



Family Tree²⁰¹⁵

A magazine for the extended family of Ojai Valley School





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Thanks to current and former Upper Campus journalism students for their contributions to this issue of Family Tree, including senior Daphne Psaledakis (U15) for her article on the fledgling OVS space program and alum Keaton Shiffman (L10, U14) for his sports and alumni wrap-ups. Thanks to photographers John Boyd, Darcie George, Fred Alvarez, Nick Safko, Malory Taylor, and Tracy Wilson; and special thanks to alumna Elizabeth Curran Hermes (L66, U69) for her profiles of David Trudeau and Beth Pfeiffer (L66, U69) and to journalism instructor Fred Alvarez for his profile of Gary Dinkins.

Family Tree

President's Page.....2

Profile: David Trudeau.....3

Gala in the Gallery.....5

Graduations & Promotions.....9

Campus News 29

Pons Dinner 33

Senior Dinner 35

Profile: Gary Dinkins..... 37

Alumni Worldwide..... 41

Stay Connected 43

Alumni Games..... 46

Founder's Alumni Award..... 47

Alumni Weekend 50

Alumni Notes 59

In Memoriam..... 65



3 David Trudeau



5 Gala in Gallery



9 Class of 2015



37 Gary Dinkins



47 Founder's Alumni Award:
Beth Pfeiffer



ON THE COVER

OVS launched an actual space program this past spring when a group of middle school students sent a weather balloon more than 82,000 feet into space.

Read more on page 29.



From the Archives

In 1965, Ojai Valley School celebrated its first high school graduation. The Class of 1965, pictured above, was the first to graduate from the Upper Campus. Many members of the Class of 1965 recently attended Alumni Weekend (see pages 50-58), and the president of that class, OVS Trustee Spencer Garrett (pictured at left), gave a memorable and inspiring speech on June 5 to the Class of 2015. “When I first set foot on this campus,” Spencer told the graduates during their commencement, “all we had was a single dorm on top of the hill above us. There was no dining hall, no sports facilities, not even classrooms. ... It was a unique and exciting time for those of us who were the pioneers.” Read an excerpt of Spencer’s speech on page 11.





I have just returned from sunny England, where I was raised and educated, and it was reassuring while I was there to read notes from the headmasters of the most prestigious schools in that country outlining their belief in the boarding school experience.

The heads of these fine schools were reassuring parents that it was okay to let their children go, to let them be independent, and discover the confidence in their own ability to not only cope in a home-away-from-home environment, but to thrive. They reminded parents that their children needed positive relations with their peers, and that the friendships they forged, borne from living together in a boarding school setting, would last a lifetime.

I often find myself delivering the same messages to discerning parents who are wrestling with the decision to let their children go off to school to live in a dorm, and to share life's experiences with a community of learners. The headmasters from England expect a great deal from their students. Integrity is at the core of the students' living experience, and they are expected to lead by example, to be confident and accomplished.

Of course it got me thinking about OVS and our mission, and how important it is to develop not only the academic skills students will need for future success, but also the character needed for them to become more resilient, kind, and compassionate people. We strive to produce students who are critical thinkers and problem

solvers, as well as those who care about their planet, cherish and nurture their relationships, and are committed to service.

You will find in this issue of *Family Tree* examples of all these values. You will hear from OVS Trustee and alum Spencer Garrett (L62, U65), who, in delivering the keynote address for the Upper Campus graduation, emphasized the importance of friendship, kindness, and gratitude. Spencer, a member of the first class to graduate from Upper Campus, personifies these virtues, and we are thankful that he gave his time to share his message with us.

You will also read about the extraordinary contributions of alumnae Beth Pfeiffer (L66, U69), who was named the recipient of this year's Founder's Alumni Award. Beth exemplifies the school's commitment to service and education, and her endeavors have had a far-reaching effect on our world.

You will read about critical thinking, problem solving and cutting-edge academics as a group of middle school students successfully launched a space program in the late spring, sending a helium-filled balloon some 15 miles into the stratosphere. They called it Project X, and it is perhaps the only middle school space program in the country. Who ever imagined OVS could reach such great heights?

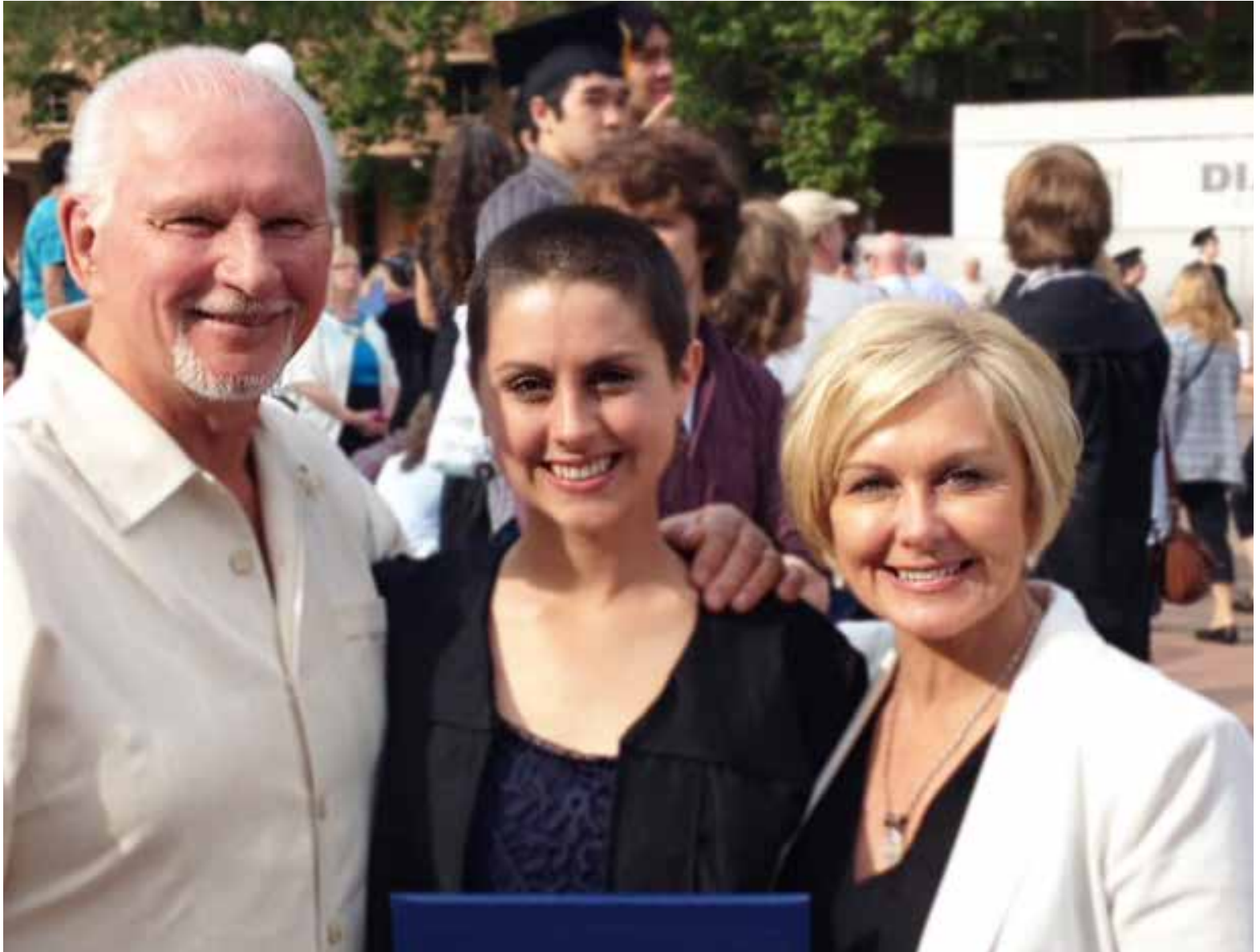
And you will read about the school's commitment to sustainability and the environment, as we enact a range of water-saving measures in response to California's historic drought. These are ways we lead our students by example, while teaching lessons that are essential to their understanding of and involvement in the larger world that awaits them.

This commitment to the whole child is what drew me to OVS many decades ago, and it is what convinces me, more than ever, that this is an extraordinary community for our students, a place where parents and guardians can be assured that young people will learn and grow.

It was one of the finest leaders of our time, Winston Churchill, who once said, "Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones." That is what we, at OVS, are all committed to doing – providing countless moments and opportunities, great and small, for our students to discover their character, to explore their interests, and to find out who and what they were meant to become.

Mike Hall-Mounsey

Michael J. Hall-Mounsey
President/CEO



David Trudeau recently retired from the Board of Trustees after 13 years of dedicated service. Pictured above, David with his daughter, Sarah (L05, U09), and his wife, Mary.

OVS Thanks David Trudeau for Extraordinary Service as a Trustee

by Elizabeth (Curran) Hermes (L66, U69)

If you were living in Southern California during the 1960s and 1970s, you probably recognize the names George Putnam, Cleet Roberts, Tom Snyder, and Joe Benti. In fact, you can probably picture each of these men. That's because they were some of the best known faces at KTLA, the TV station that brought Los Angeles and its environs the first hour-long color news program. But behind the scenes, steadily working his way up the KTLA ladder during those years, was a name and a face that may not be familiar to you.

David Trudeau started out as a “logger” at KTLA in 1961—meaning he was responsible for documenting when each commercial came on during his shift. George Putnam, KTLA's news anchor, was the highest paid newscaster in L.A. at the time, but David's job as a logger earned him the grand sum of \$60.00 per week. By the end of his tenure at KTLA, however, David had worked as a film editor, a transmitter engineer atop Mt. Wilson, as well as, eventually, head of

engineering and director of labor relations. His income had become substantial enough that, after leaving KTLA in 1981, he was able to start a broadcast video and audio equipment rental company, the Bexel Corporation. In ten years time, Bexel became the largest company of its kind in the world, renting equipment to cover such divergent events as Super Bowls and Presidential inaugurations.

Not bad for a kid who'd left North Dakota at age 18 with, according to David, "a Rambler and 100 bucks in [his] pocket."

But David's success was just beginning. In all, he has started a dozen successful companies, including Trexon Corp, a real estate development company, and Icon Shoes, Inc., which uses an innovative process to print leather for shoes sold at Neiman Marcus as well as in other high-end stores. Call it a knack for business – an intuition, maybe – but his track record over the last few decades suggests it's more of a Midas touch.

Beginning in 1989, David and his wife, Mary, started coming to Ojai on the weekends from their home in Studio City. Two years of those weekend sojourns convinced them to move here permanently. Their daughter, Sarah, had been born in 1990, and, as David explains, "We didn't want to raise her in L.A."

So they didn't. Instead, Sarah grew up in Ojai, attending OVS from pre-kindergarten through the ninth grade. [See Alumni Notes, page 63].

OVS became the beneficiary of David's Midas touch when he came on the Board of Trustees in 2002 and agreed to chair the Building and Grounds Committee, remaining in that role for the next dozen years. During that time, he got several big projects off the ground and saw them through to completion. The Donlon Pool Complex, the Greenberg Activity Center, and the Alan F. Pearson Center for the Arts at Lower Campus all came into fruition, in large part, through David's efforts and involvement – and those are just the bigger projects.

One of the last OVS projects he worked on – literally worked on – was the boys' dorm renovation at Upper. David and fellow trustee Spencer Garrett (L62, U65) contended with sweltering heat last summer over a three-week period to strip a room in the Boney Bean dorm down to brass tacks and then to install insulation and dry wall – setting up this remodeled room as a prototype for the others to follow.

In the years since they moved to Ojai, David and Mary have become fixtures. They opened Rainbow Bridge Market in 1997. Currently, David and his Bryant Street Partners are developing raw land projects in Upper Ojai and on Creek Road. Agave Maria's, a popular Mexican food restaurant in town, was also a project David took on. His elder daughter, Tracy, runs it now.

David's business acumen has been invaluable to the school. "He would know to ask the tough questions that the rest of us wouldn't have known to ask," noted one of his fellow Building and Grounds Committee members.

OVS President Michael J. Hall-Mounsey described David as "the model of a great trustee: very loyal, unassuming, practical, and hard-working." David retired from the Board earlier this year. OVS wishes him all the best and extends a hearty thank you for his extraordinary contributions as a trustee. The school has benefited enormously from David's expertise, his calm way of working around impediments, and his unwavering commitment to OVS.



Pictured at left, David and fellow trustee Spencer Garrett (L62, U65) helped renovate Boney Bean dorm at Upper Campus. Pictured at right, David and his wife, Mary.

Gala in the Gallery

This year's spring Gala raised more than \$72,000 thanks to the generous support of alumni, current and past parents, faculty and staff members who gathered earlier this month for an elegant farm-to-table dinner and live auction at the Alan F. Pearson Center for the Arts at Lower Campus.

The event, which benefitted the OVS Annual Fund, provided an opportunity for all of us to celebrate the future growth of Ojai Valley School and enjoy time together as members of a shared community. We extend our sincere thanks to the Stoen family for launching this event last year and establishing a new school tradition - the spring Gala.

Thank you to the OVS families who donated items to the live and silent auction, and special thanks to the Stoen and Brodowsky families for sponsoring the signature cocktail and wine for this year's event. Thanks also to Thom Macias for organizing the instant wine cellar, and special thanks to past parent and current grandparent Melinda Pepper and her daughters, Hannah (Pepper) Atwood and Kate Pepper, both OVS alums, for providing the floral arrangements.

We will soon begin planning for next year's Gala, and welcome your participation. Please contact the Development Office at development@ovs.org if you are interested in volunteering on the auction committee or would like to sponsor a portion of the event or donate auction items.





Pictured above, OVS Trustee Missy Stoen with her husband, Eric, and current parents James Pepper and Thom Macias. Below, from left to right, Carol and OVS President/CEO Michael J. Hall-Mounsey with former teacher Gary Dinkins and Upper Campus Head of School Carl Cooper.



7 GALA IN THE GALLERY



Pictured above, from left to right, Upper Campus Assistant Head of School Laurel Colborn, history and journalism teacher Fred Alvarez, OVS Trustee Andrew Helman, and alum Gunnar Helman (L08, U12). Pictured below right alums Max Wheeler (L06, U10) and Jason Goldman (L01, U05) with Assistant Head of School Mike Mahon, and at left, Lower Campus parents Damon and Anne Brink.





Pictured above, clockwise from left to right, OVS Technology and Sustainability Director John Wickenhaeuser with alum Max Wheeler (L06, U10). At center, OVS Trustee Cooper Hefner (U09) and classmates Jeremy Crisafulli (L05, U09) and Parker Colborn (L05, U09). Pictured below, kindergarten teacher Dana DeYoung with alums Hannah (Pepper)t Atwood (L93) and Kate Pepper (L94).





Congratulations to the



the Class of 2015

Prospectives from the Past

OVS Trustee Spencer Garrett Shares Lessons from Class of 1965 During Commencement Address

by Spencer Garrett (L62, U65)



Keynote speaker Spencer Garrett snapped this selfie mid-speech during the graduation ceremony, illustrating how much technology has advanced since the Class of '65 graduated from Upper Campus.

*When that Aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to
the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;*

Upper Campus graduates of the Class of 2015, faculty, family and friends. It is strange what comes to mind when one thinks back 50+ years. I remember my English teacher, J.B. Close, making us memorize the opening lines of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Why, we asked, do we have to memorize this? J.B.'s answer was succinct... "because I had to when I was your age."

To refresh my memory as to what I might have learned from this exercise, I did what many of today's graduates might do: I asked Siri, "What is the meaning of the opening lines of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*?" OK, it's something about spring's renewal and rebirth, but that is not what captured my attention even if graduations, or actually commencements, can be likened to spring. After all, today's graduates are still in the spring of their lives while I am in the fall of mine, not the winter yet, I hope.

Instead, I fixated on this marvelous device in my hand. A smart phone.

We didn't even have a pay phone up here on this hill when we moved up here in 1962. Not that things have changed all that much; there isn't a pay phone up here now. Then again, who needs one today? Doesn't everyone carry his or her own phone around? Not only can we be in instant contact with most anyone anywhere in the world, but we also have at our fingertips the answers to questions about what Chaucer's *Tales* were all about.

We can also create our own history files – here's a selfie for mine. (See photo, page 12, taken during ceremony)

I had to look back at our yearbook to refresh my memory. Today's graduates are building their own history files through Facebook and Instagram. Stored up there in the cloud are pictures and posts that chronicle their histories. Could anyone in our class have imagined that 50 years ago? It makes me wonder what unimaginable and wonderful things today's graduates will take for granted in 50 years.

Fifty-three years ago, when I first set foot on this campus, all we had was a single dorm on top of the hill above us: there was no dining hall, no sports facilities, not even classrooms. Each school day we were bused down to the Lower Campus by our dorm father, Mike Hermes. It was a unique and exciting time for those of us who were the pioneers. I could go on and on about what it was like to be here in the beginning but my wife kept reminding me that this address was not supposed to be about me but about the graduates. Still, allow me to say what an honor it is to have been the part of the first graduating class. I even remember helping to build this amphitheatre where we are today.

Many things have changed over the past 50 years. But there are still constants. For one, the value of a good education being first and foremost. Thanks to my teachers and the staff at OVS, I was well prepared for college and I am confident that you are too. What you have learned has not been limited to classroom instruction. You have learned lessons on the sports fields, on camping trips, and while participating in community events. New challenges await you, but I am confident that what you have learned here will serve you well.

Next Friday, 13 of my OVS classmates will be here for Alumni Day. It will be good to reconnect with some that I have not seen in years. In preparation for my

speech today, I asked them if they could offer any advice to this year's graduating class based on what they learned at OVS and beyond. None of them mentioned a math class or history lesson, though learning from those lessons no doubt influenced their acceptance at college.

Lynda Abbott offered: "If I had only ONE piece of advice to give, it would be – 'be kind.' It may not sound like much, but if you're kind – most especially if you make it a point to be kind when you LEAST feel like it – you will have considerably less regret later. You will be more likely to preserve and strengthen your relationships with others.

Be kind. It's not as easy as it sounds. In practice, it takes patience, dedication, and tenacity. But the world (or even just the little part of it that's your family, friends, neighborhood, etc.) is likely to be a better place because you demonstrated kindness and respect in your dealings with others. Smile. Be kind."

Eric Salveson had this observation to offer: "Morals trump everything in business. They are a level above the law." Eric went on to say that it was crazy that colleges now offer courses on morals. I am confident that OVS has helped you learn the difference between right and wrong.

Kirk Warren talked about gratitude: "Every day when you open your eyes, remind yourself to be grateful for each step you get to take. Gratitude is easy to forget, so make it a daily and eventually a moment-to-moment habit."

Susan (O'Malley) St. John (the first recipient of the Andrew Kille Memorial Award) spoke of falling off a horse that she was breaking in and being thrown into one of OVS's oak trees. When she regained her senses she was covered with blood. As she tells it: "Nurse Mary Kelvington was insisting that I follow her immediately to the Infirmary and then she was going to



Graduates (pictured from left to right) Momoe Takamatsu, Pinky Cheng, and Nakita Moler.

take me to a doctor in town. On the other hand, Joe Singleton was looking at me and quite adamantly said, ‘Susan, you get on that horse right now or you will never be able to get on a horse again.’ ”

Susan chose to ‘get right back on the horse’ but only after assuring the nurse that she would head to the infirmary as soon as possible. Her take-away was that in life one does have to get right back on the proverbial horse but that there almost always is a way to find a compromise between two divergent opinions.

Jim Hans had this to offer: “Live life to the fullest. Treat people the way that you would like to be treated.”

Ken Barshop added this: “The most important thing I learned at OVS is how to be independent, but that it’s still ok to listen to others and evaluate their advice for yourself.”

Peter Kane had this to say: “Adversity is part of life and overcoming it is a part of our very existence. No matter how smart, sharp, or clever you are, (and now on graduation from OVS you are certainly that) you will encounter challenges and difficulties that at times will make you wonder ‘why me?’

Lesser people will wring their hands and lament their fate – you OVS graduates, however, will respond positively and constructively to each and every challenge thrown your way, right? The reason that a positive response to adversity is needed is to bring out the qualities of strength, courage, character and perseverance that we all have inside us.

A couple of lessons to help you face and defeat adversity: One, always look ahead. Consider what – if scenarios in everything that you do. In some cases, consider the worst-case scenario, so that you’re

prepared should it happen. But guess what? It seldom does or it’s much less severe than you thought. Two, have faith in yourself – use the mantra ‘I can do this.’ Three, remember that you didn’t get here alone. You have had family, friends, and fellow students all urging you on. Don’t abandon any of them. Make sure that you keep this network alive. You never, ever know when you might be able to help them and they you – even if you have moved across the country or the world!

Another aspect to facing difficult things head on is to have the mindset that each and every one of them is a learning experience. And what is life if not a learning experience every single day.”

Peter shared this quote from former U.S. President Bill Clinton that describes it perfectly: ‘If you live long enough, you’ll make mistakes. But if you learn from them, you’ll be a better person. It’s how you handle adversity, not how it affects you. The main thing is never quit, never quit, never quit.’ ”

I should stop here because Peter talks of something dear to this year’s graduating class... perseverance. I understand we will be hearing more about that later.

But another classmate, Mary Comstock, also spoke of the learning experience. She said: “Everyone has something to teach you. Older, younger, richer, poorer, the smart and not so smart... never assume you can’t learn from them. You only cheat yourself if you think they have nothing to offer.”

So, I ask today’s graduates: What lessons have you learned here at OVS? I am confident there are many that will help you as you move forward.

You leave behind teachers, staff, and fellow students who have helped you prepare for your next big adventure. As you go on to college there will be great classes to choose from (and others you simply have to take). But just as here

at OVS, not all your learning will come in the classroom. Take advantage of as many things as you can handle outside of the classroom—guest speakers, plays and concerts, even Spring Break. Each one is a learning opportunity.

From a personal perspective, I have one more thing to add as I look at the Class of 2015, which is comprised of residents of eight different countries. In our graduating class 50 years ago only two of the members of our class were from outside the United States: Assadolah Movari and Hirochika Noguchi. I have no idea whatever became of Assadolah, but Hiro has been a life-long friend and that friendship has afforded me opportunities that are some of the highlights of my life. I have visited Japan at least ten times, including on my honeymoon with my wife, Nancy. My experiences there have enriched my life.

I look at this class and think of all the possibilities today's graduates have. They can learn first hand about other countries provided they keep in contact with their classmates. And keeping in contact today is certainly a lot easier than it was 50 years ago. I know first hand since our children have lived in Argentina and Australia, and isn't Skype a wonderful thing!

I hope that our graduates made some great friends and will be able to take advantage of those friendships exploring other countries and cultures.

In closing, as a member of the Board of Trustees, I would be remiss in not hoping that you will also remain in touch with the school and hopefully contribute to the Alumni Fund so that future students will have the same opportunities that you have had.

I am honored to think that one of you could possibly be here to give the Commencement address at the 100th anniversary of the school and 50th anniversary of your graduation. I am sure you will find that many things then will



Connor Floyd and Daphne Psaledakis give opening remarks at graduation.

be the same as now – just as many things today are the same as they were for me 50 years ago.

Fifty years ago OVS had a very dedicated faculty and staff who took an interest in our lives. I witnessed that very same thing yesterday when I attended the awards ceremony. I was impressed with the support the students gave their classmates when the awards were announced, and I witnessed the love and admiration the teachers showed the award recipients. It made me proud to be an alumnus. I felt that I was in the midst of one big family.

For me, another thing that hasn't changed is that when I graduated in 1965, the person who handed me my diploma was Mr. Robert Cooper. That legacy continues today. One of my fellow Board of Trustee members is Coop's son, Robert, and, of

course, there is today's Headmaster Carl Cooper. I am honored to thank the Cooper family for all the many years they have worked to ensure the Ojai Valley School prepares its graduates for their next challenges and opportunities.

Class of 2015, I salute you and wish you the very best. Thank you!

MAJOR AWARDS

WALLACE BURR AWARD

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

Masaki Takamatsu **1**

ROBERT G. COOPER AWARD

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

Daphne Psaledakis, Andy Cheng, and Matt Gustafson **2**

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

Natalia Huang **3**

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.

Connor Floyd **4**



ADDITIONAL AWARDS

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

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

Connor Floyd, Masaki Takamatsu, Nicole Kang, Momoe Takamatsu

J.B. CLOSE AWARD

Recognizes the student, or students, who have exhibited the most enthusiasm and active participation in the outdoor program.

Connor Floyd, Matthew Gustafson

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.

Ali Fortier Weller, Jenna McIntosh

CARL S. COOPER AWARD

Recognizes the underclass student, or students, for their leadership and character. It is an award that neither dwells in the past nor predicts the future. It honors the individuals for who they are, here and now.

Ally Feiss, Davis Smith

Congratulations to the Class of 2015

Ben Cassidy

Kettering University



Perhaps the best lesson Ben learned in his time at OVS was the importance of being a team player. It seemed like he took part in every musical production, never in front of the spotlight, but always the guy behind it making sure everyone on stage looked good. He was the same in the classroom, never drawing attention to himself but always ready to contribute a valuable thought or idea. He was a major force in creating this year's Senior Project – a sand volleyball court meant for future generations of OVS students to enjoy.

And he was the ultimate team player for the Lake Casitas Rowing Association, where he learned to become part of a unit on his way to winning gold medals and team championships. Ben gave the best of himself, contributing to his community in every way he could. There is no higher praise for an OVS student, and Ben deserves all the praise that comes his way.

Pinky Cheng

Loyola Marymount University



Animal lover. Dorm prefect. Student leader. Pinky earned these titles in her years at OVS, and wore them as badges of honor. She served as the Treasurer to the Student Council and was a visitor at the Humane Society where her care of and love for animals was legendary. She took her duties as student leader seriously. When the Student Council decided to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, Pinky took it a step

further and made posters and bought flowers to thank the transportation, maintenance, and kitchen crews the next week. When Student Council decided to keep alive the Wednesday Bake Sale tradition, Pinky offered to bake the goods herself, and spent multiple Tuesday nights in the kitchen preparing for the next day's sale. Pinky went above and beyond at every turn – with her friends, her community, and her education. Her wide smile, friendly attitude, and chocolate chip cookie-patterned sweatshirts will not soon be forgotten.

Andy Cheng

UC Irvine



If you ever watched Andy run, you would know everything you needed to know about the drive and perseverance of this young man. He worked tirelessly to achieve his running goals, training early in the morning, and then again in the heat of the afternoon, up and down the hills that surround the Upper Campus. As a result, he was named captain of the cross country team his senior year, setting personal bests in every distance from the half-mile to the three-mile run. He applied the same dedication to

the subjects he studied, excelling in math and the sciences. He also served as a dorm prefect and as senior representative to the Student Council, where he honed his leadership skills. In fact, Andy emerged so much as a scholar and a leader that he was named corecipient of the Robert G. Cooper Award, which goes to the graduates who demonstrated the most growth during their senior year. It was an honor well earned and well deserved.

Kelsy Chou

UC Irvine



During her four years at OVS, Kelsy grew from a shy, introspective student to a zealous participant who realized her potential to have a positive impact on the world. She emerged as a curious and tenacious student, one driven to perform at a maximum level at all times. She took Advanced Placement courses in history, English, and psychology. She found her voice by joining the school chorus, and then discovered

her inner-toughness as a member of volleyball and equestrian teams. In her senior year, she took responsibility for announcing signups for the Humane Society, drumming up more than half a dozen volunteers each week to take part in the community service project. Kelsy appears quiet, but don't be fooled. Underneath her reserved nature is a fun-loving student with a playful spirit and big-throated laugh, both of which will be missed.

Brooke Crockett

Santa Barbara City College



After attending the Lower Campus for three years, Brooke took an extended absence from OVS before returning her senior year to graduate with her longtime friends, who over the years had become like family to her. It was like she never left. She became an instant participant in school life, dedicating her time to roles in the winter musical *Into the Woods* and the spring Mock Trial. She was an artist both with paint and with clay, and she poured herself into her Senior Project,

which examined the history of the justice system through the lens of Alcatraz. She wore a warm smile and possessed a generous spirit, and she will be remembered as a valued contributor to the Upper Campus.

Ali Fortier Weller

Montana State University



Here's what everyone knows about Ali: she is crazy about horses. She rode with the OVS equestrian team and won ribbons by the handfuls. Indeed, she spent much of her time at OVS down at the barn, often preferring the company of her four-legged friends to her two-legged ones. At the year-end awards program, her instructors spoke of her dedication to the equestrian program as she was recognized as corecipient of the Sandy Ballou Memorial Trophy, which honors students who have demonstrated good horsemanship and sportsmanship. But to think

of Ali only in terms of her love of horses does her a great disservice, because she grew as much as any senior as a student and member of the OVS community. She was a leader in the dorm, and her teachers praised her for her willingness to tackle a challenging course load. Most importantly, Ali possessed a wide smile and a generous spirit during her time at OVS, and both of those will be sorely missed next year.

Connor Floyd

Clarke University



Mr. Baseball? Sure. No one at OVS was more dedicated to his sport, as Connor took every opportunity to learn about the game and get better every step of the way. But to talk about Connor only in terms of baseball is to sell short his immense talent in so many other areas. He was an honors student who brought energy and passion to every subject he studied. He was a leader in the outdoors, and was often chosen to help guide students at Lower on their

camping trips. In fact, he was corecipient of the J.B. Close Award, given to students who exhibited the most enthusiasm and active participation in the Outdoor Program. He also was honored with the Andrew Kille Award, given to the senior who demonstrated the most outstanding leadership, and the Sportsmanship Award, given to the athlete who demonstrated integrity, leadership, and, above all, good sportsmanship. He was a force for good at the Upper Campus, and now he'll put that into practice in the world away from "The Hill."

Matthew Gustafson

University of Redlands



No one on the stage on graduation day attended OVS longer than Matt and what an adventure he had in his 14 years. An avid surfer, he was a committed member of the Dawn Patrol, taking every opportunity to hit the waves. He was equally committed to the school's weekly forays to the Humane Society, where he helped socialize abandoned animals to ready them for adoption. He was named corecipient of the J.B. Close Award, for his enthusiastic and active

participation in the Outdoor Program. Matt also emerged as a key component of the OVS baseball squad, anchoring first base and coming through with timely hits throughout the season. Above all, Matt was kind and caring, a good friend and a steady hand whenever one was needed. To end the year, he was named corecipient of the Robert G. Cooper Award, which honors students who demonstrated the most growth as seniors. While that certainly is true for Matt, what also is true is that his evolution was nonstop as an OVS student, and there's no question the best is yet to come.

Iris Hou

San Francisco State University



Small in voice but big in attitude, Iris was a warrior playing basketball and an inspired artist off the court. Her colorful drawings lined the art room, each with its own fascinating story to tell. She took up cross country her senior year to improve her fitness for basketball, only to become a valuable member of the team that went on to win the Condor League championship. And she was a wizard on the basketball

court, running circles around her competitors. She lent her voice to the school chorus, and had no problem stepping into the spotlight to belt out a solo. A culinary enthusiast, Iris presented her love for food and art in her Senior Project by cooking up a mass of delicious treats presented 5-star-restaurant style, photographed at mouth-watering angles that made all the seniors growl in hunger. Headed to college in the Bay Area, the world should prepare for Iris and stand back as she makes a name for herself.

Lillian Hilgers

Savannah College of Art and Design



Lilly is passionate about horses. Sure, she also is an honors student and an artist, and a caring, compassionate person. But, truth be told, her world revolves around all things equestrian – and she is an equestrian of the highest order. For years, she has been a member of the United States Pony Club and has competed for the OVS equestrian team and as an independent rider. She was routinely tapped to provide riding exhibitions as various OVS events and served as a judge for younger OVS equestrians working to receive their Pony Club certification. Now she is off to join

the prestigious equestrian squad at SCAD, where she will major in equestrian studies and industrial design and compete in hunter/jumper riding for the team. Lilly is the only student from California to receive a spot on the SCAD equestrian team, and she is certain to make OVS proud as she moves on to the next phase of her equestrian career.

Natalia Huang

UC Berkeley



An academic powerhouse and an active member of the school, Natalia was a true asset to the OVS community. As an exceptional honors student, she braved the hardest classes and pushed herself to excel in every facet of the academic program. Those efforts were celebrated at graduation, where Natalia was recognized as the most outstanding scholar and presented with the A. Carl Kotchian Award for her academic achievement and intellectual curiosity. She was a standout in other areas as well, running cross country and track, playing soccer and

performing in the chorus and various school musicals. Her dance routines at the Festival of Talent, especially those borrowed from her native China, were memorable both for their intricacy and beauty. Above all, she was a leader who served her community as a dorm prefect and extended her help beyond the hill as the Community Service Representative to the Student Council. Natalia's hard work and laser-like focus propelled her to great heights in her high school years, but it's clear we've only seen the beginnings of her contributions to this world.

Nicole Kang

UC San Diego



Nicole was not known for being quiet or shy. A bold, confident star in the OVS community, she excelled in all areas, from academics to performing arts. An honors student, she brought passion and curiosity to the subjects she studied. She was an active member of the chorus for four years, and famously played the role of the witch in the school's production of *Into the Woods*. She also performed a beautiful rendition of Sam Smith's *Lay Me Down* at the Festival of Talent her senior year. Nicole impressed with her athletic abilities. She

captained the basketball and volleyball teams to numerous victories, and emerged as a valuable member of the golf team for the Spuds. In the days before graduation, Nicole was named a corecipient of the Sportsmanship Award, which is given to the athletes who have demonstrated integrity and leadership in their athletic pursuits. Nicole certainly did that, infusing heart and soul into the OVS community.

Min Lee

State University of New York, Albany



Min was an exemplary artist. Wowing OVS with his artistic abilities since eighth grade, he took numerous art classes on both campuses, including Advanced Placement art. In his junior year, his drawing of a knight on horseback was chosen to grace the cover of the program of the school musical, a mixture of Monty Python's *Holy Grail* and *Robin Hood Men in Tights*. Even his senior project revolved around a question of art – how many lines can one piece of mechanical pencil lead

produce? Not only was Min skilled with a pencil, he was also light and swift on his feet. He ran track and cross country for OVS throughout his high school career, improving each year and setting numerous personal bests his senior year. He was a quiet force on campus, known for his dry humor, his skill with computers, and his artistry on the electric violin. Those talents will take him far as he ventures to the East Coast.

Kai Lin

University of Alaska, Fairbanks



Kai has a true gift, and that gift is her eye. She is a wonderfully talented photographer who produced pieces of art that only she was capable of creating. Not only was this clear in her photography, but also in her outstanding senior project. In her project, Kai created a 3-D tree out of the pages of a book through the meticulous and precise cutting of each page. This project was the perfect embodiment of what it means to attend Ojai Valley School. She created art out of knowledge to represent nature, all things highly valued at OVS. Kai also

was a dedicated equestrian, and while she may have been bucked and thrown here and there, her drive, passion and love for the sport always pushed her to get back on her horse. On top of it all, Kai dedicated her time to school productions working behind the scenes to help with anything that she could. Most surprising of all, Kai participated in the school chorus. Although she was most often quiet, her voice was heard loud and clear in the wonderful productions staged by the school.

Jenna McIntosh

College of Charleston



At the end of the school year, Jenna was named corecipient of the Sandy Ballou Memorial Trophy, which is given to the student or students who have demonstrated outstanding horsemanship and sportsmanship. But the award also is meant to highlight the belief that competition is not as important as the simple joy of being with a horse. That's what made Jenna the perfect choice for the trophy. Because while she was a vital member of the OVS equestrian squad, winning

countless blue ribbons at high-level competitions, Jenna's true talent lay in the relationships she built with her four-legged friends. She was a master in the arena, lovingly and patiently working with her animals, putting in extra hours at the barn not because she had to, but because it's what she loved to do. Outside of the arena, Jenna was an honors student, excelling in all areas of the curriculum, but maintaining a particular passion for the written word. Jenna was the best of the best, and her contributions – along with her laughter and radiant smile – will long be remembered on the hill.

Nakita Moler

Cal Poly Pomona



Nakita was only with us for two years, but she squeezed everything she could out of her OVS experience. She woke before daybreak most weekends to go out surfing with the Dawn Patrol, and worked well into the evening many a day as the editor of the school's yearbook. She played soccer and volleyball, befriended abandoned animals at the Humane Society, and skied the Yosemite high country on the Honor's Ski Trip. She even took a turn with the bow and arrow as a member of the archery club.

But mostly she was a school leader, serving as a dorm prefect and Weekend Representative to the Student Council. She cared about contributing to her community, and she contributed with a compassion and conviction that will be missed.

Amir Podoswa

Gap Year



Amir had an energy about him that was hard to miss. And OVS will miss it next year. He was a deep thinker and brilliant student, a young man known as much for his voracious appetite for reading as he was for his penchant for engaging in debate. He served as senior representative to the Student Council and helped make possible the first-ever League of Legends Tournament in the Condor League. He dabbled in a variety of more traditional sports including soccer, track and lacrosse.

His coaches characterize him as tough

as nails, and on the playing field he emerged as a leader and a team player, always willing to do what was best for his teammates. His contributions to OVS were many, his stamp on the school indelible.

Daphne Psaledakis

University of Missouri



Over the past four years, Daphne has been busy crafting her story at OVS. She distinguished herself in so many ways, serving as a dorm prefect, public relations representative to the Student Council, and editor-in-chief of the school newspaper. She was a graceful equestrian, a gifted ceramicist, and an award-winning member of the OVS journalism crew, racking up top prizes in various competitions. Indeed, it is her flair for the written word that really set her apart, a gift she exercised freely and

forcefully during her time at OVS, and which she is now ready to share with the wider audience that awaits her off the hill. On graduation day, Daphne was named corecipient of the Robert G. Cooper Award, which honors the graduating student or students who have demonstrated the most growth during their senior year. The honor was well deserved, but the truth is that Daphne has been writing her story for a number of years and the best pages are yet to come.

Sarah Silver

CSU Sonoma



Of all of the lessons Sarah learned at OVS, perhaps the one that was most profound to her was the need to serve the community and make positive change in the world. It's a lesson she embraced with great passion, serving on the prom committee her junior year, and on Student Council her junior and senior years. She helped bring her class together by creating senior t-shirts for the Class of 2015, and she could be counted on to show up for Crazy Fridays rocking an ugly Christmas sweater or her best Duck Dynasty garb. She baked goodies for the

weekly bake sales and walked laps at the Relay for Life. And she did it all with good humor and a wide smile. The campus will indeed be gloomier without both of those next year.

Masaki Takamatsu

Loyola Marymount University



Call him the Renaissance man. From playing guitar in musical productions to his pivotal contributions to the football, soccer, baseball, lacrosse and track teams, Masaki fearlessly embraced all the opportunities that OVS had offer. He served as student body president his senior year, displaying a laid-back style of leadership that his peers naturally wanted to follow. He led by example, putting in the grunt work to install the new sand volleyball court and rallying his fellow students to support the annual Relay for Life event. He took a

range of Advanced Placement classes, and was proud to maintain honor grades. And he was a good friend in the dorm, maintaining a positive perspective against the whirlwind of room inspections, crew jobs and dress dinners. At the end of the year, Masaki was named the recipient of the Wallace Burr Award, given to the student who made the most significant impact on the OVS community by giving unsolicited service. Masaki served OVS well, and we are confident that he will find plenty of opportunities to put his leadership to good use.

Momoe Takamatsu

Occidental College



In her senior year, Momoe was the Condor League cross country champion, besting her fellow competitors, including her teammates, by a wide margin. But she did not sit down and polish her medal after the race. Instead, Momoe was immediately back on the course, cheering on her teammates as they gutted out a first place team finish. That should tell you all you need to know about this remarkable young woman. Since arriving at OVS her sophomore year, Momoe has been nothing short of inspirational. She was a dorm

prefect, an honors student and a Student Council officer. She also was a mainstay in school musicals and recitals. Sitting behind a keyboard, she elevated many a production to something magical and memorable. Her contributions were recognized in the days before graduation when she was named corecipient of the Sportsmanship Award, which is given to those athletes who have demonstrated integrity and leadership in their athletic pursuits. Momoe did just that, on and off the field. Her grace, guts and good humor will be missed.

Natalie Wescott

Seattle University



Ask her coaches and teachers, and they will describe Natalie as a quiet force on the OVS campus. Although she joined OVS as a transferring junior from the Bay Area, she made the most of her two years at Upper Campus. She was an exceptional student, whether devouring literature or taking on the role of a key lawyer in Mock Trial. She was a fierce competitor, becoming a vocal and vital member of the volleyball and soccer teams. Her teammates described her as tenacious, and she applied that quality to every

part of her life at OVS, including a senior project that examined prison management and mental illness in the U.S. prison system. Independent with a wry sense of humor, she also cared about others and about making the world a better place, and those qualities will continue to serve her well.

Claire Wickenhaeuser

CSU Monterey Bay



Claire marched to the beat of her own drum. She starred on the volleyball court and the soccer field, and broke the gender barrier by playing on the boys' baseball team. She performed on stage and behind the scenes, managing the microphones for the musical every year, and devoting her time and effort to helping cast members prepare for their turn in the spotlight. But it was in the outdoors where Claire made her mark, adopting a brand of environmental activism that made others stand up and take notice. Her senior project was unique

and ambitious, as she set out to catalogue every oak tree on the Upper Campus in an effort to monitor their health as they mature. On graduation day, the headmaster said that there was something magical about this young lady, and that her voice and ideas made her unique. That is certainly true, and now the world beyond the hill will get to share in her gifts.

Vivian Yan

Hotel School of Lausanne



Intelligent, quiet and hard working, Vivian was a huge asset to the OVS community. She ran hard as part of the Condor League championship cross country team, and she studied hard, as evidenced by the year-end award she received as the outstanding U.S. History student. In her senior year, her creativity shone through in ceramics, as she focused on completing intricate and beautiful art pieces. Her art extended to the dance floor, where she was a member of the dance team and took part in a talented troupe that rocked the Festival of

Talent. Spend just a little time with her and you will quickly come to understand that she embodies the idea that leadership is best demonstrated by deeds, not by words. OVS was blessed for a time to be graced with a student of such quality and character.

Amy Xu

CSU Northridge



Having attended both the Upper and Lower campuses, Amy became an integral part of the OVS community. Over the course of six years, she proved herself to be a unique individual and a true diamond in the rough. Her academic dedication showed her true colors, and they were bold. She was a dedicated equestrian, an exceptional clothing designer, and a committed member of the dance team that showcased its skills each year at the Festival of Talent. She was a member of the voice class, and performed beautifully as a soloist at

the year-end voice recital. She stepped up to serve as master of ceremonies for the Festival of Talent, and let her hair down by taking on the role of Rapunzel in the school production of *Into the Woods*. Her personality was spirited, and infectious. The sum of her parts will long be remembered.



Senior Ben Cassidy accepts diploma from OVS President/CEO Michael J. Hall-Mounsey. Pictured top right, Claire Wickenhaeuser (left) and Ali Fortier Weller.

CLASS OF 2015

College Acceptances

American Musical and Dramatic Academy	Linfield College	Syracuse University
Arizona State University	Loyola Marymount University	UC Berkeley
Bentley College	Lynn University	UC Davis
Boston University	Marymount California University	UC Irvine
Brandeis University	Michigan State University	UC Merced
Cal Lutheran University	Montana State University	UC Riverside
Cal Poly Pomona	Mount St. Mary's College	UC San Diego
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	Northeastern University	UC Santa Barbara
Cal State Channel Islands	Notre Dame de Namur University	UC Santa Cruz
Cal State Fullerton	Occidental College	Unity College
Cal State Los Angeles	Oxford College of Emory University	University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Cal State Monterey Bay	Penn State University	University of Colorado, Boulder
Cal State Northridge	Pepperdine University	University of Denver
Carleton University-Canada	Prescott College	University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
Chapman University	Purdue University	University of Missouri
Chico State	Randolph College	University of Montana
Clarke University	Rensselaer Polytechnic University	University of Redlands
College of Charleston	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of San Diego
Dominican University	Sacramento State University	University of San Francisco
Drake University	San Diego State University	University of the Pacific
Ecole Hôtelière De Lausanne	San Francisco State University	University of Washington
Evergreen State College	Santa Barbara City College	University of Wisconsin at Madison
Fordham University	Santa Clara University	Western Washington University
Goucher College	Savannah College of Art and Design	Westmont College
Humboldt State University	Seattle University	Whittier College
Indiana University	Sierra Nevada College	Willamette University
Iona College	Sonoma State University	
Kettering University	St. Mary's College of California	
	SUNY Albany	



Seniors Headed to Colleges Across the Globe in the Fall

by Sarah Sharpe (U16)

For a girl who has lived in Southern California for the past four years of her life, Kai Lin was in shock when she first arrived for a college visit in Fairbanks, Alaska, in December, the coldest month of the year in that state.

“There was a moment of unknowing when I first stepped out of the airport,” Kai said. “When I exhaled and the mist coated my face, my eyes begin to crystallize and my entire family shrieked in unison.”

Despite the cold temperatures, she was in awe. The pure beauty had come unexpectedly, like a welcome sign beckoning her to stay.

So, this fall, the OVS senior will be making the 3,345 mile trek to Fairbanks, armed with a new wardrobe of warm clothes in preparation for the startling climate.

“It’s all about exploring new areas and testing out where you can and cannot live,” Kai said. “When most Americans think of wilderness, they think of Alaska. That’s where I thought of and that’s where I wanted to go.”

She is not the only one ready to make the massive transition to another city, state or country, as most OVS seniors are now fully committed to schools around the world.

Natalia Huang will attend the University of California, Berkeley, while on the other side of the state, Nicole Kang has committed to University of California, San Diego. Ali Fortier Weller will attend Montana State University, Ben Cassidy will brave the cold of Michigan to attend Kettering University in Flint, while Vivian Yan will head to Switzerland where she will study the hospitality industry at École Hôtelière de Lausanne.

Sarah Silver is another senior happily going to her first-choice school, having committed to Sonoma State University as soon as she got her acceptance letter. She was ecstatic when she heard the news, as most students are when they are accepted to their top choice.

“When I finally found out I cried because it was such a stress relief to know what I’m doing in my future,” Sarah said.

Like Sarah, Momoe Takamatsu has recently fully committed to her top pick, Occidental College, in Los Angeles.

“I am so excited to live the American college life,” Momoe said, a native of Japan who has been a boarding student at Ojai Valley School for the past three years.

After deciding where they will continue their education next year, OVS students have begun to prepare themselves for a world of change coming in the fall.

Transitioning from a small school to a larger college environment is going to be a change in pace for the members of this graduating class, but their time and efforts spent here at OVS prepared them for the next four years to come.

“I can’t wait to start the next chapter of my life, meet new people, explore new options in life, and grow as a person,” Sarah said.



J.B. CLOSE AWARD

Given each year to the student who best exemplifies the goals of the OVS Outdoor Education program. This student's consistent contributions to camping, backpacking, and rock climbing trips, his or her love and respect for nature, and commitment to helping others in the face of adversity set this recipient apart.

Sean McHale

HEAD OF SCHOOL AWARD

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

Kaden Skillern, Tracy Zeng

MICHAEL D. HERMES AWARD

Given to the most outstanding eighth-grade student athletes.

Nolan Colborn, Caroline Morrow

Congratulations!

MAJOR AWARDS



SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

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

Clover Griffin



MICHAEL J. HALL-MOUNSEY AWARD

Honors the boarding students who have consistently served as outstanding role models for their peers and who have demonstrated initiative, leadership, and responsibility.

Caroline Morrow, Vincent Wang



PAUL PITTMAN AWARD

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

Mattie White

27 LOWER CAMPUS PROMOTION HIGHLIGHTS



Clockwise from top, Sean McHale and Clover Griffin speak at promotion ceremony. Juniors Davis Smith (L12) and Kendall Shiffman (L12) recall their experiences at Lower Campus. The Middle School Chorus performs.





Clockwise from top, the pre-kindergarten class performs during promotion ceremonies. First-grade teacher Nicole Ferro pictured with student David Thele. Akyra Wachter addresses the crowd during the kindergarten graduation.





One of the 1,200 images captured by Project X as it made its 95-mile trek.

OVS Launches Space Program in Middle School

by Daphne Psaledakis (U15)

It's 6:49 on a Tuesday morning and a dozen middle school students are huddled around a giant white helium-filled weather balloon on Ojai Valley School's Lower Campus athletic field.

Their breath is visible in the cold morning air, and their eyes are bleary from a long night crashed in the tech lab, making final calculations on a science project that they hoped would be out of this world.

On the field, the countdown begins. "10... 9... 8... 7... 6..." The students tighten their collective grip on the balloon and its long roped tail. "5... 4... 3... 2... 1..."

They release it — and in doing so culminate the ultimate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) project and become one of the first schools anyone is aware of with an actual space program.

The balloon, which carried a tiny camera to capture images of the curvature of the

earth and the darkness of space, traveled approximately 95 miles and pierced near space by reaching an altitude of 82,266 ft.

At its fastest, it was traveling at a speed of more than 100 mph.

"We wanted to do something special that allowed students to tackle a real life problem rather than the kinds of problems presented in typical academia," said Mike Mahon, Assistant Head of School, who launched what he dubbed Project X as a challenge to an elite, hand-picked group of technology students.

Mahon joined forces with OVS alum Jason Goldman, a law student who volunteered his time and expertise to serve as the Mission Director for Project X, to come up with an initiative that would increase student engagement in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and general tinkering.

"It was an amazing experience," eighth grade team member Wendy Lazo-Dowdy said. "We all launched something into space. We will remember this our entire lives."

When the students from grades 6-8 were presented with the opportunity, they had no idea what they were signing up for. To apply for the mysterious mission, they had to write essays showcasing their STEAM qualifications and explaining how they would contribute to the team.

"Drive, grit, and passion — everything else is easy to come by," Mahon said of the selection process. "Give me a group of driven and passionate humans and we can do anything."

The students chosen for the project were separated into four groups based on their specialties: the Alpha team, which was in charge of building the capsule; the Beta team, which was in charge of building the parachute; the Gamma team, which was in



Left: Assistant Head of School Mike Mahon (far right) prepares "Project X" with students (going clockwise) Wendy Lazo-Dowdy, Sebastian Wayman-Dalo, Andrew Morse and Bill Liu.

charge of tracking and predicting the course of the capsule; and the Delta team, which was in charge of the launch and logistics.

Students worked for 12 weeks to build and understand everything possible about the weather balloon, from how much helium would be necessary for launch to where the balloon might land.

And then finally, Launch Day arrived.

The students spent the night in the computer lab, smoothing out any last minute hiccups and getting rest so they could start preparing the balloon for launch at 5 the next morning.

Before sunrise, they began filling the balloon with helium, fashioning a rig to hold the capsule, preparing the GPS and cameras and covering the capsule with a ton of tape.

Finally, with the balloon ready for launch, they removed the weight that was holding it down and called the FAA for final clearance.

"It's unbelievable that the FAA was just on the phone with a 13-year-old kid and was like 'Yep, go for it,'" Mahon said.

Following the launch, the recovery team set out in a van, intent on locating their hard work. Unfortunately, the capsule landed in the Juniper Hills just south of Palmdale, making the retrieval mission much more difficult

"We were very successful with the biggest challenges," Goldman said. "The balloon worked perfectly and it went exactly where we predicted it would."

Early efforts to locate it were unsuccessful, but mission leaders kept at it and retrieved the capsule two weeks after it was launched. Now that they have it back, team members will study the footage and then push on to plan the next mission.

Project X is the first of what will hopefully be many ventures into space. Part of the mission was to establish a space program by conducting a series of mission activities high above the Earth.

"It's my belief that within the span of my career, OVS will put something into orbit," Mahon said. "Everyone I know laughs at me when I say that, but dreaming big and inspiring others is the noblest end of scientific and technological pursuits. I can't wait to say, 'I told you so.'"



OVS alum Jason Goldman, along with students Kaden Skillern and Aydan Jennings, ensure the capsule can be monitored by the ground crew in the minutes before takeoff.



OVS Takes Bold Water Savings Measures

by Tracy Wilson

This summer, OVS embarked on a significant water-savings project to replace the sand footing in the Lower Campus riding arena with a state-of-the-art irrigation system and new geotextile footing material. Those measures are expected to cut water use at the arena by more than half, saving about 500,000 gallons of water a year. The move is directly in response to the ongoing California drought and continues the school's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Locally, residential and commercial users are now required to reduce their water consumption by 32% in accordance with state mandates issued as a result of the drought. In recent months, OVS has taken dramatic steps to reduce its water use on both campuses, replacing grassy areas with mulch and drought-tolerant plants, installing weather-based controllers, and optimizing irrigation.

"We installed network-connected irrigation controllers that respond to local weather con-

ditions at the Upper and Lower Campus athletic fields at both campuses," said Director of Technology and Sustainability John Wickenhaeuser. "Additionally we have reduced watering rates on the fields to achieve a 40% overall reduction in water use, exceeding the current state requirements."

The new arena footing - made from a mixture of quartz sand and polyester and synthetic materials - will replace the existing sand, which was removed after graduation in time to prepare the arena for the start of the summer equestrian camps in June.

Water reduction has presented a challenge for the equestrian program due to the need to keep down the dust created when students ride in the arena. In accordance with an Ojai city ordinance, the dust must be mitigated and that has traditionally been accomplished by watering the arena sand.

Several months ago, Equestrian Director Stephanie Gustafson began researching alternatives to further minimize water use while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for students, horses, staff and the broader community.

"The best option for equine safety and environmental sustainability is to add a geotextile footing material," Gustafson said. "This is the top-of-the line in terms of material used at premier equestrian venues, and further distinguishes OVS as a blue-ribbon equestrian program."





Golf

This year's golf team was undefeated in its regular season play, defeating Nordhoff High School, Villanova Preparatory School, St. Boneventure, and Carpinteria High School. The team was lead by juniors Davis Smith (L12, U16) and Harris Tsui (U16), who advanced to the CIF Northern Individual Regional Tournament. Throughout the season, Davis and Harris both shot under par in their matches, and the team as a whole beat its opponents by 15 or more strokes in each of the matches. Davis and Harris will be returning next year looking to improve on this season and hopefully make it to further rounds in CIF post-season play.

Baseball

Led by seniors Masaki Takamatsu, Matthew Gustafson (L11, U15), and Connor Floyd (L11, U15), the baseball team finished the season with a crushing 11-1 victory over Thacher. It was a fitting conclusion to a season of highs and lows, one that allowed for continued growth and development within the team and for individual players. Junior Satoshi Suzuki pitched 40 of the 53 innings, learning to perfect his skills on the mound. With a small team, players had to wear many hats. Junior Brendan Goldberg played catcher for the first time in his baseball career and provided steady play and support behind home plate. Connor led the offensive charge, batting .458 and leading the team in hits, runs scored, runs batted in, extra base hits, home runs, and stolen bases. Connor will attend Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, on a baseball scholarship in the fall, while the Spuds bring in new young talent for the 2016 season.



Equestrian

OVS equestrians rode off at the end of the year with blue ribbons waving and medals shining. The OVS Pony Club team competed in the U.S. Pony Club Mega Rally in Moorpark, one of the largest rallies in Southern California. Seniors Jenna McIntosh (L11, U15), Ali Fortier Weller (L11, U15). While still young, 6th grader Kaitlyn King proved to be a very strong rider, and although younger than all of her teammates showed no weakness when it came time to compete. All of the riders had near perfect rounds of jumping with no penalty points for their horse management, part of that including their sportsmanship. The OVS team won the rally out of every single team in Southern California.



Lacrosse

While small in numbers, the boys' lacrosse squad showed tenacity and teamwork in their offensive and defensive play and came together as a unit during the spring season. Coach Brad Weidlich recognized sophomore Gavin Floyd (U13, U17) as the MVP this season as he battled through injury and played a controlled game that incorporated his teammates. Junior Victory Gong (L12, U16) played courageously on both ends of the field, and sophomore Jeffrey Lin (U13, U17) showed tremendous growth as a player. The game changer was senior Masaki Takamatsu (U15) who's pure speed and goal scoring instinct allowed him to impact games whenever he got the ball in his stick. With only two seniors graduating, the team is looking to improve on this season and recruit new players coming up from Lower Campus.







More than 130 Lower Campus graduates, eighth-grade students, and teachers attended the 20th annual Pons dinner. An annual tradition, this dinner serves as a bridge between middle school and high school, allowing our young alumni and our current students to come together as one group to share their OVS experiences together.

Pons dinner features guest speakers, including a current senior at the Upper Campus and an alum. This year senior Matt Gustafson (L11, U15) spoke to the incoming freshmen about what to expect as they move on from the Lower Campus.

“When I transitioned to the Upper Campus, I had some anxiety about the many changes and challenges in front of me, but I quickly found out that the transition was really nothing to worry about, especially with the help and support from teachers and friends all around me,” he said. “Bad days have been rare at the Upper Campus, and although school is not always easy, it can be fun if you are willing to be open to new experiences and work hard.”

The support Matt talked about in his speech is apparent in everyday life at both of our campuses. It is obvious that the students care for one another, that they look up to their teachers, and that those teachers share the genuine love and care for their students that their students have for them.

Alum Parker Colborn (L05, U09) reflected on those relationships in his speech as well, and expressed gratitude for the varied experiences he had on both campuses.

“There is something about this school that puts something inside you that doesn’t go away. I’m never going to forget the people here,” he said. “It’s more than just school. It’s a second family.”



Alumna Reem Altamimi (U10) Offers Guidance to Graduates

by Keaton Shiffman (L10, U14)

Just before graduation, the OVS seniors gathered for a dinner generously hosted by Trustee Paul Donlon (L74) and his former roommate Alan Newsum (L75, U79), who serve as co-chairs of the OVS Alumni Council. The Council is stepping up efforts to engage young alumni and the seniors were encouraged to stay connected as they venture out into the world. Guest speaker Reem Altamimi (U10), a UC San Diego grad, encouraged the seniors to follow their passions.

“Never, ever ever give up on your dreams no matter what other people may say and no matter how hard it is,” she said. “Because if you want to do something in this world, if you really want to achieve your ultimate aspirations, it is not going to be easy, but it is going to be worth it.”

Reem lives the words she speaks in her everyday life. She came to OVS from the Middle East and developed a passion for singing while attending the Upper Campus. She now lives in Los Angeles and is pursuing a career as a recording artist, crafting messages of global equality for women through her music. Last fall, she was invited to perform during the global symposium hosted by the Geena Davis Institute on Gender.

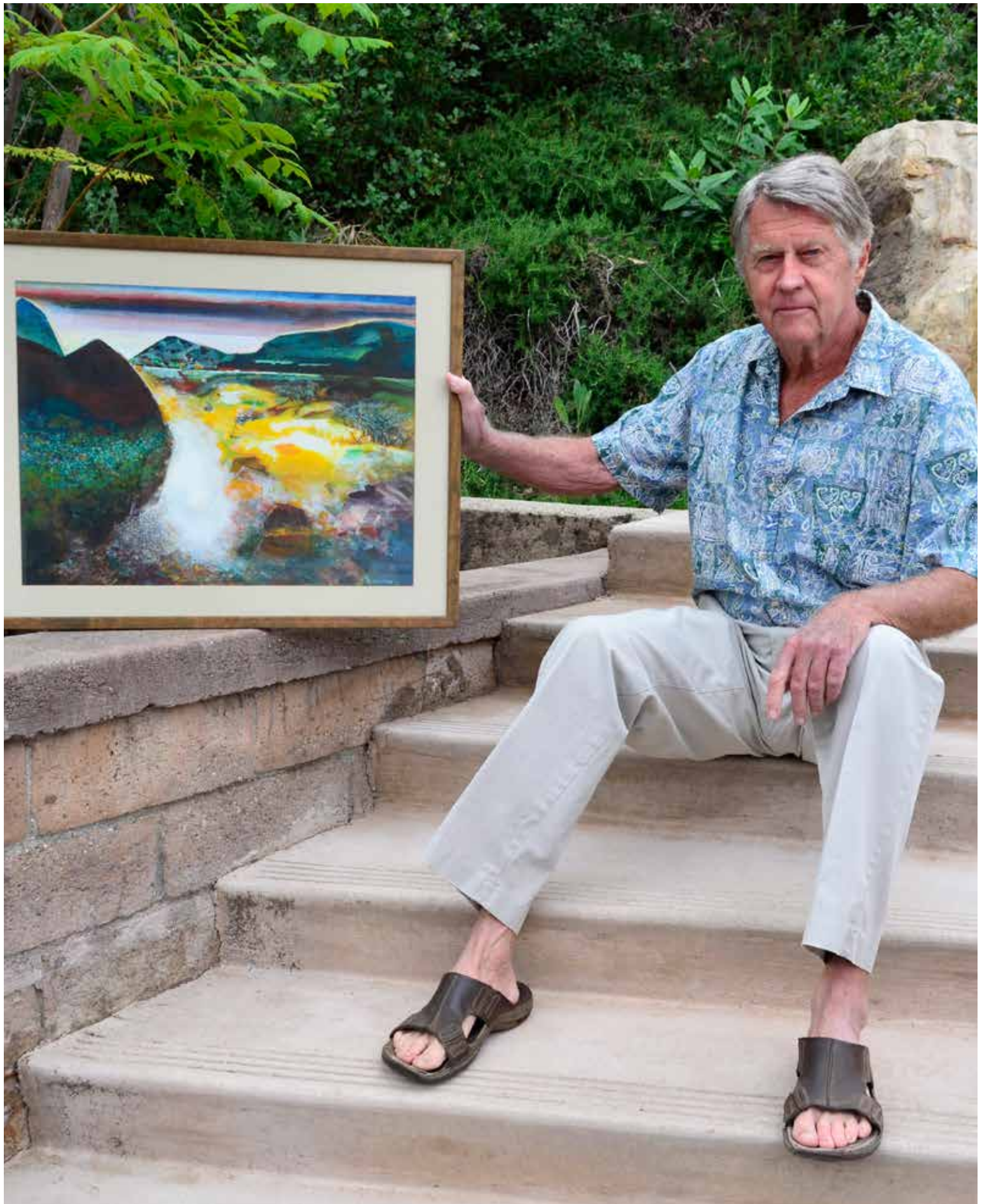
Reem also spoke about how OVS has become her extended family, a sentiment that many of our students share. Reem came to the senior dinner with classmates Cameron Davis (U10) and Molly Baker (U10). “They are like my sisters,” she said.

Reem also talked about OVS being a place where people from different cultures and backgrounds can come together and be a part of something bigger than themselves, part of a community that inspires students to go out in the world and do great things.

“The world is a very diverse place, and because of that communication is key,” Reem said. “In order to communicate with someone, you have to be patient and understanding, you have to listen, and I promise you that no matter how different you are to someone else, you will find a part of yourself in him or her, and they will find a part of themselves in you.”

Reem left the seniors with a few simple instructions that will hopefully help them as they leave their sanctuary on the hill: “Be kind to each other, communicate with one another, and listen to yourself. And no matter what, always, always believe in yourself.”





Retired Teacher Remains Iconic Figure for OVS Alums

by Fred Alvarez

It seemed like such a simple gesture. As part of this spring's art celebration and fundraising Gala, longtime OVS teacher and artist Gary Dinkins agreed to donate one of his paintings to a silent auction staged to benefit the school's Annual Fund.

But not even Dinkins could have foreseen the events that were to unfold that day in May, or to what degree his generosity would be rewarded.

The bidding started at \$100, and it quickly escalated as former students and colleagues of Dinkins dug deep into their wallets in a friendly but frenzied competition to take home the painting, entitled *Sespe Outback*. Then the heavy hitters rolled in.

Alum Cooper Hefner (U09), a member of the school's Board of Trustees, fired the first salvo, jumping the bid to \$500. Not to be outdone, alum Jason Goldman (L01, U05) raised that bid by \$25. Hefner shifted to \$1,325; Goldman countered at \$1,500.

Finally, when Hefner reached \$2,000, a truce was declared. The pair pledged to pay \$2,000 apiece if Dinkins would donate a second painting – a request he instantly granted. But while the artwork was worthy of fetching a high price, the boiling bidding war had less to do with the painting than it did with the man who wielded the paintbrush.

"The painting was priceless because Mr. Dinkins painted it himself," explained Hefner, who in his years at OVS studied Spanish and World History under Dinkins, and ran for his Condor League championship track team.

"In my mind, and in the mind of many others, Mr. Dinkins is the physical embodiment of

Upper Campus – his stories, presence and personality left a folklore legacy around him, one that allows him to be described as an OVS icon," Hefner added. "I felt privileged to be able to take home a piece of art made by him. He played a big part in my life while I went to school in Ojai."

Similar sentiments have been echoed by generations of students.

For 44 years, Dinkins taught and coached for OVS, most of that time at the Upper Campus. He handed down lessons to countless students in French, Spanish and Latin, and in World History and US History and World Geography.

But really, Dinkins earned his legendary status for the lessons he taught outside of the classroom. He was for so many years the school's unofficial philosopher-guru, a laid back, one-day-at-a-time font of self-reflection and positivity, a sage of the highest order who was always ready with a clever quip and a kind word.

He is lauded for his even-keeled approach to life, for never getting angry or frustrated with his students, for showing up and being interested and feeling blessed for living a life in which he was a blessing to so many others.

That's why, even though he officially retired five summers ago, he is more popular than ever.

When he attends alumni events, his former students show up in droves to check in and snap photos with him, with many of those populating social media sites. Any post about Dinkins on the OVS Alumni Association Facebook page is certain to draw nearly 100 "likes," roughly five times more than the average post.

For his part, Dinkins appreciates the attention, but finds it all unnecessary and unwarranted.

"I'm honored if they have that loyalty," he said. "But I like finding out about their lives; a lot of them are doing really interesting things. I can relate to them and learn something from them, just like a teacher learns from his students."

Typical Dinkins. He simply rejects any claims to fame, as they run counter to his humble persona and unpretentious roots. And it's exactly that mind-set that makes him such a mythic figure with the alums.

It's no wonder then that he has nearly 700 Facebook friends on his own page, many of them his former students. He is extremely active on the social networking site, commenting often on their posts, and just as often hearing from them the degree to which he helped shape their lives.

"I don't have any idea what his magic is, but there sure is something," said Julie Nootbaar (U86), who more than a quarter century ago studied French under Dinkins and whose twin children, Momoe and Masaki, graduated from Upper this spring.

So what did she learn from Dinkins besides French? She remembers these words of wisdom from him as she was looking to carve her own path: "All you gotta do is just be, man. Just be."

"I suppose that's a pretty important thing to know, especially when you're a teenager trying to figure out who you are and what you want to be," said Nootbaar, an associate professor of American Studies at the Oita Prefectural College of Arts and Culture in Japan. "And of course there's his wicked and wry sense of humor to

39 PROFILE: GARY DINKINS

remind us all to have some fun and not take anything too seriously. Again, just as important to high school kids as it is to us adults.”

Born in Philadelphia, Dinkins grew up in Santa Barbara. He graduated from Santa Barbara High School in 1957 and UC Berkeley in 1962 with a degree in Slavic languages. He started graduate school at UCLA, but dropped out to join the Army Reserves, where he served as a translator of Russian during a five-year stint. He would later earn his secondary teaching credential from UCLA and a master’s degree in French from UC Santa Barbara.

He began his OVS career in 1966, and he taught at both campuses for several years before teaching exclusively at Upper.

It was there he was able to pursue one of his lifelong passions – long distance running. Dinkins coached OVS cross country teams to Condor League titles in 1980, 1984, 1987 and 1988, while maintaining his own running program, which called for him to run nine miles a day. He did that every day for 25 years. But recently he has made some concessions to the gravitational pull of time and age, and has cut down to four miles a day.

His passion for languages continues, evidenced by the plethora of Facebook posts he makes to former students in French, Spanish, and Mandarin. Most recently he took to auditing the Mandarin class at the Upper Campus to sharpen his skills. But as with all things Dinkins, that pursuit, of course, serves a larger purpose.

“Language is just like another art form to me,” he said. “If I can meet people from another country and communicate with them in their own language, I get to see them differently. I get to see the whole person.”

To Dinkins, painting also is a language, and it is one that he has spoken with increasing conviction in his adult years.

He started drawing and painting as a young boy, and he honed his talent into junior high. But in a very un-Dinkins like move, he stopped altogether after eighth grade to conform to a more conventional approach to education.

“That just wasn’t what people were doing – they were trying to learn algebra, which is ridiculous,” Dinkins said. “I tried to live within the framework of what I thought I was supposed to be.”

He didn’t pick up art again until he was 35 years old, when he took a life drawing class at the Santa Barbara Art Institute. Then he started to paint as his interest shifted to landscape watercolors of places that were special to him.

The Sespe. The Eastern Sierra. The Central California coastline.

Dinkins said he didn’t think in terms of the quality of the artwork – it was the process of painting itself that seduced him. Visit his studio today, located on the same property in Ojai where he has lived for more than four decades, and you’ll always find a painting in process.

Undeterred by the pressure of time, he paints when the spirit moves him, maybe 15 minutes in the morning and maybe another 15 later on in the day. He thinks and waits for the painting to tell him what to do next. It takes about 60 hours to produce one piece. And when that one is done he starts another.





“It’s an experiment, always an experiment,” Dinkins explained. “It just seems like everything I do has its place. On a personal level with the art, I’m just going to continue exploring and doing what I can do.”

He doesn’t like to put his art in shows where it can be judged, or up for sale in fancy art galleries. Instead, he prefers to put them on display at places like the Upper Campus, so that students, faculty and others can enjoy them.

So it was quite the coup, then, when he agreed to donate *Sespe Outback*, and a

second painting entitled *Lundy Canyon No. 1*, to last May’s Gala in the Gallery. Those paintings ended up generating \$4,000 – the highest bid in the silent auction, and one of the highest for the entire event, which raised nearly \$75,000 for OVS annual fund, including about \$24,000 specifically for scholarships.

Alum Jason Goldman was glad to have played a part, as Dinkins’ *Lundy Canyon No. 1* now sits proudly in his home.

“He is a legend to me,” said Goldman, who is in his second year at the Ventura

College of Law. “His former students and the faculty have so much respect for him. I look at the way he leads his life, and I’ve adopted that as a paradigm for how to live my own.”

Cooper Hefner has not yet decided where to hang *Sespe Outback*, but there is no question it will occupy a prominent place in his home.

“Everything about him is magical,” Hefner said of the man who is affectionately known to so many as just Dink. “He is a unique and special man, and all who have ever met him know him to be just that.”

OVS ALUMNI WORLD MAP

Ojai Valley School is truly a global community. Our alumni currently represent 49 US states and more than 40 countries. For decades our students have graduated with an appreciation and respect for each other on a global scale and that continues today. This fall, we will welcome students from 12 countries including Switzerland, Russia, Germany, Mexico, Finland, Cambodia, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China, Ukraine, and the USA. Please note that this map only reflects, to the best of our knowledge, where OVS alumni currently reside. Please keep us updated by contacting alumni@ovs.org.

01 USA: 4,725

With approximately 2,700 individuals, California has the highest concentration of OVS alumni, followed by the Pacific Northwest with 215.

02 SOUTH KOREA: 220

South Korea boasts our largest international alumni population. Regional Reps: Eun Sook Rho (L90, U94) and Shelley Hermes (U77).

03 JAPAN: 105

OVS maintains a large alumni base in Japan spanning six decades. Regional Reps: Katsuyoshi Kondo (U77) Yoshi Yamaguchi (U77)

04 TAIWAN: 75

OVS has experienced a steady representation of Taiwanese students during the past 30 years. Regional Rep: Simon Wang (L97, U01)

05 CHINA & HONG KONG: 67

OVS maintains a growing alumni base in Hong Kong and mainland China. Hong Kong Regional Rep: Daniel Zikal (U68)

06 EUROPE: 59

There are more than 59 alumni from various central and northern European countries, including Finland, Latvia, Greece, France, Italy, Denmark, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Ukraine, Austria, Russia, and Germany.

07 MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN: 41

There are more than two dozen alumni from Mexico as well as alumni from Jamaica, Costa Rica, and other countries from this region.

08 SOUTHEAST ASIA: 31

Countries with alumni in this region include Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Thailand Regional Rep: Natharit "T" Srimanus (U05)

09 CANADA: 11

Alumni residing in this northern neighbor include Susan (O'Malley) St. John (L62, U65).

10 SOUTH PACIFIC: 9

Countries with alumni in this region include Australia, French Polynesia, New Zealand, and Fiji.

11 SOUTH AMERICA: 9

Alumni on this southern continent are located in Brazil, Guyana, Paraguay, and Peru.

12 MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA: 8

Countries include Iran, Israel, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. OVS will be recruiting in Saudi Arabia in the fall.



connected

stay

Message from the Alumni Council

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Let us begin by congratulating Beth Pfeiffer (L66, U69) on her selection as this year's recipient of the Founder's Alumni Award. We are so proud to have sprouted from the same fine school as you, Beth. As the fifth recipient of the award, you join the ranks of some of our most revered alumni, including the late Michael D. Hermes (L53), as well as Barbara B. Smith (L35), Woody Halsey (L62), and Varnnee Ross (L77, U81). Congratulations.


We are also pleased to announce that the OVS Alumni Council Strategic Plan is now posted on the website, LinkedIn and Facebook. This plan outlines ways in which we plan to engage alumni and reconnect them to the school. Here are some initiatives underway:

- Alumni Regional Gatherings and Graduate visits – OVS plans to increase the number of Alumni Regional Gatherings in the year ahead and visit members of the Class of 2015 in their college towns
- Campus involvement – As part of the OVS Speaker Series, the school hopes to bring in alumni to share their talents, experience, and passion for their respective industries and professions.
- Alumni Internship Program – OVS is developing opportunities to network 5-10 internship positions for young alumni in 2016.

Additionally, the OVS Alumni Office is in the process of creating a secure online Alumni Directory on our website. This will allow you and fellow members of the OVS Alumni Association to access class lists and update your information.

Please send any suggestions for other initiatives to the Alumni Office at alumni@ovs.org.

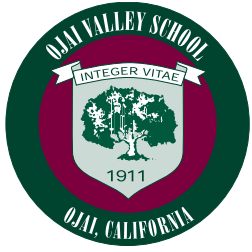
Sincerely,



Paul Donlon (L74)
Alumni Council Co-Chair



Alan Newsum (L75, U79)
Alumni Council Co-Chair



OVS Alumni Council Strategic Plan Goals 2015-2020

OVS strives to better connect alumni with each other, and the school, to promote greater alumni engagement worldwide. In support of these goals, the Alumni Council developed the Strategic Plan. Contact the Alumni Office to learn more and get involved!

- **Engage Ojai Valley School's evolving and shifting alumni constituencies by gaining a clearer understanding of the demographic makeup and interests of alumni.**
 - Use demographic information and measure trends to better communicate with and engage alumni.
 - Use surveys and analytics to develop an understanding of alumni expectations from OVS, the OVS Alumni Council, and the OVS Alumni Association.
 - Develop strategies for targeted marketing and messaging based on age, involvement, and life-stage.
 - Use affinity efforts as a means of understanding groups, how they overlap, and how they're changing.
- **Make connections between alumni and students a cornerstone of the OVS Alumni Association by creating more opportunities for interaction.**
 - Create more opportunities for alumni and students to connect on campus.
 - Develop new opportunities for alumni and students to connect in regions during the summer and while they are away from campus.
 - Facilitate online connections between alumni and the school.
 - Strengthen ties to campus programs in order to explore new opportunities that connect alumni with the school community and students, such as through sports, fine and performing arts, outdoor education, and academics.
 - Develop an alumni volunteer program that solicits the involvement of alumni and provides recognition for volunteers.
 - Develop and implement a framework for volunteerism.
 - Develop strategies and programs to engage alumni as volunteers for schools events and initiatives.
- **Communicate a clear, consistent, and distinctive message that aligns the Alumni Council and Alumni Association with the school's goals and values and builds alumni ties to the Alumni Association and OVS.**
 - Educate alumni about the Alumni Council and the Alumni Association's mission, and clearly communicate the variety of ways that alumni can connect with OVS and with each other.
 - Educate alumni about priorities, values, and the accomplishments of the school and its faculty, students, and alumni.
 - Through print and digital communications and alumni events, foster excitement about and pride in OVS, and expand participation in Alumni Association activities.
 - Maintain a visual identity that is distinct and recognizable, and that is closely aligned with the visual identity of the school.
 - Use alumni volunteers as ambassadors for OVS to improve student recruitment globally and to engage alumni worldwide.
- **Celebrate OVS milestones, accomplishments, and traditions through alumni events and awards programs.**
 - Provide venues and settings for alumni to social and connect in meaningful ways – on and off campus, as well as online.
 - Sustain a vibrant reunions program, including Alumni Weekend as well as regional and international alumni gatherings, that encourage alumni to connect with one another, maintain ties to OVS, and provide ongoing financial support for the school.
 - Engage alumni in the accomplishments of faculty, students, and other alumni volunteers through awards programs that recognize excellence in service, deed, scholarship, and teaching.
 - Develop strategies and programs to engage alumni as volunteers for schools events and initiatives.
 - Encourage and support alumni volunteers in existing and future school programs.



Summer Camp Draws Young Alums and Puts Their Experience To Work

More than 20 OVS alumni worked our 2015 summer programs as camp counselors, dorm parents, equestrian instructors, technology teachers, lifeguards, and more! We appreciate the experience, enthusiasm, and love of school that they bring.

Pictured above are part of the crew, including, clockwise from left to right: Garrett Blach (U10), Hunter Helman (L06, U10), Chia Hersk (L88, U92), Craig Floyd (U83), Joy Campbell (L14, U18), Kelsey (Gartrell) Bailey (L98), Amanda Webb (L10, U14), John Olivo (U14), Jenna McIntosh (L11, U15), Lisa Redko (L12, U16), Andrew Town (L05, U09), Marie Holguin (L03, U07), Sierra Stingl (L09, U13), Ari Torab (L04, U08), Callen Gartrell (L01), Ben Malkin (L04), Matt Gustafson (L11, U15) and Kyle Blix (L04). Not pictured, but also working hard this summer at camp, are Ali Fortier-Weller (L11, U15), Caitlin Black (L97), and Jason Goldman (L01, U05). Go Spuds!

POST CARD

Save these dates:

2015	Sep 12	Dallas, Texas Alumni Gathering
	Oct 4:	Seattle Alumni Gathering
	Nov 5 :	Seoul, Korea Alumni Gathing
	TBD:	San Francisco Alumni Gathering
	TBD:	Los Angeles Alumni Gathering
	Feb 13:	Alumni Basketball and Soccer Games & BBQ
	May 10:	21st Annual Pons Dinner
	May 14:	OVS Gala
	May 14:	Alumni Baseball & Bingo Memorial Lacrosse Games
	June 3:	Upper Campus Graduation
June 10 -12:	Alumni Weekend, Lower Campus	

Please RSVP to alumni@ovs.org or 805-640-2578

ALUMNI *Games*

The spring alumni games have come and gone as alumni from all over the country flocked to the Upper Campus for a classic battle of old versus new. In the Bingo Memorial Lacrosse Game, although the final score of 5-3 didn't show it, the alumni demonstrated their depth of talent on the field. Jesse Clapoff (L09, U13) and Miles Munding-Becker (L09, U13), both first timers in the net as goalie, shared time and only let in a collective five goals. Ben Suh (L95, U99) showed his amazing stick skills, twisting and twirling, using his talents to shock and dazzle teammates, opposing players and spectators alike.

The baseball game was also filled with great moments. Junior Ted Jung had a walk-off hit with pitcher Parker Colborn (L05, U09) on the mound. The students came together in this game for a close win over the alumni with a score of 8-7. Another highlight in the game came with a triple from senior Matthew Gustafson (L11, U15) off of a pitch from Cameron Cuthbert (L10, U14).

Mark your calendars for next year's alumni baseball and lacrosse games on **May 14, 2016**.





by Elizabeth (Curran) Hermes (L66, U69)

The Founder's Alumni Award was created to honor an Ojai Valley School alumna/us whose achievements exemplify the values endorsed in the school's motto, *Integer Vitae*, meaning "wholeness of life, symmetry of life, soundness of life, and therefore, poise and strength of life."

The Ojai Valley School is pleased to announce that Beth Pfeiffer (L'66, U'69) has been named this year's recipient of the Founder's Alumni Achievement Award.

Beth started at OVS as a 4th grader, when her mother, Betsey Pfeiffer, took a teaching job at the school. After graduating from

the Upper Campus, Beth continued her studies at Wellesley College, where she completed her undergraduate degree in history. While working as a securities analyst in Boston, Beth earned an MBA from Harvard Business School. She eventually formed Gamewright, a company that made engaging print-based educational games and became a market leader. Beth's volunteer involvement has been extensive: Among her service has been as a member of the Wellesley board of trustees for 15 years (Beth is now a member emerita); as a current trustee of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston; as a former member of the Planned Parenthood of Massachusetts

board and of the board of overseers of WGBH. She has also mentored incarcerated prisoners in Boston University's College Behind Bars degree program. Beth has always been and remains the quintessential student: horsemanship, rowing crew, sailing, cooking, printmaking, dancing are among the diverse interests she has pursued through study and practice.

Currently residing in Maine and in Boston, Beth was unable to attend the ceremony but was delighted that Scott Eicher, Class of '68, volunteered to read her remarks to those who had assembled at the Alumni Weekend dinner. "How fitting," wrote Beth, "that one of my mother's favorite students, from a family I remember well from my OVS years, is playing tag team with me today."

Excerpts from her acceptance speech are quoted below:

"I was honored to receive Michael Hall-Mounsey's unexpected call in April with the message I'd been named this year's recipient of the Founder's Alumni Achievement Award. Thank you, OVS, for this wonderful recognition. As I read the qualifications and took in, at a deep level, the meaning of those words, I felt even more honored.

"The Pfeiffers came as a family to Ojai in the early 1950s, responding (as have many) to the Valley's physical beauty and way of life, the artistic and cultural offerings and, very importantly, to Ojai's unusual concentration of fine schools and interesting, educated people.

"By 1960, my mother, Betsey Pfeiffer, herself well-educated and by then a single mom, began teaching at OVS, and we three kids came along as part of the package. [Beth's siblings are George (L63) and Dorrit (L64, U67)]. I jumped into 4th grade and, for the next decade, until I graduated from 12th grade and ventured back East to Wellesley College, OVS defined my life.

"It was defined, first and foremost, by the teachers who cared deeply and who were generous to me beyond measure – Mike Hermes, Weston Blanchard, Oliver Wolcott, Joyce Biscoe, J.B. Close, just to name a

handful. And by others in the OVS family, like Helen Cooper who, with warmth and kindness, kept a ready supply of Oreo cookies on hand for afternoon snack, and by Joe Singleton in the horse program, who lent his horses to us three kids to have as our own to care for, train, and ride. Horses were beyond my mother's meager budget, and that opportunity was pure gold. The camping trips, the horse shows, the trail rides – what a gift these were. And, of course, it was defined by my OVS classmates and schoolmates, whose friendships (and antics) still resonate deeply.

“A singular memory I hold is the motto carved above the assembly stage at Lower Campus in those years: “Nothing Less Than Your Best.” I read that imperative time and

time again, and I said to myself, “I could do that. I will try my hardest.” My persistence and determination were supported and honed by my 2-legged teachers in the classroom and by my 4-legged teachers in the barn. I loved these teachers, each and every one. They gave me tools of the intellect along with tools of the heart and spirit. In the books, in the people, and on the backs of horses, I found meaning, friendship, and beauty, all of which have helped me figure out my own trail ride through a richly gratifying life. And, as I have watched OVS over the years, I feel deeply happy that the school remains vibrant and dedicated to this day, bringing extraordinary offerings of opportunity, learning, and growth to successive generations of students.

“So I accept this award from OVS with gratitude -- gratitude to my mother, Betsey Pfeiffer, who brought us to OVS; gratitude to OVS for the gifts of education, caring and growth; and gratitude for my OVS friends, past and present. Thank you very much.”

To submit your nomination for the Founder's Alumni Award for future consideration, please visit www.ovs.org/FAA, contact the Alumni Office or complete the nomination form on the next page.. Please include as much information, such as web links and articles, as possible so that your nominee has the committee's full consideration.



Beth Pfeiffer and OVS President/CEO Michael J. Hall-Mounsey stand in front of Frost Hall during a visit to Lower Campus.

Founder's Alumni Award

Deadline for nominations: January 31, 2016

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 2016 Alumni Weekend Celebration.

In recognition of the school's centennial, the Founder's Alumni Award was created to honor an Ojai Valley School alum whose achievements exemplify the values endorsed in the school's motto, *Integer Vitae*, meaning wholeness of life, symmetry of life, soundness of life, therefore, poise and strength of life.

The Founder's Alumni Award Recipient will have demonstrated good character, respect for other people, a balance of accomplishments at a level that has a positive and broad impact, whose achievement(s) is/are significant within a profession, career, vocation, or service.

The Founder's Alum will have achieved distinction in one or more of the following ways:

- Serving his or her local, national and/or global community in an outstanding fashion
- Demonstrating extraordinary commitment to making the world a better place through the promotion of education, diversity, and environmental stewardship
- Ensuring the sustainability of the school through various forms of engagement and support

Please include as much information, such as web links and articles, so that your nominee has the committee's full consideration.

✂

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

Please describe his or her significant achievement(s): _____

In what ways does this alum exemplify the principles of OVS? _____

Is he/she connected with the school and/or his/her classmates? If yes, how so? _____

HIGHLIGHTS

Alumni Weekend





Top: Jim Hans, Mike Tomkins, Jay Huissoon & wife, Ken Barshop & wife, Peter Kane & wife, Steve Schechter, Eric Salveson & wife, Spencer Garrett, Lynda Abbott, Kirk Warren, Daphne Cates, Trixie (Dvoulety) Knickmeyer (L63), Dok Smith & wife, Susan (O'Malley) St. John;
Bottom: Steve Schechter (U65), Jay Huissoon (U65) & wife, Lynda Abbott (L62, U65), Kirk Warren (L62, U65), and Jim Hans (L62, U65)



Top: Jeff Hanselman (L65, U68), Carl Cooper (L64, U68), Dok Smith (L62, U65), Kathy Stewart (U68), Rene (Pon Tell) Briggs (U68), Winn Gillette (L65, U68), Scott Eicher (L65, U68) and Bill McGee (U68); Bottom: Clockwise: Michael Tomkins (U65), Jim Hans (L62, U65), Spencer Garrett (L62, U65), Kirk Warren (L62, U65), Daphne Cates, Jay Huyssoon, Dok Smith (L62, U65), Susan (O'Malley) St. John (L62, U65), Lynda Abbott (L62, U65), and Ken Barshop (L63, U65)



Top: Jason Goldman (L01, U05), Liz (White) Goldman (U05), Lauren Touchner (U05), guest, Andrew Menz (L01, U05), Kevin Hartman (L01, U05), and Ben Davis (U05) Bottom: Carl Cooper (L64, U68) and Roxie Brophy (L64, U67). Harp player Xocoyotzin Moraza playing at the Welcome Reception at Lower Campus.



Top: Christina Romano-Puckett (U71), Alison (Jones) Woods (U71), Paul McCandless (U71), Michael Ross (U72), Carole Ekker (U71), Randy Wells (U71), and Felicity Van-Runkle (L69, U72) Bottom: Bob Christensen (U66), Spencer Garrett (L62, U65), Kirk Warren (L62, U65). Ken Barshop (L63, U65).



Top: Kevin Hartman (L01, U05), OVS teacher Micah Sittig, former OVS teacher Erica (Coble) Coolman, Ben Davis (U05), and OVS teacher Lisa Boyd; Bottom Left: Liz (White) Goldman (U05) and Andrew Menz (L01, U05); Bottom Right: Angela Chambers-Carvallo (L80) and guest.



Left center: Scott Carr (L03) and guest; Right Center: Claudia Wunderlich (L66, U69) and guest; Left Bottom: Steve Manis (U66) and Steve McIntyre (U66); Right Bottom: Alison (Jones) Woods (L69, U72), Felicity Van Runkle (L69, U72), and Don Butler (U71)



Top: Steve McIntyre (U66), Keith Carradine (U67), Liz (L66, U69), and Michael Tomkins (U65); Bottom left: George Thacher (L85) and his wife, Marcia; Bottom right: Jennifer (Whipple) Muller (U95) and Brittany Whipple (L02)



Top Left: Gloria Leung (U90), OVS teacher John Boyd, and Vivian Ng (U90); Top Right: Ed Littlefield (U67) (left) playing in his band, Marley's Ghost; Bottom: Andy Knight (L72, U75), Front: Tom Rowland (U75), Mike Boggs (L72, U75), Vernanne Cohen (L72, U75), and Melody Everson (L72)

alumni notes



Lower 1953

Anne Thacher writes: "We were a class of 13, the largest graduating class so far! That was in June 1953, during the Wallace Burr days, before there was an Upper School. We were 15 years old and now we're 62 years older! It doesn't seem that long ago, and OVS still holds a huge, happy place in our hearts. Our group is smaller now. We have lost 5 classmates. (Mike Hermes, Dianne Emmett, Valerie Chappellet, Ann De Lee, John Raphael).

Last year **Douglass Kopp** and I decided to organize a private reunion earlier than our 65th which will occur when we will all be 80 years old. We decided to have it at Doug's place in Palm Desert. His beautiful house was designed in 1947 by renowned mid-century modern architect Rudolph Schindler (whose son attended OVS).

Almost all of us were able to attend. Even though we may not have seen much of each other during those 62 years, it did not matter, because we still shared the strong OVS bond. It was easy and fun to reminisce far into the night. Doug threw a wonderful party: Mexican food and drink and a DJ playing 50s music. The next day we returned for a delicious brunch cooked by Doug and his friend Cheryl.

Thanks OVS for all you've meant and given to our lives. **1**

Lower 1959

John Warren III sent in his Annual Fund contribution with a note about how much OVS means to him. We always enjoy receiving good, old-fashioned letters from our alumni! Take a look at

those stamps. What a treat! Thank you for your note and support, John. **2**

Lower 1962

Susan (O'Malley) St. John (see U65)

Lower 1963

Jonathan Wygant met middle school teacher John Rowan at a private dinner party in May. After mentioning a recent hiking trip to the Sespe, John was pleasantly surprised to learn that Jonathan is an OVS alum with a shared enthusiasm for the great outdoors. Jonathan recalls the backpacking trips with great fondness and continues to make the trek to the Sespe whenever he can. **3**

Lower 1964

Judy (Frazier) Argo (see U67)



4

Lower 1965

Winn Gillette (see U68)

Lower 1972

Mike Boggs (see U75)

Vernane Cohen (see U75)

Bob Garrison (see U75)

Lower 1973

Catherine “Happie” (Kinnan) Tallia
(see U77)

Lower 1982

Erika Grossman, who is living in Los Angeles, writes, “I went to OVS for almost two years and have many good memories. I would love to find some of my old friends, so if anyone sees this and remembers me, please feel free to contact me. I loved the horses at the school the best, and some of my fellow students and I performed at a dance as The Beatles.”

Lower 1984

Pema “Kelly” Clark (see U88)



5

Lower 1987

Jess Brolin (see U81)

Lower 2002

Kristen Lupo (see U06)

Lower 2004

John-Clark Levin graduated in May with master’s degree in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. While there, he focused his research on how governments try to forecast and adapt to technological change. His time at Harvard also saw publication of his book *Private Anti-Piracy Navies*, and a national lecture tour to more than a dozen institutions including UCLA, Georgetown, West Point, and the U.S. Naval War College. He also gave two talks on Capitol Hill. John will be continuing for a Ph.D., deepening his research on technological change and its social implications. 4

Lower 2005

Parker Colborn (see U09)

Chris Coudray (see U09)

Lower 2006

Gianna Burright’s mother, Eleanora, sent in this update: “I am writing as a proud mother of a recent UCSB graduate. Gianna has received her BFA with honors in dance. She is planning to move to London in the fall to further her education and earn her master’s degree in choreography at Trinity Laban Conservatory of Music and Dance. This degree will qualify her to be a professor at the university level within two years (her long term goal) and allow her to pursue her dream of having an international dance career.” 5

Lower 2007

Madeleine “Maddie” Maloon graduated cum laude this May from Loyola Marymont University’s School of Communication and Fine Arts with a bachelor’s degree in theater arts. Congratulations, Maddie!

Paloma Spencer (see U11)



Lower 2010

Nicole Ye is attending the School of Art Institute of Chicago. She visited in the spring and wrote, “I’m working to become an art teacher or an art therapist. OVS is my second home. I’ve spent almost my entire childhood here. I had most of my best memories here. This school means everything to me.” During her visit, she met up with former OVS art teacher Nancy Martinez (pictured on right) and Eleanora Burright (pictured on left). **6**

Motoko Akabe is interning at Disneyworld’s Concierge, and this summer she’s attending the UC Riverside extension campus for Nagoya University of Foreign Studies. She and Nicole Ye (pictured on right) spent the night in the dorm together, like old times. The next day Motoko,

Nicole, and former OVS dorm parent Tami Scott went out for dinner at their favorite sushi restaurant in Ventura. Motoko also had the chance to visit with current middle school teacher Melinda Cassidy for a long chat over coffee. **7**

Upper 1965

Susan (O’Malley) St. John sent us this update and reminiscence: “My life has taken many twists and turns, resulting in my re-invention several times over. I retired from a major position at a Fortune 500 company and then started two businesses of my own; both were profitable.

“I have traveled to some wonderful destinations, the most emotion-evoking being East Africa.

“My OVS lesson for life memory was breaking in a large (18 hands high?) horse. My deal with Mr. Singleton was that, if I helped to break in the new horses each year, I could have the sole use of one for myself.

On one day when I was breaking in this bay horse (Kioki) I was wearing a red windbreaker. I became over-heated and pulled up to the viewing bleachers. Stupidly, I passed the windbreaker from my left side across the horse’s eyes to put it on the bleachers. The horse went wild and took off at break-neck speed, finally throwing me into the large, single oak tree in the riding area. I don’t remember hitting my head on the tree but, the next thing I knew, I had blood spouting from my nose and squirting everywhere. I saw Mike Singleton standing over me and next

to him was our nurse, Mary Kelvingston, dressed all on white with a navy cape.

“I felt that I had developed a special relationship with each of them, so what followed was very difficult: Ms. Kelvingston told me that I had to immediately accompany her to the infirmary. But Mr. Singleton said, ‘Susan, you get right back on that horse right now; if you don’t, you will never have the courage to ride again.’

“I looked at Ms. Kelvingston and told her that I had to get back on the horse right then and there. I would ride the horse once or twice to cool the horse down, take it to the stable, then come over to the infirmary. That decision was a life lesson, one that I have had to employ many times over!” **8**

Upper 1966

Tamsin Everett writes, “Hi, everyone! In July and December of 2013, I had a total right knee replacement and a total left hip replacement. I continue to ride my horse, Noble Jake, an Arab, on a daily basis. Now, without knee and hip pain, I am doing great. Next year, 2016, will be the Class of ’66 Upper Campus’s 50th anniversary, and I’m looking forward to attending.”

Upper 1967

Judy (Frazier) Argo sent in this news: “My husband, Don, and I retired two years ago and moved to the beautiful Bitterroot Valley, about 35 miles south of Missoula. We have 20 acres that keep us very busy. We are enjoying watching the wildlife that comes by, and the view of the Rockies is ever-changing.”

Keith Carradine, describing the effect OVS has had on his life, offered this metaphor: “OVS is this wonderful oak that sheltered me in my youth and whose branches reach out to this day, calling to the spirit of learning in us all.” **9**

Upper 1968

Winn Gillette wrote in to let us know that he completed his first marathon this year and started with a tough one – The Big



Sur International Marathon, which he describes as “26.2 miles of pain.” He also fondly remembers “getting to the Upper Campus via ‘The Country Route,’ one of the original ‘E-Ticket’ rides.”

Upper 1971

Jean Kahn retired after a 30+ year multi-faceted career in the food business. She writes, “I’m now living six months of the year in the Southwest of France near Spain, teaching and doing consulting and lots of mountain hiking. I have fond memories of riding my horse through the orchards into town as in the old wild west... I didn’t realize how beautiful Ojai was until many years later!”

Upper 1975

Mike Boggs shared the following sentiment at Alumni Weekend: “Nothing less than your best, I will never forget that.”

Vernane Cohen also attended Alumni Weekend and marveled, “I still part my hair in the middle.” She went on to describe how, when she was a student at OVS, she “loved to sneak out of the girls’ dorm using chewing gum to block the alarm!”



Bob Garrison wrote in and asked, rhetorically, “Has it really been 40 years since I graduated from OVS? Wish I could do it over now with the great new facilities that we didn’t have in the early ‘70s.”

Upper 1977

Catherine “Happie” (Kinnan) Tallia chose this quotation by English actor Peter Ustinov to share: “Since we are destined to live out our lives in the prison of our minds, it is our duty to furnish it well.”

Upper 1981

Jess Brolin writes, “Once a Spud, always a Spud!”

Michael Gardner writes, “Life has been pretty hectic. We are coming up on six years of awesome ownership with The Burger Bus and three years with our most amazing daughter, Emi Poppy. We find ourselves traveling a lot for music and other family adventures. I hope y’all are more than awesome and that 2015 kicks ass!! Love ya!”

Paul McCandless was recently promoted to Grandpa! James Frederick Eidukonis was born on July 3rd in Gilbert, Arizona. Congratulations to the proud parents, Paul’s daughter, Andrea Eidukonis, and her husband Tomas. **10**



11

Upper 1982

Maria Teresa (Salazar) Argueta was kind enough to send in this update and greeting: "As I see the pictures of our beautiful alma mater, tears of joy come to me as I remember all the wonderful time spent there. As many know, I'm a mother of four precious children that have become my pride and joy. I have a two-year-old grandson who has brought light into our lives. Currently I'm studying at the Baptist College of Theology of El Salvador, hoping, as I learn the word of God in depth, to be able to share His word when the time comes. Glad to see my old schoolmates and their families and how this social media has helped us to be in touch in a real time frame. May God bless all of you."

Upper 1988

Pema "Kelly" Clark writes, "I am currently undertaking a Ph.D. in the drama department of the University of East Anglia (UK). My research is looking at Buddhist influences in contemporary performance art. If any classmates are visiting England, please get in touch!"

Upper 2006

Kristen Lupo graduated from CSUF as a double major, with a bachelors in health science and kinesiology. She currently works for NASA.

Chris Coudray, who was recently accepted at several Midwest universities, has chosen to attend the University of Iowa to study archaeology and will begin his studies at the end of August. He writes, "I am very excited about attending the University of Iowa in Iowa City – It is a great college town and more ethnically diverse than the rest of Iowa – or so I have been told. It was a tough decision for me to make as everything went well on both visits to the Midwest. There are some real academic opportunities for me, one of which is through the State Board of Archaeologist Collections facility which has contracted with the university to provide internships and amateur archaeologist state certifications.

"The university is internationally known for its rhetoric writing program. I struggle with writing but trust I will have the best help. The campus is pretty spread out over the city, and I will have to ride the bus a lot. As a transfer student who is turning 25, the setting may be better suited for me because it's basically a grad school with preparation for undergrads (a lot like OVS but in reverse).

"Iowa has the most caves in any national park in the country. It houses one of the Iowa summer archaeology projects, an 8,000-year-old cave called Wood Pecker Cave. I hope to work on that site while attending the university. I'm also really excited that Iowa offers a full upper level high element and low element ropes course, just like at OVS. The



12

Iowa River divides the city and the school campus east and west side in half. There is also a 10-mile nature recreation area for base camping sites and an archery range.

Sarah Trudeau - After graduating from Nordhoff High School and spending two years at San Francisco State University, Sarah transferred to Western Washington University, where she studied biology and animal husbandry. She also took a two-year correspondence course to get a vet tech degree. Sarah worked at a wild animal sanctuary in Texas for a year and wants to eventually operate an animal rescue.

Upper 2011

Lucy Kim recently graduated from Boston College. Congrats, Lucy!

Joanna Chen, Paloma Spencer, and Jee Yun Lee on their visit to Upper Campus in March. **11**

Amit Pandya took his last science final on June 8. He is now an alumnus of UCLA with a degree in psychology. Congrats, Amit! **12**



Upper 2012

Henry Mooney writes to us from the Indian Ocean: “Within the last year, I’ve been all over Europe and Africa, and in all, to more than 14 different countries. I’ll be graduating a semester early this December, and am currently applying to grad school in South Africa to get my master’s degree in Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy.

Just last week I was stand-up-paddling in Mauritius, a small island just east of Madagascar, and am now on my way to Botswana and South Africa.” **13**

Upper 2013

Jayne Clapoff writes, “It’s been two years since I graduated from OVS, and I can honestly say that if I didn’t graduate from Upper, I would not have been prepared for the life experiences I have encountered to this day. Three weeks

after graduating, I started my associate of arts degree in Merchandise Marketing at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM), in L.A. I went to school year-round with no breaks, went through many internships and experienced the world through different jobs, and last month graduated with my degree! Tolerance is really what I take away from Upper, besides the academics of course! I am only 20, but from what I have experienced, life is full of so many people and opportunities and if you don’t know how to adapt and tolerate people’s opinions and lifestyles, you won’t get very far! Also, in the end, it’s all about experience and learning!

“On that note, next year I will be moving to Toronto to study at Ontario College of Art and Design to get my degree in advertising, but get this, the program is advertising for the greater good of

humanity! How cool is that!! I can’t wait to take what I have learned and apply it to my new adventure to hopefully make a difference in this world!

“I have kept in touch with many of my classmates from Upper, and love seeing how they are taking what they have learned and how they are applying it to their lives! My teachers are all still one of my biggest inspirations, including Mandy Jackson-Beverly and Karen Haldeman, who I turn to all the time! Everyone who attends and teaches at OVS impact peoples’ lives every second of the day, whether they know it or not, and it’s incredible to see!” **14**

ATTENTION: We welcome your updates anytime! Alumni news received by December 31, 2015 will be published in the next issue of *Alumni Notes* magazine. You may submit your updates to:
Office of Alumni Relations: Mail: 723 El Paseo Road, Ojai, CA 93023 Email: alumni@ovs.org • www.ovs.org/alumni.

CATHERINE LUCKING STARBUCK "PAT" WYGANT LOWER 1937



Catherine "Pat" (Lucking) Starbuck Wygant, a member of the lower class of 1937 died in Santa Barbara on April 1, 2015. She was 82.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1923, Catherine spent her formative years growing up in the Coachella Valley and in the Lake Arrowhead area of California. After attending OVS from 1928 – 1931, she was enrolled at several southern California schools: The Desert Sun School in Idyllwild; The Bishop School in La Jolla; The Polytechnic School in Pasadena; and The Anokia School in La Canada, where she graduated from high school. From there, Catherine attended Scripps College before transferring to the University of Southern California and earning a bachelor's of science degree in physical therapy.

She married Edward Baxter Starbuck in 1946. That marriage ended and was followed by Catherine's wedding to Benyaured Wygant in 1984.

Catherine had a broad range of interests and volunteered her services to a number of charities. She served on the board of the Lobero Theater in Santa Barbara and was a member of The Junior League of Santa Barbara, of The Music Academy of the West, of The Little Town Club, as well as of The Garden Club of Santa Barbara.

While on the board of the Lobero, Catherine wrote a musical that was produced and performed in two phases: the first performances took place at Le Petite Cabaret in Santa Barbara under the name *Hobo Land*; then, in 2010, having been rewritten and renamed *A Minor Miracle*, her musical was performed by a cast of students from Westmont College's music department.

Catherine had this to say about her life: "Life has been good and full."

She is survived by her son, Charles Starbuck, his wife, Keri, and their two sons, Lucas and Michael; She also leaves behind her daughter, Susan Deering, and her two daughters, Amy Deering and Kelsey Parolini. In addition, Catherine is survived by her stepson, Jonathan Wygant, his wife, Elise, and their children, Gabriella Wygant, and Page and James Hawkins.

ANNE WITMER BUSTERUD LOWER 1942

Anne Witwer Busterud, Lower Campus class of 1942, passed away on April 5th of this year. She was 86 years old.

Anne was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Her family moved to Ojai when Anne was a child; she and her brother, Bob, grew on the Crooked Creek orange ranch. Both were enrolled at OVS.

Mrs. Linn, who was the head of school when Anne attended OVS and was Anne's primary teacher, had glowing praise for Anne in

a letter of recommendation she wrote: "[Anne] is an excellent student and will do superior work in all subjects. She works hard and with great concentration and perseverance, but even more important, she is eager and independent and quite original in her work. We have been fortunate to have her with us all these years, and we send her on to the next school with considerable pride and, I must admit, a great deal of regret that the moment has come when we must give her away."

Mrs. Linn's sentiments were echoed by Mrs. Kingman, another of Anne's teachers: "Anne is a fine, wholesome child whom everyone loves and admires. In every way she is well-rounded and unspoiled—and eager for life. She is kind and generous and so naturally thoughtful that her influence is felt through the whole school. It is with reluctance that we let her go from our midst as she has endeared herself in every way to us all."

After leaving OVS, Anne attended the Flintridge-Anoakia School before heading East for college. In 1949, she graduated from Vassar College with a B.A. in English literature. After making a grand tour of Europe with her college classmates, Ann moved to San Francisco, where she worked for the Committee for a Free Asia.

In 1952, Anne married John Busterud. They had three children: John, James, and Mollie. Anne worked tirelessly to support her husband's political career, first in the California Legislature and later, for many years, in Washington, D.C.

Anne relished vacations in Europe with her husband and children as well as trips to Ojai. She also greatly enjoyed three-generation family trips to Eaton's Ranch in Sheridan, Wyoming, a guest ranch she had enjoyed visiting for many years when she was growing up.

Anne maintained a lifelong interest in literature and was herself an avid writer. Later in life, she cherished travel and companionship with John and doting on her seven grandchildren. She was a member of the Town and Country Club in San Francisco and active in community service, including her volunteer work for the Junior League. She also served on the vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity and on three committees at Smith Ranch Homes, a retirement community in San Rafael.

Anne is survived by her husband of 62 years, John; by her children, John (Gretchen) Busterud, James Busterud, and Mollie (Mike) Dunlap; by her grandchildren, Becky and Tommy Busterud; Holt, Spencer, and Ellie Dunlap; and Rachel and James Busterud; as well as by her brother, Bob Davis (L54).

Donations in Anne's memory may be made to The National Trust for Historic Preservation (www.preservationnation.org) and The Marin Community Foundation (www.marincf.org).

JOHN "JB" BATESON LOWER 1967, UPPER 1970



John S. Bateson (1951-2015) died on June 21, Father's Day, after a long fight against cancer. He was 64.

Rosemary Chalmers, John's wife of 27 years, said he passed peacefully at his home in Ben Lomond, near Santa Cruz, wearing his favorite shorts, a Hawaiian shirt and Birkenstocks, holding flowers and with rocks in his pocket from Scotland, Thailand and Ben Lomond. Although not especially religious, John was a follower of Buddhist beliefs.

"He was a gentle man, a kind soul," said Rosemary. "And, few people knew, he was a helluva good dancer." He was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer in April 2014, underwent many chemotherapy treatments, and visited with family members and beloved friends until about a week before he died. A lifelong globetrotter, he and Rosemary spent a week in Puerto Rico last winter for one more time in turquoise waters.

Born in San Francisco, John was known to many friends and family members as "JB." He was the son of famed anthropologist and former University of California regent Gregory Bateson, and Elizabeth ("Betty") Sumner. His friends said he had a strong presence at OVS and elsewhere. While at the upper campus, he played on the baseball, soccer and lacrosse teams, and he was known as an inveterate practical joker. He left OVS during his senior year and moved to Hawaii.

Although his father wanted him to study medicine (he was accepted at Stanford University), John instead chose to attend Antioch College in Ohio. John was into alternative lifestyles; he was a true hippie, who loved Nature and living 'off the grid.'

After college, John moved to Canada during the final years of the Vietnam War. He was a logger for a time, and he lived for several years on Quadra Island (north of Campbell River, B.C.) where

he was a commercial fishing guide. He and Rosemary later made their home in Ben Lomond, in the forests above Santa Cruz.

John was an avid fisherman, a skill he learned from his father and passed on to his children. He was a builder of houses and commercial buildings, was a good sailor, loved lizards, and he had a favorite blue jay that would sit on his head while he sat in his backyard. He also was renowned for his barbeque skills; some dubbed him "Senor Carne" – "Mister Meat."

In addition to Rosemary, JB is survived by his stepmother Lois Bateson; sisters Mary Catherine and Nora; brother Eric Vatikiotis-Bateson; a former wife Candy and their children Gregory and his wife Joanna; Emilie and her husband Nico; four grandchildren, and his dog Hula.

Author's Note: "As is often the case, I had lost touch with JB over the years, until I convinced him to come to his first-ever OVS reunion, in 2010. He felt like the brother I never had. He was a fine man and a good friend, and a warrior to the end." – John Enders (U70)

If family members of OVS alums wish to submit information for In Memoriam, please do so to:

Office of Alumni Relations:
723 El Paseo Road, Ojai, CA 93023
alumni@ovs.org | www.ovs.org

Parents of Alumni:

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



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- Winston Churchill

