her EMT class photo. Congratulations on your new career, Lori!

## Upper 2000

**Alice Friend** and her husband, Nathan Burnham, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Lillian Olmsted Burnham. Lillian was born at home on April 6th, 2012, in Anchorage, Alaska. Alice, Nathan and Lilly will be moving to St. John's, Newfoundland, this summer so that Nathan can pursue a degree in remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). Alice invites her OVS friends to email her at [alicefriend@gmail.com](mailto:alicefriend@gmail.com).

## Upper 2002

Here's the latest from **Maxine Aguilar**: "Hi, all! It's been 11 years since I left high school, and I can hardly believe it. I spent years in school studying literature and education and have finally settled into a literacy job for the YMCA, for which I develop curriculum. I'm excited to say that I am beginning my life with my soulmate and fiancé, David, this October. It's great to share my wonderful memories of OVS with him! All the best to everyone!"



*Maxine Aguilar with fiancé, David*

**Yu Nong "Angela" Bao** reports that, following her graduation from UCLA, she went on to Wall Street and then worked abroad in Asia before returning to continue her career and education. She joined JP Morgan in NYC this summer.

## Upper 2003

**Meghan Harter** couldn't make it to Alumni Weekend because she was in New Mexico for her father's wedding. She reports that, as of early August, she will be attending University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, pursuing a Ph.D. in Education.

## Upper 2005

**Tommy Kim** is currently attending law school at UC Berkeley. Keep up the good work, Tommy!

**Tomohiko Ushijima** visited Seoul for some business and sightseeing. He met with Jooman Kim and then later with Shelley Hermes, Sung Ho Park, and James Kang.

After a brief time with Lehman Brothers, Tomohiko started his own investment company.

He's doing well and sends greetings to the Boyds as well as to Mrs. Oberlander.

## Upper 2007

**Sung Ho Park** recently graduated from USC, finishing his last semester as a year abroad student at Seoul National University. He is currently playing soccer on the weekends and is busy during the week developing his own business.

**James Kang** has been living in Seoul for the last year and a half and is currently helping his family manage their business. He is also considering graduate school in the near future.



*Sung Ho, James Kang, and Tomo Ushijima*

## Upper 2008

**Andy Kang** is finishing school and thinking about becoming an elementary school teacher.

ATTENTION: We welcome your updates anytime! Alumni news received by December 31, 2013 will be published in the next issue of *Alumni Notes* magazine.

You may submit your updates to the Office of Alumni Relations:  
Mail: 723 El Paseo Road, Ojai, CA 93023  
Email: [alumni@ovs.org](mailto:alumni@ovs.org) • [www.ovs.org/alumni](http://www.ovs.org/alumni).



# In Memoriam

## William George Bade (L38)



**William George Bade**, a member of the Lower School Class of 1938, passed away on August 10, 2012.

Bill was born in Oakland on May 29, 1924, to Elizabeth Marston of San Diego and William F. Bade. Bill Sr. was the literary executor and biographer of John Muir; he was also a professor at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. and the founding director of the school's Palestine Institute.

Because the Bades were on an extended archaeological expedition near Jerusalem in 1932 – 1933, they enrolled Bill Jr. and his sister, Betsy (L37), at OVS for that academic year. Later, the family spent a year circumnavigating the world by ship and living at the site of Bill Sr.'s archaeological dig in (then) Palestine. Bill (known then as "Billy") and his sister returned to OVS in 1935 because their father had become gravely ill.

Noted for having "an insatiable curiosity" and "a true enthusiasm for his work," Billy was determined to gain a genuine understanding of concepts and processes that were presented to him by his OVS teachers. He was a top student and an influential leader. His dorm mother expressed her appreciation of him by noting "[Billy] has earned the respect and admiration of the whole dormitory family through his fairness and good judgment and has actually been the 'agent of redemption' in the case of two younger boys." And Myra Linn, then the OVS headmistress, declared, "Billy is one of the most outstanding and most beloved children we have had in the

school." Bill formed long-lasting friendships with many of his OVS schoolmates, including Philip Pierpont, Josephine Pierpont Clark, and Al Jarren.

Bill's early childhood was spent in Berkeley, but, following his father's death in 1936, the family moved to San Diego. He graduated from San Diego High School in 1942, and, after a freshman year at Pomona, attended Cal Tech (Navy V-12), graduating with a degree in physics in 1945. Bill's math teacher at OVS, who had expressed the conviction that "mathematics is not one of Billy's great joys," would no doubt have been astonished to learn that he went on to earn a Ph.D. from UCLA in mathematics. But so he did, after having completed his Navy service.

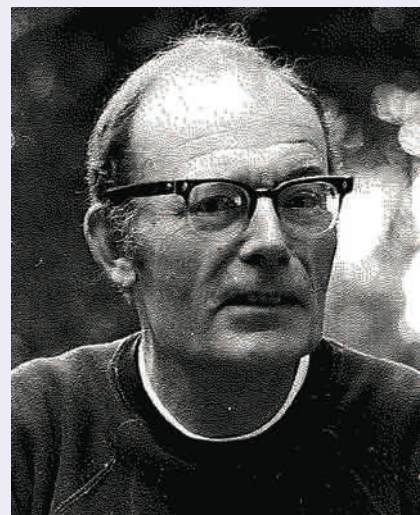
Bill started teaching at UC Berkeley in 1951. The following year, he married Eleanor Barry, and the newlyweds moved to Connecticut, where Bill took a job at Yale. In 1955, the Bades returned to Berkeley, where Bill served as Vice-Chair for Graduate Studies, shepherding 26 doctoral candidates in his field of functional analysis/Banach Algebras. Bill loved teaching as well as collaborative research, and he remained in the UC Math Department until he retired in 1991.

While collecting stamps and rocks were among Bill's early hobbies, later interests included a deep love of nature, of music, and of amateur winemaking. He and Elly were also active in their local California Native Plant Society.

Bill Bade will be remembered as a man of great integrity, gentle kindness, and quiet wisdom, qualities that were already in evidence when he was a student at OVS.

He is survived by Eleanor, his wife of 60 years; by their six children; and by their five grandchildren. The family encourages memorial donations to the Bade Museum of Biblical Archaeology at the Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709, or to the Mathematics General Fund, Dept. of Mathematics, UC Berkeley, 970 Evans Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-3840, designated to help math students in Bill's memory.

## Arthur Gardner Biscoe, Faculty Member and Administrator



**Arthur G. Biscoe**, age 93, who worked at OVS for most of a twenty-year span starting in 1964, passed away on Sunday, March 31st at his home in Sublimity, Oregon.

The son of Maurice and Agnes Biscoe, Art was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He served in the US Navy during WWII as a Motor Machinist's Mate on board many ships, including the USS YMS 291 & 396. Art received his undergraduate degree in physics from Colorado College and went on to receive his Master's degree in education at Columbia University in New York.

In 1951, Art was hired to be the dean of boys and to teach at The Oakwood School in Poughkeepsie, New York. It was there he first met Joyce McKinstry, who was serving as dean of girls at the time. The two married in 1955, and, two years later, took teaching jobs at the Cambridge School, in Weston, Massachusetts.

Family considerations brought Art and Joyce west, and they began their careers at OVS in 1964. Shortly after the Biscoes arrived in Ojai, Joyce's brother died, and his four young children came to live with their aunt and uncle. Sandi was then nine, twins Shannon and Kevin were seven, and Kolin was just six. All four of the McKinstry children attended OVS.



Art became the assistant headmaster of the Lower School, a position he kept until the early seventies, when Mr. Burr promoted him to be the headmaster of the Upper School. Besides his administrative duties, Art also taught algebra and civics classes at OVS.

When Art first applied to work at OVS, he was asked about his philosophy of education. Here is an excerpt of what he wrote:

“Education is a life-long process for which the individual must assume primary responsibility....Each individual must learn to take an active attitude toward life and learning, to make both a creative process. He must develop consciousness of personal responsibility for his attitudes and actions and a self-respect in living with himself. In order that this can happen, the school must provide an atmosphere of trust, of mutual respect, and the concept of the intrinsic worth of each individual.”

Art and Joyce left OVS to work at the Claremont Collegiate Day School, where Art served as headmaster for three years. While there, the Biscoes shared a house with Bob and Helen Cooper. The close friendship between these families endured.

After a brief stint at Happy Valley School (now known as Besant Hill), the Biscoes came back home to OVS. Joyce served as the college counselor; Art taught and tutored students in algebra during that time. They retired from the school business in 1985.

Art and Joyce greatly enjoyed restoring antique furniture as well as buying and selling antiques, and, when they moved to Stayton, Oregon, in 1987, they opened their own business, Hodge Podge Antiques.

Joyce preceded Art in death on Dec. 26, 2011. Their son, Kevin McKinstry, predeceased both his parents; he died on Nov. 5, 2011.

Art is survived by daughter Sandi Schlabach and son Kolin McKinstry, both of Stayton, Oregon, by daughter Shannon McKinstry Jerman of Laurel, Delaware; by grandchildren Misty, Keith, and Kevin; and by great grandchildren Taylor and Karter.

Memorials may be made to the American Friends Service Committee.

## Theodore Kneeland Canfield (L39)

**Theodore Canfield**, a member of the Lower School Class of 1939, died on February 17, 2013. He was 84.

Ted had been born in Santa Barbara, but the family moved to Berkeley before coming to Ojai in 1938. Ted attended fourth grade as a day student at OVS and was described by his teacher as “an intelligent, well-adjusted child with an indomitable spirit.” The teacher went on to write, “It has been a real opportunity to work with so keen, courageous, and interesting a child as Ted. [He has an] affectionate, loving nature.”

Popular with his peers, Ted was also well-liked and even admired by the faculty. The following note appears in his file: “Ted entered OVS after having suffered a severe illness which had left him nervously upset. He had the privilege of leaving the classroom at any time to take a walk or to lie down. However, he refused to use this privilege, even when quite noticeably tired, and, instead, pulled himself together quietly and went on with his work.”

Ted graduated from the University of Colorado, where he met Lissa, who would become his wife of 60 years. After serving in the Korean War, Ted joined Arthur Young CPA firm in their Kansas City office. After being made a partner, he transferred to the company’s Portland office in 1967. He opened his own practice in 1982.

Ted’s favorite pastimes included reading and playing a good round of golf. He was a beloved and positive force in the lives of all his family members.

Ted is survived by his wife, Lissa; children Gerilyn Howard (spouse, John), Jill Mumford, and Brad Canfield (spouse, Lesley); by grandchildren Bonnie Hagebush, Bill Nichols, Zack Mumford, Jessica Canfield, and Max Canfield; as well as by four great-grandchildren: Madi Hagebush, Knox Hagebush, Emma Nichols, and Natalie Nichols.

If family members of OVS alums wish to submit information for In Memoriam, please do so at:  
Office of Alumni Relations  
723 El Paseo Road  
Ojai, CA 93023  
[alumni@ovs.org](mailto:alumni@ovs.org)  
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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](mailto:alumni@ovs.org)



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# Save the Date!

## ALUMNI WEEKEND, 2014

Next year's Alumni Weekend will be held June 13-15 at the Upper Campus. Classes ending in "4" and "9" will also be celebrating milestone 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](mailto:mtaylor@ovs.org) or (805) 640-2578.